

Filly Trotters Set For Bluegrass

Most of harness racing's greats have raced at The Red Mile since the track opened back in 1875, with many spectacular efforts being talked about for years afterward. One of those races in recent memory came when the 2-year-old filly trotter Snow White turned in a scintillating 1:52.4 world-record victory in an International Stallion Stakes (ISS) division in 2007. At the time it was the fastest mile by a freshman trotter regardless of sex.



New Image Media Photo

"She's class. She has a lot of talent and a lot of speed!"

—Yannick Gingras on Wild Honey

This year's two-week Grand Circuit stand roars into The Red Mile beginning Thursday, with 27 freshman filly trotters divided into four divisions of the \$336,000 Bluegrass. Snow White's local divisional record has been bested twice since 2007, first by the current record holder Designed To Be, who won a Bluegrass division on Sept. 26, 2013, in 1:52.2, and then by Lifetime Pursuit, who captured an ISS division one week later in 1:52.3.

Last year—and this year as well—racing action for the 2-year-old filly trotters during the first week of The Red Mile Grand Circuit stand is at night, while the second week's races will be conducted during the day. The temperature is forecast to be in the upper 60-degree range, with dry conditions, when the fillies race on Thursday night.

Could Designed To Be's Red Mile record be in jeopardy this year? One filly who may have a chance if the conditions are right is Wild Honey, who became the fastest male or female freshman trotter on a half-mile track with her 1:55.2 victory in a Standardbred division on Juliette day at the Delaware, Ohio fairgrounds. The time smashed the previous filly mark of 1:56.3 set in 1994 by CR Kay Suzie at Freehold Raceway, and lowered by one-fifth of a second the overall freshman mark set by the colt Dontyouforgetit in a Standardbred division at Delaware in 2012.

Gingras said he was not surprised by Wild Honey's world-record effort, which was the Cantab Hall filly's sixth consecutive win after finishing second in her debut. "She got around the five-eighths really good and she's a serious filly," Gingras noted of Wild Honey's career-best 1:54.2 win the week before in the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) championship at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, as well as four other victories in PASS at The Meadows and Harrah's Philadelphia. "The half-mile track wasn't going to hurt her.

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Continues on page 2 >>>

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Horse	Track	Date	Time
Cooler Schooner	Pocono	8/21/13	1:51.1f
Mission Brief	Mohawk	9/4/14	1:52.1
Designed To Be	Red Mile	9/26/13	1:52.2
Cooler Schooner	Pocono	10/11/13	1:52.2f
Lifetime Pursuit	Red Mile	10/3/13	1:52.2
Mission Brief	Meadowlands	8/2/13	1:52.2
Snow White	Red Mile	10/2/07	1:52.4
Struck By Lindy	Red Mile	9/26/13	1:53.1

She's not very big and she's great gaited. It was a beautiful day so for her to go a big mile certainly did not surprise me."

Wild Honey's PASS effort is the fourth fastest mile by a filly trotter this year, behind only Mission Brief's 1:52.2 win in the Merrie Annabelle at the Meadowlands and subsequent 1:52.1 world-record score in a Peaceful Way elimination at Mohawk Racetrack, and Speak To Me's 1:53.4 effort in a Kindergarten split at the Meadowlands in early August.

Mission Brief made a break in the Peaceful Way final and is sitting this week out before returning for the ISS on Oct. 2 at The Red Mile, while Speak To Me was not eligible to the Bluegrass but is paid into the ISS.

When asked if Wild Honey has a 1:52 mile in her on Thursday, Gingras simply replied: "I don't think we'll have to go that much.

"She's class," added Gingras. "She has a lot of talent and a lot of speed. We may not be looking to be on the front the whole way, maybe try to trip her out a little bit. I still think she will get it done. It will be a little tougher, but I think she can do it." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Ducharme Has Duo For Bluegrass 2FT

Things have been a bit quieter in trainer George Ducharme's barn after an injury curtailed the 2013 Hambletonian champ Royalty For Life's career after just two starts in July, but the season hasn't been bad for the 52 year old who is based at Plainridge Racecourse in Massachusetts.

Ducharme is armed and ready to go for the two-week Grand Circuit stand at The Red Mile which begins Thursday, with two of his filly trotters entered in Bluegrass action on the opening card. The two are Concentration, who is owned by Raymond "Chip" Campbell Jr., and Bee The Queen, who is owned by Alfred Ross. Campbell and Ross shared ownership of Royalty

"They're going to have to step up their game for sure, going against Grand Circuit horses!"

— *George Ducharme*

For Life with Paul Fontaine. "They're going to have to step up their game for sure, going against Grand Circuit horses," said Ducharme.

Concentrate starts in the third division (Race 8) that carries a purse of \$84,250. Concentration has four wins and two seconds in nine starts, including a career-best 1:58.2 set in a New York Sires Stakes at Vernon Downs. The only times Concentration hasn't finished one-two came when she lost her concentration and made a break, including last time out on Sept. 13 when she made an ill-timed miscue at the start of the \$225,000 New York Sires Stakes final at Yonkers Raceway as the 6-5 betting favorite.

"She's been good except for the odd times she made breaks, but for the most part she's just gotten better all year," said Ducharme. "She's been a legit filly; she tries and goes where she can.

"Last week in the (New York) final the track was really muddy and it was bad on the rail and deep, so we blamed

Continues on page 3 >>>

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THURSDAY'S FEATURED RACES

Thursday, September 25

All times listed are local.

7:36p Lex3 **Bluegrass 2FT**
8:12p Lex5 **Bluegrass 2FT**
9:06p Lex8 **Bluegrass 2FT**
9:42p Lex10 **Bluegrass 2FT**

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Post Position Wins at The Red Mile (early meet)

PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
starts	219	219	219	218	216	206	171	129	94	62	3
win	34	24	16	35	32	33	18	13	8	6	0
place	35	25	28	29	30	27	19	11	12	3	1
show	19	28	36	31	25	27	19	17	11	6	0

Percent in Money

win	15.5	11.0	7.3	16.1	14.8	16.0	10.5	10.1	8.5	9.7	0.0
place	31.5	22.4	20.1	29.4	28.7	29.1	21.6	18.6	21.3	14.5	33.3
show	40.2	35.2	36.5	43.6	40.3	42.2	32.7	31.8	33.0	24.2	33.3

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the break on that. Too bad when you're going for \$200,000, but those things happen."

Concentration is out of the Muscles Yankee mare Super Starlet, who Campbell purchased for \$6,000 at the 2011 mixed sale at Harrisburg while in foal to Conway Hall. Concentration is that foal. The family includes several stakes winners including My Starlet, My Starchip, Crown Starlet, Forever Starlet, Lady Starlet and Sir Perseverance.

"(Campbell) wanted to upgrade his broodmare band for RC Royalty, and she (Concentration) was in the belly of the mare so it turned out to be a pretty good deal," explained Ducharme.

Bee The Queen comes into the fourth \$84,250 Bluegrass division riding a three-race win streak in the Kindergarten Series that has locked her into position for the \$200,000 final on Nov. 1 at Vernon Downs. Her last two Kindergarten starts came at The Red Mile, including a career-best 1:56 effort two weeks ago that was followed by a 1:56.1 victory.

"In her first start at The Meadows she made a break so we regrouped and decided that we'd just get her in the Kindergarten and get her some experience and bring her along a little slower," he said.

A daughter of Donato Hanover, Bee The Queen was a \$40,000 yearling purchase by Ross from breeders Walnut Hall Stock Farm and Johanna and Charles Beaver. She is out of the Self Possessed mare Bee Line, who won the 2006 Elegance final at Mohawk. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Captaintreacherous To Be Retired Oct. 2 At Red Mile

Captaintreacherous, a two-time Pacer of the Year, has been retired from racing and will be officially retired at Lexington's Red Mile during the races on Thursday, Oct. 2. He will stand at stud at Hanover Shoe Farms in Pennsylvania in 2015. Jim Simpson, president of Hanover Shoe Farms, and the members of the Captaintreacherous racing group made the announcement jointly.

Tony Alagna, the colt's trainer, said "Captain just hasn't been himself for the last several weeks. He's been fighting a low respiratory bug and we just haven't been able to overcome it."

Captaintreacherous was voted Pacer of the Year at both ages two and three. As a 2 year old he won 8 of 10 starts and earned \$918,253. At 3, he won 13 of 16 starts and earned \$2,055,033 winning almost all of the Classic events including the three richest, the North America Cup, the Meadowlands Pace, and the Breeders Crown. Captaintreacherous retires with earnings of \$3,148,657.

Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky, in whose hands the Captain will literally be in at Hanover, can't wait until the horse gets to his next home. "The Captain has it all, great performance on the racetrack, great courage, a fantastic pedigree and perhaps most important of all, he's drop dead gorgeous and correct, something that I'm certain he will transmit to his foals," said Dr. Jablonsky.

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\$336,000 Bluegrass 2YOFT

The Red Mile, Thursday, Sept. 25, \$83,250 1st division, Race 3, Post Time: 7:36 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Onda Di Mare (Yankee Glide)	T. Tetrick/J. Campbell	7-2	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$75,000)
2—Love Me Madly (Donato Hanover)	J. Campbell/R. Croghan	4-1	Diamond Creek Farm, Exquisite Farms/HB (\$65,000)
3—Lovely Jan (Muscles Yankee)	A. Svandstedt	12-1	Dr. J. Egloff, M. & J. Burroughs/HB (\$145,000)
4—Wild Honey (Cantab Hall)	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	6-5	Lindy Racing Stable/Lex (\$35,000)
5—Shafina Hanover (Explosive Matter)	R. Pierce/N. Daley	6-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$50,000)
6—Hot Start (Lucky Chucky)	D. Miller/J. Czernyson	6-1	Perretti Farms/Lex (\$52,000)

\$84,250 2nd division, Race 5, Post Time: 8:12 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Classical Annie (Andover Hall)	J. Campbell/J. Arledge Jr.	8-1	Winbak Farm/HB (\$27,000)
2—Jolene Jolene (Muscle Hill)	D. Miller/J. Czernyson	9-5	Valley High Stable/HB (\$87,000)
3—Lock Down Lindy (Lucky Chucky)	S. Zeron/T. Alagna	2-1	Lindy Racing Stable/Lex (\$40,000)
4—Sweet Thing (Chocolatier)	R. Pierce/H. Hochstetler	6-1	C. Hochstetler, R. Buddig/Homebred
5—Gold Cora (Encore Encore)	T. Tetrick/R. Gillock	6-1	R. Key/Homebred
6—Scented Roses (Cantab Hall)	A. Svandstedt	8-1	Winbak Farm/Lex (\$42,000)
7—Whitney Hanover (Donato Hanover)	R. Schnittker	15-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$65,000)

\$84,250 3rd division, Race 8, Post Time: 9:06 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Concentration (Conway Hall)	B. Sears/G. Ducharme	4-1	Stirling Brook Farms/—
2—Global Ice (Andover Hall)	T. Tetrick/P. Foley	8-1	J. McLaughlin, L. Foley/Homebred
3—Armatrading (Groton Hall)	R. Jerrell/K. Oscarsson	6-1	Atlantic Trot/Homebred
4—Lilu Hanover (Andover Hall)	S. Zeron/J. Takter	5-2	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$130,000)
5—That's So Ironic (Yankee Glide)	A. Svandstedt	9-2	K. & L. Jackson/HB (\$47,000)
6—Annaliina (Explosive Matter)	C. Norris	7-2	White Birch Farm/HB (\$20,000)
7—Aarena Hanover (Donato Hanover)	D. Miller/R. Norman	8-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$25,000)

\$84,250 4th division, Race 10, Post Time: 9:42 pm

Post—Horse (Sire)	Driver/Trainer	Odds	Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)
1—Bee The Queen (Donato Hanover)	B. Sears/G. Ducharme	3-1	J. & C. Beaver, Walnut Hall Stock Farm/Lex (\$40,000)
2—Wiclet Hanover (Andover Hall)	A. Svandsedt	15-1	B. & W. Paull, K Paver/Lex (\$55,000)
3—Crunchess Finale (ABC Garland)	D. Rawlings/D. O'Mara	8-1	Benaire Farm/Indy (\$13,000)
4—Allerage Star (Angus Hall)	C. Callahan/J. Okusko	5-2	Little E LLC/HB (\$18,000)
5—Sarcy (Donato Hanover)	Y. Gingras/J. Takter	7-2	J. Fielding, D. Willmot, F. Hertrich III/Lex (\$37,000)
6—Kirsi Hanover (Donato Hanover)	M. Kakaley/R. Burke	4-1	Hanover Shoe Farms/HB (\$42,000)
7—Saturday Mornings (Muscle Hill)	M. Lachance/J. Holloway	5-1	KG Bertmarks Hingstdepa Ab/Lex (\$32,000)