Takter Has Five In Hope Of Hambletonian Repeat

While it was expected by most that with three strong contenders trainer Jimmy Takter would win last year’s Hambletonian, everyone pretty much believed the victorious horse would be Father Patrick. But when that trotter made a break at the start from post 10 with driver Yannick Gingras, it left the door open for Takter himself to direct Trixton to the win, with stablemate Nuncio second for John Campbell.

Gingras has waited a year for redemption. He blamed himself for Father Patrick’s miscue, second-guessing his decision to tap the colt with the whip at the start.

“This is a different horse and different year, so hopefully different results.”
–Yannick Gingras on comparing Father Patrick and Pinkman

But it’s déjà vu all over again for Gingras and Takter as pre-Hambo favorite Pinkman drew post 10 in the first of two eliminations. Despite the outside post, Pinkman has been installed the 8-5 morning-line favorite. Gingras will also drive the Ron Burke-trained Mission Brief in the second elimination, with the filly listed as the 6-5 choice. Both Pinkman and Mission Brief were 2014 divisional champions.

Pinkman is one of five Takter trainees going postward in the Hambo elims. Pinkman is joined in the first elim by stablemates The Bank (post 2) and Canepa Hanover (9), with French Laundry (6) and Uncle Lasse (7) behind the gate in the second elim.

“I got a text that he got the 10 hole, and I said, ‘Really?’ It definitely was a flashback,” Gingras told Weekend Preview by cell phone from Maine, where he spent his 36th birthday on Tuesday (Aug. 4). “It’s definitely a tough spot. But this is a different horse and different year, so hopefully different results.”

One major difference between the 2014 Hambletonian and this year is that last year’s trotting classic was contested in an 11-horse, single-heat format. Father Patrick’s break took the 2-5 favorite out of contention quickly. This year the top five finishers in each elim will advance to the final, with the two elim winners drawing for posts 1 through 5 for the $1 million final.

“It is important to win the elimination to get a good post for the final,” said Gingras. “But not only did he draw bad, he also drew in tough. Takter’s three best horses are all in there and so is Habitat and Centurion ATM. It’s a stacked division.”

Gingras noted a big difference between Father Patrick and Pinkman, whose five wins this year include the $500,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial (a world record and career-best 1:51.3f), a $157,250 Stanley Dancer Memorial division, and the $370,000 Zweig Memorial last time out on July 26.

“Father Patrick was a horse that I never really left with; I always grinded when I went to the front,” said Gingras. “He had never been asked to leave out of the gate prior to that race. Even though he went forward all the time, he was never pushed. Pinkman has been pushed many times out of the gate so I don’t expect any problem with that.”

Takter said he believes Pinkman is his best chance among his five starters to give him his fourth Hambletonian title, joining Trixton, Muscle Massive (2010) and Malabar Man (1997).

“The problem with Pinkman is that he never gets respect. He’s so simple; he just gets it done and wins,” said Takter. “Take Mission Brief, she’s more flashy and things like that, but Pinkman is the best horse. That’s the way it is. He has the most money on his card ($1.18 million) and he’s really never done a bad race all his life. His consistency is humongous. He is a gelding and is very laid back. Two heats will definitely be to his advantage for a horse like him.”

Takter has been driving The Bank, who drew the best post of his five starters. The Bank was most impressive in a wire-to-wire 1:50.4 win in the second $159,750 Dancer Memorial division, and last time out was second to stablemate French

Continues on page 2
Laundry in a July 31 overtime at the Big M which served as a prep race.

“He is in great form and when a horse is in form, the form means a lot,” said Takter, who will have his brother Johnny drive. “And he’s definitely a horse in his greatest form ever.”

Canepa Hanover, the third Takter horse in the first elim, finished a close second behind Pinkman in the Zweig Memorial.

“I was really happy with his start at Vernon,” said Takter of Canepa Hanover. “I feel optimistic that I will have him as good as he can be. He is definitely a horse that I have a very good chance to win with.”

As for the second elim, Takter said French Laundry was a horse that “was no good training down,” thus he is not heavily staked.

“I almost didn’t stake him to the Hambo,” said Takter. “He’s a fighter; he’s a game horse. Can he win it? Sure he can, but is he one of my favorites to win it? No.”

On the other hand, Takter has always been high on Uncle Lasse, who won his first four races this year before finishing second in the Seel final. Uncle Lasse then finished fifth in the Zweig.

“I was a little disappointed with him in his last start,” he said. “There was something bothering him as he should have been better. He had raced tremendous the start before.”

Takter said although he has 26.3 percent of the 19 Hambo starters, he remains cautiously optimistic.

“I just work as hard as I can and not get too overexcited,” he concluded. “I know I have five pretty good horses. Whatever God is going to give me, he gives me. He’s been great to me. If I win it, that’s the way it is. I think we have a good chance, but there are probably six or seven horses who could win the race. There are for sure some tough contenders.” — By Gordon Waterstone

S1 million Hambletonian (Top 5 finishers return for 13th race final)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post—Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1—Donatomite (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>T. Smedshammer</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>M. Andrew/Homebred</td>
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<td>2—The Bank (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>Jo. Takter/J. Takter</td>
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<td>Falkbolagen Ab/Homebred</td>
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<td>3—Workout Wonder (Conway Hall)</td>
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<td>4—Habitat (Conway Hall)</td>
<td>B. Sears/R. Burke</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>F. Caldwell/$50,000 (Lex)</td>
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<td>5—Total Darkness (Muscles Yankee)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/J. Czernyson</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Menhammar Stuteri Ab/$7,000 (Lex)</td>
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<td>6—Fashion Creditor (Credit Winner)</td>
<td>D. Miller/T. Fanning</td>
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<td>Standardbred Equities/Private</td>
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<td>7—Jacksons Minion (Explosive Matter)</td>
<td>T. Jackson</td>
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<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/$17,000 (HB)</td>
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<td>8—Centurion ATM (SJ’s Caviar)</td>
<td>A. Svanstedt</td>
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<td>9—Canepa Hanover (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>J. Takter</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>Brittany Farms/$300,000 (HB)</td>
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<td>10—Pinkman (Explosive Matter)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/J. Takter</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>O Narutac Equine Nursery/$77,000 (Lex)</td>
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2nd $100,000 elimination, Race 9, Post Time: 3:15 pm

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<td>S. Zeron/S. Lind</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Brittany Farms/$120,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2—Mission Brief (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/R. Burke</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>S. Stewart, Black Creek Farm/$150,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3—Cruza del Dia (Muscle Massive)</td>
<td>O. Kilstrom/N. Johansson</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/$28,000 (HB)</td>
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<td>4—Aldebaran Eagle (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>C. Callahan/J. Czernyson</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Diamond Creek Fm, Exquisite Fms, M. Hartman/$70,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5—Wings Of Royalty (RC Royalty)</td>
<td>B. Serars/G. Ducharme</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>R. Campbell Jr./Homebred</td>
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<td>6—French Laundry (Muscles Yankee)</td>
<td>B. Miller/J. Takter</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>M. Katz, A. Libfled/$115,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7—Uncle Lasse (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>D. Miller/J. Takter</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>Solvigs Breeders/Homebred</td>
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<td>8—Southwind Mozart (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>A. Svanstedt</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Southwind Farm/$40,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9—Muscle Diamond (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/B. Bittle</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Odds On Nourrir/$40,000 (Lex)</td>
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

DOORS OPEN 10 A.M.  FIRST POST 12 NOON

Carnival rides & games, pony rides & face painters. Hambo baseball cap and a Foiled Again stablemate giveaways (while supply lasts.) $850 Hambo hat contest plus live music from The Wild Ones 12 pm - 4pm.

LIVE BROADCAST
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4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. EDT

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POST TIME TBD

HARNESS RACING RETURNS
Fridays & Saturdays
starting November 13
7:15 PM. POST TIME

TVG FINALS & FALL FINAL FOUR
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Burke, Gingras Confident About Mission Brief’s Chances

Fillies rarely are raced against the colts and thus when they do, it is a very big deal. So the announcement that Mission Brief would be racing against the colts in the 90th Hambletonian immediately turned the race into one of the more unique editions of the race.

Whether Mission Brief wins or loses, her presence in the 2015 Hambletonian will be noteworthy. And that’s what her connections considered when they weighed the option of racing in the Oaks, or taking on the colts.

“We all knew that winning the Oaks was not going to change our lives, or hers,” said Ron Burke, who trains Mission Brief and also co-owns the filly with Our Horse Cents Stable, J&T Silva Stables LLC and Weaver Bruscemi LLC. “But we know it will be great for the sport.”

The decision to race against the colts was made late Sunday afternoon, July 26, after Mission Brief won the Zweig for filly trotters in easy fashion.

“I actually didn’t go to that race. I knew we would need to make the decision about the Hambo, and I knew I needed to call everybody and it might take a while,” shared Burke.

Burke drove to New Jersey on Sunday, after racing in the Adios on Aug. 1, and trained Mission Brief on Wednesday. Other than light training miles on Aug. 1 and again on Wednesday, Mission Brief will spend the week getting turned out and lightly jogging.

While Mission Brief earned a reputation as being a hot-headed, mind-of-her-own type of gal last year as a 2 year old, Burke says she has settled down.

“Her behavior hasn’t been an issue at all this year. But with that said, she’s the only one that makes me nervous,” said Burke.

Until her big 1:51.4 victory in the Zweig, Mission Brief had struggled, even though she was only beaten by a nose in her only loss of the season, in the Delvin Miller Memorial on July 18 at the Meadowlands. Burke had admitted he couldn’t figure out why the filly wasn’t perfect, but he thinks they found the cause of the filly’s compromised fitness.

“It totally was her back,” said Burke. “I changed her shoes and we added trotting hobbles, and now I’ve changed her shoes back (she’ll be wearing half rounds in front and full swedges behind for the Hambletonian) and I wish now I wouldn’t have put the hobbles on her, but I know they probably give her a little extra security.”

Mission Brief will be driven in her Hambletonian elimination heat by her regular driver, Yannick Gingras. Gingras

“Her behavior hasn’t been an issue at all this year. But with that said, she’s the only one that makes me nervous.”

–Ron Burke on Mission Brief

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Continues on page 5
won’t commit to driving the filly if she advances to the final until after both heats since he also is the regular driver of Pinkman. But he’s confident he’ll have to make the choice, and he doesn’t think the race has to go a certain way for Mission Brief to win.

“She is so handy now,” said Gingras of Mission Brief.

“Last year that wasn’t the case. If they mix it up in front of her, I think it’s going to help her. If they go to the half in :57 and she has to sit, she might be a little anxious, but it’s not something that worries me.”

Last year Gingras was driving the betting favorite Father Patrick, but lost all chance when the colt broke stride at the start when leaving from post 10.

“Until last year, I never had a horse with a good chance to win,” said Gingras. “It’s definitely different driving in the Hambletonian, but when you’re behind the gate, it’s another race.”

The draw for post positions gave Gingras more confidence in Mission Brief.

“Mission Brief is in a perfect spot with post 2. It’s a little bit of a wider division on paper. It’s the easier division of the two so she’s in a perfect spot, no doubt about that.” — By Kathy Parker

All Hambletonian Finalists Receive Money

The Hambletonian conditions were changed in 2013 so that the winner of the same day, second-heat final, no matter the finish in an elimination, would be declared champion. Royalty For Life won his elim that year and then captured the final. With just 11 starters last year, the Hambletonian was contested in a one-heat, winner-take-all scenario for the first time ever, with Trixton emerging victorious.

This year’s Hambletonian will be raced with two $100,000 eliminations, with the top five finishers in each advancing to the $1 million final. The owners of all 10 starters in the Hambletonian final will receive purse money. The winner will still receive 50 percent of the purse, but sixth through 10th will receive one percent. The remaining money will be divided with 50 percent to second, 24 percent for third, 16 perfect for fourth, and 10 percent for fifth.

The Hambletonian Draw

The Hambletonian press conference, with the draw for post positions, was held in the Victory Sports Bar at the Meadowlands Racetrack on Monday afternoon. Following the draw, Bob Heyden interviewed trainer Jimmy Takter. Meadowlands GM Jason Settlemoir and track owner Jeff Gural posed with New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman and Bruce Beck, sports anchor for New York’s NBC affiliate, Channel 4, who joined the festivities. Cashman and Beck talked about the Yankees and Cashman’s late father, harness racing Hall of Famer John Cashman Jr. Hall of Famer John Campbell showed up even though he won’t be able to drive this weekend due to breaking his wrist while driving a 2 year old last Friday at the Meadowlands.

(Michael Lisa/Lisa Photos)
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Wild Honey Slight Favorite In Oaks

The complexion of the $500,000 Hambletonian Oaks changed dramatically with the accident that killed elimination winner Spirit To Win earlier in the week. Another change—albeit much less meaningful than the loss of a life—involves Wild Honey, who will now have Yannick Gingras driving after John Campbell broke his wrist in a baby-race accident last week at the Meadowlands.

Wild Honey was the 4-5 favorite in the first of two Oaks elimins last weekend, but had to settle for second behind the 7-1 Lock Down Lindy. Although Lock Down Lindy landed post 1 in the draw for posts 1 through 5 as an elim winner, when Wild Honey drew post 2 she was accorded morning-line favoritism at odds of 5-2. Lock Down Lindy is second choice at 3-1, with Livininthefastlane, second to Spirit To Win in their respective elim, third choice at 7-2.

“IT was a big relief, it gives her a good chance to win this race.”

—Jimmy Takter on drawing post 2 with Wild Honey

While Takter said Speak To Me’s task from the 10 hole may be a bit tough, he believes Sarcy also has a chance at Oaks glory.

“She could be right there with them,” Takter said of the filly who will be driven by his brother Johnny. “In her last race she was almost climbing over the horse in front of her.”

If Takter wins this year’s Oaks, it will be his fourth trophy. His prior Oaks wins came with Gleam (1994), Southwind Al-laire (2003) and Lifetime Pursuit (2014).

Although trainer Julie Miller is looking for her first Oaks win with Livininthefastlane, co-owners Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld, who share ownership with Sam Goldband, have already tasted Oaks victory with 2008 champ Creamy Mimi.

Livininthefastlane has three wins in five starts this year, as well as a third-place finish in the $187,000 Delvin Miller Memorial. Miller said Livininthefastlane’s consistency has come despite having stepped on a nail which led to the filly being scratched from a June 17 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes race, and fighting sickness, which has gone through her barn this summer.

“I think she’s over it but I haven’t been able to train her up like I’d like to in trying to get her healthy,” said Miller. “But the seven post is better than the eight, nine or 10. Hopefully Andy (driver Andy Miller) will be able to get out there and get a good early spot. I think she is one of the top three or four in there and we’ll see how the trip unfolds and who is the best that day. You need to have everything go right that day and I’m hoping that can happen to us.” —by Gordon Waterstone

$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks Final

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<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price (Sale)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1—Lock Down Lindy (Lucky Chucky)</td>
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<td>3-1</td>
<td>Lindy Racing Stable/$40,000 (Lex)</td>
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<td>2—Wild Honey (Cantab Hall)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/J. Takter</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>Lindy Racing Stable/$35,000 (Lex)</td>
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<td>3—Bright Baby Blues (Andover Hall)</td>
<td>D. Miller/B. Stewart</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>F. Caldwell &amp; Bluestone Farms/Homebred</td>
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<td>4—Lady Winona (Credit Winner)</td>
<td>B. Sears/J. Miller</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Little E LLC/$155,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5—Rules OfThe Road (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>C. Callahan/J. Connor</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm/$12,000 (Lex)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6—Classical Annie (Andover Hall)</td>
<td>B. Miller/I. Arledge Jr.</td>
<td>30-1</td>
<td>Winbak Farm/$27,000 (HB)</td>
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<td>7—Livininthefastlane (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>A. Miller/J. Miller</td>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>Concord Stud Farm/$80,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8—Sarcy (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>Jo. Takter/J. Takter</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Fielding, Willmot, Hertrich/$37,000 (Lex)</td>
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<td>9—Smokinmombo (Explosive Matter)</td>
<td>A. Merriman/C. Beaver</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>White Birch Farm/$15,000 (HB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10—SpeakTo Me (Muscle Massive)</td>
<td>S. Zeron/J. Takter</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Concord Stud Farm/$80,000 (HB)</td>
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Harness Racing Weekend Preview, 8 of 24
August 7, 2015

Where Are 2014 Hambo Top Finishers?

Trixton, the 2014 Hambletonian champion, is spending his time at Deo Volente Farm in New Jersey. He was retired to stud duty there and was bred to a full book of about 140 mares during the 2015 breeding season, which ended in June.

Among the blue-blooded mares bred to Trixton were Graceful Touch, whose offspring include 2010 Hambletonian winner Muscle Massive, and DTrain, whose son Donato Hanover won the 2007 Hambletonian.

The second-place finisher in last year’s Hambletonian was Nuncio, who is now living in Sweden. Nuncio is owned by Stefan Melander’s Stall TZ and while trained by Jimmy Takter in the U.S., he is now in Melander’s stable and continuing to race.

Nuncio finished third behind Magic Tonight in the Elitlopp final on May 31 and in his seventh race of the season, on Aug. 5 at Sovalla, he won, giving him five wins for this season.

The third-place finisher in last year’s Hambletonian was Harper Blue Chip. Despite drawing post 9 in the 11-horse Hambletonian field, he was able to close late to finish third.

Harper Blue Chip has yet to make a start in 2015, which trainer Mark Steacy attributes to a slight injury suffered in his fourth-place finish in the Breeders Crown final in late November at the Meadowlands.

“He tore a suspensory in the Breeders Crown and we’re taking our time bringing him back,” said Steacy. “The 4-year-old year, I didn’t care if he started too early.”

Steacy said Harper Blue Chip has jogged a 2:09 mile and “he seems real good. Hopefully that little tear is behind him.”

Hambo On CBS Sports Network

Saturday afternoon’s Hambletonian Day card at the Meadowlands can be seen in its entirety on TVG, with the first race scheduled for 12 noon. The Hambletonian, Hambletonian Oaks and Cane Pace are also the centerpieces of a 90-minute live show on the CBS Sports Network from 4:50 p.m. (EDT). CBS Sports Network is channel 158 on Dish and 613 on DirecTV, or use the following link to find the channel in your area: http://www.cbssportsnetwork.com/channel-finder.

Also, the entire program will be broadcast in high definition on Racetrack Televisio Network (RTN). Subscribers can access the high-def broadcast on channel 9732.

As always, the Meadowlands races—including pre- and post-race interviews—can be seen via video streaming with a computer, iPad or smartphone at playmeadowlands.com.

Steacy said he expects Harper Blue Chip to qualify by the end of August.

“He’s probably four weeks away right now,” said Steacy. “He looks like a little tank. We’re still hoping to make a few stakes races with him. Hopefully the Breeders Crown, and he’s eligible in Lexington (Allerage on Oct. 10) and the new race at Dayton (Dayton Trotting Derby on Oct. 2).

“He’s made close to $900,000 ($845,048) so it’d be nice to get him over a million,” added Steacy. “And we need a record. He’s been timed in 1:51 but he’s only won in 1:54.3. Hopefully that’s ahead of him too.”

$389,450 Jim Doherty Memorial 2YOFT
(formerly Merrie Annabelle Trot)

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<td>2—Womans Will (Donato Hanover)</td>
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<td>3—Broadway Donna (Donato Hanover)</td>
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<td>4—Kathy Parker (Andover Hall)</td>
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<td>5—Miss Teztsla (Andover Hall)</td>
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<td>6—Sunset Glider (Cantab Hall)</td>
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<td>7—Southwind Adele (Muscle Hill)</td>
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<td>8—I’m Outstanding (Donato Hanover)</td>
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<td>9—Silent Blessings (Muscles Yankee)</td>
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<td>10—Lindy’s On Fire (Explosive Matter)</td>
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$349,850 Peter Haughton Memorial 2YOCT

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<td>1—Brooklyn Hill (Muscle Hill)</td>
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<td>2—Southwind Frank (Muscle Hill)</td>
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<td>3—Alexander Hanover (Cantab Hall)</td>
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<td>4—Milligan’s School (Yankee Glide)</td>
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<td>5—Winter Harbor (Muscle Hill)</td>
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<td>6—Sliding Home (Donato Hanover)</td>
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<td>7—Dominion Beach (Muscle Hill)</td>
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<td>8—Southwind Flash (Muscle Hill)</td>
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<td>9—Bar Hopping (Muscle Hill)</td>
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<td>10—Earn And Burn (Donato Hanover)</td>
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Eye On Meadowlands

Weekend Preview’s Gordon Waterstone will try to close the 2015 Championship Meet at the Meadowlands with a bang, hoping to cash in on the second of three Pick 4s on Saturday afternoon’s mega-card. The middle Pick 4 carries a guaranteed pool of $100,000 and a takeout of 15 percent. The middle Pick 4 begins in Race 7 with the second Hambletonian elimination and includes the Vincennes Invitational Trot, Cane Pace and Hambletonian Oaks final.

There are five guaranteed pools on the card, all with 50-cent minimum wagers. The early Pick 4 begins in Race 3 (Lady Liberty) and has a $50,000 guarantee, and the late Pick 4 begins with the Hambletonian final (Race 13) and has a $100,000 guarantee. The early Pick 5 on the first five races has a $50,000 guarantee, while the second Pick 5 begins in Race 7 (Peter Haughton Memorial) and has a $75,000 guarantee.

The biggest payout of the day will undoubtedly come from the Jackpot Super Hi-5 offered on Race 16. There is a carry-over of $231,403 coming into the day with a mandatory payout situation since it is closing day. The carryover pool plus the net pool of new money will be paid out. The Jackpot Super Hi-5, which requires a bettor to correctly select the top-five finishers, has a 20-cent minimum with a low takeout of eight percent.

RACE 9
If the great MISSION BRIEF shows up then she’ll be tough to beat. That said, if she has any issues, then the race is wide open. I’ll stay then with Team Takter’s UNCLE LASSE and FRENCH LAUNDRY as my next choices. If MUSCLE DIAMOND remains healthy he’s a definite player. And you can’t overlook WINGS OF ROYALTY, who is trained by George Ducharme, who won the 2013 Hambo with Royalty For Life.

RACE 10
As announcers like to sometimes say in the stretch, “They’re coming from everywhere!” And because of that, I’m going to hit the ALL button as a case can be made for all 10 starters.

RACE 11
WIGGLE IT JIGGLEIT. Need I say anything more?

RACE 12
I give WILD HONEY the edge in here with post 2 and Gingras driving. LOCK DOWN LINDY was awesome in her elim and she is the one to beat from the inside. And if they can get good early position and work out a trip, you can’t overlook LIVININTHEFASTLANE and SARCY.

**PLAY: 2,5,6,7/All/2/1,2,7,8**
**.50 TICKET COST: $100**
**ECONOMY PLAY: 2,6,7/All/2/1,2 ($30)**
Swedish Invaders Magic Tonight, D’One Have Big Credentials

When looking at the program for the Hambletonian day card at the Meadowlands, it is obvious there will be a huge Scandinavian presence.

While the most obvious Scandinavian is Hall of Fame horseman Jimmy Takter, two Swedish-based horses will be making their first North American starts of the season on Hambletonian day: Magic Tonight in the John Cashman Jr. Memorial (Race 5) and D’One in the Fresh Yankee for mares (Race 6).

Kihlstrom won the Breeders Crown Open Trot with Commander Crowe last November. Magic Tonight's start in the Cashman won’t be his first at the Meadowlands. In addition to his qualifying start at the Meadowlands on July 25, back in 2012 the son of Andover Hall competed in an elimination for the Hambletonian. The Magic Tonight who raced in the Hambletonian, however, was a youthful horse who had yet maximized his potential. He finished last in the Hambo elim won by Uncle Peter.

The colt’s 3-year-old season then was redeemed by dominating the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes and winning the championship. As a 4 year old Magic Tonight made just five starts in the U.S. before he was sold and exported to Sweden.

Today Magic Tonight races for Lennart Agren’s AOJ Konsult and trainer Roger Walmann. Earlier this year they made plans to bring the horse to the U.S. for the Cashman, Maple Leaf Trot, Allerage and Breeders Crown, and when he won the Elitlopp in Sweden in late May, they followed through.

Magic Tonight will be driven in the Cashman by Orjan Kihlstrom, who is his regular driver and was in the sulky for the Elitlopp. Don’t forget that Kihlstrom is no stranger to the Meadowlands either and won the Breeders Crown Open Trot with Commander Crowe last November.

Kihlstrom and Walmann will also team up with the trotting mare D’One in the Fresh Yankee Trot. While the Fresh Yankee will be the first U.S. start for D’One, she has the bloodlines to compete at the highest levels. The 5-year-old mare is a daughter of 2007 Hambletonian Champion Donato Hanover and Giant Diablo, who was the fastest trotting mare of all time when she won the Allerage in 1:50.1 in 2007 at The Red Mile, which was the same day Donato Hanover captured the Kentucky Futurity.—By Kathy Parker

$301,500 JOHN CASHMAN MEM. TROT

Meadowlands, Sat., Aug. 8, Race 5, Post Time: 1:30 pm; 1 1/8 miles

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<th>Post—Horse</th>
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<tr>
<td>1—Intimidate</td>
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<td>2—Flanagan Memory</td>
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<td>3—Gural Hanover</td>
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<td>4—Magic Tonight</td>
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<td>5—Obrigado</td>
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<td>12—Master Of Law</td>
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Magic Tonight

D’One

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# Born to Compete... Raised to Win!

The 2015 Winbak Farm Yearlings

**Goshen Pacing Highlights**

- **#25, SOCIAL JOE**, C, NY
  - Roll With Joe-Puccini Blue Chip-Magical Mike Dam is full-sister to **Gallo Blue Chip**, p. 1:48.4 ($4,260,959)

- **#51, MAIDEN DREAM**, F, NJ
  - If I Can Dream-Viking Maiden-Matt’s Scooter Dam is 1/2-sister to **Dexter Nukes**, p. 3, 1:51.3 ($1,027,620)

- **#54, WESTERN SNOW**, C, NY
  - Village Jove-Western Beauty-Western Hanover Full-brother to **West Gun**, p. 1:50.1 ($507,752)

- **#77, NORTHERN ECLIPSE**, F, PA
  - Bettor’s Delight-Casino Nights-Western Ideal Dam is 1/2-sister to **Allamerican Capo**, p. 3, 1:50.2h ($950,523)

- **#87, ELECTRIC SKY**, C, PA
  - Delmarva-Wheel Electric-Die Laughing Dam is 1/2-sister to **Electrical Art**, p. 3, 1:51 ($1,010,568)

- **#95, CLEAR IDEA**, F, NY
  - American Ideal-Class Maker-Artplace Dam is 1/2-sister to **Art Maker**, p. 1:49.1 ($1,036,217)

- **#100, NORTHERN FIESTA**, F, NY
  - Rock N Roll-Heaven-Hedge Blue Chip Art Major Dam is full-sister to **Hypnotic Blue Chip**, p. 1:47.2 ($1,787,311)

- **#106, ISLAND ADVENTURE**, F, NY
  - Roll With Joe-Island Estate-Western Hanover Dam is 1/2-sister to **Sanabelle Island**, p. 1:50.4s ($1,641,527)

- **#118, DREAM OF PARADISE**, F, NJ
  - If I Can Dream-Lido Beach-Beach Towel 1/2-sister to **Next Flight**, 1:50t ($891,641)

**Goshen Trotting Highlights**

- **#1, RADICAL SANDMAN**, C, NY
  - Sand Vic-Viradical Missy Mr Lavee Dam is 1/2-sister to **Majestic Son**, 3, 1:52.2s ($1,760,365)

- **#68, RAIL BOOM**, C, NY
  - Conway Hall-Back On Track-Donerail Full-brother to **Palm Beach Chic**, 3, 1:54.4s ($155,933)

- **#69, DEWEY’S BREEZE**, C, NY, 1st foal
  - Deweybeautumhowse-Bailey Breeze-Angus Hall Dam is 1/2-sister to **Casual Breeze**, 1:53.1 ($1,313,972)

*Agent Horse*

**Lexington Pacing Highlights**

- **ADVICE COLUMN, F, ON**
  - Sportswriter-Nines Wild-Totally Ruthless Dam is **Nines Wild**, p. 1:51.1s ($1,116,473)

- **BEACH CLUB, F, PA**
  - Somebeachsomewhere-Sand Speed-Matt’s Scooter 1/2-sister to **Speed Again**, p. 1:48.1s ($842,233)

- **BILLION DOLLAR DAY, C, PA**
  - Bettor’s Delight-Humby Lucky-Dexter Nukes Full-brother to **Lucky Botton**, p. 1:49.4t ($766,404)

- **INDEPENDENT ONE, C, PA**
  - Rocknroll Hanover-Sun N Sand-Astros Dam is 1/2-sister to **Somebeachsomewhere**, p. 5, 1:46.4 ($3,221,299)

- **LADY LYNNYL, F, ON**

- **PLEASANT ROLL, F, NY**
  - Roll With Joe-Pleasant Yet Bad-Badlands Hanover Dam is full-sister to **Badlands Nitro**, p. 3, 1:50t ($1,597,638)

- **SMOOCHE R, F, PA**
  - Well Said-Standardbridge Kisses-Artiscape Dam is **Standardbridge Kisses**, p. 1:50.2s ($1,011,737)

- **STAGE REVIEW, F, NY**
  - Art Major-Observe Me-Cambest Full-sister to **Handsoffmycooke**, p. 1:51.3f ($1,382,145)

- **TUXEDO BAY, C, PA, 1st foal**
  - Somebeachsomewhere-Spring Break-Dream Away Dam is **Spring Break**, p. 3, 1:50.3s ($787,057)

**Lexington Trotting Highlights**

- **DAMSEL’S CREDIT, F, NY**
  - Credit Winner-Calhadd’s Damsel-Pine Chip 1/2-sister to **Oh Sweet Baby**, 1:54.4s ($655,330)

- **JULIEANN B, F, PA**
  - Cantah Hall-Yankee Blondie-American Winner 1/2-sister to **Muscle Hill**, 3, 1:50.1 ($3,266,835)

- **VARSITY INN, C, PA**
  - Explosive Matter-Cr Sister Suzie-Royal Troubadour Dam is full-sister to **CR Ray Suzie**, 1:52.3 ($1,611,131)

- **VICKY’S HILL, F, NJ**
  - Muscle Hill-Victors Vicky-Valley Victor 2nd foal, Dam is **Victors Vicky**, 1:55f ($712,342)

**Harrisburg Select Pacing Highlights**

- **AMERICA’S FLEET, C, NY**
  - American Ideal-Wishful Fullhouse-Cam’s Card Shark Dam is full-sister to **Bettor’s Delight**, p. 3, 1:49.4 ($2,551,461) & Roll With Joe, p. 3, 1:48.2 ($1,805,607)

- **ART CENTER, F, NY**
  - Art Major-Shark Tail-Cam’s Card Shark Dam is full-sister to **Four Starzzz Shark**, p. 1:47.4 ($2,537,267)

- **AWAKE THE DREAM, F, NY**
  - American Ideal-Awaken The Passion-Cole Muffler Dam is full-sister to **Loyal Opposition**, p. 3, 1:48.3 ($1,843,151)

- **HEADLIGHTS ON, C, NY, 1st foal**
  - American Ideal-Pacific Philly-Pacific Pella Dam is **Philadelphia**, p. 1:50.4t ($949,742)

- **PHONE IN, C, ON**
  - Vintage Master-Smart Dialing-Abercrombie 1/2-brother to **Dial Or Nodial**, p. 1:48.3f ($1,693,297)

- **ROCKNROLL CLOUDS, C, NY, 1st foal**
  - Art Major-Rocknroll Wishes-Rocknroll Hanover Dam is 1/2-sister to **Bettor’s Delight**, p. 3, 1:49.4 ($2,551,461) & Roll With Joe, p. 3, 1:48.2 ($1,805,607)

- **TEQUILA MONDAY, F, NY, 1st foal**
  - American Ideal-Margarita Monday-Ponder Dam is full-sister to **Bolt The Duer**, p. 3, 1:47.4f ($1,828,995)

**Harrisburg Select Trotting Highlights**

- **DEVIOUS MAN, C, NY**
  - Credit Winner-Miss Garland-Garland Lobell 1/2-brother to **Vivid Photo**, 1:50.2z ($3,275,631)

- **DOVERLICIOUS, C, PA**
  - Andover Hall-CR Kay Susie-Royal Troubadour Dam is **CR Kay Suzie**, 1:52.3 ($1,611,131)

- **TOOLBOX TUESDAY, C, PA**
  - Broadway Hall-Spawning-TV Yankee 1/2-brother to **SJ’s Cocktiar**, 3, 1:53.4 ($1,288,466)

- **WELL GROUNDED, C, NY**
  - Explosive Matter-Sheza Hot Cookie-Mr Vic Dam is 1/2-sister to **Mr Muscleman**, 1:51.1s ($3,589,142)

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Draws Poorly, But It Could Be Worse

John Fielding’s first reaction to Monday’s Hambletonian draw was a four-letter word that begins with the letter s, but the owner from Toronto didn’t want any sympathy for drawing poorly with Jimmy Takter trainees Pinkman, French Laundry and Uncle Lasse. Fielding’s friend Fred Hertrich had a much worse day when presumptive Hambletonian Oaks favorite Spirit To Win died in a freak training accident that morning.

“The guy I feel most sorry for is my very, very close friend and Thoroughbred partner Freddie Hertrich. That is really, really harsh news,” Fielding said, referring to the death of the filly trained by Dustin Jones, bred by Hertrich of Seaford, Del., and owned by Hertrich and the Noblock Racing Stable of Ontario. “I talked to Fred today and I just said, ‘Jesus, Freddie.’ He’s joining me for lunch (at the Meadowlands on Hambletonian Day) and I feel sick for him.... Freddie’s no stranger to the livestock business, but he was shaken up this morning when I talked to him. He said, ‘I just can’t believe it. It’s unbelievable.’ That filly was a really, really top horse.”

Fielding has had scores of top horses of his own, but has yet to raise the Hambletonian trophy. It’s the race he said he’d most like to win.

Last year Father Patrick looked poised to break Fielding’s Hambletonian dry spell, but drew post 10 and then made a break leaving. Before that, Fielding drew the nine with Guccio in 2012 and finished second. The same year, Fielding’s Uncle Peter went off as the favorite but made a break at the top of the stretch while sitting second to eventual winner Market Share. In 2011, Father Patrick’s older brother, Pastor Stephen, also drew post 10 and finished fifth.

This year, Pinkman drew post 10 in the first elimination. French Laundry and Uncle Lasse drew the six and seven, respectively, in the second elimination against favored filly Mission Brief. Despite the outside post, Pinkman is still the 8-5 morning line choice in the first group.

“I still think Pinkman can win, but, boy oh boy, that’s tough,” Fielding said of the draw. “I still think he’s got a legitimate chance. In fact, I think all three of them have a chance. Don’t count out French Laundry. He was awesome his last start.”

Fielding said he has something of a soft spot for Uncle Lasse because the Donato Hanover colt is a homebred full brother to Shake It Cerry.

“I think Uncle Lasse would be the best one to win the Hambletonian just because of his residual value as a stallion being out of that mare, Solveig, and a brother to Shake It Cerry,” Fielding said. “Uncle Lasse just didn’t grab the track at the Zweig, but before that, in the Stanley Dancer, he was second to Pinkman. If he got a better trip, he probably could have beaten him.”

The post position gods were also unkind to Fielding in the Peter Haughton where his Earn And Burn, like Pinkman, also drew post 10.

“I thought he had a good chance because he’s coming up to a great race and he drew outside as well,” Fielding said.

In the Hambletonian Oaks, Fielding drew the eight hole with Sarcy, but finally lacked out by drawing the two with his top filly Wild Honey, who is the 5-2 morning line favorite.

Regardless, Fielding plans to be at the Meadowlands Saturday to cheer them all on, despite a conflict with a previously-made weekend plan. He long ago assumed the Hambletonian was always the first Saturday in August, which would have made the race Aug. 1, not Aug. 8. He long ago committed to going to the sold out Boots and Hearts country music festival north of Barrie, Ont., featuring Brad Paisley, Eric Church and Florida Georgia Line. The festival is owned by one of Fielding’s close friends. Fortunately, the tiny Simcoe Airport is just one road over from the Burl’s Creek festival site.

“I have it all figured out,” Fielding said. “I’ve got a plane picking me up at 10 o’clock (Saturday morning) and he’ll drop us back off at 6 o’clock, or whenever we get back.”

As for bad posts, Fielding was philosophical. After all, he was at his Ontario cottage with friends on Monday and was getting ready to fire up the barbecue when reached.

“Trust me, there’s nobody in the world that would rather win the Hambletonian more than me,” he said, “but the sun’s going to come up tomorrow. If we win it, great. If we don’t, we’ll try next year. If we don’t win next year, we’ll try to get it the year after.”

Fielding’s Hambletonian Trio

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Hambletonian Contenders

FIRST ELIMINATION

DONATOMITE—post 1

“He’s a sleeper in the Hambo. He’s a talented horse who had some problems at the beginning of the year. He can step around there pretty good. I am going to try and leave. It’s time to test the waters.” — trainer Trond Smedshammer

WORKOUT WONDER—post 3

“He’s in a good spot and he’s a good horse and just getting better and better. Hopefully he can make it to the final and do some damage there.” — Bernie Noren, assistant to trainer Ake Svanstedt

HABITAT—post 4

“That was the perfect draw for him. He needs to get out of there and get a seat.” — trainer Ron Burke

TOTAL DARKNESS—post 5

“He follows anything that’s in front of him. I’m hoping we can get close and come out late. He’s in his best form right now.” — trainer Jonas Czernyson

FASHION CREDITOR—post 6

“We said if he impressed us last Friday night at the Meadowlands, then we’d go. That’s not his trip, going to the front like that, as he likes to follow and sprint. The fact that he got parked and used pretty hard and the horse to beat sat on our back and couldn’t get past us, it’s a good time. I thought we’d take a shot. We’ll see if can sit close and make a little sprint. He’s quick that way.” — trainer Tom Fanning

JACKSONS MINION—post 7

“They did an operation and removed a polyp from his throat.” — co-owner Howard Taylor

CENTURION ATM—post 8

“He’s only made four starts this year. The first race he had a bad post and Ake (Svanstedt) took him back. He had some horses in front of him and he finished up very good. The second race in the Beal elim he raced huge to get third and make the final. He’s not the quickest horse behind the gate and in the final he raced tremendous first-over and then got really tired. Last time he made a miscue and raced big to come back and finish third. He just took a stumble and it was really nothing.” — assistant trainer Bernie Noren

SECOND ELIMINATION

BILLY FLYNN—post 1

“He had some issues, and we found a problem with his back. His back was his main problem and we had a chiropractor and acupuncturist work on him. He (driver Tim Terrick) thought he went a very big mile (1:52.4) in the qualifier, especially since he hadn’t been trotting that much and the track was loose that morning too. Hopefully, we will be one to reckon with.” — trainer Staffan Lind

2015 Post Position Wins at Meadowlands

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Percent in Money

- 11.3
- 9.9
- 10.4
- 10.9
- 13.2
- 15.5
- 9.8
- 11.1
- 10.0
- 9.2
- 2.2

CRUZADO DELA NOCHE—post 3

“We’re going to make some shoeing changes and some bridle changes. He was better in his qualifier but I wasn’t completely happy with him and there is still some fine-tuning that needs to be done between now and Saturday. He definitely has enough speed to go with them. He needs to mind his manners. He always used to mind his manners, I don’t know why he’s decided not to mind his manners recently. Hopefully he’ll make the second heat because I think that will help more than anything because he’s just rambunctious and needs to get some of that energy out.” — trainer Nancy Johansson

ALDEBARAN EAGLE—post 4

“I think he’s coming into the race pretty good. He can leave good, so I hope we can get good position. When we got to Pocono (June 27), he didn’t get along with the off track. We had a couple of things that we had to manage from that.” — trainer Jonas Czernyson

WINGS OF ROYALTY—post 5

“I think he’s on the upswing. I raced him in an overnight at Vernon Sunday (Aug. 2) and that was probably his best race in a while, and he did it easy. I think he drew in a decent spot. He’s versatile; he can be driven about any way.” — trainer George Ducharme

SOUTHWIND MOZART—post 8

“He’s been racing very good. He raced huge in the Beal elimination and then was unlucky to get the nine hole in the final. He was lucky to get inside and raced good. Last race was one of his better races. Soundness-wise he looked very good and had a lot of horse left. With a little luck he can make the final.” — assistant trainer Bernie Noren

MUSCLE DIAMOND—post 9

“He trained well this morning (Tuesday, Aug. 4). His last couple of weeks have been good, with the exception of Campbell (Muscle Diamond’s regular driver, John Campbell) getting hurt. It’s hard to predict what will happen in the race but I’d like to see legitimate fractions early. He’ll be wearing aluminum shoes—John liked how he traveled in them—and for the first time, pop-out ear plugs.” — trainer Brett Bittle
Natural Herbie

“I can’t sneak up on them anymore. He’s coming. (July 24) I thought he put in a good effort, I just had dead cover and had to go four deep in the last turn. (Last Saturday) he performed good. I just should have flipped the blinds a little earlier than I did. But he fought back pretty good.” — trainer-driver-owner Verlin Yoder about Cashman Memorial starter NATURAL HERBIE, who won the Vincennes Invitational on the 2014 Hambletonian card

Market Share

“I have no clue. MARKET SHARE tells us what he wants to do.” — trainer Linda Toscano about the future retirement of the 6-year-old Market Share, who is making his fourth consecutive Hambletonian day appearance at the Meadowlands—and won the Hambo in 2012—and is the 3-1 morning line favorite in the John Cashman Memorial Trot

Southwind Frank

“He had plenty of trot left. I was trying to go as slow as I could.” — driver Yannick Gingras about his the elimination win by Peter Haughton Memorial Trot finalist SOUTHWIND FRANK

Wiggle It Jiggleit

“We trained him (Monday). It’s the only time he’s trained since he raced two-and-a-half weeks ago. For the first four or five days we usually give him stall rest and a little grass. Then we get back to jogging a couple miles each day leading up to training.

“It’s a pretty simple routine. I don’t think he needs much. This horse has been going since the first of the year racing and he was in training a couple months before that. So he’s got eight, nine, 10 months between work and racing. He doesn’t need much now. The week before the Meadowlands Pace we didn’t even train him.” — owner George Teague Jr.

about prohibitive Cane Pace favorite WIGGLE IT JIGGLEIT. Teague trained 2006 Cane Pace winner Total Truth

State Treasurer

“I was happy with the draw. I think ‘Treasurer’ will be fine. It will depend upon how far back we are in there and what kind of fractions they go as to whether or not we can win, but he always gives a good account of himself. I think he’ll be better this week because when he shipped down from Ontario he was stuck on a van for 13 hours last Friday and he didn’t get here until 8 o’clock Friday night and then raced Saturday night. He stayed here in my stable this week, and I know he’s feeling good. He didn’t do anything but jog this week. He’s a likable horse in the barn too. He’s a little guy and he’s got a great personality.” — driver David Miller about U.S. Pacing Championship contender STATE TREASURER, who starts from post 5

In The Arsenal

“The nine hole is pretty standard equipment for me at the Meadowlands these days. My colt is very good. He choked big time in the Meadowlands Pace final (while racing in the pocket, and finished eighth). You’ve got to give Wiggle It Jiggleit his due, but we’re ready for the race.” — trainer Kelvin Harrison about his Cane contender IN THE ARSENAL

Artspeak

“He might have been sick a couple starts ago because he coughed a couple times that night. But he did feel a lot like himself last week. He was on the bit and pacing strong. You have the two killers there in Dude’s The Man and Wiggle It Jiggleit, and they have the one and two. Maybe I can get a nice second-over tow into some fast fractions and capitalize on it.” — driver Scott Zeron on the 2014 Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year ARTSPEAK, who starts from post 5 in the Cane Pace. Zeron is the only person who has driven Artspeak in his 21-start career, including two baby races

Winter Harbor

“He’s a really nice horse. He didn’t get off the wings very good for me last week from the nine hole. He chased some fast fractions and closed hard into it. He came :27 on the end of a (1):55 mile, and it was just his second start. It definitely was a great start for him.” — driver Scott Zeron on Peter Haughton Memorial starter WINTER HARBOR

Allie Labrook

“I don’t think post position really makes a big difference to her. I think it’s very beneficial in the field she’s in to have the rail, but we don’t leave with her very often and she’s more of a come-off-the-pace type of horse. She really likes to kick that last quarter. I think it’s a good spot to be; it’s better than being in the second tier.” — trainer Kristin Shetler on the Indiana-bred mare ALLIE LABROOK, who starts from post 1 in the Fresh Yankee after a win and a third from post 8 her last two starts
This weekend's action is tipped heavily to the Saturday afternoon Hambletonian Day mega-card at the Meadowlands, but there are a trio of trots on the Friday night program.

Race 5 on Friday night at the Big M is a division of the Townsend Ackerman for 3-year-old colt trotter who were Hambletonian eligibles (a second split is on Saturday). The 11-horse field includes the $475,000 yearling purchase WHOM SHALL I FEAR, who seemed on the way to being trainer Jimmy Takter's sixth Hambletonian entry when he rolled off a four-race win streak to open the year. However, the son of Cantab Hall tailed off in recent weeks which led to him not being entered in the Hambo. Instead, he starts from post 3 with Yannick Gingras driving.

Two divisions of the Duenna for 3-year-old filly trotters are also on tap Friday. The first split (Race 6) sees seven of the 10 starters coming into the race off victories, including MUSCLE BABY DOLL, who comes south of the border after posting four straight victories at Mohawk, including a trio of Ontario Sires Stakes Gold events. David Miller drives from post 5 for trainer Tony O’Sullivan.

ALL THAT SPARKLES, another Ontario Sires Stakes Gold winner, will start in the second Duenna division (Race 7).

Across the river in New York, Yonkers Raceway will feature 2-year-old trotting fillies in five divisions of New York Sires Stakes on the betting card (Races 2 plus 4-7), plus Excelsior divisions early as non-betting events.

While the freshman fillies are very much rookies, it’s easy to call out some simply because it’s Hambletonian weekend. In Race 2 starting from post 2 is PAMPERED WINNER, a daughter of Credit Winner and Hambletonian elimination winner Pampered Princess. In Race 4, BUNDLE OF ENERGY is a Credit Winner sister to $900,000 winner Take My Picture. In Race 5, a daughter of 2008 Hambletonian Oaks winner Creamy Mimi will take to the track; her name is HUSTLE HEART and she’ll start from post 5 with Brian Sears driving. Also in Race 5 is the two-for-two DIZZY BROAD, a daughter of 2011 Hambletonian champion Broad Bahn. The filly is making her first start for trainer Ron Burke after being acquired by Burke and partners on July 31. Also of note, Race 6 includes EARN YOUR WINGS, a Credit Winner half sister to Hambletonian filly starter MISSION BRIEF. She’ll start from post 7.

Race 8 at Yonkers is an Open Pace for mares and the field includes KRISPY APPLE, who has earnings of $174,783 this season and thus was assigned post 8. That race is scheduled for 9:30, and about 15 minutes earlier Pocono will hold an Open Pace for mares (Race 10) with the 5-2 morning line favorite YAGONNAKISSMEORMNOT, a winner of $243,026 this season.

At Scioto Downs, 3-year-old filly pacers and trotters are in action on Friday night in Ohio State Fair Stakes. Scioto has a 6:30 p.m. first post and the first three races are Fair Stakes.

On Friday night at Mohawk, Ontario-sired 2-year-old trotting colts compete in Ontario Sires Stakes Gold divisions. In Race 1, BEE IN CHARGE (post 2), a Manofmanymissions half brother to 2013 Horse of the Year Bee A Magician, makes his first career start. In Race 6, TONY SOPRANO (Kadabra-Windsong Soprano), will start from post 2 for driver Randy Waples. He has already won in 1:57.3 at Georgian Downs.

At Mohawk on Saturday night, GO DADDY GO, a winner of a Breeders Crown elimination at the Meadowlands last fall but a slow starter this season, competes in an overnight (Race 3, post 5) and LUCK BE WITH YOU, the winner of the Ben Franklin in June at Pocono, will start from post 9 in the Preferred Handicap Pace (Race 10).
Oaks Elim Winner Spirit To Win Dies

The 3-year-old filly trotter Spirit To Win, who won her elimination for the Hambletonian Oaks on Saturday at the Meadows and was considered one of the favorites to win this Saturday’s final, died Monday morning (Aug. 3) when she got loose at a farm in New Jersey and fell and fractured her orbital bone and skull. A necropsy showed that a fractured bone entered the filly’s brain and she died instantly.

“She just happened to fall the wrong way,” said the filly’s trainer, Dustin Jones, via text. “Many horses fall and don’t even receive a scratch.”

Jones was in Ontario when the accident happened. He had returned home to Ontario on Sunday, Aug. 2, so he could race horses at Mohawk Monday night. He left the filly at the farm of veteran horseman Mark Lancaster, with Jones’s 21-year-old son, Tyler, entrusted with the filly’s care. Tyler has been working with Spirit To Win on a regular basis since April, when he finished his university studies.

Jones was given the following account of the accident from Lancaster: “She’s always been good at the farm but she’s been getting progressively worse about being hitched. Tyler and Mark (Lancaster) were trying to get her hitched so Tyler could jog her, and she reared up and came down on top of Tyler and stepped on his leg and ran off. She was only hitched on one side and she ran about an eighth of a mile and the cart flipped and she fell down. When they got to her there was blood gushing out of her nose. There was a vet (Dr. Ted Mazzarisi) there on the grounds but when he got to her there was nothing they could do to save her.”

Jones said his son Tyler was skinned up but otherwise physically fine. But he was so upset about the accident that Lancaster made the call to relay the news.

Spirit To Win won the $187,000 Delvin Miller Memorial at the Meadowlands on July 18 at odds of 48-1, trotting a lifetime-best 1:52.2, with a last quarter of .26 flat for driver Brett Miller. She won her Oaks elim in 1:52.2.

“She was real bad in the paddock the other night (at the Meadowlands before the Oaks elimination) and the race before that too,” added Dustin Jones. “Each time we’ve raced her down here, we’ve had a tough time getting a bike on her. When we had her at the farm at home, she was always tough, but not like this.”

Spirit To Win was bred by Fred Hertrich III, who shared ownership of the Cantab Hall filly with Noblock Racing Stable. Spirit To Win had five wins in 11 career starts with $185,630 in earnings.—By Kathy Parker
Suzie The Fastest, But Not The 1995 Hambletonian Champion

Twenty years ago, the blazing fast filly CR Kay Suzie was the 1-9 betting favorite to win the 1995 Hambletonian. No filly had won the Hambo since Duenna in 1983, but “Suzie” had beaten the colts decisively in the Yonkers Trot and Beacon Course. When she won the Beacon Course at the Meadowlands the week before the Hambletonian eliminations, she was three lengths better than the best colt, which happened to be Tagliabue.

A crowd of 26,164 turned out at the Meadowlands for the 70th edition of the Hambletonian in 1995 and there was anticipation to see history made. The story wasn’t just that a filly was taking on the colts; it was that a filly was expected to beat the colts!

With five straight wins and starting post position 6 in a seven-horse field in her elimination for the Hambletonian, Rod Allen had loads of confidence in CR Kay Suzie. And he had confidence in his own abilities as well, having driven in a $1 million race before and winning (the 1992 Meadowlands Pace with Carlsbad Cam).

But as often happens in sports and particularly horse racing, CR Kay Suzie was not destined for Hambletonian glory. She broke stride on the backstretch while making a move to take the lead, and the crowd let out a loud, collective gasp that drowned out the announcer’s call of the race.

When Rod Allen heard that Mission Brief was being entered in the Hambletonian to face the colts, he took a trip down memory lane.

“I think it was mostly my fault,” said Allen of losing the race with CR Kay Suzie. Looking back, Allen believes the Hambletonian is a race where preparation can never cover all of the circumstances a driver or horse might face.

“The filly was plenty capable that day, but that wasn’t enough,” continued Allen, who today lives on the Allen family farm in Ocala, Fla., and is presently working with 15 horses—“turnouts and rehabs, mostly horses that race at Pompano Park,” he added.

“I think I thought everything would be normal, but there are certain pressures, and there are some things that can happen and you think you’re prepared, but you’re not.”

Rod Allen

Allen thinks “Suzie’s” dominance in her previous races earned her the respect of other drivers, it also played a role in her defeat in the Hambletonian.

“We had gotten into a formula with how she raced, settling and then going to the front past the quarter,” began Allen. “But in the Hambletonian, things change, and I didn’t anticipate that. Sonny Patterson (driving Giant Hit), he’s a good ol’ Georgia boy who is as friendly as can be off the track, but when he’s racing it’s another story. His orders were do not let Suzie go easily. I wasn’t expecting that.”

Allen made his usual move with CR Kay Suzie.

“He (Patterson) let his horse out a notch to pick up the pace,” continued Allen. “I remember her head ducking, and she made one bad step. Her right hind foot didn’t even touch the ground for two strides.”

Allen thinks the filly made the mistake and broke stride because she was trying to get into another gear herself.

“I have to blame myself,” he said.

Instead of CR Kay Suzie standing in the winner’s circle with the Allen family, Tagliabue won the race for the brother team of trainer Jim Campbell and driver John Campbell.

A month later, CR Kay Suzie beat the boys handily again, in world record time, in the World Trotting Derby.

Allen believes the element of surprise, and depth of a field, can change the complexion of any race, but especially the Hambletonian. He points to Roger Hammer’s winning drive with Vivid Photo in the 2005 edition of the race.

“Roger is known for going to the front, but he did just the opposite, and he caught people by surprise and he won,” said Allen.

Allen, now 59, said his father, the late Carl Allen, who bred and co-owned CR Kay Suzie with his son and worked with him daily, always tried to downplay the importance of any race, even the ones when they were racing for a million dollars.

“My dad’s thing to do before a race was he’d slap me on the back as I went to the track and say, ‘It’s just a baby race.’ It does help, but people are human, they can feel the pressure,” said Rod.

CR Kay Suzie is now 23 years old, healthy, and spending her summer days in a large field carpeted with lush grass at Winbak Farms in Maryland. Although she has not been in foal for two years, she has a yearling son, a colt named Doverlicious, who will be sold at auction this fall.

“Suzie’s” mother, Country Kay Sue, is also still alive, but in failing health at age 29, living out her days at the Allen family’s Golden Cross Farm.—By Kathy Parker
Oh So Close For Pampered Princess In 2007

There have been 160 filly starters in the Hambletonian since the inception of the trotting classic in 1926, with 13 coming up victorious. Another five fillies won either their Hambletonian heat or elimination, the most recent being Pampered Princess in 2007.

Pampered Princess won the first of three Hambo elims that year in 1:53, setting the stage for a showdown the following week with Donato Hanover, who had won the second elim in 1:53.1.

The race was a classic confrontation between the two defending divisional champions, joined by Adrian Chip, the Swedish import who won the third elim in 1:54.2.

The Hambletonian final saw favorite Donato Hanover take the lead with a quarter-pole move from third by driver Ron Pierce. Tim Tetrick sent second-choice Pampered Princess up to challenge down the backside and the filly was able to put her head in front moving into the final turn. Donato Hanover rebuffed the bid and went on to the 1:53.2 victory, with Adrian Chip 1 ¼ lengths behind in second. Pampered Princess faded through the stretch and eventually made a tired break.

To watch the video replay of the 2007 Hambletonian final, please click here.

“I honestly believed Pampered Princess had the ability to win the Hambletonian,” trainer Jimmy Takter said afterward. “I honestly believe the roles might very well have been reversed.”

Eight years later, Takter still believes the same.

“Pampered Princess looked really good in the elimination but in the final she got screwed a little bit,” said Takter. “Donato went :58.2 to the half and she had to trot something like a :26 third quarter.”

Pampered Princess came into the Hambletonian riding a four-race win streak, a stretch that included the finals of the Elegantimage at Mohawk and the Delvin Miller Memorial at the Meadowlands. Takter said it wasn’t until after the Miller win that the decision was made to enter her in the Hambletonian and not the Oaks.

“We decided after the Miller,” remembered Takter. “There was some talk, but the owners (the late Bob Anderson and his son, David) wanted to play in the game.”

David Anderson says he has no regrets about racing Pampered Princess against the colts.

“A thousand times over, I’d do it again,” said Anderson. “We didn’t feel like we had much to prove by racing her against the fillies.”

And what does he remember about the experience?

“I remember my heart rate never came down below 180,” he says with a laugh. “And I remember so many women and girls in the crowd were walking around with ‘girl power’ signs.”

While Anderson was keenly aware of his own nerves before the race, he also knew his father was nervous despite showing a calm demeanor.

“My father knew how to act cool on the outside, but he was a nervous Nelly on the inside.”

The Hambletonian final was the only time in 15 starts that year that Pampered Princess finished off the board. She went on to finish second to Donato Hanover in the Canadian Trotting Classic, third behind Donato and Arch Madness in a heat of the Kentucky Futurity, and second to Southwind Serena—the mother of Mission Brief—in the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Trot. The Breeders Crown was her final career start, completing her racing resume with earnings of $1,648,362. She finished her 3-year-old season with a 6-7-1 slate in 15 start and was easily voted Dan Patch Award divisional honors.

Now owned by Bengt Agerup’s Brixton Medical, Pampered Princess resides in New Jersey at Concord Stud Farm and is presently in foal to Father Patrick, who was campaigned and is owned in part by Brixton and Takter. She has a yearling colt and a suckling colt, both by Muscle Massive, the winner of the 2010 Hambletonian.—By Gordon Waterstone
Gurfein, Lachance Remember Continentalvictory’s ‘96 Triumph

Thirteen fillies have won the Hambletonian in the 89-year history of the trotting classic, and Mission Brief will attempt to add her name to the exclusive club when she starts in Saturday afternoon’s 90th renewal at the Meadowlands.

“It’s a difficult thing to do,” said Ron Gurfein, who trained Continentalvictory, the last filly to beat her male peers in the Hambletonian in 1996. “You have to be blessed with a great filly when the colts aren’t so great. And I think this is a very, very even group of colts.”

To see the video of Continentalvictory’s Hambletonian victory, please click here.

Soon after Mission Brief won the Zweig Filly Trot last Sunday at Vernon Downs in 1:51.2, trainer Ron Burke announced he was sending his filly toward a date with destiny in the Hambletonian and bypassing the companion Oaks. Gurfein said as soon as he heard the news, he reflected back 19 years ago with Continentalvictory.

Gurfein said Yannick Gingras, who drives both Mission Brief and likely Hambletonian favorite Pinkman—one of five entries from trainer Jimmy Takter—will have a choice similar to the one which faced Mike Lachance. Gurfein noted Lachance had also been the regular driver behind the top-ranked colt Lindy Lane in 1996, and as the Hambletonian loomed closer he had to make a decision on who to drive.

Although Gingras won’t have to weigh his decision in the same manner since Pinkman is a gelding, Gurfein noted the longtime custom of a winning driver receiving breeding shares to a Hambletonian winner seemingly played a role in Lachance opting for the filly. Gurfein baited Lachance with Mr. Vic, a colt he trained and who many thought had a great chance to win the Hambletonian.

“Mike and I had serious lunch talk at Il Villagio before the draw,” remembered Gurfein about meeting with Lachance at a restaurant near the Meadowlands. “Frankie (Antonacci, whose Lindy Farms Racing owned Lindy Lane) was offering Mike the moon to drive Lindy Lane. I went to George (Continentalvictory co-owner George Segal of Brittany Farms) and said we needed to throw something on the fire.

“I said to Mike, ‘Here’s the deal: You drive both of them in the eliminations. Then if the filly beats the colts, whatever happens to Mr. Vic you get breedings to him.’ I think that’s what pushed him over the top as far as making a decision.”

Lachance said while the Mr. Vic breedings were enticing, that wasn’t the reason he chose Continentalvictory.

“ ‘That’s not why I stayed with Continentalvictory; I stayed because of Ronnie, because at the time he was good to me and we had won the Hambo with Victory Dream and the Breeders Crown and a bunch of good horses over the years.

“I had the pick of three of the best horses that year in the Hambo: Continentalvictory, Mr. Vic and Lindy Lane. Lindy Lane was a stud and at the time around the Hambo he was such a good-mannered horse and the mare was a little tougher to drive and a little hotter. A colt against the filly, I thought I was going to stay with Lindy Lane. I wanted to win the Hambo and I thought the colt was better right now.

“When I saw Ronnie was so upset about it, I stayed with him. They said something about the breedings to Mr. Vic, but I stayed with Continentalvictory because of Ronnie.”

The decision didn’t come easy for Lachance, who admits he felt the pressure in the Hambletonian.

“In my heart I really thought Lindy Lane was going to beat her, but it wasn’t like that in the race,” said Lachance.

Ironically, after Gurfein enlisted Ron Pierce to drive Mr. Vic in the Hambletonian, the colt came up lame in the post parade and was scratched. Mr. Vic never raced again.

Both Continentalvictory and Lindy Lane won their respective eliminations, which set the stage for the same-day second and decisive heat. Continentalvictory was first to the lead with Bill O’Donnell settling betting favorite Lindy Lane in second. The order remained unchanged until just past the three-quarters when O’Donnell tipped Lindy Lane to the outside. Continentalvictory trotted a last quarter of :27.3 to hold off Lindy Lane by a half-length in 1:52.4.

“Turning for home I knew Lindy Lane was on my back and my heart was beating. I said I cannot let him beat me.”

–Mike Lachance

Gurfein said he shrugged off any extra pressure having a filly in the Hambletonian, and he believes Burke will be able to do the same.

“The media was always there anyway,” said Gurfein.—By Gordon Waterstone
2YO Trotters

MILE TRACKS


2F 1:53.3 BROADWAY DONNA, Donato Hanover-Broadway Schooner-Broadway Hall Fashion Fms. (Mission Brief 1:50.3)

2G 1:57.3 JUSTICE AS, Justice Hall-Pandora As-Prego Nilema ACL Stuteri Ab. (HoP 7-3) Tr. Tetrick.

FIVE-EIGHTHS MILE TRACKS

2C 1:56.1 TROLLEY, Donato Hanover-Lakeside Bride-Duke Of York L. Mathias, G. Gillis, L. Willinger & Paymaq Rcg. (Father Patrick 1:52.1)

2F 1:54.1 BROADWAY DONNA, Donato Hanover-Broadway Schooner-Broadway Hall Fashion Fms. (COOLER SCHOONER 1:51.3)

2G 1:52.2 CUFFLINK HANOVER, Andover Hall-CR Savoire Faire-Lindy Lane Hanover Shoe Fms. (Correctamundo 1:55)

FIVE-EIGHTHS MILE TRACKS

2C 1:51.3 SPIDER MAN HANOVER, Western Ideal-Stolly Up Bluechip-Art Major M. Leeman, Country Club Acres, M. Mallett & K. Vaupel. Hanover Shoe Fms. (Somestormsomewhere 1:49.4)

2F 1:52.1 CALL ME QUEEN BE, Somebeachsomewhere-Preppy Party Girl-Western Terror Let It Ride Stbs. & D. Parham. J. Carver (Allstar Rating 1:50.1)

2G 1:51.1 MANHATTAN BEACH, Somebeachsomewhere-Benear-Badlands Hanover Burke Rcg. Stb., Weaver Bruscemi, G.L. Mound & Wingfield Bros. G. Martin (One More Laugh 1:49.2)

HALF-MILE TRACKS


2F 1:54.2 TIME ON MY HANDS, American Ideal-Jukebox-Intocable-Notebook M. Robinson, R. Mondillo & S. Cheatham. Riverview Fms. (Stga 7-10) J. Morrill Jr. & C. Ryder (Isabella Blue Chip 1:53.1)


Data through 8/4/15.

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Trotters

MILE TRACKS

3C 1:50.4 THE BANK, Donato Hanover-Lantern Kronos (M 7-18) J. Takter
3F 1:51.4 MISSION BRIEF, Muscle Hill-Southwind Serena (V/D 7-26) Y. Gingras

Pacers

MILE TRACKS

3C 1:48.3 SPRITE THE HOUSE, Rocknroll Hanover-Shake That Junk (M 7-25) R. Vargas
3F 1:49 MOONLIT DANCE, Art Major-Gone Dancing (M 7-18) D. Miller

Data through 8/4/15.

NEW LEADERS IN GREEN* Division, current season's record, current leader, breeding (Track and date) Driver Owner(s). Breeders/ [world record, all-age record in caps].

HALF-MILE TRACKS

3C 1:56.2 CRESCENT FASHION, Muscle Hill-Fashion Feline (YR 7-21) D. Dube
3F 1:55.2 GEE O'KEEFFE, Holiday Road-Weepin' Green (Nfld 8-4) A. Merriman

HALF-MILE TRACKS

3C 1:51.1 NATIONAL SEELSTER, American Ideal-Art's Risk (M 6-21) J. Takter
3F 1:51.1 PURRFECT BAGS, David Hall-Sheena Hall (Nfld 7-6) A. Merriman

NEW LEADERS IN GREEN* Division, current season's record, current leader, breeding (Track and date) Driver Owner(s). Breeders/ [world record, all-age record in caps].

HALF-MILE TRACKS
Standardbred Poll
Hambledon Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by Harness Racing Communications for the week of August 4, 2015

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Harness Racing Leaders
Compiled by the USTA—through August 4, 2015 (week difference July 29-Aug. 4).

### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>Pvs</th>
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<td>Corey Callahan</td>
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<td>940</td>
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<td>221-171-187 .268</td>
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<td>Daniel Dube</td>
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### Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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<th>Pvs</th>
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<td>183-166-117 .303</td>
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<td>Virgil Morgan Jr</td>
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<td>208-113-122 .362</td>
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<td>Julie Miller</td>
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<td>78-50-60 .315</td>
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<td>Richard Moreau</td>
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### Leading Breeders

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<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>Britanny Farms</td>
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<td>Perretti Farms</td>
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<td>White Birch Farm</td>
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<td>Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par</td>
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<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
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<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
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<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
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<td>Bulletproof Enterprises</td>
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Leaders Of The Week
Ranked by wins for July 29-Aug. 4 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

### Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Starts</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Trace Tetrick</td>
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<td>13-9-10</td>
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<td>Kevin Cummings</td>
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<td>Chris Page</td>
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<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
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<td>Jim DeVaux</td>
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### Trainers

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<td>Erv Miller</td>
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<td>Linda Toscano</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>Battle of Waterloo 2CP (GvrR)</td>
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**2015 HARRISBURG MIXED SALE**

**November 5 & 6**

**NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES**

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**Northwood Bloodstock**

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