Don’t Let’em Looks To Get Back On Track in Bluegrass

The 2018 two-week Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile gets underway on Thursday night with four divisions of the $343,000 Bluegrass for 2-year-old male trotters on the nine-race card that gets underway at 7 p.m. Grand Circuit racing continues at the same time on Friday and Saturday before switching to a 1 p.m. post on Sunday, with the afternoon post continuing all four days during week two.

Thirty first-year trotters are scheduled to go behind the starting gate on Thursday, hopefully under drier conditions than have been plaguing the Bluegrass the past several days. More than four inches of rain has fallen since Saturday.

Last year’s Bluegrass 2CT saw five divisions, one of which was won by the Peter Haughton Memorial champ You Know You Do from the barn of trainer Jimmy Takter. Takter has one starter in each of this year’s Bluegrass splits, including Haughton Memorial winner Don’t Let’em, who shipped to Kentucky following that Aug. 4 victory.

“I don’t know, he’s been a little stink here!”

~Jimmy Takter about Don’t Let’em

Don’t Let’em has had his troubles in Kentucky as he jumped it off in three of four Kentucky Sires Stakes (KYSS) contests, including the $250,000 final last time out on Sept. 16. He was seemingly on his way to victory in that race as he led into the final turn when he suddenly went offstride.

Driver Yannick Gingras said later the trotter had switched to the pace.

“I don’t know, he’s been a little stink here,” Takter said Wednesday morning at his barn at The Red Mile. “He had the 9 and 10 hole here and got a little nervous.”

Takter, who drove Don’t Let’em to his only win in KYSS competition on Aug. 25, will be back in the sulky on Thursday. The pair will start in post 4 in the $86,000 division (Race 3).

“I want to sit behind him and see how he feels,” said Takter. “I want to see if there is something that is bothering him that I don’t know about it. I won with him in the Sires Stakes but he was a little bit anxious.”

While adding trotting hobbles to The Ice Dutchess seemingly helped turn the page for the 2-year-old filly as she swept the Peaceful Way elimins and final after making breaks her previous two starts, Takter said he isn’t contemplating making that same change for Don’t Let’em.

“No, it’s not a hobble issue, it’s more like he’s a young boy,” said Takter.

While Takter directed Super Schissel to a pair of wins in the KYSS preliminaries and fourth in the final last time out, he’s turning the lines over to Gingras on Thursday night.

Super Schissel starts from post 2 in the second $85,000 division (Race 5). Starting from post 1 is Green Manalishi S, whose four wins in six starts include a three-length win last time out in the $308,000 William Wellwood Memorial at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

“He raced good that last start but I’ll give Yannick a try with him,” said Takter. “He’s fast; he’s OK and can go a little bit.

“He’s improved here, but we liked him all winter. It took him an extra month to get ready but he sure has the ability to be a good horse.”

Continues on page 2 ››››
Takter has Gingras behind Hudson River in the third $86,000 split (Race 7), starting from post 7. The son of Father Patrick has wins in a New Jersey Sires Stakes and Champlain division, but comes into the race off a seventh-place finish in the Wellwood final.

“He was sick his last start so I’m a little skeptical going into this race,” said Takter. “Normally after sickness they need a start so we’ll basically give him a nice race and just come home with him.”

Completing the Takter quartet in the Bluegrass is Keystone Cash, who has been erratic in seven starts. Keystone Cash won an Aug. 31 qualifier in Lexington in 1:57 on a fast track, but then in an overnight win and second qualifier he had to race on off tracks. Gingras drives from post 5 (Race 9).

“I liked him early and then he had a few bad starts; he’s made stupid breaks,” said Takter. “He qualified well here and won a race but the track was really bad. He’s a much better horse than the lines look.”

Takter announced during the 2017 Grand Circuit stand at The Red Mile that he would be retiring at the end of this year. He said plans haven’t changed.

“Maybe I’ll think about it the last day, but not right now,” said Takter. “I just go through the days like you’re supposed to. But there’s 64 days left.” —By Gordon Waterstone
Diligence

We are now entering our 38th year of raising and selling yearlings. Raising champions requires persistent effort, care, and hard work. We strive to do this daily with our horses as well as with you our buyers.

Diligence is one of the keys to our success.

HUNTERTON SALES AGENCY selling at

LEXINGTON SELECTED SALE
October 2 - October 6, 2018

STANDARDBRED HORSE SALE
November 5 - November 9, 2018

STEVE & CINDY STEWART
P.O. Box 716, Paris, KY 40362
(859) 987-3983
huntertonfarm@cs.com

www.huntertonfarm.com

Photo: Jeff Rodgers
Chin Chin Hall Lacks Experience, But Has Pedigree

Chin Chin Hall is definitely light on experience, but Peter Wrenn thinks the 2-year-old trotter deserves a chance to show what he’s got in the way of talent.

Chin Chin Chin will be making only his second career start in an $86,000 division (Race 7) of the Bluegrass Series on Thursday night at the Red Mile. His last start behind the gate was in a qualifier at the Red Mile on Saturday, Sept. 22, when he won in 1:59.3.

Despite what the program page says, Chin Chin Hall is a gelding. “We had some complications after we castrated him. It turned into a long process,” said Wrenn, who trains the horse with his wife, Melanie, of the youngster’s delay in racing.

“He’s come back super,” he continued. “But he’s got to get raced so we can really judge him. He qualified great—the track wasn’t good that day because of the rain. But by no means do I expect that he is ready to beat the top colts.”

Chin Chin Hall won two qualifiers at Hoosier Park in late June/early July before making his first pari-mutuel start on July 14. He was sitting in the two hole when he broke stride. Then came a two-month layoff.

Although he’s green, Chin Chin Hall’s pedigree certainly suggests he could be a top colt. He is by the former world record-holder Cash Hall and his dam is Canland Hall, the dam of the top sire Cantab Hall. Bred by Walnut Hall Ltd., he sold as a yearling for $50,000 and is owned by David McDuffee and Gene Oldford Farms LLC.

Chin Chin Hall will be starting from post 4 on Thursday night. He’ll be facing two colts who have refined their form while racing in Kentucky Sires Stakes: championship winner Forecast, who won the final in 1:53.4, and consolation winner Amico Mio Bi, who lowered his lifetime mark to 1:55.4 with that victory.—By Kathy Parker

---

**FREE searchable sale & racing reports at harnessracing.com**

---

**HarnessRacing Weekend Preview**

**Kathy Parker**
kpark@harnessracing.com
Editor/ General Manager

**Lynne Myers**
lmyers@harnessracing.com
Advertising Manager

**Gordon Waterstone**
gwaterstone@harnessracing.com
Associate Editor

**Heather Kemper**
hkemper@harnessracing.com
Production Manager

**Hannah Reynolds**
hreynolds@harnessracing.com
Editorial Production

**Vanessa Flannery**
vflannery@harnessracing.com
Accounting & Circulation

© Copyright Horseman Publishing Company.
A product of Horseman Publishing Company, publishers of the website www.harnessracing.com and The Horseman And Fair World magazine. This newspaper may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without prior written permission.

To sign up for the Weekend Preview please visit www.harnessracing.com/members_sign_up.php
Day 1 Pacers

#14, NIGHT DELIGHT*, C, ON
Betta’s Delight-Dancingnight-Rockroll Hanover First Foal. Dam is a full-sister to Rockeyed Optimist, p, 1:46 ($670,758)

#28, IDEAL KATTIMON+, F, NY
American Ideal-Katimon-Astroeo Full-sister to Devil Child, p, 1:49.1f ($604,549)

#36, DAY DELIGHT, C, ON
Betta’s Delight-Kim’s Royal Day-Royal Mattjesty Dam is Kim’s Royal Day, p, 3, 1:51f ($331,640)

#37, SHAKE N GO*, F, PA
Western Ideal-Shake It For Me-Art Major First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to Speed Again, p, 1:48.1s ($1,038,646)

#45, STUNNING LOOK+, F, NY
American Ideal-Shes A Pansion-No Pan Intended First Foal. Dam is a full-sister to Nabupanezzar, p, Q1:51.1s ($949,071)

#52, VILLAGE ARTIST+, F, NY
Art Major-Village Madonna-Rock%)r Hanover Full-sister to Travel Playlist, p, 2, 1:49.2s ($313,236)

#55, TEAM BEST+, C, PA
Somebeesomewhere-Sports Chic-Scissorswriter First Foal. Dam Sports Chic, p, 2, 1:54.2f ($254,738), is a 1/2-sister to Rainbow Blue, p, 3, 1:49.2s ($1,428,594)

#71, ROCKSTAR HEAVEN*, C, NJ
Rock N Roll-Heaven-Not Enough-Grinfromeartoear Dam is Not Enough, p, 3, 1:49 ($1,306,261)

Day 1 Trotter

#69, JOVIAL JERRY+, C, PA
Donato Hanover-Mets Inn-Mutineer 1/2-brother to Met’s Hall, 3, 1:52s -18 ($789,043)

Day 2 Pacers

#153, ACRYLIC+, F, NY
Art Major-Maid West-Western Hanover 1/2-sister to Wes Delight, p, 3, 1:50.2f -18 ($311,930)

#168, JAZZ MAJOR+, F, NY
Art Major-Wishfor Rockroll-Rockroll Hanover Family of Betroll’s Delight, p, 3, 1:49.4 ($2,581,461)

#170, ART FUND+, C, NY
American Ideal-Art Account-Artiscape Dam is a full-sister to Artiscape, p, 3, 1:49.3z ($1,469,461)

Day 2 Pacers (continued)

#192, SASSY MICHELLE*, F, NY
Roll With Joe-Michelle’s Ideal-Western Ideal First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to Luck Of Michelle, p, 2, 1:53.1s ($824,404)

#196, HIDDEN COVE*, F, NY
American Ideal-Sun N Sand-Astros Dam is a 1/2-sister to Somewhere, p, 3, 1:46.4 ($3,221,299)

#202, BREAKOUT SESSION†, C, NY
Histon Blue Chip-Troubled Escape-Artiscape First Foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to Art Maker, p, 1:49.1 ($1,036,217)

#220, BLANK STARE†+, C, NY
Bolt The Duer-Hypnotize-Artiscape Dam is Hypnotize, p, 1:52.2f ($374,152)

#235, OLD SCHOOL GROOVE†+, F, NY
Roll With Joe-Ideal Observation-Western Ideal First Foal to Handsomemycookie, p, 1:51.3f ($1,408,440)

#238, BETTOR FOCUS†+, C, ON
Betta’s Delight-Delightful Viction-Royal Mattjesty Dam is a 1/2-sister to Lucky Bettor, p, 1:49.4f ($766,404)

#239, SMART GIRL†+, F, NY
Roll With Joe-Wisdom-Artsplace 1/2-sister to Wisdom Tree, p, 3, 1:49.4s -18 ($334,945)

#249, GENIUS MAN†*, C, NY
Art Major-Unred Hanover-Western ideal First Foal. Dam is Unred Hanover, p, 3, 1:51s ($211,572)

#259, SPORTY JULIANA†*, F, PA
Woll Said-Sportsfancy-Sportsmaster Dam is Sportsfancy, p, 1:49.4 ($1,001,957)

#273, BET ON JULY†*, F, ON
Betta’s Delight-Freedom Crossing-Artiscape Dam is Freedom Crossing, p, 1:51.3f ($320,681)

Day 2 Trotters

#173, SAINT SEBASTIAN†*, C, PA
Sebastian K-S-Manalapan-Mr Vic 1/2-brother to Epangeline, Q1:54.4f ($448,084)

#190, WORDS MATTER, C, ON
Muscle Mass-J’s Jordsn-Angus Hall Dam is a 1/2-sister to Kaline, 1:54.1f ($570,733)

Day 2 Trotters (continued)

#247, PLAYING TRIX*, C, NJ
Tri-It-Mustang-Muscles Yankee Dam is a full-sister to Costa Rica, 3, 1:54.3s ($1,379,178)

#260, SUPREME CHAPTER†, F, NY
Chapter Seven-Supreme Dish-Malabar Man 1/2-sister to Market Rally, 3, 1:54.4f ($704,445)

Day 3 Pacing Highlights

#361, BLAKE’S CHIP†*, C, NY
Histon Blue Chip-Glass Maker-Artsplace 1/2-brother to Clear Idea, p, 3, 1:50.4f ($405,456)

#411, WIGGLE DELIGHT†+, F, ON
Betta’s Delight-Wianne Hanover-Life Sign 1/2-sister to Mr Wiggles, p, 3, 1:49.1f ($1,168,231)

Day 3 Trotting Highlights

#323, MUZZLE THE YAKKER†, F, PA
Explosive Matter-Baileys Breeze-Angus Hall Dam is a 1/2-sister to Casual Breeze, 1:53.1 ($1,313,972)

#344, MIA JEFF†+, C, PA
Sebastian K-Manalapan-Stella-CR Commando Dam is a 1/2-sister to CR Kay Suzie, 1:52.3 ($1,611,131)

Day 4 Pacing Highlights

#517, AMERICAN REBEL†*, C, NY
American Ideal-Festive Hanover-The Pandocros Dam is Restive Hanover, p, 3, 1:51.4 ($941,971)

#562, KING SPENCER†+, C, PA
Sweet Lou-Elizabeth Spencer-Western Ideal Dam is a full-sister to Vintage Master, p, 1:48.1f ($2,160,953)

Day 4 Trotting Highlights

#482, SARATOGA SUNRISE†*, C, PA
Yankee Glide-At The Spa-Andover Hall First Foal. 2nd dam is Doin’ The Town, 3, 1:54.2 ($475,274)

#486, STAR OF MY SHOW†+, F, NY
Credit Winner-Love To Haunt-Angus Hall 2nd dam is Lookout Victory, 1:54.3s ($1,921,604)

*Stored Stem Cells available
All information as of 9/10/18

Find Winbak’s complete Lexington Lineup including Day 5 (10/6) at www.winbakfarm.com!
Team Miller Has Big Prospect In Prospect Hill

If only horses could read a program and know the purse money they’re racing for. That’s the case with the 2-year-old colt trotter Prospect Hill, who has been nearly perfect in nine career starts, but made an untimely break as the betting favorite in the $253,000 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) championship on Sept. 1 at The Meadows.

“It was a hiccup in the Sires Stakes final when he was sitting in the two hole and made a little miscue around the last turn, which was unfortunate,” said driver Andy Miller. “Other than that, he’s been pretty much perfect.”

“It was a hiccup in the Sires Stakes final when he was sitting in the two hole and made a little miscue around the last turn.”

–Andy Miller

Prospect Hill will look for his eighth win on Thursday night at The Red Mile when he lines up in post 2 in the fourth $86,000 Bluegrass division for 2-year-old male trotters.

A $130,000 yearling purchase by Natalia Stroy’s Stroy Inc., Prospect Hill is trained by Miller’s wife, Julie. The son of Muscle Hill finished third in his career debut and then broke his maiden in a PA All-Stars event on July 6 at The Meadows in 1:56.4. Prospect Hill then steamrolled his way to four consecutive victories in PASS competition—including a career-best 1:55—before coming untracked in the final.

Prospect Hill came right back to win his following start in the Keystone Classic, and then last Wednesday in Delaware, Ohio, captured the $48,218 Standardbred in 1:55.1. That win brought Prospect Hill’s earnings to $182,342.

“He’s been a very nice horse, except for that unfortunate mishap. But that’s 2-year-old trotters,” said Miller. “He’s paid for himself and done well. He’s been kind of a wild man and a little boy, but he’s always had go and always done what we’ve asked.”

Miller said Prospect Hill will race in Grand Circuit Week 2 at the Red Mile in the International Stallion and then head to Pocono for the Breeders Crown in late October.

“That’s the plan. Hopefully everything stays together,” said Miller.—By Gordon Waterstone

DO YOU DREAM OF WINNING THE HAMBLETONIAN?

#134 PORT PERRY
Bay Colt • Kadabra • Danca Hall

A Fantastic Colt By Kadabra Selling On October 3

Third foal, first by Kadabra. 2 & 3YO siblings are winners in 2018. From stakes winner, DANICA HALL 2, 1:55.3 ($103,850). Dam is a full sister to DANIELLE HALL 2, 1:54.1 ($87,459), half-sister to DUNBAR HALL 4, 1:52.2-18 ($283,214). Second dam is stakes winner DEBBIE HALL 2, 1:55.1 ($247,146).

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO

Schare Adams • Georgetown, KY • Cell (859) 948-9644 • E: schare@sagafarm.net
IN HARNESS RACING, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THE BREEDERS CROWN

15% takeout on ALL wagers on ALL three nights of Breeders Crown competition

- 2-year-old eliminations Friday, October 19
- 3-year-old and up eliminations Saturday, October 20

VIP TENT TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Elevate your race experience with a delicious buffet, cash bar, table seating and amazing views from the VIP tent! Tickets are $50 each, and availability is limited. Purchase tickets online at www.hambletonian.com

Fans will also have the special opportunity to meet the richest pacer ever, Breeders Crown champion FOILED AGAIN!

hambletonian.com • mohegansunpocono.com
Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends. We’re so glad you could attend, come inside, come inside.

Yep, it’s the premier of Season 16 of Backstretch With Gordon and, unlike Penny, Leonard, Sheldon and Amy (surely you watch the TV show Big Bang Theory), my contract with Boss Kathy states there will be a Season 17. And with strong continuing sponsorship from Steve and Cindy Stewart’s Hunterton Sales Agency, looks like you’re stuck with me.

I’m so glad you could attend—make that read—about my Wednesday morning at The Red Mile. Make that my muddy Wednesday morning at The Red Mile as it was a bit of a mess on the backstretch. But that came as no surprise as it’s been raining in the Bluegrass since last Saturday, enough that this is now the wettest September on record in Lexington. I believe it’s something like 11 inches of rain, with about four of those inches coming in the last four days.

Jimmy Takter and Per Engblom were coming off the track—the half-mile inner track—when I arrived so I trudged across the mud to say hello. “Mr. Waterstone is in the house!” proclaimed Jimmy, adding that the horse he had just brought back was the “Wonder from Down Under,” Lazarus N.

Jimmy had hoped to race Lazarus N in Friday’s Dayton Pacing Derby at Hollywood Dayton as a $15,000 supplemental entry, but because race conditions preclude supplemented horses from bumping horses that were nominated, he didn’t get in. Jimmy said he dropped Lazarus N into the box for the $7,500 Open here on Saturday night, but to my dismay—and his because he didn’t really want to go another training mile on Saturday with the star pacer—only two others were entered so the race didn’t fill. After I checked with Tom Agosti and Connie Hochstetter about the Open I walked across the trailer to say hello to Curby Stillings.

Jimmy asked if I wanted to ride with him over to Hoosier Park this afternoon as he’s driving his new $1-million purchase Swandre The Giant in an Indiana Sires Stakes elimination. While I would have loved to have gone, I have a long-awaited haircut appointment and then the annual Kentuckiana Farms party. The rain took its toll there too as the shindig was originally scheduled outside at the farm last night but was moved elsewhere tonight indoors.

I continued my muddy trudge around the backstretch and saw Bob Stewart. He’s in the same barn as always, and where I still always think about my chats with Bob and the late John Cashman pretty much every morning. I told Bob it was kind of quiet this morning because of the rain, and he said, “It is, but the place just doesn’t get the feel of Grand Circuit until the racing starts during the day.”

Brett Bitte came inside the barn and Bobby told him he had to give me a great quote to use in my column, but he came up empty. I told Brett it’s like the buzzer buzzing you out if you’re too slow with an answer on Family Feud.

Howie Okusko and his dog Maverick came around the corner so we stopped to talk. Howie and I were probably 25 feet from each other on Monday night but didn’t know it. We were both at Harry’s at Palomar but I was inside and he and Jessica were outside.

Rene Allard came by and said hello, and so did Charlie Norris. I was a bit confused this morning as I walked by Charlie’s barn on the corner and it has now become the home of Nancy Johansson. Charlie and Erv Miller are both in new stables this year, and I told Charlie it won’t be the same.

Trackman Dan Coon was trackside so I walked over to say hello, and he introduced me to his sidekick, Eliot—he stressed to me that it’s just one ‘l’ and one ‘t,’ unlike the race program which has it wrong—Walter. Eliot told me he’s around Dan so much he thinks his middle name is now Coon. We talked about the weather and the track conditions, which led to the postponement of today’s lone qualifier.

“We work for Mother Nature,” said Eliot.

We were standing near the trackside office of Sponsor director Cindy Solverson, who shares the cozy confines with Nick Salvi. Nick had just arrived—he said it was a bit later than usual because his night last night was a bit later than usual—and he offered Dan, Eliot and myself a tour and some coffee.

Cindy then arrived and said “Welcome to the ‘She Shed.’” Nick said the small building was for several years used as a ticket booth for the Junior League which took over for many years for a week in July, but after an incident with a loose horse it was shuttered.

In a big PSA, if you’re going from The Red Mile out to Fasig-Tipton, where next week’s Lexington Selected Sale is held, be ready for traffic delays. They have torn up the area on Newtown Pike and New Circle Road so the road is down to one lane each way and depending on time of day—especially rush hours—it can take a while to get through.

Remember, racing Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week is at 7 p.m. Remember too that there is a football game between the 17th-ranked UK Wildcats—yes, you read that right, the 4-0 Wildcats are ranked 17th, one spot ahead of my Michigan State Spartans—and South Carolina. Racing then shifts Sunday to 1 p.m. and continues with the afternoon post the entire second week. Bring a sweater this week as the nights are supposed to get down into the low 50s.

Finally, I filled my gas tank last Tuesday before driving to Delaware for the Jug and paid $2.55 a gallon. When I returned Thursday night the price had jumped to $2.99. Prices have slide back down slightly since and stations around the track range from $2.78 to $2.89. And if you’re driving by Logan’s on Broadway make sure you pause and pay your respects as the longtime favorite restaurant of horsemen was bulldozed a couple of days ago and is now rubble.