Maven Takes On Boys In American National

Last year the 3-year-old filly trotter Maven won the Breeders Crown final and then the American National in succession, and she is now halfway through achieving the same racing double in 2013.

On Oct. 19, the now 4-year-old Maven won the Breeders Crown Older Mare Trot at Pocono Downs in dominating fashion, her fourth win in a row and 10th overall in 13 starts this year. However, if Maven is to duplicate her late-season feat of a year ago in the $200,000 American National on Saturday night at Balmoral Park, she’s going to have to do it against a group of horses she’s never competed against: eight older male trotters.

“This will be a first for me as I’ve never really had a trotting mare before,” said driver Yannick Gingras. “I’m looking forward to it. If anybody can do it, she can do it. Look at the Breeders Crown, she raced when the track was a lot worse (after heavy rain) and she went a big mile first-over and did it real easy. She’s coming into this race sharp, that’s for sure.”

Maven has made 39 career starts but only against female competition. The daughter of Glidemaster has 25 wins, with earnings of $1,379,969 for owner William J. Donovan. Trained by Jonas Czernyson, Maven has missed just three checks over her career. If successful on Saturday, Maven will join a select few mares who have won the Am-Nat Aged Trot since it was first raced in 1959, including most recently Buck I St. Pat in 2010 and Moni Maker in 1999.

Gingras said he and Czernyson discussed entering Maven against her male peers, which includes the 2012 Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year Market Share and Canada’s 2012 Older Horse Trotter of the Year Mister Herbie, most recently the respective one-two finishers in the Breeders Crown Open Horse Trot.

“We talked about it,” said Gingras, who won the 2011 Am-Nat Aged Trot with Looking Hanover. “This is also to see what we’d go for next year, since they want to race against the boys and in Europe, most likely, so we’ll see what she’s made of. I certainly don’t think she’ll embarrass herself. I think she can go with them. Whether she can go by them in the stretch, we’ll find out Saturday.”
The Captain Hopes To Right The Ship At Balmoral

Trainer Tony Alagna told HarnessRacing Weekend Preview on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 6, that post-race blood work done on Captaintreacherous following his stunning defeat in last Friday night’s $252,000 Monument Circle at Hoosier Park confirmed his suspicion that the colt had tied up during the race. Alagna wanted to train the colt prior to dropping his name in the box for Saturday night’s $256,000 American National at Balmoral Park. Although Alagna was at Harrisburg for the yearling sale, he took a Tuesday night (Nov. 5) flight to Chicago so he could train The Captain the following morning at Odds On Acres, where the colt has been stabled at under the care of his mother, Donna Lee Ozment, for his pair of Midwest starts.

However, Alagna had to go to Plan B of sorts when steady rain resulted in a muddy track at Odds On Acres, so he switched locations to Balmoral Park. The delay (“I sat there for two hours watching it rain, and then after shipping into Balmoral, we trained our first bunch before qualifiers at 10:30 and then the second bunch after the qualifiers,” said Alagna) forced Alagna to drop Captaintreacherous’s name in the box prior to the training session.

Although Alagna said he was more than pleased with results, he still plans on having blood drawn again on Friday. He noted that this wasn’t the first time Captaintreacherous had tied up, remembering last year’s Metro elimination when he nearly scratched the colt.

“He’s had a history of that and he’s had no issues of late, but this is the first time he shipped any distance and the change must have affected him,” said Alagna.

With his 12 wins and two seconds in 14 starts this year resulting in $1,937,273 in earnings for owner Captaintreacherous Racing, Captaintreacherous would have to pick up the winner’s share of $122,880 (48 percent of the purse, according to the conditions) to become just the 13th Standardbred winner’s share of $122,880 (48 percent of the purse, according to the conditions) to become just the 13th Standardbred winner to top the $2-million mark in earnings for a single year.

In addition to Captaintreacherous, who will start from post 2 with Tim Tetrick driving, Alagna will also have Wake Up Peter and Odds On Equuleus—both winless this year in a combined 30 starts—in the American National.

“Wake Up Peter qualified good the other day and trained back really good today, so we hope he’s back up to where he should be,” said Alagna. “Odds On Equuleus was in the Messenger (at Yonkers) but half-mile track racing isn’t to his advantage. Hopefully, being back on the big track he’ll stretch out.” —By Gordon Waterstone
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MEADOWLANDS RACING & ENTERTAINMENT
Rocknroll Reality Among Butenschoen’s 3 Am-Nat Contenders

Eight of the nine 2-year-old colt and gelding pacers slated to line up behind the gate for this year’s $113,000 American National are trained by horsemen who either once plied their trade at the Chicago-area tracks or still happen to be based there.

Since 2000, the American National for 2-year-old colt and gelding pacers has been won by locally-trained horses all but twice. This year the only outsider is the Ron Burke-trained Somesizesomestyle.

Illinois native John Butenschoen no longer operates a stable in Illinois, having moved his racing headquarters to eastern Pennsylvania a few years ago, but he’s returning to his roots for the big Am-Nat night, bringing the 2-year-old pacing colt Rocknroll Reality, the 3-year-old trotting colt Punxsutawney, and the older trotter The Evictor.

Rocknroll Reality, a 2-year-old colt by Rocknroll Hanover out of Art’s Reality, is owned by Eugene Schick of Elgin, Ill., Jean Goehlen of Aurora, Ill., William Wiswell of Elkhorn, Wisc., and VIP Internet Stable of New Jersey. A $45,000 yearling purchase, Rocknroll Reality is a half brother to Western Guy, who finished second to Total Truth in the 2006 Hoosier Cup.

“He’s a big, growthy colt. He seems good and he’s sound.”
– John Butenschoen on Rocknroll Reality

“He’s a big, growthy colt,” said Butenschoen of the colt with 11 starts this season, but just one win, in an overnight at Pocono Downs. “He seems good and he’s sound. He’s a hometown horse as some of his owners are from the area, and I don’t race much out there anymore, so we’re out there partly so they can see their horse race.”

Butenschoen won the 2006 edition of the Am-Nat for 2-year-old colt and gelding pacers with The Quiet Mon. While he thinks Rocknroll Reality belongs in the 2012 Am-Nat field, he’s simply hoping for a good effort from the colt, who finished sixth in his elimination after getting away eighth and falling 13 ¼ lengths behind the leader at the first quarter.

“When he went behind the gate in the elim, John (driver John De Long) couldn’t get him out of the gate like he wanted to because the colt hit a knee or something and got crooked,” Butenschoen explained of the slow start. “But the colt has gate speed. Ronnie (Pierce) left with him at Lexington (starting from post 5 and taking the lead in the first quarter in a division of the International Stallion Stakes) with no problem.”

One of Rocknroll Reality’s toughest foes is expected to be Somesizesomestyle, who will start from post 9. The Somebeachsomewhere colt finished second behind elim winner Bushwacker, with both of those horses lining up in the far outside slots in the final.

“That’s definitely going to make it harder,” said Yannick Gingras, who will be driving Somesizesomestyle for Burke, “but he went some big fractions last week. He has the speed to get into the race, but it’s definitely a tough spot in Chicago. He’s easy to drive and can go a long way. No hiding the strategy, we’re going forward with this one.”
— By Kathy Parker

$113,000 American National 2YO Colt Pace

**Balmoral Park, Saturday, Nov. 9, Race 4, Post Time: 8:13 pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post—Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Sale (Price)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Traffic Cop (Sportsmaster)</td>
<td>T. Warren/D. Simpson</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>Freedom Hill Farms/ILL ($18,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Rocknroll Reality (Rocknroll Hanover)</td>
<td>J. DeLong/J. Butenschoen</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>Ross Bonafield/Lex ($45,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Unlocked (Duneside Perch)</td>
<td>D. Magee/N. Prather</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Bart Seales/Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Archetto Hanover (Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>M. Miller/E. Miller</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/Lex ($67,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Odds On Rhodonite (Western Ideal)</td>
<td>C. Callahan/N. Giberson</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Odds On Nourrir/Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—Wicked Businesses (Art Official)</td>
<td>T. Seekman/J. Seekman</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Kentuckiana Farms/Lex ($15,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Let’s Drink On It (Art Official)</td>
<td>B. Sears/J. Seekman</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Kentuckiana Farms/Lex ($12,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Somesizesomestyle (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/R. Burke</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>Tara Hill Stud/HB ($50,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—Bushwacker (Rocknroll Hanover)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/C. Ryder</td>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>Kentuckiana Fms/Lex ($135,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**American National 2YO Colt Pace Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Fully Loaded</td>
<td>Brian Pinske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Three Olives</td>
<td>Joe Seekman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Yankee Cruiser</td>
<td>Brian Pinske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Nineteenth Hole</td>
<td>Nelson Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Team Hutch</td>
<td>Homer Hochstetler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Intendto’s Majesty</td>
<td>Clarence Shoffner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>The Quiet Mon</td>
<td>John Butenschoen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Mucho Sleazy</td>
<td>Ken Rucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Doubletrouble</td>
<td>Scott Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>OK Commander</td>
<td>Gregg McNair</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Mystic Desire</td>
<td>Shawn Nessa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Crime Of Passion</td>
<td>Erv Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Our Dragon King</td>
<td>Dirk Simpson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bushwacker Looks To Buck Competition In American National

The 2-year-old season is a learning process for some horses, and this season has been that sort of journey for Chris Ryder and his pacer Bushwacker.

Bushwacker is a son of Rocknroll Hanover out of Dolphins Can Talk, the half sister to Put On A Show. He was bought for $135,000 by Henderson Farms at the 2012 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Henderson Farms principal Craig Henderson, who lives in Chicago, shared ownership of Put On A Show with Richard Young.

“He was really growthy and slow to mature. He was just a horse that needed time.”

– Chris Ryder on Bushwacker

While Bushwacker displayed talent for Chris Ryder in training, he battled through various issues before he pieced it all together.

“He was really growthy and slow to mature. He was just a horse that needed time,” Ryder said.

Bushwacker seems to have grown past his early issues, leading to an impressive 1:51.4 victory in the American National elimination at Balmoral Park last weekend. With the victory, Bushwacker looks primed to compete in the $113,000 final on Saturday night.

After a few qualifying starts early in the summer, Ryder made the tough decision to geld the freshman.

“We had to geld him. It was a tough decision, but he just wasn’t doing things right. He was making breaks, and it had to be done,” said Ryder.

Bushwacker had breaking problems early in the season, possibly mimicking his namesake, the top bucking bull in the world. The bull, Bushwacker, is notorious for his aggression with a cowboy on his back, and has only been ridden twice in 50 tries. Luckily, Bushwacker the horse has not maintained the same ornery attitude of the bull.

After qualifying in late August, Bushwacker has made great strides to live up to the hopes that come with a yearling who cost six figures. Ryder has seen progress every week, but the Am-Nat elim victory was proof that the youngster had put it all together.

“I was really happy with him. I expected it, honestly,” Ryder said.

After popping out of the pocket to race by Somesizemestyle in the elimination, Bushwacker will take on the top seven other finishers along with Let’s Drink On It and Kingofthejungle, the recipients of a bye for the elimination, in the final.

While Mike Oosting steered Bushwacker to victory in the elimination, Ryder will hand the lines to Tim Tetrick for the final. “I hated to take Mike (Oosting) off since he drove him great last Saturday, but Tim Tetrick will be in town and he always drives for me,” Ryder noted.

“We have high expectations for him. He should be a good horse next year, but I think he will be one of the favorites this weekend,” Ryder added.—By Jay Hochstetler
Fillies Hope To State Their HOY Case In Am-Nats

Having gone undefeated in 15 starts this year, the 3-year-old filly Bee A Magician arguably appears the frontrunner to be voted Horse of the Year. Although Bee A Magician’s original schedule had just one more start on the calendar—the Nov. 30 Moni Maker at the Meadowlands—owners Mel Hartman, Herb Liverman and David McDuffee and trainer Nifty Norman supplemented her for $10,000 into Saturday night’s $118,500 American National at Balmoral Park.

Bee A Magician won’t be the only filly at Balmoral with Horse of the Year possibilities as the 3-year-old pacer I Luv The Nitelife hopes to state her case in her division’s $161,000 Am-Nat final. The Chris Ryder trainee has lost just once in 14 starts this year. I Luv The Nitelife comes into the race fresh off her stunning victory in the $500,000 Breeders Crown sophomore distaff pace on Oct. 19 at Pocono Downs. The venerable daughter of Rocknroll Hanover trounced her competition soundly in 1:50 by nearly four lengths.

“She’s been at Odds On Acres since last Wednesday and she’s just jogged lightly all week,” said Ryder. “She came out of her Breeders Crown win in really fine shape, and just seems to enjoy life.”

Owned by Richard Young and Joanne Young, I Luv The Nitelife has been driven by Tim Tetrick in all of her parimutuel starts this season.

I Luv The Nitelife had a 31-day layoff and a pair of qualifiers between her double-heat Jugette victory at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Ohio on Sept. 18 and her Breeders Crown win, and now has had 21 days since that last triumph at Pocono Downs.

“She wasn’t eligible to anything at Lexington, and our main goal was to win the Jug and the Breeders Crown,” said Ryder. If she wins on Saturday night, I Luv The Nitelife has a chance to become just the fourth 3-year-old pacing filly in harness racing history to be honored with a Horse of the Year trophy, joining Rainbow Blue (2004), Bunny Lake (2001) and Fan Hanover (1981).

“She’s a great horse, and great horses do great things,” said Ryder. “Yes, there was a long time in between races, but we just couldn’t find any suitable ones for her, so we qualified her.”

With $1,907,867 in purses, I Luv The Nitelife has earned the most ever by a filly pacer over her first two years of racing, supplanting Put On A Show at the top. Bee A Magician’s win in the $500,000 Breeders Crown final sent her career earnings to $2,125,836, which made her the first filly trotter to surpass the $2-million mark in her first two years on the track.
Harness Racing Weekend Preview, 7 of 12

November 8, 2013

HarnessRacing.com

Creatine, Spider Blue Chip
Renew Rivalry In Am-Nat

Another great rivalry has shaped up late this season between the sophomore trotters Creatine and Spider Blue Chip. That match-up figures to be front and center again on Saturday when the two foes meet again in the $235,000 American National 3-Year-Old Colt Trot, with Creatine starting from post 3 and Spider Blue Chip from the outside post 10.

At Hoosier Park on Friday, Nov. 1, Creatine avenged his Breeders Crown loss to his rival by besting him by a head in the $286,500 Carl Erskine Trot in 1:54.3. Spider Blue Chip had prevailed by a head over Creatine in the $500,000 Breeders Crown Sophomore Trot on Oct. 19 at Pocono, winning that race in 1:53.3 by a neck.

Trained by Bob Stewart and bred and owned by the Diamond Creek Racing Stable, Creatine has been steered in the majority of his outings by Mike Lachance, and now sports $815,495 in career earnings.

“The Hoosier win was great for the horse and great for Mike,” Stewart said. “I think Mike thought he had the best horse in the Breeders Crown, and he was a bit disappointed to finish second that night. Now hopefully, we’ll just have a repeat of the Hoosier race at Balmoral.

“He came out of the win at Hoosier just happy as a clam,” Stewart added. “Afterwards, we shipped him back to our winter base of Paris, Ky. He’ll be at Odds On Acres on Friday morning prior to his start at Balmoral, because we want to make sure he gets plenty of turn-out time before Saturday’s American National.

“We’ve had good luck at Balmoral with our other horses over the years, and this will be the last start of the season for him. We’re looking forward to racing him next season.”

With over $1 million in his career coffers, Spider Blue Chip will be looking to avenge his loss to Creatine one week ago. The son of Andover Hall was a $60,000 yearling purchase by owners David McDuffee and Mel Hartman.

“This horse is just is so consistent every week,” trainer Chuck Sylvester stressed. “I’m really proud of him. He wants to win and won’t let horses go by.”

Spider Blue Chip has also been impressive even in defeat. He was second by a head to Royalty For Life in the $294,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial at the Meadowlands, third in the Kentucky Futurity final, and fifth in the Hambletonian final after winning his elimination in 1:53.4 earlier that afternoon.

“This horse tries every week and he’ll show up,” said Sylvester. “That’s what’s good.” (Balmoral Park)

“I think Mike thought he had the best horse in the Breeders Crown, and he was a bit disappointed to finish second.”
– Bob Stewart on Creatine

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Yannick Gingras Talks Am-Nats

SOUTHWIND SILENCE (Race 3, 2YOFP)

“Post 1 is sweet. I think she is the horse to beat. I look at the fillies who raced last week and they went 1:54, and she’s better than that. The other horse who got a bye (Sweetnsinful) is a nice filly too.

She won in 1:54 at Hoosier, and I think she is the one to beat. Obviously, drawing the rail isn’t going to hurt.”

EL ROCKET (Race 5, 3YOCT)

“(Post 9) is a tough spot for him. He’s had a hard time in the turns the last couple weeks. Maybe it’s time for him to maybe stay in on the turns and let him trot the straightaway. The good part is that at Balmoral it’s such a long straightaway so hopefully I can keep him in on the turn and open him up in the stretch and he’ll have a shot from there.

“From where he started, I think he’s underachieved this year. Let’s be honest, it’s not the toughest group of 3-year-old trotters there ever was, so I thought he’d do better than he has. It’s been a long year, and I thought it’d be about the time he’d step it up. So I think it’s a little disappointing.”

CHARISMA HANOVER (Race 7, 3YOFP)

“Ugh, that hurts (post 8). This filly has been so sharp though. She may not be able to beat I Luv The Nitelife, but she’s a special horse. The last two weeks at Yonkers, those are really big miles. But post 8 definitely makes it hard.

“I Luv The Nitelife is probably going to go to the front and get the front fairly easy against this bunch. I was hoping to be inside of her and get into the two hole behind her, but now that takes it out of the equation. I’ll try and get a good trip, and as I said, it’s a long stretch, so maybe we’ll take our shot in the stretch. Hopefully they’ll mix it up and I’ll get a good piece.”

FOILED AGAIN (Race 10, AHP)

“What post did the old man get? There you go, post 2. What’d Pet Rock draw? Post 9. It’s the reverse from last week when I had the outside and he had the inside. It’s definitely a great spot for him from post 2. I’m looking forward to racing him again. In the Breeders Crown I got the jump, and last week he was on the front and I was chasing him. I’d definitely love to have him chase me.

“It’s definitely been a great year for him, but there’s no doubt that he’s better in the fall than he is in the spring and summer. I have to think it’s some kind of allergies.”
LaFountaine Has Two In Am-Nat 2FP

Michigan-based trainer Todd LaFountaine may be starting two 2-year-old filly pacers in Saturday night’s $115,000 American National at Balmoral Park that both sport seasonal records of just one win in nine starts, but he is hopeful one of them can add a second score to her resume.

LaFountaine is sending out Boxed Chocolates and One Jazzy Lady, who will start from post 2 and 4 with Marcus Miller and Dave Magee driving, respectively. The path to the winner’s circle arguably goes through Pennsylvania Sires Stakes champ and Breeders Crown third-place finisher Southwind Silence, who starts from post 1 after taking a bye into the final.

“We have the right drivers on them, so we have no complaints there,” said LaFountaine. “We’ll just have to see what shakes out and what happens.”

Boxed Chocolates and One Jazzy Lady finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the single Am-Nat elim last weekend, with both starting after a month layoff due to sickness.

“There’s not a lot of difference in the pair of fillies. They both got to Lexington and got sick, and are just now getting over it,” said LaFountaine. “I don’t know what these horses are getting this year, but it’s been hell getting it out of them. This will be the healthiest this pair of fillies has been in quite some time.”

Both fillies are owned by 91-year-old Larry Gary of Ada, Mich., with Boxed Chocolates costing $11,000 as a yearling and One Jazzy Lady just an $8,000 buy. Gary recently added six yearlings to his ledger at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale and this week bought another two at Harrisburg.

Boxed Chocolates is a daughter of Rocknroll Hanover out of the Presidential Ball mare White Chocolate. Her half sister, Chocolate Art, won a Bluegrass division in 2007 at The Red Mile. Boxed Chocolates’ lone win this year came on Aug. 18 at Balmoral Park.

“Shes a nice filly who was immature early on,” said LaFountaine. “She seems to be coming around a little better toward the end of the year. I guess we’re going to find out Saturday.”

One Jazzy Lady broke her maiden in her first start on July 3 at Balmoral Park, but has come up short in eight subsequent attempts. She is a daughter of Quik Pulse Mindale out of the Real Artist mare Bonita Beach, whose dam is the great Sanabelle Island. It’s a family LaFountaine is most familiar with, having trained Quik Pulse Mindale early in his career as well as Bonita Beach.

“I trained ‘Jazzy’s’ mother for Lloyd Arnold,” LaFountaine remembered. “She had a ton of ability but cracked a knee. So I had a little bit of insider on the filly when she sold, and then she didn’t bring nothing.”

Bonita Beach is a half sister to the $300,000 winners Estero Bay and Captiva Island, the latter the dam of 2012 Champlain winner Captive Audience.—By Gordon Waterstone
Harrisburg Yearling Price Up 18.5%

The Standardbred Horse Sales Company yearling auction in Harrisburg, Pa., concluded late Thursday afternoon (Nov. 7) with an 18.5 percent gain in the average price and a 29.4 percent increase in the median. The average price at this year’s sale was $34,345, up from $28,995 in 2012. The median price—the point where half the yearlings sold for more and half for less—rose from $17,000 to $22,000.

A total of 1,028 yearlings were sold at this year’s sale, down 120 from the 2012 auction. The final gross, however, was up slightly more than $2.6 million from last year.

The increase in prices at Harrisburg followed the positive price climb in Lexington last month. The Lexington Selected Yearling Sale experienced a 13.6 increase in average ($40,090 for 676 sold).

The sale got underway Monday morning and the tone for a good sale was immediately set as 213 horses were sold for an average price of $65,873. That was an increase of 21.6 percent from the 2012 opening session, when 235 yearlings generated an average of $54,181. The median price rose by 25 percent, climbing from $40,000 to $50,000.

Overall, a total of 55 yearlings brought prices of $100,000 or more, with three bringing prices of $300,000 or more. The sale topper was hip 194, the Somebeachsomewhere filly out of the Western Hanover mare Silky. Trainer Chris Oakes bought the filly with a bid of $355,000. Named Bodacious, Dr. John Egloff and Linwood Higgins bred the filly, with Egloff’s Vieux Carre Farms consigning her. Oakes’s clients already own the filly’s 2-year-old full sister, Beach Bunny p,2, 1:53.1, who recently finished second in the Breeders’ Crown final.

John Cancelliere bought the Well Said half brother to his star free-for-all Bettor Sweet for $300,000. Bettor Sweet, a winner of $2.7 million, was retired earlier this year. Concord Stud Farm consigned the colt for Seth Rosenfeld’s Birnam Wood Farms. Birnam Wood Farms’ mare Sweet Future is also the dam of Sweet Lou and the 2-year-old winner Sweet Talkin Clyde p,2, 1:53.1f, also by Well Said and thus a full brother to this year’s yearling, who is named Honey I’m Home.

Jimmy Takter paid $300,000 for hip 89, a Muscle Hill half brother to trotting Triple Crown champion Gliemaster. Named Canepa Hanover, the colt was bred by Brittany Farms but in February 2012 was sold along with his dam to Hanover Shoe Farms.

The mixed portion of the Standardbred Horse Sales Company auction gets underway at 10 a.m. on Friday, with the final session on Saturday.

USTA Creates Medication Advisory Committee

In order to develop comprehensive proposals on the use of therapeutic medications and recommended penalties for violations in harness racing, U.S. Trotting Association president Phil Langley has appointed a diverse panel of experts to a new USTA medication advisory committee.

“Recognizing that some of the fault was that the USTA lacked sufficient scientific representation on the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC),” said Langley, “I have appointed a widely representative advisory committee to guide us in future medication proposals.”

The members of the USTA medication advisory committee are: eminent researchers Dr. George Maylin and Dr. Thomas Tobin; practicing veterinarians Dr. Jay Baldwin, Dr. Janet Durso and Dr. William Moffett; trainers Mark Ford, Sam Beagle, Ray Schnittker and David McCaffrey; racing commissioners Bob Schmitz and Alan Leavitt; attorneys Joe Faraldo and Chris Wittstrup; racing investigator Brice Cote; Hambletonian Society President and CEO Tom Charters; and Langley, Mike Tanner, and T.C. Lane from the USTA.

As has been widely reported during the past few weeks, the USTA has struggled with acceptance of some of the RMTC and Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) proposed uniform medication rules—especially those regarding clenbuterol and corticosteroids.

“Under these proposed rules, both medications would become virtually useless in harness racing,” said Langley. “We are hopeful that after much discussion with RMTC and with testimony before racing commissions, some adjustments will be forthcoming.”

The USTA has already been working with the Pennsylvania horsemen groups to commission Dr. Larry Soma and Dr. Mary Robinson to conduct research on items like EPO, extracorporeal shock wave therapy and some of the unknown drugs that most threaten the integrity of harness racing. Their research also is pursuing alternatives to clenbuterol and the adjustment of threshold levels that can be utilized with Standardsbreds.

New York Voters Approve Casino Expansion

New York voters went to the polls Tuesday and authorized the state to license up to seven new commercial casinos, the biggest casino gambling expansion in state history. With 98 percent of the precincts reporting, the margin was 57-43.

The requisite casino bill specifies that the first four of the eventual seven casinos be located in three areas: Albany/Saratoga Springs, the Catskills/Mid-Hudson Valley, and the Southern Tier near Binghamton.

Continues on page 11
Tioga Downs’ owner Jeff Gural said he is ready to implement casino gaming at his track. “I intend to call the contractor in the morning and give him the go ahead to start phase one of our hotel expansion project immediately, which is the indoor parking garage part of the project so we will be creating construction jobs almost immediately,” Gural told WBNG News on Tuesday night.

No casinos can located in three large geographic areas that are now home to Indian casinos under an exclusivity deal tribes and Gov. Andrew Cuomo made earlier this year. Long Island will get two VLT-only casinos that will be run by the off-track betting corporations owned by the county governments of Suffolk and Nassau counties.

Simulcasting Stays In Old Big M Grandstand Until Nov. 18

Due to a minor malfunction during testing of an emergency generator, Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment will postpone the opening of its new facility for simulcasting until Monday, Nov. 18. This is strictly to ensure the proper functionality of the emergency equipment. All other aspects of the new facility are operating on schedule.

Despite the week’s delay in opening for simulcasting, the Grand Opening for live racing is locked in for Saturday, Nov. 23.

Simulcasting will continue out of the current grandstand through Saturday, Nov. 16. The racetrack will be closed on two upcoming Sundays, Nov. 10 and Nov. 17, for NFL football.

Qualifiers scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7:15 p.m. have been moved to the morning and are now scheduled for 10 a.m. These qualifiers will still be raced with the track’s new configuration, with the start and finish in front of the new grandstand, as preparation for the live racing grand opening on Saturday, Nov. 23. The entry box closes Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m.

In addition, the Meadowlands has added a night of qualifying races for Monday, Nov. 18, with post time set at 6 p.m. The box for taking entries for those qualifiers will close Friday, Nov. 15, at 10 a.m.

Qualifiers will also be raced as scheduled on Thursday night, Nov. 21, with first post time at 6 p.m. The entry box closes Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 10 a.m. The qualifiers on Nov. 21 will be a part of a night for horsemen to preview the new facility and includes a complimentary dinner. Space is limited and reservations are going quickly. Contact Andrea Hanley in the race office to reserve your spot. (Meadowlands)

Big Jim Breeding To Benefit One Fund Boston

During the month of November, Scarborough Downs will be accepting bids on a breeding to pacer Big Jim (Western Ideal-Bold Pink-Big Towner), a donation generously made by Jim Carr of Seelster Farms, where Big Jim is currently standing, to benefit the victims of the Boston Marathon bombings last April. The winning bid money will be donated to the One Fund Boston.

Retiring with earnings of $1,544,580, Big Jim compiled a record of 10 wins, three seconds and four thirds in 20 lifetime starts. The winner of the 2010 O’Brien Award and the USHWA Dan Patch Award for 2-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year, Big Jim dominated his competition in his freshman season.

Bidding starts at $2,500 (breeding to Big Jim normally carries a fee of $5,000). Please mail bids in a sealed envelope, including your name, address, email, contact phone number and bid amount from Nov. 1 to Nov. 30, 2013, to:

Mike Sweeney
Director of Publicity
Scarborough Downs
PO Box 468
Scarborough, Maine 04070

All bids will be opened on Saturday, Nov. 30, and the winning bidder will be notified by end of business that day. Shipping costs and logistics will be handled directly by winner. (Scarborough Downs)

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION: $50.00 (U.S.)*
including the Breeders Book stallion directory

*For Canadian and International mailing quotes (Remailing Service or U.S. Postal First Class) please email Sherry Lane siane@harnessracing.com or call (860) 216-4026.
To subscribe call toll free 1-800-860-8199…or subscribe online at www.harnessracing.com

HARNESS RACING’S DATA DESTINATION WITH SEARCHABLE RACING REPORTS, SALE REPORTS…and more!
Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

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Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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