Freshmen Vie In Governor’s Cup Elims

Eliminations for the Fall Final Four for 2 year olds are on tap Saturday night at the Meadowlands. Each elim for the Governor’s Cup for colt pacers, the Three Diamonds for filly pacers, the Valley Victory for colt trotters, and the Goldsmith Maid for filly trotters carries a purse of $20,000.

With 11 names dropped in the box for the Governor’s Cup, the connections of Breeders Crown champ Stay Hungry, the richest entrant, took a bye. Three other Crown finalists are back for the Governor’s Cup, including beaten favorite Lost In Time, who finished 6p5, third-place finisher Closing Statement, and Dorsoduro Hanover, who finished seventh.

The top nine finishers in the Governor’s Cup elimination will join Stay Hungry in the $411,700 final scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 25. The elim winner will draw from posts 1-6, with the rest included in an open draw.

Lost In Time is in a new East Coast barn after having been sent by Ohio-based trainer (and co-owner) Jim Mulinix to Jimmy Takter a couple of weeks ago. Lost In Time, whose four wins in seven starts this year include the $660,960 Metro final, will have his work cut out for him after drawing post 10 in the elim.

“Having to be in the top nine is great in the fact that we aren’t going for a lot of money in the elim,” said Scott Zeron, who drives Lost In Time. “Everybody else might have the mindset to not do anything stupid and try and be top nine, so I can position myself and race my horse to win the race. The 10 hole at the Meadowlands is not the end of the world.”

Immediately to Lost In Time’s left on the starting gate in post 9 is the lightly-raced American History, who is three-for-three in his abbreviated career. The Governor’s Cup is a big step up in class for the son of American Ideal who has breezed through a trio of overnights, including a 9 ¼-length romp in 1:52.3 on Nov. 11 at the Meadowlands. The time missed by just one-fifth of a second equaling his career mark set in his Oct. 19 debut at Hoosier Park.

“Everybody else might have the mindset to not do anything stupid and try and be top nine, so I can position myself and race my horse to win the race.”

—Scott Zeron

Excluded trainers’ horses race at Big M—pg. 2

Large number of entries lead to byes—pg. 4

Fourth Dimension looking for rebound—pg. 6

Fear The Dragon not headed to Matron—pg. 8

Zeron heading south for the winter—pg. 8

“He’s coming along really good; last week he raced great,” said driver Yannick Gingras. “He is a real nice horse.”

Gingras said his race strategy will be determined when the wings of the gate fold.

“Yes, it’s nice to win the elim because you get to draw for a good post, and you don’t want to underestimate that,” said Gingras. “Most times with a lightly-raced horse against horses that are a little more advanced than he is, it makes it harder, no doubt. I’m not going to go crazy and send him down the road or anything like that, but maybe behind the gate I can get a spot in the middle. If not, I’ll race him on the end of it and hope for a better post next week.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Springsteen, Lady Shadow
Approved To Race At Big M

Although trainers Rene Allard and Richard Banca are on the excluded list at the Meadowlands, two horses they are involved with are competing on Saturday night’s card.

The 2-year-old colt pacer Springsteen, a private purchase in September in part by Allard Racing and now trained by Allard, was entered in the Governor’s Cup and will start from post 6 in Saturday’s elimination. The 6-year-old pacing mare Lady Shadow, recently purchased in part by trainer Banca, will start from post 6 in the final preliminary of the TVG Mares Pace.

“I can assure you that both horses will be monitored closely and samples will be sent to Hong Kong.”
– Jeff Gural about Springsteen and Lady Shadow

Jeff Gural explained to Weekend Preview on Wednesday afternoon that while the trainer exclusions are still in place, he agreed to the barn changes after a phone call from Allard.

“Rene called me after he bought Springsteen and I told him he wouldn’t be allowed to race him here unless he gave the horse to a different trainer,” said Gural. “He advised me that he was planning on giving the horse to Mark Harder and we allowed it.”

Prior to being sold via an online auction, Lady Shadow had been trained by Ron Adams, who was also on the excluded list at the Big M. Disagreement on Lady Shadow’s Meadowlands eligibility between Gural and co-owner Howard Taylor, an attorney, was debated publicly many times, especially after Lady Shadow was disqualified from her win in the Betsy Ross at Harrah’s Philadelphia as a result of a positive test. Although Lady Shadow raced in the July 15 Golden Girls and finished second, she was banned from racing in the Aug. 5 Lady Liberty after the positive test was announced.

“I assumed Lady Shadow wasn’t going to be racing after Richie Banca bought the horse since he also isn’t allowed to race, but Mark Ford called me and told me he had been given the horse to train,” said Gural. “Since we were allowing Springsteen to race we tried to be consistent.”

Gural said a close eye will be kept on Springsteen and Lady Shadow.

“I can assure you that both horses will be monitored closely and samples will be sent to Hong Kong,” said Gural. “And all of the races next week will be out of the detention barn.”

Gural said he is considering an easing off of his exclusion policy.

“I do intend to revisit our policy going forward as owners who want to give horses to trainers who are not permitted to race here probably should be allowed to race;” he said. “My guess is I’m going to change the policy next year and be done with it and the controversy.” — By Gordon Waterstone
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Shipshewana, IN

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HIP 26...
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Bye, Bye, Bye

While 40 two-year-old pacers and trotters will be in action in Saturday night’s Fall Final Four eliminations at the Meadowlands, six are on the sidelines after receiving a bye directly in the Nov. 25 finals. Stakes conditions provided that if the number of entries landed between 11 and 13, the richest horse(s) would receive a bye to cap the elimination fields at 10.

Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace champ Stay Hungry received a bye into the $411,700 Governor’s Cup final, while Youaremycandygirl, Majorsspecial Lady and Rainbow Room, respectively the top three finishers in the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Pace, took a bye into the $381,200 Three Diamonds final. Recent Kindergarten Series champion 2-year-old filly trotter Hey Blondie took a bye into the $420,750 Goldsmith Maid final, while Samo Different Day, third in the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt trot, received a bye into the $464,650 Valley Victory final.

Youaremycandygirl has eight wins in 10 starts and is riding a six-race win streak into the Three Diamonds. In addition to the Breeders Crown, the daughter of American Ideal’s victories include a world-record 1:50 win in an International Stallion division at The Red Mile, the She’s A Great Lady, and in her most recent start, the Matron on Nov. 9 at Dover Downs.

Despite forgoing a chance to draw from posts 1 through 6 for the Three Diamonds final, driver Yannick Gingras believes Youaremycandygirl deserves the week off.

“The week off definitely doesn’t hurt, especially at this time of year anytime you can give a week off,” said Gingras. “(Youaremycandygirl) is basically going to race two weeks from the Breeders Crown and Matron, and then 16 days to this, it’s perfect for her. Ronnie (trainer Ron Burke) and I talked about it. We would have definitely liked to have had a chance to get a good post so we weren’t stuck with the outside, but then again, maybe we could have had a bad post in the elimination and have to race her hard to get that post. We just rolled the dice that she will draw decent for the final. She’s stepped herself up as the best horse of the division.”

Stay Hungry catapulted to the richest 2-year-old colt pacer with his Breeders Crown victory, but that was only because pre-race leader Lost In Time only picked up a fifth-place check. Had Lost In Time finished third to Stay Hungry, he would have held his spot at the top and been first call for a bye. But would the connections have taken the opportunity?

“I don’t think we would have taken the bye anyway and I’m happy we’re racing,” said driver Scott Zeron. “You don’t want one to have a lot of starts at two, but at the same time, when you have them in fine form and say, alright, we’re taking three weeks off, you want to race in the elim. It would have been a month if we didn’t race in the elim.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Stallions must be registered with the Ohio State Racing Commission by November 30, 2017 for their foals to be eligible to the Ohio Sires Stakes & other state-funded stakes.

Forms can be accessed via the OSRC website at www.racingohio.net or by contacting
Kim Rinker, OSDF Administrator   614-779-0269  kim.rinker@racing.ohio.gov
Ohio Standardbred Development Fund, 77 S. High Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Fourth Dimension Looking To Rebound In Valley Victory Elim

Based on how Fourth Dimension has been training, Marcus Melander expects the colt to be a serious contender in the elimination for the Valley Victory (Race 8) at the Meadowlands Saturday. With Brian Sears driving, Fourth Dimension will start from post 1.

Fourth Dimension was the betting favorite in the Breeders Crown final but finished fifth. Surprisingly, he was never a factor in the race.

“We think he had a problem with the track surface,” explained Melander. “He’s a horse that needs a lot of grip, and he just wasn’t getting it. I realize the track was the same for every horse, but it just didn’t suit him.”

Fourth Dimension, a son of Chapter Seven, had won his elimination for the Crown handily the week before, scoring in 1:54.

“The track condition was different for the final because it had rained the night before,” added Melander. “I know it didn’t affect a lot of horses, but it’s the only explanation for my horse. We did blood work and he came out of the race great. Nothing was physically wrong with him. He’s been training fantastic or we wouldn’t have entered him in the Valley Victory.”

The Valley Victory elimination will be the 10th start for Fourth Dimension, who has six wins, $166,700 in earnings, and a lifetime mark of 1:52.4 taken at The Red Mile. The colt is owned by Anders Strom’s Courant Inc.—By Kathy Parker

“He’s been training fantastic or we wouldn’t have entered him in the Valley Victory.”

–Marcus Melander
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(by Always A Virgin)
$500,000 3-year-old Colt/Gelding Pace

http://ln.gov/htc/sb.htm

Photos by Dean Gillette

Facebook: IndianaStandardbred
Twitter: @INStandardbred
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Fear The Dragon Misses Matron, Supplements To Progress Pace

Although owner Bruce Trogdon had contemplated supplementing Fear The Dragon to Thursday’s $210,000 Matron 3-Year-Old Colt Pace at Dover Downs, the $25,000 check was not written. However, Trogdon instead pulled out the checkbook and paid Fear The Dragon’s $25,000 supplemental fee into the Progress Pace, which has a single elimination on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at Dover.

After failing to advance to the Breeders Crown final from his elimination last month at Hoosier Park, and then subsequently scratched from his next start in the Monument Circle due to sickness, Fear The Dragon won a Nov. 9 qualifier at Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway in 1:53.4. Despite the winning effort, Brown and Trogdon decided against supplementing the North America Cup champ into the Matron and wait for the Progress Pace.

With $1.26 million in earnings for Trogdon’s Emerald Highlands Farm, Fear The Dragon is the second richest Standardbred in 2017, behind only his stablemate Downbytheseaside. Fear The Dragon will start from post 7 in the Progress Pace elim, while Downbytheseaside will start from the trailing post 9 in the 11-horse field. The top eight finishers will advance to the final on Nov. 30.

Zeron Heading South For Two Months

Driver Scott Zeron plans on being a “snowbird” this winter. On Sunday, Nov. 26, the day after the Fall Final Four at the Meadowlands, Zeron is heading to south Florida for a two-month respite from driving.

Zeron will be joining his girlfriend, Megan Scran, who has already been in the Sunshine State for the past two weeks. He will also be joining his father, Rick, who will be winter based at Sunshine Meadows for the first time.

“My dad has never been there and he’ll have 20 horses at Sunshine Meadows for the first time. “My dad has never been there and he’ll have 20 horses at Sunshine Meadows for the first time, and that’s why I’m going,” Zeron explained. “My girlfriend has been down there with the horses and I also will have three yearlings I bought in Lexington.”

Zeron lives in Chester, N.Y., where the average high temperature in December/January is in the low 30s. In Delray Beach, Fla., where Sunshine Meadows Equestrian Center is located, the average high over that period is in the mid 70s.

Over the same 60-day period last winter, Zeron made 261 starts—all at Yonkers—with 30 wins and $580,995 in purse earnings. He currently has 215 wins and nearly $7.2 million in purse earnings in 2017.

“My plan on taking December and January off and make my way back then,” said Zeron. “I’m aiming to be back Feb. 1.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Caesars Entertainment set to buy Hoosier Park

According to reports, Caesars Entertainment Corp. is nearing completion of the purchase of Hoosier Park and Indiana Grand from Centaur Gaming. Bloomberg News reports the purchase price is likely more than $1 billion and the sale could be announced as early as this week. more

Paul Kelley to receive Hamilton Memorial medal

The Harness Horse Breeders of New York State has announced that Saratoga-based trainer Paul Kelley will be the recipient of their 2017 Bruce Hamilton Memorial Medal, to be presented after the USTA District 8 meetings, during the New York Sire Stakes year-end awards banquet held at Saratoga Raceway Casino and Hotel on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. more

Darrell Wright drives 5,000th winner

Driver Darrell Wright recorded the 5,000th win of his career after he piloted Harveybear to victory in a conditioned pace at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino on Wednesday. The 1:57.1 victory marked the first win of the season for the 3-year-old gelded son of He's All That-Mother’sday Dream and a major career milestone for the 55-year-old Michigan native. more

Schnittker to be honored by Monticello-Goshen

Ray Schnittker has become a household name around Orange County, N.Y. When the Monticello–Goshen Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association holds its 59th annual awards banquet on Sunday, Dec. 3, Schnittker will again be the talk of the town. The New York horseman will receive the organization's highest honor—the Lifetime Achievement Award. more

Matthews trying for trotting version of Foiled Again

It is unlikely Barbara Matthews will recapture the breeding magic she conjured up in the mid-2000s when she saw the births of Foiled Again, a pacer who became harness racing’s richest horse, and Floored, a Morgan who became a multiple-world-champion in the show world. But she is willing to dream. more

Ohio’s Amy Wildman, 47, dies

Amy C. Wildman, 47, well known in Ohio, where she once operated a staking service, died Nov. 11. She had been battling poor health. more
### Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by Harness Racing Communications for the week of October 31, 2017

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Others receiving votes: Huntsville 21, Twister B 20, Agent Q, Pure Country 13, Crazy Wow, Marion Marauder 12, Devious Man, Keystone Velocity, Lost In Time 11, Alarm Detector 8, Resolve 7, Becksams Z Tam, Fillbuster Hanover, Plunge Blue Chip, Rainbow Room 5, Easy Lover Hanover, Nike Franco N 4, Fiftydollarbill, Panocchio, Phaetosive 3, Caviart Ally, Charmed Life, International Moni 2, All Bets Off, Wolfgang 1.

### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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<td>362-289-232</td>
<td>332</td>
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- Yannick Gingras
- Tim Tetrick
- Jordan Stratton
- Matt Kakaley
- Aaron Merriman
- George Brennan
- Scott Zeron
- Corey Callahan

- Ron Burke
- Rene Allard
- Nick Surick
- Kimberly Asher
- Randy Bendis
- Richard Banca
- Gilbert Garcia-Herrera
- Patrick Shepherd
- Richard Moreau
- Scott Di Domenico
- C. Brian Loney
- Dirk Simpson
- Jackie Greene
- Jamie Copley
- Jeff Brewer
- Jeff Cullipher
- Jim King Jr.
- Monique Cohen
- Nick Roland
- Robert Lounsbury
- Tom Fanning
- Vincent Fusco Jr.