Undefeated Double Exposure Heads To Goldsmith Maid

Racing returns to the Meadowlands this weekend with a new first-race post time of 7 p.m. The opening Friday and Saturday cards are highlighted by the final preliminaries of the TVG Series for older horses and eliminations for the $1.5 million Fall Final Four freshman stakes.

Ten 2-year-old filly trotters will line up behind the gate in a single elimination for the Goldsmith Maid on Friday night. Nine will advance to the $409,950 final on Nov. 20, joining the Jimmy Takter-trained Kathy Parker, who received a bye. The elim winner will draw for post 1 through 6 for the final.

With 11 entries, the conditions call for the highest money-earner to receive a bye. Kathy Parker was actually third on that list among the Goldsmith Maid entries, but Takter declined the bye with recent Breeders Crown winner All The Time, and Julie Miller did the same with Womans Will, who was fourth in the Crown final and then scored an easy victory in the

“She got sick on us and she’s a very precocious filly. We expect good things from her.”

–Myron Bell on Double Exposure

Matron on Nov. 5 at Dover Downs.

All The Time and Womans Will drew posts 8 and 9, respectively, in the elimination. The field also includes Crown finalists Haughty (post 7), who was second, and Black Broadway (post 3), who made a break behind the starting gate.

One Goldsmith Maid starter who can’t be overlooked is Double Exposure, who is undefeated in three starts in a campaign that was delayed by sickness. Trained by Tony Alagna, Double Exposure was a $50,000 yearling purchase (as Princess Egg) by Brittany Farms and Melvin Hartman. The daughter of Donato Hanover’s abbreviated win streak includes a pair of $10,000 late-closers at The Red Mile—including a career-best 1:54.4 effort—and a $10,000 Kindergarten division at Vernon Downs.

Double Exposure baby-raced at the Meadowlands three times in July, with two victories. But she was scratched “sick” from her pari-mutuel debut on Aug. 12 at The Downs.

Continues on page 2
at Mohegan Sun Pocono. Gait issues ensued in a pair of subsequent qualifiers, with the filly getting back on track in a Sept. 19 winning qualifier at The Red Mile.

“She got sick on us and she’s a very precocious filly,” said Brittany Farms’ racing manager Myron Bell. “We expect good things from her. She’s won in hand three times now.

“She’s in to go in the elimination and hopefully she’ll be one of the lucky nine (to advance),” he added with a laugh.

Bell said Double Exposure’s pedigree is what drew him to her as a yearling. She is out of the Self Possessed mare KD Girl, who earned the bulk of her $297,080 in career earnings during her 3-year-old campaign in 2006, when her starts included the Hambletonian Oaks, Kentucky Filly Futurity, Elegantimage and Delvin Miller Memorial.

A $70,000 yearling, KD Girl was bought at the 2008 Harrisburg mixed sale by Jerry Silva for $150,000. In foal to 2014 Hambletonian winner Trixton, KD Girl was just purchased in Harrisburg for $45,000 by Alagna, acting as agent for owner Tom Hill. She also has a Muscle Hill weanling at her side.—By Gordon Waterstone
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Ideal Rocky Needs Smoother Trip Than In Matron

The second elimination for the Governor’s Cup, Race 9, at the Meadowlands on Saturday night includes a rarely seen symbol in the past performance line in the Meadowlands program for Ideal Rocky on Nov. 5 at Dover Downs, when he finished sixth in the $201,400 Matron 2-Year-Old Colt Pace. The symbol, which comes right before the number 6, indicates that the colt was “boxed in,” with no racing room.

That’s pretty much how trainer John Butenschoen summed up Ideal Rocky’s Matron trip, although he was unfamiliar with the symbol, which is not used in the Trackmaster program.

“We drew the post 8 and he never had a chance to get in that race,” said Butenschoen. “If there was such a thing as an awesome sixth, that’s what he was.”

Ideal Rocky, a colt by Rocknroll Hanover, sports a record of 1:52.2 which he took at the Meadowlands this summer. Later in the season the colt raced over “off” tracks both weeks of the Grand Circuit’s stand in Lexington and finished first and third. Then he was shipped back to Butenschoen’s summer headquarters in Pennsylvania and competed in the New Jersey Futurity and Matron. The colt was not eligible to the Breeders Crown.

“I basically told the owners (Bill Wiswell, Jean Goehlen and Gene Schick) they might want to choose Lexington or Breeders Crown to race, but not both for the 2 year olds, since the Lexington races and Breeders Crown were back-to-back this year,” said Butenschoen. “Maybe we should have been in the Breeders Crown, but he’ll be eligible next year.”

Ideal Rocky, who also won the $100,000 New Jersey Sires Stakes final, has another chance to add to his earnings of $208,401 with the Governor’s Cup. If he advances to the $413,000 final on Nov. 21, he might face Breeders Crown champion Boston Red Rocks, who starts in the first Governor’s Cup elim on Saturday (Race 2). Ideal Rocky beat Boston Red Rocks in the New Jersey final.

“He likes the Meadowlands and he likes to chase horses down, so I think he’ll be alright Saturday,” added Butenschoen.

Butenschoen has another Fall Final Four contender in the 2-year-old filly trotter Lookin Sharp, who is in a very tough 10-filly elimination for the Goldsmith Maid. The elim field includes Breeders Crown one-two finishers All The Time and Haughty, Matron winner Womans Will, and the filly with the fastest record of the Goldsmith Maid contenders, Ultimate Shopper, who took a 1:54 speed badge in Lexington.

Although Lookin Sharp missed winning the $174,500 Kindergarten final by a neck, Butenschoen said the Andover Hall filly was not as good as in previous races when she competed in the Matron five days later, finishing fourth but beaten eight lengths by Womans Will.

“She raced OK at Dover, but I thought she was a little flat. But she had shipped up twice to Vernon and then we sent her to Dover for the Matron, and it might have been too much for her,” said Butenschoen. “She started from post 8 in the Matron too. Unfortunately, both horses drew the 8 hole at Dover for the Matrons. After the Matron we checked her blood work and turned her out, and she’s on Gastro-Guard so we’ll just have to see if she’s better.”

The top nine finishers will advance to the final and join Kathy Parker (editor’s note: yes, named after the author), whose connections took a bye.— By Kathy Parker

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Obrigado In Rare Spot In TVG Trot

Trainer Paul Kelley had to look twice when he saw Obrigado draw post 1 in Saturday night’s $50,000 TVG Free For All Trot at the Meadowlands. Not only is it just the fourth time in 17 starts this year Obrigado drew inside post 4, it is only the second time he landed post 1 since Kelley began training the 5-year-old trotter at the beginning of 2014.

Kelley, in partnership with Linwood Higgins, William Weaver III and Stable 45, purchased Obrigado at the 2013 Harrisburg mixed sale for $53,000. The son of Boy Band had come off a dominating sophomore year in his home state of Maine, winning all 13 starts while stretching an unbeaten streak to 21. But making his first start for his new connections on April 18, 2014, at Saratoga Harness, Obrigado’s skein was snapped when he finished second after starting from post 1. Thirty-seven starts—and $478,277 in earnings—later, Obrigado finally again landed the pole position.

“He certainly knows what the outside looks like. I’m not sure he’s ever seen a pylon before,” Kelley said with a laugh. “I think this is just the second time since I’ve owned him that he got the rail. It’s a good starting point and I’m good with that.”

Saturday’s race is the last of seven preliminary legs of the TVG Free-For-All Series, with Obrigado, who has a win, third and two fifths in four starts, a solid second in the standings. The field includes EL Titan, lightly raced this year with just five starts, who will be making his TVG Series debut. TVG point leader Flanagan Memory, who has two wins, and a second, fourth and sixth in his preliminaries, is sitting this week out. While seven will line up behind the gate on Saturday, the top 10 in the standings will be eligible for the $400,000 final on Saturday, Nov. 21.

“This is probably a prep race for everybody, but it’s a good group of horses,” said Kelley.

Obrigado has not missed a check all year and has four wins, the biggest coming in the $200,000 Crawford Farms in August at Vernon Downs. He won his last start on Nov. 1 at Saratoga, capturing the $18,000 Open in 1:55.4. Kelley qualified Obrigado at the Meadowlands on Nov. 6.

With regular driver Mark MacDonald driving, Obrigado rallied late with a final quarter of :26.3 to finish second by a neck to Classic Martine, one of the top contenders in the TVG Mare Trot.

“I just wanted to stretch him out a little bit, that’s all,” explained Kelley.

“There was also a couple of things: I had Crazy About Pat racing in the open at Yonkers, one horse a class below the open, and another who is kind of a Yonkers horse, so it’s been a little bit of juggling trying to treat everybody equal. And coming back off the Saratoga race in five days, I just wanted to stretch him out a bit at the Meadowlands and he was able to do that with a big back half. I think we’re coming into the race in good shape.” — By Gordon Waterstone
NIAGARA

EVENT #61: Three year-old pacing fillies, non-winners of $50,000 lifetime, as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine Racetrack.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
1st Leg: Friday, December 11, 2015 $18,000 G each
2nd Leg: Friday, December 18, 2015 $18,000 G each
Final: Saturday, December 26, 2015 $30,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

BLIZZARD

EVENT #34: Three and Four year-old pacing fillies & mares in 2016, non-winners of two races or $30,000 lifetime as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Thursday, January 7, 2016 $17,000 G each
Second Leg: Thursday, January 14, 2016 $17,000 G each
Final: Friday, January 22, 2016 $35,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

MISS VERA BARS

EVENT #36: Three year-old pacing fillies in 2016, non-winners of three races or $40,000 lifetime as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Thursday, February 4, 2016 $17,000 G each
Second Leg: Thursday, February 11, 2016 $17,000 G each
Final: Friday, February 19, 2016 $35,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

ONTARIO GIRLS

EVENT #38: Ontario sired Four year-old pacing mares in 2016, non-winners $60,000 lifetime, as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Friday, February 5, 2016 $18,000 G each
Second Leg: Friday, February 12, 2016 $18,000 G each
Final: Saturday, February 20, 2016 $40,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

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EVENT #40: Four year-old pacing mares in 2016, non-winners $100,000 lifetime as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Friday, March 4, 2016 $20,000 G each
Second Leg: Friday, March 11, 2016 $20,000 G each
Final: Saturday, March 19, 2016 $50,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

LIFETIME DREAM

EVENT #42: Four and Five year-old trotting mares in 2016, non-winners of $100,000 lifetime as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Monday, January 11, 2016 $20,000 G each
Second Leg: Monday, January 18, 2016 $20,000 G each
Final: Monday, January 25, 2016 $40,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

VALEDICTORY

EVENT #62: Three year-old pacing colts and geldings, non-winners of $50,000 lifetime, as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine Racetrack.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
1st Leg: Saturday, December 12, 2015 $18,000 G each
2nd Leg: Saturday, December 19, 2015 $18,000 G each
Final: Saturday, December 26, 2015 $30,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

SNOWSHOE

EVENT #35: Three and Four year-old pacing colts, horses & geldings in 2016, non-winners of two races or $30,000 lifetime as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Friday, January 8, 2016 $17,000 G each
Second Leg: Friday, January 15, 2016 $17,000 G each
Final: Friday, January 22, 2016 $35,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

THE COUNT B

EVENT #37: Three-year-old pacing colts & geldings in 2016, non-winners three races or $40,000 lifetime as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Friday, February 5, 2016 $17,000 G each
Second Leg: Friday, February 12, 2016 $17,000 G each
Final: Friday, February 19, 2016 $35,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

ONTARIO BOYS

EVENT #39: Ontario sired Four year-old pacing horses & geldings in 2016, non-winners $60,000 lifetime, as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Saturday, February 6, 2016 $18,000 G each
Second Leg: Saturday, February 13, 2016 $18,000 G each
Final: Saturday, February 20, 2016 $40,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

WEGZ

EVENT #41: Four year-old pacing horses & geldings in 2016, non-winners $100,000 lifetime as of midnight, October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Saturday, March 5, 2016 $20,000 G each
Second Leg: Saturday, March 12, 2016 $20,000 G each
Final: Saturday, March 19, 2016 $50,000 Added

Declarations close as posted on weekly condition sheet

GENERAL BROCK

EVENT #43: Three and Four year-old trotters in 2016, non-winners of $50,000 lifetime, as of midnight October 31, 2015. No allowances. Raced at Woodbine.

Nomination fee: $200 CDN ($165 U.S.)
First Leg: Monday, February 8, 2016 $18,000 G each
Second Leg: Monday, February 15, 2016 $18,000 G each
Final: Monday, February 22, 2016 $40,000 Added

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Takter Take Two: Should He Be First Non-Canadian To Win O’Brien?

Fun Fact: John Campbell has never won an O’Brien Award. The proud Canadian, who is arguably the greatest driver in history, has never once won the award that annually honors the best in Canadian harness racing.

I’m not trying to pass the hat. Campbell has been justifiably honored by the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame and was even given Canada’s Meritorious Service Medal by the federal government. All of those are higher honors.

I also get the equation. Campbell has lived in New Jersey for most of his life and has made his career in the U.S.

Yet, the fact Campbell has never won an O’Brien Award does say something about the awards and its voters (of which, I am one)—especially since there have been years during his prime when one could have made the O’Brien case for him. He has won more Pepsi North America Cups than any other driver and he has won countless other big stakes in Canada, including a pile of Breeders Crown.

I contend that since Takter’s Crown night is the greatest performance by a trainer on a single card in the sport’s history, and it happened in Canada, that only serves to enhance his great contribution to Canadian racing.

Particularly in the people categories, O’Brien voters—who are tasked with selecting those that have “made the greatest contribution to Canadian racing”—seem to prize Canadian residency over accomplishments made on Canadian soil. I’ve always found that interesting and a touch troubling.

Why should it matter where you get your mail, so long as you made a great contribution in Canada?

Which brings us, for the second year in a row, to the case of Jimmy Takter. Should the Swedish-born, U.S.-based horseman be voted the first non-Canadian to win the O’Brien Award as Canada’s trainer of the year? I say yes.

But I argued the same case a year ago after Takter was second by a nose in earnings in Canada with nearly $2.7 million made north of the border. Despite racing just 65 times in Canada he posted average-earnings-per-starter of over $40,000 and he won eight major stakes races with a diverse group of equine stars of both gaits and genders. I call that a major contribution to Canadian racing, especially since Takter is playing and excelling in the sport’s upper echelons.

Voters clearly disagreed with me and named Richard Moreau the O’Brien Award winner by a wide 51-21 margin over Takter. Moreau, who is more of an overnight trainer, was Canada’s winningest conditioner in 2014 and also squeaked out the money title. It was his second straight O’Brien Award as Canada’s top trainer.

This year, I think Takter made an even stronger case for the O’Brien. He currently leads Canada’s trainer standings by over $1.2 million over Moreau. Takter earned over $4.2 million in Canada in 2015, raced 101 times in the country—which is no small number—and posted average earnings per starter in Canada of $41,622. Yes, he earned some $2.7 million on Breeders Crown night at Woodbine alone, winning a jaw-dropping six Crowns. But I contend that since Takter’s Crown night is the greatest performance by a trainer on a single card in the sport’s history, and it happened in Canada, that only serves to enhance his great contribution to Canadian racing.

Contradictory O’Brien voting behavior troubles me. Every driver of the year and trainer of the year in the 26-year history of the awards has resided in Canada. That strikes me as strange, insular thinking. Yet, the horse of the year award has often gone to wholly U.S.-connected horses that won major stakes in Canada.

Case in point, for the 2014 Canadian Horse of the Year award, O’Brien Award voters overwhelmingly selected U.S. import JK She’alady 19-11 over Canadian owned and trained McWicked. By my count it was the fourth time in 12 years (Muscle Hill in 2009, Rainbow Blue in 2004, Eternal Camnation in 2003) that a non-Canadian horse has won that award.

I applaud that trend wholeheartedly when the U.S. horse is clearly better and has made a great contribution to Canadian racing by winning major stakes in Canada.

I just wish voters applied the same logic to the people awards. It is, after all, a virtually borderless industry and residency should matter less than contribution and performance.

Dave Briggs was the editor of The Canadian Sportsman for 18 years and is an award-winning journalist. His column appears in HarnessRacing Weekend Preview in part through the advertising support of Hanover Shoe Farms and Woodbine Entertainment Group. Any opinions expressed in this column are his own and not necessarily those of the Horseman Publishing Company and its publications or its advertisers.
Presented as an unofficial autobiography as told to the two authors. That’s right: Skipper himself gives us his first person perspective on the highs and lows of being an excellent pacer and the most influential sire in the modern era. The breadth of information is leaps and bounds ahead of what has been given in other equine biographies, yet, the literary devices employed throughout the book make all that data very easy to digest. It’s the best book about the sport I’ve ever read.”

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Harness Racing’s Wittstruck Wins Bergstein Award

For many, many years, Stanley F. Bergstein spent time in Lexington each fall for the annual Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile. Over the years he wore a few different hats, either announcing races, reading pedigrees, or handling the Harness Tracks of America art auction, with the proceeds funding college scholarships.

Inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame twice, into the Living Hall and the Communicators’ Hall, Stan died four years ago, Nov. 2, 2011, at the age of 87. His spirit was alive in the Bluegrass on Thursday night (Nov. 12) when Thoroughbred racing’s Team Valor remembered and honored Bergstein by presenting the fourth annual Stanley Bergstein Writing Award.

Sponsored and presented by Barry Irwin’s Team Valor International, and carrying a $25,000 cash prize, Irwin said he founded the award to try to inspire the kind of writing Bergstein did to shed light on problems in the horse racing industry, particularly those involving drugs and cheating.

Fittingly, the 2015 Bergstein Award was presented to Chris Wittstruck, who writes commentary carried on the website of the U.S. Trotting Association. In his Nov. 3, 2014, commentary, titled “Watching the Cheaters Cheat,” Wittstruck suggested that the racing industry focus its energies on “soliciting tips, developing leads, conducting professional surveillance, obtaining warrants—hard, old fashioned legwork...”to catch drug perpetrators red handed. “We don’t convict test tubes; we convict people,” he wrote, also adding that “Fines and suspensions lead to eventual reinstatement. Criminal conviction, on the other hand, ...could provide a barrier to a return to participation.”

(Wittstruck’s entire commentary appears on page 11).

No fan of flying, Wittstruck drove to Lexington from his home in New York to accept his award. He mentioned that he had grown up making trips to Aqueduct or Belmont and Roosevelt or Yonkers his Saturday doubleheader, and when he couldn’t make it to the track, he, like many others, watched Bergstein on the off-track betting racing show telecasts.

After also pointing out that he and Bergstein were often on opposite sides of issues because Wittstruck is an attorney for horsemen and Bergstein worked for track operators in his role as executive vice president of Harness Track of America, Wittstruck said they shared a passion for wanting to create harness racing fans. Because of that, and since Bergstein was awarded the very first Harness Horse Youth Foundation Service to Youth Award, Wittstruck donated his entire $25,000 prize to the Youth Foundation. —By Kathy Parker

Gural: Racing Needs More Out-Of-Competition Testing

Team Valor’s Barry Irwin invited harness track operator Jeff Gural and Ben Nichols, senior manager of media and communications for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), to speak prior to the presentation of the Bergstein award.

Although he said he did prepare a speech or outline of his remarks in advance, the focus of Gural’s comments was out-of-competition testing. Gural has been conducting out-of-competition testing since he began operating the Meadowlands.

“The reality is we have no drug testing program—what we have is a sham,” said Gural about the horse racing industry as a whole. “We tell the trainer when we’re going to take the (post-race) test and we tell them what we’re testing for. We’re no closer to a solution than we were 10 years ago.”

Because of the ineffective nature of government, Gural said he has no confidence that putting race testing in the hands of the federal government will result in catching those who drug horses.

“It’s up to the track owners to step up to the plate and do something,” said Gural. “I didn’t spend $120 million to build a place for dishonest people to race. In football and baseball, the owners of the teams stepped up finally, not the federal government.

“The track owners have a moral obligation to the horses, and to their customers,” continued Gural. “Take the Lasix issue off the table. Let’s just agree to have out-of-competition testing. Without out-of-competition testing, you’re not really testing at all.”

Last fall out-of-competition testing was conducted on Breeders Crown starters and results revealed that Crown winner Traceur Hanover had a large amount of cobalt in his system.

“The first thing we discovered (when we started out-of-competition testing) was people were using cobalt. No one was testing for cobalt in America at the time.” —By Kathy Parker
Watching The Cheaters Cheat

By Chris Wittstruck
Posted Nov. 3, 2014, on www.ustrotting.com

During the last few months, a handful of unscrupulous southern bass fishermen got much more than they bargained for when they told tall tales about the ones that didn’t get away.

In September, anglers Gary Lee Minor Jr. and Robert Scott Gillaspie were convicted of theft by deception and tampering with a sporting event in connection with their activities during a fishing tournament in Guntersville, Ala. The men were arrested when another competitor witnessed the two retrieving previously caught fish from a holding tank secreted near a dock. Suspicions about the fraudsters purportedly arose after the two won six consecutive tournaments.

In October, Steven Ray Macon pleaded guilty to tampering with a fishing competition that occurred in June on another Alabama lake. Similar to Minor and Gillaspie’s criminal activity, a state conservation officer witnessed him weighing in a fish he had taken from a basket under a dock.

These types of contests usually earn the winners no more than a few hundred dollars. Petty or not, criminal convictions are an indelible stain on one’s record, and fines, restitution, community service, probation, and even jail time are the penalties that result.

While fixing a late night fishing competition may harm only those who compete, fixing a pari-mutuel horse race affects not just the connections of the particular race’s horses. When the results of a race have been tampered with, countless gamblers are affected. Tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars, are involved.

Criminal prosecutions in the racing realm are not unheard of, and take a variety of forms. An infamous ringer scandal at New York’s Thoroughbred tracks in the 1970s landed a prominent veterinarian a local jail sentence. The “Drexel Pick-Six” betting scandal involving the 2002 Breeders’ Cup races was an instance of manipulation of a tote company’s computer system. Guilty pleas resulted in short jail terms. Over the last 40 years, several prosecutions for race fixing involving alleged intentional lack of effort on the part of drivers, many involving exotic wagers such as the superfecta, have been conducted with mixed results.

Yet, criminal prosecutions for drug positives are virtually nonexistent. While a 2003 federal prosecution involving milkshaking at Aqueduct Racetrack in New York snared a thoroughbred trainer and others, the case was based upon conversations among conspirators picked up on wiretaps, not a drug positive. Another criminal case in New York involving milkshaking was based upon eyewitness testimony of a track security guard who witnessed pre-race tubing being performed by a trainer’s assistant and a veterinarian in a backstretch stall. Of course, the horse didn’t race as scheduled. Even the 2006 case built against Seldon Ledford and others involving the rapid and significant improvement of several horses under his tutelage resulted in guilty pleas only for drug possession, not race fixing or positive samples in horses.

Indictments filed in Federal District Court in Pennsylvania in November 2013 are of similar import. In addition to charges against a clocker for taking bribes paid to secure the falsification of Thoroughbred workouts, three trainers were alleged to have been involved in the pre-race administration of drugs to horses for the purpose of tampering with the outcome of races conducted at Penn National Race Course.

The Pennsylvania allegations were reportedly the outgrowth of a four year investigation. The cases were based upon surveillance and actual observations by track personnel of trainers injecting horses and possessing syringes, needles and medication bottles.

Subsequent to the indictments, the U.S. Attorney’s Office deferred its prosecution of the accused to the state. While the charges against one trainer were dismissed, it was reported last month that another trainer is pleading guilty to rigging a publicly exhibited contest under an applicable Pennsylvania statute. The clocker in the case pleaded guilty earlier in the year and is cooperating with authorities.

Amidst the call from some quarters for government to get more involved in the setting of medication standards and the policing of substance administration in racing, the obvious is nowhere to be found. No amount of state-by-state uniformity, multistate detection labs or federal oversight can substitute for the true measure of deterrence that can be employed in the here and now without a single medication rule change in our industry. Rather than severely limiting the scope, amount and timing of therapeutics veterinarians use to treat illness, the racing community’s thrust can be aimed at expanding human intelligence and employing human observation to catch cheaters.

Consider, for example, various sections of New York’s Penal Law:

* § 180.51 Tampering with a sports contest in the first degree.

A person is guilty of tampering with a sports contest in the first degree when, with intent to influence the outcome of a pari-mutuel horse race:

1. He affects any equine animal involved in the conduct or operation of a pari-mutuel horse race by administering to the animal in any manner whatsoever any controlled substance.

* § 180.50 Tampering with a sports contest in the second degree.

A person is guilty of tampering with a sports contest when, with intent to influence the outcome of a sports contest, he tampers with any sports participant, sports official or with any animal or equipment or other thing involved in the conduct or operation of a sports contest in a manner contrary to the rules and usages purporting to govern such a contest.

Continues on page 12
Besides being clear and straightforward, the statutes are written specifically to target abuses in our industry. The problem is that finding an illicit substance in a sample is, by itself, insufficient as the basis for criminal prosecution. While the trainer responsibility rule provides ample cause to administratively violate a trainer for a drugged horse, the standard for criminal conviction, proof beyond a reasonable doubt, requires much more than simply proving that the horse was in the trainer’s barn.

Having care, custody and control over the animal does not establish that the horse was tampered with at the trainer’s direction. There must be a degree of physical proof that a jury can latch onto which ensures the tampering was to the exclusion of everyone other than the trainer and/or his or her agents. The presumption afforded the accused is that of innocence, not responsibility. Eyewitness testimony of a highly reliable nature as to the actual administration or attempt thereto of the substance, and possession of the substance and tools of administration, provide that type of assurance.

Deterrence is achieved through the general knowledge that detection is probable and punishment will be of a nature and severity such that the proscribed activity is not worth the potential for reward.

Stated another way, establishing questionable thresholds and withdrawal times based upon other than irrefutable science, poorly constructing out of competition protocols, etc. simply allows for the accused to argue against the propriety of violation. Fines and suspensions lead to eventual reinstatement. Criminal conviction, on the other hand, imposes a stigma and measure of certainty that carries far beyond the racetrack, and conviction for a serious offense could provide a barrier to a return to participation.

Catching a drug perpetrator in the act red handed is more significant than finding a bad substance in a sample. We don’t convict test tubes; we convict people. A positive sample occasions a rule violation. Tying administration to the affirmative act of a specific person via eyewitness observation could lead to a criminal conviction. Soliciting tips, developing leads, conducting professional surveillance, obtaining warrants—hard, old fashioned legwork—is what’s needed. While much of this is being done now, we need much more to be done.

A fish looks, smells and tastes like a fish. How and when you caught it is another matter. It’s time we stopped worrying about the fish out of water, and start to watch the fishermen much more closely.

Chris E. Wittstruck is an attorney, a director of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York and a charter member of the Albany Law School Racing and Gaming Law Network.
HarnessRacing Weekend Preview, 13 of 17  November 13, 2015  www.harnessracing.com

**New York Lab Finds Designer Drug In Belmont Samples**

The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) has put all racing regulatory agencies worldwide on notice of a finding by the New York Equine Drug Testing Program of the presence of AH-7921 in post-race samples taken from horses that recently ran at Belmont Park.

This is the first time AH-7921 has been detected by a racing regulatory lab. The drug is one of the Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) that continue to emerge onto the designer drug market. Research has shown that AH-7921 can be as potent as morphine, yet its core molecular structures do not resemble morphine or fentanyl which have been detected in the past by racing regulatory labs.

NPS drugs are believed to be compounded in order to avoid detection by human testing labs.

There is no legitimate reason for AH-7921 to be present in a horse. The New York State Gaming Commission summarily suspended Thoroughbred owner/trainer Roy Sedlacek as a result of the finding.

“Dr. George Maylin and his team should be commended for their persistent attention to emerging threats,” ARCI Chairman Mark Lambeth said, noting that Dr. Maylin has consistently warned of the threat posed by designer drugs and peptides. “This is excellent work on the part of Dr. Maylin and the New York lab,” he said. (ARCI)

**Thompson, Wilfong Inducted Into Indiana Hall Of Fame**

Two extraordinary men were recently inducted into the Indiana Horse Racing Association Inc. Hall of Fame during a special presentation held at the Columbia Club in downtown Indianapolis Monday, Oct. 26. The Honorable Dick Thompson, former senator and instrumental in developing and implementing the gaming and horse racing bill in Indiana, and the late Ralph Wilfong, who worked tirelessly during his life to ensure a future for horse racing in the state, were both honored for their service to the industry.

Thompson, who still resides in North Salem, Ind., served for 34 years as a teacher and principal before moving into public service. He was a citizen legislator in the Indiana General Assembly from 1979 until 1996, switching from the House to the Senate in 1984. During his time as Senator, he sponsored the riverboat gambling bill and ensured horse racing received its fair share of gaming tax receipts.

Wilfong created the successful breeding and racing operation Trotter Range on the family farm in Hancock County before relocating to the Carmel-Westfield area. A successful land developer, Wilfong underwrote the cost of racing related improvements at the Indiana State Fair Grounds and successfully lobbied for the passage of the pari-mutuel horse wagering bill in 1993. He was inducted into the Indiana Standardbred Hall of Fame in 1992 and later was a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award presented by Governor Robert D. Orr. Several members of the Wilfong family were in attendance for the event with his son, Beau, accepting the honor on his behalf.

Continues on page 14 ››››
Fundraising Effort Launched For Amanda Harris

A fundraising effort has been launched for Amanda Harris, who is currently recuperating from and undergoing treatments for breast cancer.

The wife of trainer Andrew Harris, Amanda was diagnosed a stage III case in March 2015. Her treatments began in April and after 12 rounds of chemotherapy doctors reported her tumor had shrunk significantly. In late July, doctors performed a bilateral mastectomy and were able to remove the remainder of the cancerous growth from Amanda's chest, breast, and arm pit.

Now nearing the conclusion of proton radiation therapy treatments, Amanda will be on hormone therapy for the next five years. The cost of many of these treatments have not been covered their medical insurance.

Trainer Casie Coleman has spearheaded a fundraising effort to help Amanda, Andrew and their two daughters with the cost of the treatments. The harness racing industry has responded with an outpouring of generosity, and the items donated will be available in an online auction to be conducted later this month. More details on the auction will follow, but an initial list of donated items includes (but is not limited to) stallion services, sporting event and concert tickets, equine supplements, autographed driving colors, racebikes and joggers, apparel, Little Brown Jug tickets, cosmetics and design services.

A GoFundMe account has been set up to provide individuals with another avenue to contribute financially. (SC)

Hall Of Fame Writer Ray Brienza Dies

Ray Brienza, a member of harness racing’s Hall of Fame as a writer and columnist for the Newark Star-Ledger for nearly 40 years, as well as the associate dean emeritus for admissions at New York University’s School of Medicine, died Friday, Nov. 6, after a long illness. He was 80.

A native of Newark, Mr. Brienza began covering harness racing at Newark’s Weequahic Park as a copy boy for the now-defunct Newark News in the 1950s, while attending Rutgers-Newark. He moved over to the Star-Ledger in 1972 when the News folded, beginning a relationship that lasted nearly 40 years as a writer and handicapper.

He went on to win three John Hervey Awards, as well as the 2004 President’s Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association, for writing excellence, and his contributions were recognized by the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2007, when he was inducted into its Communicators Corner in Goshen, N.Y.

Mr. Brienza lived in South Orange for nearly 50 years. He was married to his wife, Una (nee Cassidy) for 43 years until her passing in 2002.

He is survived by six children: daughters Evelyn Campbell (John); Mary (Robert Thomas); Judith “Gigi,” and Carol; sons David (Bonnie) and Chris (Janet), and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made to the Raymond J. Brienza Scholarship Fund at NYU School of Medicine, with checks made out to NYU School of Medicine and sent to: NYU School of Medicine, c/o Erica Campbell, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, One Park Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10016

Longtime Ohio Horseman Lloyd Hawk Dies

Driver-trainer Lloyd E. Hawk, of Newark, Ohio, died Tuesday, Nov. 10, at his residence. He was 76.

He was born Dec. 8, 1938, in Long Bottom, Ohio, to Ross and Zura (Swartz) Hawk.

Mr. Hawk enjoyed harness racing, horse races at county fairs, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary K. (Smith); daughters, Cathi (David Barrett) Inman and Mindy (David) Maines; grandchildren, Andy, Alex, Dylan Maines and Ethan; great-grandson, Aydyn Maines; sister, Betty Williams; brothers-in-law, Robert Smith, John Ruth Sr., and Marvin Pullins; sister-in-law, Willa Jean; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, David L.; son-in-law, Mike Inman; sisters, Caryl Ruth and Rachel Pullins; and brother, Merle.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Brucker and Kishler Funeral Home, with Pastor Walt Bruah officiating. Burial will follow in Jacksontown Cemetery. Family will receive friends from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at the funeral home, 985 N. 21st St., Newark.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Central Ohio.

Dick Stockman, Former Program Printer, Dies

Richard Dale Stockman, 88, of North Strabane Township, Pa., a well-known member of the racing community of The Meadows for many years, died Saturday, Nov. 7, in his home.

In 1964, Mr. Stockman moved to Washington, Pa., as a linotype operator for Case Programs, on-grounds printer of The Meadows harness and simulcast racing programs. He became owner in 1968 and never missed the printing of any race card deadline. He retired Feb. 1, 2000.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Stockman is survived by two sons, Matthew R. (Tania and granddaughter Illiana) and David C. (Leah and grandson Nathan); a brother, Jack J. (Esther), who operated The Harness Supply company at Pompano Park for many years; and many nieces and nephews, including Tad Stockman, former race secretary at the Meadowlands.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 12. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Chartiers Hill Church Building Fund, 2230 Washington Rd., Canonsburg, Pa. 15317, or Canonsburg-Houston Meals on Wheels, Houston United Presbyterian Church, 102 North Main Street, Houston, Pa. 15342.
## Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by Harness Racing Communications for the week of November 10, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,913,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>853,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>766,419</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,692,865</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>935,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>833,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>894,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>853,774</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Others receiving votes: LA Delight 37, D’One 36, State Treasurer 33, JL Cruze 13, Artspeak 10, Broadway Donna, Control The Moment 8, Devil Child 7, Womans Will 6, All The Time, Crazy Wow, Master Of Law 4, Homicide Hunter 3, Color’s A Virgin, Il Sogno Dream 2, Betting Line, Creatine, Panocchio 1.

### Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through November 10, 2015 (week difference Nov. 4-10).

#### Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17-15-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16-7-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17-11-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17-15-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17-15-2</td>
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#### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
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<th>UDR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,791</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>$12,254,081 (416,529)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,245</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>11,209,361 (414,527)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,307</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>10,620,619 (373,722)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,442</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>9,424,468 (177,900)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,769</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>8,742,260 (70,320)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2,873</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>8,604,530 (251,601)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,849</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>7,751,628 (199,776)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,273</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>7,116,757 (140,535)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,176</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>6,487,644 (133,644)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,029</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>6,840,189 (86,532)</td>
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#### Leading Money-Winning Trainers

<table>
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<td>2</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>12,390,959 (382,385)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,494</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>5,470,250 (154,985)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>4,362,822 (2,220)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>4,130,222 (66,325)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,601</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>3,956,020 (88,281)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>3,459,524 (153,800)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>3,388,091 (65,450)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>3,140,228 (8,395)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3,127,283 (14,975)</td>
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### Leading Breeders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms Inc</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>2,209</td>
<td>$27,690,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winbak Farm</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>2,048</td>
<td>16,949,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain Farms</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>11,178,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perretti Farms</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>6,911,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>5,603,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>5,471,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>4,926,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>4,777,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>4,100,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Stewart</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>4,085,052</td>
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### Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Nov. 4-10 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>25-13-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Napolitano Jr</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>21-16-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Aldrich Jr</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>15-7-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Callahan</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>14-7-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Tetrick</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>14-6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>13-6-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Switzer Jr</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12-3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie Wrenn Jr</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>11-9-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>11-7-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Flanigen</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10-3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Marohn Jr</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10-7-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayne Kauffman</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10-3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevor Henry</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10-4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Harris</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9-3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim DeVaux</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>9-11-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Morgan</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9-7-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Smith</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>9-5-10</td>
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### Trainers

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilbert Garcia-Herrera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Deters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Banca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.D. Perrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Takter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Spagnola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Schillaci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erv Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Harmon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Oaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Dewhurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Eash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heidi Rohr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Rousse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Arledge Jr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim McDaniell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Asher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Dowdall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Corey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Lounsbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Wiseman</td>
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<td>Thomas Milici</td>
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