Butenschoen Hopes To Have 2 In Canadian Trotting Classic Final

After seeing his colt Bill’s Man run into major traffic problems in the 12-horse Simcoe on Sept. 2 at Mohawk, trainer John Butenschoen was happy to see short elimination fields for the Canadian Trotting Classic (CTC) on Saturday. He’ll be sending out Bill’s Man and his new Pennsylvania champion, Dover Dan.

Bill’s Man drew post 11 in the Simcoe, which meant he was to follow the horse starting from post 1. That was the 110-1 shot Only Passing Thru, trained by Frank Antonacci and driven by Rick Zeron.

“He ended up trotting his back half in :54.3 and last quarter in :26.3, and we got nothing out of it.”
—John Butenschoen

By the time Bill’s Man got to the opening quarter pole he was 1½ lengths behind the pacesetting duo of Magic Night and R First Class, two Ontario-based trotters driven by Louis-Phillippe Roy and Sylvain Filion, respectively. Those two ended up finishing second (R First Class) and third to the fast-closing winner International Moni.

As for Bill’s Man, driver David Miller had the colt in the outer tier down the backstretch but they were too far back.

“He ended up trotting his back half in :54.3 and last quarter in :26.3, and we got nothing out of it,” said Butenschoen of the sixth-place finish for Bill’s Man. “It probably cost $4,000-$5,000 to take the horse up there and pay the entry fee, and it’s discouraging when you don’t even get a chance. It’s tough to be a trailer, especially when there are two trailers.”

The Simcoe wasn’t the first time Bill’s Man was unlucky this year. He finished second in an elimination for the Hambletonian, beaten just a nose by International Moni, and then drew post position 10 for the final. In the final heat he was parked the entire race and finished fifth—placed fourth.

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Less than 24 hours after the frustrating trip for Bill’s Man at Mohawk, Butenschoen watched as Dover Dan won the $252,000 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes championship by 3 ¾ lengths in 1:53.3. Dover Dan enjoyed a second-over trip before driver Tim Tetrick sent him wide and in the stretch drive they swept past “Dan’s” stablemate Giveitgasandgo, also the defending champion in the PASS division.

“Before the race I told Timmy (Tetrick) Dover Dan was just one good trip away from winning a big one,” shared Butenschoen.

Butenschoen said he’s not sure which of his CTC contenders is the better horse right now.

“Dover Dan has just had some bad luck until now. Bill’s Man has been good. I’m hopeful for both of them. I’ll be very disappointed if they both don’t make the final,” he said.

The Canadian Trotting Classic final, worth $684,000, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Mohawk. That card will also feature the Maple Leaf Trot, the Milton Pace for mares, the Elegantimage Trot for 3-year-old filly trotters, and eliminations for the Metro for 2-year-old colt pacers and She’s A Great Lady for freshman filly pacers.—By Kathy Parker
Congratulations to these 2017 Ohio Sires Stakes Champions!

IMPINKTOO—2-Year-Old Filly Trotting Champion
Billy Walters, Joe McLean, RK Racing, owners  Jay Musser, breeder
Peter Wvenn, driver  Jim Dailey, trainer

MISSION ACCEPTED—2-Year-Old Colt Trotting Champion
Koos Services, Jeff Conger, David Wills, owner  Koos Services, breeder
Ryan Stahl, driver  Jeff Conger, trainer

SEEING EYE SING—2-Year-Old Colt Pacing Champion
Burke Racing, Silva, Purcell, Libby, race, Weaver Brunner, owners
Josh Sutton, driver  Ronnie Burke, trainer

BAD GIRLS RULE—2-Year-Old Filly Pacing Champion
3rd Floor Stables, owners  Spring Haven Farm, breeder
Danny Noble, driver  Jim Dailey, trainer

ROSE RUN SYDNEY—3-Year-Old Filly Trotting Champion
Steve Carter, Adam Friedland, Bbr Racing, owners  Rose Run Farm, breeder
Jason Breves, driver  Steve Carter, trainer

FRASER RIDGE—3-Year-Old Colt Trotting Champion
Donald Robinson, Robert Mondillo, Chris Beaver, RHV Ventures, owners  Steve Stewart, breeder
Ronnie Wvenn, Jr., driver  Chris Beaver, trainer

PISTOL PACKIN MAMA—3-Year-Old Filly Pacing Champion
Herren Stables, owners  trace tetrock, driver

DRUNK ON YOUR LOVE—3-Year-Old Colt Trotting Champion
Mark Ford & Jason Settlemoore, owners  Danny Noble, driver
Harold Lee & Harold L. Bader, breeder  Jim Pollock, Jr., trainer

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Ohio Sires Stakes Kimberly Rinker, OSDF Administrator
614-773-6349 kmr@racingohio.gov 77 S. High Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Menary Hopes Sintra Up To Challenge In Ewart Memorial

It’s not easy going up against an Ohio State football game, but that’s the competition for Scioto Downs on Saturday night when the second-ranked Buckeyes take on the fifth-ranked Oklahoma Sooners 13 miles away at Ohio Stadium.

Plenty of eyes will still be on the action at Scioto Downs, with the 15-race card highlighted by the $125,000 Jug Preview for 3-year-old male pacers and the $225,000 Jim Ewart Memorial, named for the track’s longtime race secretary, who died in February 2012.

Raced 13 days before this year’s Little Brown Jug in Delaware, Ohio, on Thursday, Sept. 21, the Jug Preview’s nine starters include three who are Jug eligible: Downbythesaaside, Filibuster Hanover and Major Moe. Downbythesaaside, who comes into the race off a win in the Messenger Pace on Sept. 2 atYonkers, drew post 1 and is the 4-5 favorite to win the Jug Preview. Brian Sears will drive Downbythesaaside for trainer Brian Brown.

Brown also trains Major Moe, who starts from post 6 with driver Trace Tetrick. The Ron Burke-trained Filibuster Hanover starts from post 4 with driver Matt Kakaley.

The Jug Preview returns after a 10-year hiatus, with this year’s renewal the first since 2007 when Won The West captured the lone $165,000 division. The Jug Preview was inaugurated in 1972 and through 1981 was raced in one division. But from 1982 through 2006 the Jug Preview attracted enough entries to warrant divisions, including several years in which there were four splits.

As for the Ewart, 10 older pacers will line up behind the gate, including Graduate Series champion Sintra. Sintra comes into the Ewart after capturing last Saturday’s $498,150 Canadian Pacing Derby final at Mohawk in 1:48.1. Sintra overcame post 9 to win the Canadian Pacing Derby, and now he is saddled with post 8 in the Ewart.

“Everything has been great since (the Canadian Pacing Derby) except for the post at Scioto,” trainer and co-owner Dave Menary said with a laugh.

“I wasn’t real excited about the nine hole in the Canadian Pacing Derby and the eight is even worse at Scioto. But we’ll make the best of it.”

—Dave Menary

“I wasn’t real excited about the nine hole in the Canadian Pacing Derby and the eight is even worse at Scioto. But we’ll make the best of it.”

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Menary said Sintra has received invitations to race in the upcoming Quillen Memorial at Harrington and an invitational next month at Yonkers. “This is his last scheduled stake,” said Menary. “We’ve thought about supplementing him to some races like the Breeders Crown, but we’re just going to take it week by week and let the horse tell us what he wants to do. He’s exceeded expectations of any 4 year old. When he has a target in front of him he really likes to flaunt his speed.”

That last start was just his 33rd lifetime start. He’s a lightly-raced horse and I plan on him being around for a long time. And hopefully we can have a lot of fun.”

Menary remembers back to July 205 when Sintra entered his barn for the first time.

“We bought him into right away and we did everything right for the horse and he definitely rewarded us,” said Menary. — By Gordon Waterstone
Goshen Yearling Sale
Set For Sunday

It’s officially yearling sale season and the first of two auctions in New York takes place Sunday. The Goshen Yearling Sale, held at the Mark Ford Training Center near Goshen, will begin at noon on Sunday, with yearlings available for inspection beginning Saturday.

The 115 yearlings in the catalog are being offered by Hanover Shoe Farms (35 consigned), Winbak Farm (35), Cameo Hills Farm (22), Blue Chip Bloodstock (11) and Concord Stud Farm (10). The yearlings have plenty of black type on their catalog pages.

This year’s sale includes colts from the first crops by the top pacers Captaintreacherous and Sweet Lou. Cameo Hills offers the Captaintreacherous colt, selling as Hip 35, out of the Camluck mare Please Me Please. She is the dam of three in 1:51. Concord Stud Farm, acting as agent, is selling a colt by Sweet Lou out of Injeanous Style, a granddaughter of the great Delinquent Account. The colt is the first foal of the mare.

This is just the third edition of the Goshen Yearling Sale and its list of graduates includes stakes winners.

“There has been pretty good representation in stakes from this sale,” noted veteran bloodstock agent Bob Boni, who serves as president of the Goshen Yearling Sale.

Among the most accomplished graduates are the 2016 stakes winner Roaring To Go p,2, 1:50.4 ($427,587); Scuola Hanover p,2, 1:53.4f ($118,82), a $12,000 Goshen yearling, who finished second to Rainbow Room in the recent Pennsylvania Sires Stakes championship; Venier Hanover p,2, 1:53.3f ($75,504), a $7,500 Goshen buy; Natalie Hanover 2, 1:59.4, a New York Sires Stakes winner and Batavia track record setter; and New York Sires Stakes 2-year-old colt pace finalists Hurrikane Shorty p,2, 1:52.3 ($107,565), an $8,000 yearling, and Paprike Blue Chip p,2, 1:54.2, who sold for $7,000.
Contest For Free NY Stakes Payments

The Harness Horse Breeders of New York State (HHBNYS) are pleased to offer our members a unique incentive to purchase a New York-bred at Sunday's Goshen Yearling Sale and the Sept. 17 Morrisville Yearling Sale.

The Harness Horse Breeders of NYS have been overwhelmed by the support of old and new members. To show its appreciation, the HHBNYS will make both sustaining payments due in 2018 for two 2017 New York sire stakes-eligible yearlings that are sold in New York. The total value of those payments is $1,100 each. Any member that purchases a yearling at either sale will automatically be entered in the drawing.

The rules for the payment opportunity are:

1. To be entered into the drawing, you must be a member of Harness Horse Breeders of NYS, or join before the respective sale begins. In addition, you must have your name listed as purchaser on the sales slip of at least one New York-Bred yearling at one of the designated sales.
2. The Harness Horse Breeders will make the payment directly to the NYSS office.
3. The drawing will pull one member name after each sale. If the first name does not correspond with the name on the sales results for a yearling, drawing will continue until a match is made.
4. To be eligible, the yearling chosen by the winner of the drawing must be from a verified sale as certified by the sale company. No bid in’s or buy backs will be eligible for the drawing prize.
5. The drawing prize is non transferable between HHBNYS members. HHBNYS Board of Directors and staff are not eligible.
6. Winners have ten days after notification to assign the prize to a specific yearling if multiples were purchased, and to notify HHBNYS of that name. If the specified yearling is subsequently sold before the NYSS payment is due to be made, the award will follow the yearling. It will be owner of record’s responsibility to notify the HHBNY to sustain that horse 10 days in advance of the staking deadline.
7. Any HHBNYS member in a partnership will also be eligible to enter the drawing.
8. If the decision is made not to sustain the horse at the time of either of the two payments, there is no cash equivalent and a donation in the amount of the payments will be made to the Morrisville Standardbred After Care.
9. A yearling must be paid for in full for the winner to be assigned the prize.

The drawing for Goshen Yearling will take place on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Morrisville and the drawing for Morrisville Yearling will take place Saturday, Sept. 23. This will allow for membership verification and payments in full to be processed.

If you have any questions please call Betty at 518-785-5858. (Harness Horse Breeders)
Harness Racing Weekend Preview, September 8, 2017

After a break of several weeks, Kindergarten is back in session on Friday night at the Meadowlands, the first of four September race cards at the New Jersey racetrack. After two legs of the Kindergarten Series for 2 year olds were contested in July, leg three will take place on Friday, followed by leg four on Oct. 26 at Vernon Downs. The $150,000 (est.) Kindergarten finals, originally scheduled for Nov. 3 at Vernon Downs, will now take place on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Meadowlands.

Eight Kindergarten splits are on tap Friday night, divided equally among the four pacing and trotting divisions and include many freshmen making their series debut.

The 2-year-old filly trotters kick off the action in races 3 and 5, with point-leader **DAB HANOVER** starting from post 6 in the first split for trainer-driver Jimmy Takter. The daughter of Donato Hanover finished third in her Kindergarten opener but in her second attempt on July 21 at the Meadowlands, she came up a 1:56.1 winner at odds of 12-1. **MEGADOLCE**, fourth in the standings after a second-place finish in her Kindergarten debut, starts in post 7. The daughter of Cantab Hall is winless in five starts this year but has four seconds, including in last Monday’s Pennsylvania Sires Stakes consolation at Pocono Downs.

Only two of the seven starters in the second filly trot have Kindergarten splits under their belt. The two include **MOOSHKA STRIDE**, who finished second in her lone series appearance on July 7, and **VENUS DUHARAS**, who finished fourth in her July 21 Kindergarten contest and comes into Friday’s race off a maiden-breaking 1:58.4 win in a PA Stallion split on Aug. 21 at The Meadows.

**STORY TIME HANOVER**, who won her Kindergarten opener in 1:57.1 over a “sloppy” track at the Meadowlands, starts from post 7 in the first of two divisions for colt trotters (Race 7). Brett Miller drives the son of Muscle Hill for trainer Takter. Also in the field is **FARSETTI HANOVER**, who captured the Reynolds last time out in 1:57.1, who stands fifth in the Kindergarten standings after a fifth and second.

The second division (Race 9) has an entirely new cast of Kindergarten starters, including New Jersey Sires Stakes champion **U NEED STONES**. The son of Wishing Stone finished sixth in the Peter Haughton Memorial and then after a month layoff, returned to finished second in an Aug. 29 qualifier at Harrah’s Philadelphia. Tim Tetrick drives U Need Stones for trainer Ron Burke.

Only three of 15 starters in the colt pace divisions (races 6 and 8) have made prior Kindergarten appearances. **POINTS NORTH**, off the board in his two Kindergarten starts, comes into the first division off a 1:53.4 win at Harrah’s Philadelphia. Also in the field is **AMERICAN INFLUENCE**, who also comes into the race off a 1:53.4 victory at Pocono Downs.

Second-division starter **WINSTON** also comes into Friday off a 1:53.4 win at Pocono on Sept. 3. The field includes **I’M A BIG DEAL**, who was third in a Kindergarten start. The son of Somebeachsomewhere has one win in five starts, including a 1:52.4 effort on Aug. 22 at Pocono Downs.

The filly pacers wrap up the action in races 10 and 11. The first split sees **REIGN ON ME**, second in the standings with a second and third, leaving from post 5 with Andrew McCarthy driving for trainer Richard Norman. Starting from post 1 is **ALEXA’S POWER**, who won the PASS consolation in 1:53.4 last time out.

McCarthy and Norman also team up in the second division with **SANDY’S BEACH**, whose lone win in five starts is a 1:52.4 effort on Aug. 15 at Pocono Downs. Sandy’s Beach will line up in post 5.

The third and final leg of Kentucky Sires Stakes (KYSS) for 2-year-old pacers are set for Saturday night at The Red Mile. When the dust settles after Saturday, the top 10 point earners in each of the four freshman divisions will return for the $250,000 finals on Sunday, Sept. 17.

**BAND STAND**, who sits atop the KYSS leaderboard for filly pacers by virtue of her sweep of the two preliminaries, will attempt for a third KYSS victory when she starts from post 4 in Race 4 for driver Joe Bongiorno and trainer Tony Alagna. Starting from post 2 is **HURRIKANE EMPRESS** and driver Dave Palone. Band Stand held on by a nose over Hurrikane Empress, who won the New Jersey Sires Stakes final earlier this year, in their heat last time out.

The colt pace divisions see **KEY ADVISOR**, a KYSS prelim winner, going postward in one division, while KYSS prelim winners **GRAND TETON** and **GONE AGAIN** will square off in the second split.

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Charlie Armstrong Dies

How do you carry on a family legacy? One of the best examples is that of H. Charles “Charlie” Armstrong, who passed away Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the age of 96.

Mr. Armstrong, and his family’s Armstrong Bros. Farm, was an icon in harness racing for more than 60 years. Throughout this time, Mr. Armstrong was integral in the shaping of Ontario’s horse racing industry as a board member of the Ontario Jockey Club, and also served as a member of The Hambletonian Society from 1986-2001. In 2015, he was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Armstrong Bros. farm was founded in the 1940s by Charlie’s father, Elgin, and uncle Ted, who were construction magnates in Canada. After Elgin’s death, Charlie, along with his wife Lenore, kept the Armstrong horse business strong.

Charlie's love affair with horses began when he received his first pony Playboy from his uncle Ted in 1930 at the age of 11. The pony had been obtained as payment for a debt and according to Mr. Armstrong’s biography for the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, the pony was literally loaded into the back seat of the family car and taken to Brampton, Ont.

Charlie continued his family’s association with great horses, building on the success of his father, who won the 1953 Hambletonian with the filly Helicopter. During Charlie’s time at the helm of Armstrong Bros., the farm became the second largest Standardbred breeding operation in North America and produced and campaigned many of harness racing’s stars. The list of the “Armbro” named stars is lengthy, among Armbro Flight, Armbro Goal, Armbro Omaha, Armbro Ranger, Armbro Fling, Armbro Blush, Armbro Feather, Armbro Fern, Armbro Emerson and Armbro Operative.

Armstrong Bros. was also a major market breeder and became a shareholder in the old Kentucky Standardbred Sales Company, selling many yearlings annually in Lexington, Ky., in the fall.

Armstrong Bros. produced 14 Breeders Crown champions and at one time as owners, Armstrong ranked second as leading owners in the Crown series.

The Armstrong family company which operated the breeding farm was dispersed in 2005, but Charlie continued to enjoy international success, raising and racing Standardbreds with his daughters under the name of Village Acres Farms and Talk Of The Town Stable in Brampton, Ont. Over the years they won major stakes with two-time Breeders Crown champion Village Jiffy, million-dollar winner Village Connection, Village Jig, Village Jolt and Village Jove.

Among the trainers who handled the “Armbro” horses was John Kopas, who posted on his Facebook page, “Charlie was one of nicest men I ever had the privilege of knowing. My family and I were associated with he and Armbro for over 30 years, a relationship that I will always treasure.”

Mr. Armstrong was honored in 1996 with the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society’s Achievement Award; in 1998 he was an honoree of the Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame; in 2003 he received the Van Bussell Award; in 2005 he was presented Standardbred Canada’s prestigious Cam Fella Award; and in 2011 he was the inaugural recipient of the Ontario Equestrian Federation’s Industry Icon.
Little Brown Jug Future Wagering now available

Wagering on the first of two Little Brown Jug future wagering pools will start at 12 Noon on Thursday, Sept. 7, and continues through 11 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, at racetracks and internet sites throughout North America and Europe. more

Paula Campbell named Lady Pace honoree

Paula Campbell, wife of Hall of Fame driver John Campbell and advocate for retired racehorses, will be honored as the 2017 Lady Pace Honoree during the Grand Circuit meet at the Delaware County Fair. more

New Vocations Pre-Jug party on Sept. 20

The annual charity auction to benefit New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program and the Delaware County Fair will be held Wednesday Sept. 20, in conjunction with the Pre-Jug Party immediately following the Jugette. Over 100 items and services will be offered in a silent auction via mobile bidding followed by a live auction of 10 premier items at 7:30 p.m. For the first time, people will be able to view the items in advance and bid remotely from their mobile devices. To see the items and register to bid, visit: www.wedoauctions.net/prejugparty. New items will be added daily up to the event. more

Illini Classic Yearling Sale average doubles

The 2017 Illini Classic Yearling Sale, held on Labor Day (Sept. 4) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, saw the average sale price increase by 106 percent compared to 2016. This year's average price was $9,087 compared to $4,402 a year ago. more

Hawthorne “Fantasy Own A Horse” contest

Hawthorne Race Course invites fans to own a horse by entering to win their “Fantasy Own A Horse” contest. Fans will enter to win the opportunity to experience the excitement of being a horse owner for one night with a chance to win a portion of the purse money earned by that horse. The contest will take place on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 5 p.m. at Hawthorne Race Course. more

Harrisburg yearling catalog now online

Standardbred Horse Sales Company has posted the 2017 Black Book 1, 79th Annual Yearling Sale catalog, on its website at www.theblackbook.com/catalog-downloads.php. Download the catalog and other handy PDF packets, or create and track your own yearling lists with our “My Black Book” program. more

Northville Downs gets $850,000 for purses

The Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) on Tuesday announced it was releasing more than $1 million that has been held in escrow since Hazel Park Raceway last raced a harness meet in 2014. The money was garnered from simulcasting, but when Hazel Park switched to Thoroughbreds in 2015, the MGCB held the money as state law required the money be paid out at the racetrack where it was accumulated. more

FL Breeders’ Sunshine Stakes postponed

Due to the impending threat of Hurricane Irma, the Florida stakes season for 2- and 3-year-olds, scheduled to begin on Saturday (Sept. 9), has been pushed back one week. The first leg of the Sunshine State Stakes will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, with the second leg the following Saturday, Sept. 23, after the qualifying races. more

USTA states reasons for opposing legislation

While the United States Trotting Association (USTA) strongly supports breed-specific, uniform medication rules for horse racing, the USTA, which has had no input into the preparation of the bill, opposes the Horse Racing Integrity Act of 2017 (H.R.2651) for a number of reasons. more

Paver honored at Meadows for 4,000th win

The Meadows Racetrack & Casino and the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association on Tuesday (Sept. 5) honored Ray Paver for the 4,000th winning drive of his career. more

Massachusetts Sires Stakes kicks off Sept. 25

While many other state’s sires stakes programs have already had their finals or have them coming up on the calendar soon, the Massachusetts Sires Stakes is preparing to get its 2017 schedule underway at the end of September. However, some horses competing in programs from surrounding states will also be starting in the Massachusetts program and that is because of the state’s resident mare rule allowing dual eligibility for each Massachusetts foal. more
Standardbred Poll
Harness Racing Leaders

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

Leads Money-Winning Drivers

Leads Money-Winning Trainers

Leaders Of The Week


Compiled by the USTA—through September 5, 2017 (week difference Aug. 30-Sept. 5).

Ranked by wins for Aug. 30-Sept. 5 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.