Wiggle It Jiggleit Looks To Seal Deal In Monument Circle

Will Friday night’s $285,500 Monument Circle at Hoosier Park mark the end of the discussion about Wiggle It Jiggleit’s chances of being voted the 2015 Horse of the Year, or could a loss make it a whole new ballgame, especially if it’s Freaky Feet Pete who comes up victorious?

With 19 wins in 22 starts, including the Little Brown Jug, Meadowlands Pace, Battle of the Brandywine and Max Hempt Memorial, Wiggle It Jiggleit has been a prohibitive favorite for divisional and Horse of the Year honors for some time now. But if Freaky Feet Pete parlays his Breeders Crown victory—his 13th in 15 starts—into a Monument Circle score, could that turn the tables? This is the rubber match between the two 3-year-old heavyweights who have beaten each other in two head-to-head match-ups this year.

“He raced good, but I’ve never seen the horse go a bad race,” Wiggle It Jiggleit owner George Teague Jr. answered when asked about Freaky Feet Pete’s Breeders Crown win. “I’m looking forward to the rematch and racing against ‘Pete’ again.”

Wiggle It Jiggleit won the first match-up with Freaky Feet Pete back on May 30 in an Indiana Sires Stakes (ISS), but the tables were turned in the $220,000 ISS Super Final on Oct. 10. With “Pete” racing primarily on the ISS circuit and Wiggle It Jiggleit taking on open competition, those have been the only two times their paths met.

Teague took some heat about his decision to not supplement his star gelding into the recent Breeders Crown at Woodbine Racetrack. The connections of Freaky Feet Pete did ante up the $62,500 supplemental fee and they were handsomely rewarded when their star pacer won his elimination and then the $531,250 final in impressive fashion.

“I have no regrets about the Breeders Crown,” said Teague, who trained the 2004 Horse of the Year Rainbow. They can say what they want to say, but this horse has a possibility of making $2 million this year, and there aren’t too many who race from January right on.”

–George Teague Jr.
Blue. “If it was cheaper I would have went. So many times horses travel up there at this time of year and get sick. It wasn’t only the money; I just didn’t want to gamble and risk it. Along with the $62,500, it made my decision easy.”

The Monument Circle will be Wiggle It Jiggleit’s 23rd start of the year, a campaign that began last January. A win would bring Wiggle It Jiggleit’s seasonal earnings to within $16,000 of $2 million, which would make him just the 10th pacer to ever reach that plateau in a single year.

“There’s not been one moment of disappointment in his races,” said Teague, who has entrusted the training responsibilities of the son of Mr. Wiggles to longtime assistant Clyde Francis. “They can say what they want to say, but this horse has a possibility of making $2 million this year, and there aren’t too many who race from January right on. I hope he keeps it going for years to come. But you never know. One bad step can change everything.”

Teague said Wiggle It Jiggleit has at most three remaining starts on his sophomore schedule: the Matron Pace and the Progress Pace eliminations and final at Dover Downs. He said Wiggle It Jiggleit will then likely get an extended break from racing.

“He probably won’t be able to race until May,” said Teague. “I really don’t think it benefits the horse to be off that long, but I won’t have a choice because there won’t be any races.” — By Gordon Waterstone
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Homicide Hunter Set To Take On “Murderer’s Row” In Erskine

Homicide Hunter comes into Friday night’s $265,000 Carl Erskine at Hoosier Park with an unblemished 16-for-16 record this year, and while trainer Curt Grummel remains optimistic, he is realistic about the chance for a 17th consecutive score.

After beating up the entire year on Indiana Sires Stakes competition, Homicide Hunter makes the jump to open competition in the Erskine, taking on nine rivals that includes the Hambletonian, Canadian Trotting Classic and Kentucky Futurity champion Pinkman, Yonkers Trot winner Habitat and Colonial Trot victor Crazy Wow.

Homicide Hunter wasn’t even eligible to the Erskine, but after the 3-year-old gelded son of Mr. Cantab captured the Circle City last time out on Oct. 23 at Hoosier Park with a late-closing rally in 1:54.1, Grummel and owner Dr. Patrick Graham decided to make the $20,000 supplemental payment.

“We had been talking about maybe trying him one time, and it would be either this week or next week in the American National,” Grummel explained of entering Homicide Hunter in an open stakes. “With Hoosier’s track the way it is (home field for Homicide Hunter), I thought maybe we had a little better of a chance of getting a check there than we did at Balmoral.”

There are 75 trotters in North America this year who have won 10 races or more, but only Homicide Hunter has a perfect record. His win skein includes 14 consecutive races being sent off the betting favorite. Grummel said it doesn’t bother him knowing it’s likely the win streak will be over for Homicide Hunter, who has amassed earnings of $385,737 this year.

“That’s not really that big a deal to me,” Grummel said of the streak. “He’s a good horse for Indiana-breds, but this is a whole different world. I just wanted to see how good he is. I’ve never had a horse this good. His strongest eighth is the last eighth. We’ll see how the flow goes with that bunch — and it’s going to keep on rolling — so we’ll see where the bottom is, I guess.”

If there was any “consolation” to Homicide Hunter’s foray into the Erskine, it’s that he drew post 1. Regular driver John DeLong will be in the sulky.

“I had a filly I thought was better than him and I thought that if he wasn’t going to try, I’d make sure she was game.”
— Carl Grummel

Grummel said even training Homicide Hunter over the winter at his farm in Carrollton, Ill., didn’t give him a clue.

“I had a filly (Fox Valley Yoko) I thought was better than him and I thought that if he wasn’t going to try, I’d make sure she was game,” he said with a laugh. “I kept putting her behind him and I’ll just train him on the front. I thought she was going to be the better horse and he’d just be a check-getter. The closer I got to racing, the harder I was having trouble getting to him. Then it got to where I couldn’t get to him. He just learned how to try, and I don’t know how. Whenever we went out to train it was always to protect her and make him whack out the mile, and the next thing you know he kept getting stronger and stronger.” — By Gordon Waterstone

year old at the 2010 Blooded Horse Mixed Sale. Trained during her racing career by Doug Ackerman, Evening Prayer was a winner of $94,975 on the racetrack, most amassed during her 2-year-old season when she won a leg of the Kentucky Sires Stakes and was third in the $300,000 final.

Homicide Hunter had a 10-3-2-3 record and $86,736 in earnings last year at two. Grummel admits he can’t pinpoint the reason for this year’s turnaround into an unbeaten horse.

“He’s a big strong horse and was unbelievably talented last year, but every once in a while he’d get locked in,” he said. “A lot of times we just thought he wasn’t trying, and I was so disgusted by it because I knew how much talent he had.”

Grummel said even training Homicide Hunter over the winter at his farm in Carrollton, Ill., didn’t give him a clue.

“I had a filly (Fox Valley Yoko) I thought was better than him and I thought that if he wasn’t going to try, I’d make sure she was game,” he said with a laugh. “I kept putting her behind him and I’ll just train him on the front. I thought she was going to be the better horse and he’d just be a check-getter. The closer I got to racing, the harder I was having trouble getting to him. Then it got to where I couldn’t get to him. He just learned how to try, and I don’t know how. Whenever we went out to train it was always to protect her and make him whack out the mile, and the next thing you know he kept getting stronger and stronger.” — By Gordon Waterstone

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[Image]
Sylvester Brings Three To Kindergarten Finals

Kindergarten Series finals for 2-year-old trotters of both sexes will be contested Saturday night at Vernon Downs and in a rarity, a trainer not named Takter or Burke will be the busiest. While Ron Burke will send out one and Jimmy Takter will have a pair, Chuck Sylvester will start three, including Waitlifter K and Dog Gone Lucky in the $191,500 colt trot and Coco Truffles in the $174,500 filly trot.

The point standings after the five preliminary Kindergarten legs for the colts has the Staffan Lind trainees Hollywood Highway and Celebrity Express, respectively, one-two. Waitlifter K sits third while Dog Gone Lucky is sixth.

Waitlifter K won his divisions of the opening two rounds of the Kindergarten but then Sylvester sent the son of Muscles Yankee into open stakes competition. Waitlifter K went out and finished second in the American National at Balmoral Park, sixth in the Standardbred at Delaware, Ohio, and then third and fourth in his two Grand Circuit starts at The Red Mile. Waitlifter K comes into Saturday’s final having not raced since his fourth in an International Stallion Stakes split on Oct. 8.

“He’s a horse that I can’t race often,” Sylvester explained of the 23-day layoff. “I don’t know why, but after a start or two I can’t keep the weight on him and he’s not 100 percent healthy all the time. He’s a pretty competitive horse and he’ll be very competitive in there even though he’s had a month off. He races off of a rest real well.”

The last extended break for Waitlifter K came following his sixth-place finish in a Peter Haughton Memorial elimination on July 31 at the Meadowlands. Making his next start in a Kindergarten split on Aug. 30 at Tioga Downs, Waitlifter K trotted to a lifetime-best 1:55.3 victory.

“I’m hoping that now I can put two or three in a row together now and finish off the year with him,” said Sylvester, noting upcoming starts in the Matron and Valley Victory.

“He’s gained some weight and looks pretty good again.”

Waitlifter K will start from post 5 with David Miller driving. Dog Gone Lucky will line up in post 9, and with Tim Tetrick opting off for Hollywood Highway in post 4, Sylvester turned to Corey Callahan.

Dog Gone Lucky was second in his Kindergarten opener and then went on the New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) trail. The son of Lucky Chucky was fourth in the $225,000 NYSS final and then was a close second in an International Stallion Stakes division at The Red Mile. Back in the Kindergarten for last week’s final preliminary, Dog Gone Lucky romped to a five-length win in a career-best 1:55.2.

“He went a big mile last time out,” said Sylvester. “That week in Lexington, Tim (Tetrick) thought he should have

Continues on page 6 ››››
won as he had the lead coming home and he didn’t hold it.
Last week we changed his bridle around and he raced great.
He went a big first quarter (:26.4) and he finished strong.
He drew the nine hole but he’ll be okay in there.”

Sylvester said the Matron and Valley Victory are also on
Dog Gone Lucky’s schedule. On the other hand, the Kindergarten
could be the last race of the year for Coco Truffles,
who is scheduled to be sold at Harrisburg next week.
Sylvester said the pending sale comes as a result of one
owner wanting to sell his interest. Coco Truffles was tied for
10th in the point standings but landed in the final anyways.
“We were hoping she’d be in the consolation as she’d be
the favorite, but people didn’t enter and they didn’t have
enough for a consolation,” said Sylvester. “She’s in there
but she’s going to need luck to get a nice check.”
Coco Truffles started in all five Kindergarten preliminaries,
with her best showings a second and a third. She posted
her second win of the year when she captured the $15,000
New Jersey Futurity on Oct. 16 at Freehold, but that was fol-
lowed up by a sixth-place finish in the final Kindergarten leg
after making a break at the half.
“She threw a shoe on her right hind and knuckled over,”
explained Sylvester. “But she came out of it sound and
she’ll be okay.”

While Sylvester had no Breeders Crown finalists this year,
with 13 wins and $5,163,199 in earnings he ranks third in
both categories. Sylvester’s best showing came in 1994
when he won twice (Incredible Abe in the 3-Year-Old Colt
Trot at Garden State Park and Pine Chip in the Open Trot at
Freehold). Sylvester said Takter’s six-win Breeders Crown
night last Saturday at Woodbine is a record that likely will
never be broken.
“It was unbelievable and I don’t know how he does it,” said
Sylvester. “But it’s not good for the business, as we know, for
anybody to win that many. I was amazed as it was one after an-
other. None of them raced bad; they all raced well. And if the
one (Katie Said in the Older Mare Pace) hadn’t made a break he
would have won another one.”— By Gordon Waterstone
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- 1 year program duration; 2016
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Bax Offers Shopping Perspective On Ontario-Sired Yearlings

A little more than a month ago, trainer John Bax articulated the dilemma facing Ontario horsepeople looking to compete in the province in the next few years. Namely, with an extremely small crop of Ontario Sired yearlings available this year and the Canadian dollar hovering around 75 cents U.S., does it make sense to buy that horse in Ontario or in Lexington or Harrisburg?

“You’re weighing the dollar,” Bax said. “You have to slap yourself and say, ‘The best horses still win the most money.’ Are you going to be paying $40,000 for a $20,000 horse at (the Canadian Yearling Sale) Flamboro or do you go down to Kentucky and pay $30,000 American which would be, what, $42,000?”

Bax doesn’t want that to come off as a knock of Ontario breeders, especially since those breeders took the brunt of the blow when the end of the Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) was announced three years ago. It’s more his observation that more Americans stayed the course on Ontario, while Canadians had a more volatile reaction to the changing marketplace.

“I understand it. I don’t blame them,” Bax said of Ontario breeders who pulled back or got out when the storm hit. “I was talking with somebody this morning over at the track when I was schooling one. The person said, ‘Jeez, when the program went all to hell, the Ontario people just disappeared. They were gone.’ From where I’m sitting, the American people didn’t bail…. whatever the reason. I have some American owners that do breed and they still figured it was a good program.”

Joe Thomson of Winbak Farm is one U.S. breeder who didn’t flinch. His Winbak Canada operation, located on the hallowed ground of the former Armstrong Bros. farm, didn’t skip a beat when SARP ended—though he clearly wasn’t happy about the politics that led to the end of the lucrative program. Today, there are 10 stallions standing at Winbak Canada, including top studs Bettor’s Delight and Shadow Play.

“People thought we were crazy because we just kept breeding. We’re a big breeder in Ontario and I’ve always been a fan of that program,” Thomson said this week. “I’m a fan of the Canadian horsemens. You put that together and you show up with some horses that they like and things are going to turn out the right way for you.”

Thomson is referring to the results of last Sunday’s Forest City Yearling Sale with that last part. The sale average of $23,507 was up 54 percent compared to the 2014 sale when the average was $15,294. Winbak Farms sold the most yearlings at the sale. Fifty of its yearlings went through the ring, fetching $972,500 combined. Thomson said he was pleased Winbak posted an average of $19,450 and said the sale had an “optimistic” vibe to it.

Sale manager Ann Straatman of Seelster Farms said the numbers were a reflection of a simple economic principle. “Supply and demand. It’s simply that,” she said. “I know the Canadian dollar also played a big deal in it. I found last year that there was a lot of (Ontario-sired) horses to sell. There were lots to sell at both Canadian sales and plenty to sell at Harrisburg and Lexington. Whereas this year, Lexington had half the Ontario-sired horses they had last year and Harrisburg has one-third of the Ontario-sired horses they sold the year before. So, there certainly will be stiff competition for an Ontario-sired horse.”

Straatman said there was also, “lively bidding and great competition for the horses and that’s something that we haven’t seen for awhile. People that didn’t get a horse that they wanted, they were back in and looking for the next horse they wanted. That really kept the bidding going right until the very end of the sale, the last horse selling for $55,000. It was a strong sale all the way through, which is very nice.”

The Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) took a bit of a hit when SARP ending, going from purses of $20 million annually to about $16 million today. But the way Bax and Thomson and others see it, that $16 million, and the way the program is structured, still makes the OSS better than almost any program out there.

“I think (buyers) have got confidence back that the program for the next several years is going to be very good and so they can commit,” Thomson said. “People came back and the demand was really good.”

Bax said a good reason to buy an Ontario-sired horse is the best ones can compete at the Grand Circuit level.

“Years ago, that wasn’t true. Even with this downturn, we’re still there. I think that’s a big benefit for the program,” he said.

But where can buyers get the best bang for their buck?

Bax said it starts with trying to find the highest quality horse. Even with the currency differential, he believes some U.S. breeders have bred better quality mares to Ontario and those horses will, by and large, be sold in the U.S. Even the Ontario breeders typically prove a road map to their better horses.

“Usually the breeders will do it for us. If they have 10 yearlings, a lot of times they’ll send three down to the States and sell seven here. They’ve already figured it out for you,” Bax said.
Still Plenty Of Yearlings, But Only Three Sessions

With more than 1,000 yearlings by almost 60 different sires and 17 consignments representing Black Book Part One, the 77th annual Standardbred Horse Sales Company auction in Harrisburg, Pa., has its standard wide variety of horses.

In a variation from previous years, the yearling portion of this year’s auction will take place on just three days, beginning Monday, Nov. 2, at 11 a.m. and running through Wednesday. A Thursday session for yearlings has been eliminated, so sessions will be slightly longer. There are 271 horses cataloged to sell Monday versus just 218 in last year’s opening session. Roughly 80 more horses will be sold Tuesday while Wednesday’s session is the largest with 372 horses cataloged to sell versus just 270 in the third session last year.

Most of the Harrisburg consignors also sold yearlings at the Lexington Selected Sale, and based on the success of that sale and regional sales, a good sale is expected in Harrisburg. “Every sale has a different personality, but Harrisburg is a very good sale because it has a wide spectrum of horses,” said Bob Boni, who sells horses as agent under the banner of his Northwood Bloodstock Agency.

Steve Stewart of Hunterton Sales Agency believes having a three-day yearling sale instead of four daily sessions will be a big benefit to both consignors and yearling shoppers at Harrisburg.

“I think this will benefit every single consignor,” said Stewart. “I can’t tell you how many times people get to the last day and are still looking for a yearling, so with more of people in that situation there on Wednesday, it should help.”

With so many horses, no one is predicting which segment of the market will be the strongest in Harrisburg. Hanover Shoe Farms has the largest consignment at the sale and Murray Brown, the farm’s Director of Public Relations, said their strength this year is pacing fillies.

“I can say that we’re loaded with fabulous pacing fillies,” said Brown. “But I can’t pick our sale topper. There isn’t just one horse that stands out.”

One pacing filly that will stand out in any crowd is Hip 86, the Diamond Creek Farm bred and consigned full sister to newly crowned Breeders Crown champion Divine Caroline. Divine Caroline was one of three Breeders Crown winners for Diamond Creek this year, which set a new Crown record.

“She’s a very nice filly,” said Diamond Creek’s Adam Bowden. “This filly and the dam’s others are all about the same. They are all headstrong fillies, but they’ve got speed and they know how to do their jobs on the track.”

For those who might be wondering if Diamond Creek will ever be selling a foal out of Western Montana, the dam of Crown winner Pure Country, Bowden said at this point, no. “We’ve literally kept every foal and the yearling filly (by Rock N Roll Heaven) is with Nancy Johansson to be trained,” said Bowden.

While Diamond Creek is among the breeders lucky enough to have a full sibling to a Crown champion to sell, Southwind Farms lost out on a similar opportunity when a full sister to Southwind Frank needed surgery for OCDs. The filly by Muscle Hill out of Flawless Lindy was in the Harrisburg catalog as Hip 244.

“We consigned her to Harrisburg instead of Lexington because she is a May 31 foal, and then we found out late that she had OCDs and we took them out, but there wasn’t enough time for her to really be sold in Harrisburg,” said Southwind’s Mike Klaau. “We weren’t going to sell her with the chips, so we just train her or add her to our broodmare band.”

Although Broadway Donna didn’t make it to the Breeders Crown final, the 2-year-old trotting filly was undefeated until she was beaten in her Crown elimination and failed to advance to the final. Peninsula Farm is selling a Muscle Hill brother to Broadway Donna on behalf of breeder Jules Siegel of Fashion Farms.

“He’s a very nice horse,” said Carter Duer, who has sold trotting-bred sale toppers in the past, most notably for breeder Valley High Stable. “Fashion Farms also has two fillies by Somebeachsomewhere that are exceptional individuals. One is out of Galleria and the other is out of one of her daughters (Western Gallie). And I think the group of Broadway Halls we’re selling for Fashion are the best ones I’ve seen.”

This year’s trotting market has received a boost from the first crop of yearlings by Chapter Seven. The 26 offspring by Chapter Seven which were sold in the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale generated an average price of $61,000, with only Muscle Hill attaining a higher average among trotting sires.

Chapter Seven stands at stud at Blue Chip Farms, and Blue Chip’s Jean Brown said she has seen the interest in the stallion continue.

“I think we’ve got something for everyone, and we’re keeping an eye on our video traffic to see if that translates at sale time. Chapter Seven and Roll With Joe’s offspring are receiving a lot of attention, and with our established sires, it’s always consistent.”

With 31 yearlings by Chapter Seven consigned to the Harrisburg sale, quite a few breeders and/or consignors have a vested interest. Among them is David Meirs of Concord Stud.

“I’m very excited about the Chapter Sevens since I raised the horse,” said Meirs. “I like the Chapter Sevens I’m selling, but I have to say, this is probably the best consignment I’ve ever had.” — By Kathy Parker
PA Gives Update On Commission Budget; More Meetings Scheduled

The following press release was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture early Thursday evening (Oct. 29):

Last week, state officials announced that the financial health of the Pennsylvania Racing Fund was declining and had reached a point where it could no longer sustain or protect the integrity of the racing industry. Officials noted without a fix in place, racing may have to be suspended. A one-week timeline was instituted for all vested stakeholders to come to consensus on a solution to address the structural deficit.

This evening, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture provided the following update regarding the matter: “Considerable progress has been made over the course of the last week, in particular, the last 24 hours,” said Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. “We appreciate the engagement of all the parties—everyone from the track operators, the horsemen, and members of the General Assembly. While there is agreement on a vast number of the issues, more work remains on a few important, final points. We’ve asked all of the parties to reconvene tomorrow to further discuss these remaining issues. We remain optimistic.”

Editor’s note: The budgets of the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission and Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission (which regulates Thoroughbred racing) are funded solely by revenues generated by wagering on races. The Department of Agriculture has proposed combining the commissions, as well as some other measures, which harness racing breeding and horsemen leadership have found unacceptable.

For updates please check www.harnessracing.com

Sale Company Checks In With State Vet, Requirements Being Met

For many, many years, the Standardbred Horse Sale Company’s week-long auction of horses inside the mammoth Pennsylvania Farm Show Arena has spawned sneezes, sniffles and post-sale stories of illness in both people and horses. After all, young horses are just like children, and when you send them to school in the fall, you can’t be surprised when they come home with a cold.

Poor air quality certainly never made it into the history books listing the champions that have been sold at the sale. But that part of the sale’s history makes it ironic that this year’s annual auction in Harrisburg grew by 25 yearlings when a supplement was added in part to accommodate yearlings that had been consigned to sell at the Lexington Selected Sale but could not be shipped and sold at that time because of illness.

The 25 yearlings include 14 from Allerage Farm, selling in the Northwood Bloodstock consignment; eight yearlings selling in the Vieux Carre’ Farms consignment; two selling in the Preferred Equine Marketing consignment; and one yearling selling in the All American Harnessbreds consignment. The yearlings will sell at the end of the day on Tuesday, Nov. 3, following the sale of Hip 647. These yearlings will have hip numbers 2000–2024.

Paul F. “Pete” Spears, president, CEO and treasurer of the Standardbred Horse Sales Company, is not only a sale company executive but a horse breeder and retired physician. He made numerous phone calls to ensure that the Standardbred Horse Sales Company is requiring proper documentation regarding the health of horses.

“I’ve been in touch with the Pennsylvania state veterinarian and others and they have reviewed all of the information and everything is in order for these horses to be in the Farm Show Arena,” said Spears. “There will be a Certificate of Health for these horses, signed by veterinarians. We have had extensive conversations to make sure all horses are healthy and that we have complied with state requirements.”

Pedigree pages of the additional yearlings will be distributed at the sale, or can be downloaded at Standardbred Horse Sales Company’s website from a banner on the Home Page, or directly from the “Downloads” page at www.theblackbook.com/catalog-downloads.php.

In addition, the popular “Black Book 1 for the iPad” from http://www.equineline.com/ has been updated to include the supplemented horses. Customers who have previously downloaded “Black Book 1 for the iPad” should delete their old version and download the newly updated version.—By Kathy Parker
Not your run-of-the-mill

**Weanlings**
Featuring a **Chapter Seven** half-sister to Big Rigs and 2015 2YO stakes winner Miss Tezsla; a **Cantab Hall** filly from a sister to $745,000 winner Temple Of Doom; and a **Somebeachsomewhere** filly from a stakes producing Western Hanover dam.

**Broodmares**
Including two carrying foals from the most highly-regarded first crop trotting sires: a daughter of champion Cameron Hall in foal to **Father Patrick**, and the dam of 2015 American-National 2YO winner Catch All in foal to **Trixton**.

**Selling in the Diamond Creek consignment at the Harrisburg Mixed Sale, Thursday, Nov. 5**

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Weekend Preview asked Harrisburg consignors about their favorite moment/race of last weekend’s Breeders Crown championship night at Woodbine.

Jean Brown, Blue Chip Farms:
“That’s so hard because the races were so good. I didn’t think Freaky Feet Pete had a prayer because he was so far back, so that was a great race and performance.”

Steve Stewart, Hunterton Sales Agency:
“We know the worst one! (Hunterton bred Mission Brief, who broke stride while leading in the 3-Year-Old Filly Trot.) As far as the best, it’s wonderful to see horses like Always B Miki and Color’s A Virgin come back and win. Both of these horses had a chance to win a Breeders Crown last year and they didn’t, and they came back and won. So hope springs eternal. And perseverance. That’s the takeaway message.”

Dr. Richard Meirs, Walnridge Farm:
“You have to be impressed by Southwind Frank, and even though Wild Honey has taken a back seat to Mission Brief, for Wild Honey to win the Oaks and the Crown, that’s a big feat. And then to come back from that injury and dominate like he (Always B Miki) did, that’s impressive.”

Carter Duer, Peninsula Farm:
“I was particularly pleased to see Freaky Feet Pete win. Until the middle of the summer, people probably didn’t know who he was, unless you were from Indiana. It was good for Indiana to have three winners. And for those that have been dancing every dance, racing every race this year, it’s tough for them to be on their game. I thought it was a great night of racing.”

David Meirs, Concord Stud:
“All The Time was exciting for me because the filly was bred here, as was Shake It Cerry and The Bank. For me, the 2-year-old filly trotters were as impressive as anything on the card.”

Murray Brown, Hanover Shoe Farms:
“I would say Freaky Feet Pete, for the race and performance, and also because of where he’s come from. For all of the naysayers who say you can’t compete with Takter and Burke, this shows you can.”

Bob Boni, Northwood Bloodstock Agency:
“Obviously, for me Always B Miki, because I own part of him and it is gratifying to see him race at that level after all that has happened. But I follow the Indiana program and for it to have three horses in the Breeders Crown and all three to win, that was a big statement. Especially after what happened last year with Always B Miki and Color’s A Virgin, with our horse being scratched from the final and the filly winning her elim but not the final.”

Mike Klau, Southwind Farms:
“That’s too easy. Southwind Frank. I think this is the best horse that Southwind Farms has ever bred. To see him progress, from his first baby race, has been amazing since he was a big, gangly, goofy yearling. Then something clicked for him and he became a racehorse.”

Dr. John “Tad” Egloff, Vieux Carre Farms:
“My favorite was Always B Miki because he was foaled here, his mother (Artstopper) was born here and his father (Always A Virgin) was born here.”

Takter Cutting Back, Won’t Be At Harrisburg
Less than one week after his record-setting six-win Breeders Crown night at Woodbine Racetrack, Hall of Fame trainer Jimmy Takter confirmed to harnessracing.com Thursday morning that he has decided to cut back on his number of horses and not buy any yearlings at next week’s sale in Harrisburg, Pa.

“I have to cut down a little bit. I’m tired and burned out,” said Takter, who traveled to his recently-purchased home in Florida north of Fort Lauderdale with his wife Christina earlier this week. “I just don’t feel I can do this at the scale I’ve been doing it for the last 30 years. I have to back off a little bit.”

Takter said he trained between 85-90 horses this year. He had 17 starters in last Saturday’s Breeders Crown finals, with his six winners helping contribute to a record $2-million night in purses. Overlooked on the night was that Takter surpassed the $100-million mark in career earnings as a trainer.

Takter said despite all the winner’s circle celebrations, he never had a chance to fully appreciate what he accomplished.

“You think I had any enjoyment there?” said Takter, who noted he actually made the decision to bypass Harrisburg about three weeks ago. “I was rushing for the next race and the next and the next race. I never got to appreciate it.”

Takter added that longtime yearling consultant Perry Soderberg would still be at Harrisburg, although advising other clients. He said that with 15 recent yearling purchases at the Lexington Selected Sale and another 15 homebreds, he expects to train about 30 two year olds in 2016. He hopes to bring his total number down to 60.

“I want to come down to a number where it’s fun again,” said Takter, who turned 55 on Sept. 29. “I’m not Ronnie Burke, who can handle that big operation. He wants to have that.” —By Gordon Waterstone
Interested In Owning A Standardbred?

The opportunity to own a piece of a successful sports franchise may be more attainable than you think. The United States Trotting Association (USTA), in conjunction with the Standardbred Horse Sales Co., welcomes those considering first time purchase of a Standardbred to learn more about harness racing and how to become a partner in racehorse ownership.

The Harrisburg Sale Mixer will be held Thursday (Nov. 5) at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show complex, in Harrisburg, Pa., at 5 p.m. Guests will be treated to light appetizers and cocktails and hear from top trainers and owners who have mastered racehorse ownership in today’s market.

Attendees will be given an overview of the business and learn about the process of owning a racehorse, and presented with the many options to consider when purchasing a racehorse. We will cover the benefits and risks associated with purchase options to help participants understand what choices may be best for them, from partnerships and fractional groups to yearling investments and claiming racehorses.

They will also be able to get up close and personal with some of the racehorses arriving for the mixed sale and learn the ins and outs of what to look for in a productive racehorse.

Standardbred racehorse ownership offers owners the opportunities to be as involved with their investment as they desire, and with buy in options as low as $350, there are investment options to suit anyone’s budget and interest. Go to shop.ustrotting.com to sign up today or for questions, contact owners@ustrotting.com or call (877) 800-8782 x3257. (HRC)

Blue Chip Announces “Advantage” For Boarding

Blue Chip Farms has announced the “Blue Chip Advantage” for year-round boarding mares. Mare owners will be able to leverage Blue Chip’s substantial and continuing investment in its equine reproductive infrastructure for their benefit.

The Blue Chip Advantage philosophy is based on 14 years of accumulated data from its New York operation which shows that on farm managed mares have higher in foal rates than those mares bred via shipped semen or on a transient basis.

“The Blue Chip Advantage is built to pass on substantial cost savings to mare owners that board with us,” commented farm principal Tom Grossman. “Reduced per heat cycle costs, due to having a highly accomplished reproductive veterinarian on staff in Dr. Herbert Burns, coupled with the absence of semen transport/preparation and outside vet visit fees saves our clients’ money. Dr. Burns’ expertise has enabled us to reduce the number of cycles needed, on average, to get a mare pregnant.”

Boarding packages will also be available for multiple mare owners.

“The edge we have in the business with our resident and dedicated mare management process along with the significant advances and investment we have made in technology in 2015, will enhance our abilities to serve our year round clients and their mares,” Grossman continued.

Tiffany Wyman at Nutrena added, “From the rigorous analysis and constant fine tuning of every aspect of the nutrition program to compliment the several phases of equine physical development, the team at Blue Chip Farms has given their life to understanding the core success of nutrition and well-being.”

To learn more about boarding your mare at Blue Chip Farms, please contact: Jean Brown—General Manager jbrown@bluechipfarms.com; Eddie Amezquita—Director of Operations eamezqua@bluechipfarms.com (Blue Chip Farms)

SBOANJ Has Breeding Incentives For New Jersey

The board of directors of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) has approved an exciting new $350,000 program to encourage breeding in the state of New Jersey with a substantial incentive.

The Breeders Incentive Program includes both mare residency incentive payments, and a bonus for breeding to New Jersey pacing and trotting stallions. Although the SBOA is hopeful that this program will attract more stallions to New Jersey, as of this day, there are just three commercial stallions standing in New Jersey, as of this day, there are just three commercial stallions standing in the state of New Jersey for 2016.

On the trotting side, there is the phenomenal Trixton, 1:50.3, (Muscle Hill-Emilie Cas El), the 2014 Hambletonian champion who bred 140 mares in North America and 120 mares in Europe in 2015. On the pacing side, the 2010 Horse of the year, Rock N Roll Heaven, 1:47.3, (Rocknroll Hanover-Artistic Vision) will now also stand in New Jersey along with Lis Mara, 1:47.3,(Cambest-Lisheen), a Breeders Crown champion and double Canadian Pacing Derby winner.

“With the increasing likelihood that a referendum to permit casino gaming in Northern New Jersey will significantly increase purses for New Jersey-breds in 2018 and beyond, and also considering the fact that breeders will be paid an incentive bonus of up to $1,500 upon paying their stud fee, Continues on page 14"
it makes infinitely good sense to breed to New Jersey stallion,” said Bob Marks of Deo Volente Farms.

For more information about these New Jersey stallions, please contact Deo Volente Farms at (908) 782-4848, or go to www.deovolentefarms.com. (Deo Volente Farms)

**Katherine Starr To Receive Hamilton Award**

The Bruce Hamilton Award is given annually to recognize an individual who has displayed outstanding integrity in the sport of harness racing and who has also taken the time to give back to both the sport and their community in the State of New York.

This year the Harness Horse Breeders of New York State have announced that Katherine Starr has been named the ninth recipient of the Hamilton Award. For over a decade, her daily efforts have exemplified all the merits this award espouses while working towards a singular goal: to find homes for retired Standardbreds.

Starr had been working a regular day job before deciding it was not for her. She wanted to be around horses and make that her life’s work. She went back to school and graduated from SUNY Morrisville with a degree in Horse Sciences in 1985. Starr then proceeded to race her own stable of Standardbreds at Pocono Downs from 1991 to 1993.

After a seven-year departure from the horse business due to a series of life events, Starr was once again reunited with her passion as she started to work with the Harness Horse Retirement and Youth Association in 2000 as their central New York placement coordinator. Her experiences rehabbing and placing horses there was the springboard to her next endeavor.

Starr started Sunshine Horses in Syracuse, N.Y., in 2003. It is a not-for-profit rescue facility and placement agency with a mission to take in horses that can no longer race for whatever reason, and find them a “forever home” where they could be loved and cared for.

Since its inception, Sunshine Horses has retrained more than 150 horses and moved them to caring new owners who have provided solid retirement homes. So far in 2015, 20 horses have been placed. Although the majority of horses there are Standardbreds, Sunshine works with all breeds.

Twelve years into the project, Starr has changed the lives of many. Over 150 horses that may have met a very different fate had it not been for her efforts, are now securely placed and reaping the benefits of their years of hard work. And hundreds of people, who may have otherwise never experienced the bond that can be made with a horse, now have an appreciation and love for these noble beasts.

Starr will be presented the Bruce Hamilton Memorial Medal during the New York Sire Stakes and USTA District 8 awards dinner at Batavia Downs Hotel and Casino on Nov. 15. (HHBNYS)

**Red Mile Awarded Usual Dates In 2016**

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission met Monday (Oct. 26) and approved a traditional schedule of racing at The Red Mile for 2016. With harness dates also approved for Bluegrass Downs in Paducah and Thunder Ridge, dates for 2016 total 68.

The Red Mile was awarded 32 dates, from July 24-Oct. 9. Grand Circuit racing will begin Sept. 29 and run through Oct. 9. Bluegrass Downs was awarded 15 dates, for operating June 10-July 10. Thunder Ridge received 21 dates, for an April 13-May 27 meet.

The Thunder Ridge dates, however, could be in jeopardy. Thunder Ridge owes three Thoroughbred tracks in Kentucky more than $600,000 in simulcast settlement fees: Churchill Downs is owed more than $300,000, Turfway Park $235,000, and Ellis Park more than $100,000, officials said.

Keeneland has been working to purchase Thunder Ridge and relocate the facility and license to Corbin in southern Kentucky, with plans for a Quarter Horse meet. The proceeds from the sale of Thunder Ridge were to be used to pay the simulcasting fees owed.

**Allerage Farm Offers Internship**

Allerage Farm, in Sayre, Pa., is offering a breeding farm internship. This internship opportunity is for students who are in the last year of completing or have recently completed a BS degree in Equine Sciences, Animal Science or related discipline. The internship will provide advanced training in breeding farm procedures and management techniques for individuals intending to pursue a career in the equine breeding industry.

There is potential for future full-time employment based on performance and qualifications as well as opportunities in harness racing and Standardbred industry. The internship is for one year in duration beginning either Jan. 1 or July 1. Salary of $400/week and on-site housing including all utilities will be provided.

If you are interested in the internship opportunity, more information can be received by contacting:

Marta Piotrow, M.S.
Breeding & Yearling Manager
Phone: (267) 885-7615

Those interested in applying can email or mail resumes with a cover letter to: Marta.J.Piotrow@gmail.com

Or: Attention: Marta J. Piotrow
135 Allerage Way,
Sayre, Pa. 18840

The deadline for Jan 1 applications is Dec. 1. Deadline for July 1 applications is May 1. (Allerage Farm)
Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
Harness Racing Communications for the week of October 27, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Wiggle It Jiggleit (34)</td>
<td>3pg 22-19-2-0</td>
<td>$1,842,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Southwind Frank</td>
<td>2t 12-11-0-0</td>
<td>786,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pinkman</td>
<td>3tg 16-11-3-0</td>
<td>1,860,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Freaky Feet Pete</td>
<td>3pc 15-13-2-0</td>
<td>633,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mission Brief</td>
<td>3tf 12-8-3-0</td>
<td>835,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Always B Miki</td>
<td>4ph 3-3-0-0</td>
<td>227,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Bee A Magician</td>
<td>5tm 16-10-4-0</td>
<td>929,345</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Pure Country</td>
<td>2pf 10-10-0-0</td>
<td>689,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Wild Honey</td>
<td>3tf 14-7-5-0</td>
<td>1,066,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Wakizashi Hanover</td>
<td>3pg 19-11-4-2</td>
<td>1,153,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Others receiving votes: D’One 55, LA Delight, State Treasurer 41, Control The Moment 22, JL Cruz 16, Artspeak 11, Create 10, Color's A Virgin 8, All The Time 5, Broadway Donna 4, Homicide Hunter 3, Divine Caroline 2. Note: LA Delight received one first-place vote.

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through October 27, 2015 (week difference Oct. 21-27).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pinkman (3tg)</td>
<td>16 11 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wiggle It Jiggleit (3pg)</td>
<td>22 19 2</td>
<td>1,842,170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wakizashi Hanover (3pg)</td>
<td>19 11 4</td>
<td>1,153,700</td>
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<td>Wild Honey (3tl)</td>
<td>14 7 5</td>
<td>1,066,682</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bee A Magician (5tm)</td>
<td>16 10 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bank (3tc)</td>
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<td>888,572</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artspeak (3pc)</td>
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<td>883,684</td>
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<td>State Treasurer (6ph)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Brief (3tl)</td>
<td>12 8 3</td>
<td>853,617</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timoko (8th)</td>
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Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
<td>1,715 361-291-224</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Miller</td>
<td>2,155 326-301-309</td>
<td>10,529,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Tetrick</td>
<td>2,191 393-316-288</td>
<td>9,890,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>2,331 459-427-331</td>
<td>9,003,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Sears</td>
<td>1,721 332-269-240</td>
<td>8,570,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Callahan</td>
<td>2,748 518-411-391</td>
<td>8,119,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Napolitano Jr.</td>
<td>2,688 704-476-335</td>
<td>7,343,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brennan</td>
<td>2,170 353-275-276</td>
<td>6,816,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Miller</td>
<td>1,960 244-274-241</td>
<td>6,649,732</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Dube</td>
<td>2,072 305-290-242</td>
<td>6,605,690</td>
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Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>4,118 831-657-589</td>
<td>338 $21,360,662</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy Takter</td>
<td>701 163-137-93</td>
<td>385 11,882,494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
<td>1,394 362-218-183</td>
<td>390 5,159,521</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Alagna</td>
<td>639 137-93-62</td>
<td>338 4,330,842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Bamond Jr.</td>
<td>717 117-112-119</td>
<td>305 3,986,707</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilbert Garcia-Herrera</td>
<td>1,521 276-250-184</td>
<td>313 3,763,465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Brown</td>
<td>573 141-90-80</td>
<td>380 3,279,024</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Miller</td>
<td>664 114-115-96</td>
<td>316 3,271,349</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virgil Morgan Jr.</td>
<td>1,220 286-168-153</td>
<td>353 3,119,028</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ake Svanstedt</td>
<td>468 86-68-46</td>
<td>297 2,964,328</td>
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Leading Breeders

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<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>1,056</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>2,108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winbak Farm</td>
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<td>640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittany Farms</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perretti Farms</td>
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<td>201</td>
<td>642</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>5,391,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>4,756,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>4,638,122</td>
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<td>Steve Stewart</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>4,011,162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>3,933,589</td>
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</table>

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Oct. 21-27 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>Wins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Napolitano Jr.</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>30-13-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Drew Campbell</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>16-8-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15-10-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brennan</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15-10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Noble</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>13-5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Coppola Jr.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>13-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Switzer Jr.</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>13-17-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie Wrenn Jr.</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12-3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>11-8-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Page</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10-7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath Campbell</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10-6-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim DeVaux</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10-6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Marohn Jr.</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10-10-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Taggart Jr.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10-3-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alfred Carroll</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9-6-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Miller</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9-1-10</td>
</tr>
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<td>John DeLong</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9-3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Sutton</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9-8-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvain Fillion</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9-3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Tetrack</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9-16-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9-8-4</td>
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Trainers

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Wins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilbert Garcia-Herrera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Deters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Oakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Brian Loney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Gill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Rousse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy Takter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Plano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Banca</td>
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<td>Valerie Grondin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Auclerci</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.D. Perrin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Beckwith</td>
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<td>Rob Harmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Lounsbury</td>
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<td>Steven Vaileaf</td>
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<td>Trent Stohler</td>
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<td>Virgil Morgan Jr.</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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**November 2015**

**Horse Sales**
- Blooded Horse Fall Speed Sale at Delaware, Ohio
- Blooded Horse Fall Speed Sale at Delaware, Ohio

**Events**
- Veterans Day
- Remembrance Day (Can.)
- Governors Cup 2CP elims (M)
- I-69 OHT (HoP)
- Peony OMP (HoP)
- Single G OHP (HoP)
- Valley Victory 2CT elims (M)
- Governor’s Cup 2FP elims (Wdb)
- Autumn 3FP final (Wdb)
- Autumn 3FT final (Wdb)
- Goldsmith Maid 2FT final (M)
- Three Diamonds 2FP final (M)
- TVG OMP final (M)
- TVG OMT final (M)
- TVG OHP final (M)
- TVG OHT final (M)
- Valley Victory 2CT final (M)

**Birthdays**
- Hansen Progress 3CP elims (DD)
- Goldsmith Maid 2FT elims (M)
- Three Diamonds 2FP elims (M)
- TVG OMP (M)
- TVG OMT (M)
- TVG OHP (M)
- TVG OHT (M)

**Sales**
- Blooded Horse Fall Speed Sale at Delaware, Ohio
- Blooded Horse Fall Speed Sale at Delaware, Ohio

**Festivals**
- Thanksgiving
- Courageous Lady 3FP (M)

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