Time On My Hands Looks To Upset
LA Delight In Courageous Lady

Eleven 3-year-old filly pacers were entered for Saturday night’s $120,000 Courageous Lady at Northfield Park, with the eight richest in 2016 going postward and the connections of the other three receiving a return check of monies paid.

Although recent Jugette and Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final winner LA Delight arguably stood out among the field of eight lining up behind the gate, drawing the eighth hole brings her back to the competition considerably. Add to that a bit of sickness for LA Delight following a fifth-place finish last time out on Nov. 10 in the $148,400 Marion at Dover Downs, and the race could be there for the taking for one of her seven rivals.

One of the likely “other” contenders is the Chris Ryder-trained Time On My Hands, who will start from post 2 with Northfield Park’s leading driver, Aaron Merriman, in the sulky. Time On My Hands knows her way around a half-mile track with 18 of her 25 career starts coming on a two-turn oval. The filly is a four-time winner this year, three coming in New York Sires Stakes, but she hasn’t won in 11 starts, since July 15 at Yonkers. She comes into the Courageous Lady off an eighth-place finish in a Nov. 18 overnight at Yonkers.

“She had a bad race last week at Yonkers when she tied up, but I think she’ll be fine this week,” explained Ryder. “She can be good on her day and she handles a half.”

Time On My Hands comes into the Courageous Lady—her final start before heading to the breeding shed, according to Ryder—with a career slate of 25-7-5-3 and earnings of $322,488 for owners Michael Robinson, Robert Mondillo, Steve Cheatham, and Howard Taylor and Richard Lombardo’s BJF Stable. A $19,000 yearling purchase, Time On My Hands is a daughter of American Ideal out of the Artsplace mare Bewitching, a full sister to the 1999 New Jersey Classic and Hoosier Cup winner Art’s Conquest.

“She’s a New York-sired filly that has done quite well,” said Ryder. “She’s a little bit of an overachiever.”

Ryder said the lack of gate speed showing on Time On My Hands’ recent race lines is by design.

“She has some gate speed but she finishes better if we don’t use it,” he said. “(Post 2) is not a bad spot to be in.”

Continues on page 2 ››››
As for favored LA Delight, this is the third consecutive race where she will start from post 8 for driver John Campbell and trainer Bob McIntosh. After finishing second in her Breeders Crown elim after starting from the outside post 7 at the Meadowlands, LA Delight landed post 8 in the Breeders Crown final (second) and then the Matron final.

“Disappointing,” McIntosh answered when asked about a third straight eight hole for his daughter of Bettor’s Delight whose career earnings are nearly $1.2 million.

Campbell agreed.

“The eight hole is a lot more compromising at Northfield than at Dover, than it is at the Meadowlands,” Campbell said about the outside post that shows a win average of just 4.5 percent this year (99 wins in 2,212 starts.

McIntosh said LA Delight came up slightly sick after the Matron so blood was taken afterward.

“I watched the race from here (home in Windsor, Ont.) and knew something was wrong,” said McIntosh. “My man scoped her and she was sick. John (driver Campbell) called me two minutes after and said she had to be sick or tied up. She was full of mucous.”

Campbell said LA Delight matches up well no matter the competition.

“She looks pretty good no matter who she is in with when she’s on her game,” said Campbell. “She’s had a really good year. She’s a really good mare and an easy mare to drive. Just a pleasure to be around.” — By Gordon Waterstone
November 30, 2016 ~ Registration Deadline

Ohio Stallions & Broodmares

All stallions standing in Ohio for 2017 must be registered with the Ohio State Racing Commission along with reports of mares bred in 2016 for foals to be eligible to the Ohio Sires Stakes program.

2017 fees

New Stallions $100  Renewed Stallions $25
No fee for Broodmares  Checks payable to Ohio State Racing Commission
Forms available online at www.racing.ohio.gov/Development.html

Mail forms & payment to:

Kimberly Rinker, Ohio Standardbred Development Fund Administrator
77 South High Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
kim.rinker@racing.ohio.gov  614-779-0269
Manhattan Beach Looks For “Fun, Fun, Fun” In Progress Pace

Last Monday’s eliminations for the Hap Hansen Progress Pace at Dover Downs went to a pair of “Beach Boys,” aka Check Six and Manhattan Beach, both sons of Somebeachsomewhere.

For the new connections of Manhattan Beach, “wouldn’t it be nice” if they could get a quick return on the $130,000 they spent on the colt at the recent Harrisburg mixed sale by winning this Monday’s $314,600 Progress final?

“It would be lovely and great if it would work out that way,” said new trainer Scott Di Domenico, who was sent the horse by buyers Brian Carsey and John McGill.

“I’ve been training a few horses for those owners and they bought the horse and asked me to take him. It’s worked out good for me. A horse of his caliber I’m pretty happy to take. People usually don’t call you with horses like that to take.”

Although Manhattan Beach was a newcomer to Di Domenico’s barn after being trained by Ron Burke, he made no change in drivers as Matt Kakaley remained in the bike. Getting away fifth in his Progress Pace elim after starting from post 1, Kakaley powered his charge up on the outside past the half and then coasted to a five-length win in 1:52.4. It was Manhattan Beach’s first win in 10 starts since an Aug. 28 overnight score at Harrah’s Philadelphia.

“He was really impressive,” said Di Domenico. “A couple people said to me that the horse was really, really good, but he’s been really good all year. This horse was there and did it all year long. I just tried keeping him where they (Burke) had him.”

While in Burke’s barn, Manhattan Beach raced against the division elite, reaching the finals of the North America Cup, Meadowlands Pace, Adios and Cane Pace. His biggest check of the year of $112,500 came via a second-place finish to Racing Hill in the $500,000 Breeders Crown final at the Meadowlands. His 2016 slate of 25-5-3-5 has resulted in $481,939 in earnings, with $17,500 of that coming from his Progress Pace elim for his new connections.

Di Domenico said it was important to retain Kakaley as the driver.

“I think it was really important because Matt knows the horse as good or better than anybody,” he said. “Matt is as good as anybody on the racetrack.”

The final purse was boosted some by a pair of $25,000 supplemental entries: Easy Lover Hanover and Boston Red Rocks. Easy Lover Hanover finished second to the 1:51.3-winning Check Six in the first elim while Boston Red Rocks was third after finding racing room late behind Manhattan Beach.—By Gordon Waterstone

**Updated News Round-The-Clock**

harnessracing.com
Ralph Branca Dies

Ralph Branca, whose baseball career was defined by a home run he gave up in the 1951 National League pennant race, died Wednesday (Nov. 23) at a nursing home in Rye, NY. He was 90. His passing was announced by his son-in-law, former major league manager Bobby Valentine.

Mr. Branca gave up a home run to the Giants’ Bobby Thomson, the “Shot Heard ‘Round the World,” that cost the Brooklyn Dodgers the 1951 National League pennant.

Mr. Branca was also a big harness racing fan for many years. Mr. Branca and his wife, Ann, bred and raced horses under the name of Bramble Patch Farm. They owned the broodmare Best Friend and bred her stakes-winning colt Crown’s Best 3, 1:54.2 ($450,676).

Mr. Branca was born in 1926, the 15th of 17 children, and was raised in Mount Vernon, N.Y., just north of New York City. He arrived in the major leagues as an 18-year-old in 1944. He had his best season in 1947, posting a 21-12 record with a 2.67 ERA. He became the second-youngest pitcher to win 20 games and earned the first of his three consecutive All-Star Game selections. He pitched in the major leagues for 12 seasons, posting an 88-58 record.

Marion Marauder To Race In 2017

The connections of 2016 Trotting Triple Crown winner Marion Marauder 3,1:51.3 ($1,766,518) have announced that plans to syndicate and stand the stallion at Tara Hills Stud in Ontario have changed.

Acting as agent for owners Jean Wellwood and Devin Keeling, Preferred Equine Marketing’s David Reid said preliminary results indicate a probability that Marion Marauder would not be able to breed a full book of mares. The Wellwoods believe it is only fair to stand the horse when he is able to service a full book of mares. Thus, they have decided to race Marion Marauder in 2017.

“Since the announcement to retire Marion Marauder to stud, the response from the breeding industry worldwide has been outstanding. Both Tara Hills Stud owner David Heffering and I have been inundated with calls to be part of the syndicate, but we wanted to let the industry know the current situation so breeders can plan accordingly,” Reid said.

Paula Wellwood and Mike Keeling are looking forward to racing the son of Muscle Hill-Spellbound Hanover and will resume his training duties early in 2017.

Despite fighting a virus in his last start, Marion Marauder ended the season sound and his connections expect him to return to racing at the highest level next year.

Marion Marauder will be re-evaluated after his 2017 racing season for future stud duties. (Wellwood Stable)
Muscle Hill Standing At Southwind In New Jersey In 2017

Muscle Hill, the leading trotting sire in the world, will be standing at stud at Southwind Farms in New Jersey for the 2017 breeding season.

Although Muscle Hill stood at stud at Southwind in New Jersey for the first four years of his stallion career, beginning in 2014 he was at Marion Farms in New Hope, Pa., so that his foals would be eligible in Pennsylvania.

“The reason for the move is we have noticed a marked difference in the stallion’s libido, health and general well being upon his return home,” said syndicate manager Mike Klau, noting that Muscle Hill spent the offseason at Southwind in New Jersey, where he was collected for the frozen semen markets in Europe and the Southern Hemisphere. “We feel that it is in the best interest of the horse and the syndicate for him to remain year-round at Southwind.”

Muscle Hill has sired the winners of over $11 million, a record for trotting stallions and has sired four million-dollar winners, led by Triple Crown winner Marion Marauder 3,1:51.3 ($1,484,532), Breeders Crown winner Bar Hopping 3,1:51.4 ($1,191,195), Yonkers International winner Resolve 1:50.2 ($1,184,780) and multiple stakes winner Southwind Frank 3,1:52.1 ($1,164,468). He is the leading money-winning sire of 2 year olds, 3 year olds and all-age performers from just four crops of racing age. His 2016 two year olds were headed by the world champion filly Ariana G 2,1:51.4 ($743,967) and Peter Haughton Memorial winner WhatTheHill 2,1:54.4 ($315,686). Internationally, Muscle Hill’s son Propulsion just qualified for the prestigious Prix d’Amérique in Paris.

At the sales, Muscle Hill’s offspring were in great demand, having the sales topper at both the Lexington Selected Sale (Tactical Landing, selling for $800,000) and the Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg (Story Time Hanover, sold for $410,000). A total of 34 of his yearlings sold for $100,000 or more and the average price for his yearlings was $113,199.
Langley stepping down as USTA president

U.S. Trotting Association president and director Phil Langley announced Sunday (Nov. 20) at a meeting of the USTA Board of Directors executive committee at the Columbus (Ohio) Airport Marriott hotel that he will resign from those positions effective Dec. 31, 2016. His current term was set to expire in 2019. Langley explained that given the situation in Illinois, where both Balmoral and Maywood Parks have been closed, he feels that he can no longer fairly address the ongoing concerns of the USTA.

Goshen Yearling Sale set for Sept. 10, 2017

The third annual Goshen Yearling Sale has been scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, at the Mark Ford Training Center in Middletown, N.Y.

Top Ohio stallion Feelin Friskie dies

Midland Acres’s sire Feelin Friskie has passed away. On Monday, Nov. 14, Feelin Friskie was taken to Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine for evaluation and treatment of colic. Upon his arrival, he was taken into surgery and found to have an inoperable condition. He was medically euthanized.

Ohio’s Leonard Buckner dies

Leonard Buckner, 83 of Apple Creek, Ohio, successful businessman, prominent horse owner and partner of Hickory Lane Farm, died Saturday, Nov. 19, after a brave 12-year battle with kidney disease. Some of Mr. Buckner’s most successful racehorses included world champions Golly Too and Doc Mistake, Ruffstuff Baker, Lovin Every Moment and Picture This.

Haskell pleads guilty to charges in Ontario

On Monday, Nov. 21, in Ontario Superior Court, horseman Chris Haskell pleaded guilty charges to fraud and attempted fraud over $5,000 in relation to incidents in 2010 at the now-shuttered Windsor Raceway.

All Bets Off takes Potomac Pace

All Bets Off was the beneficiary of a perfect trip and a contested early pace to capture the $100,000 Potomac Pace Tuesday evening at Rosecroft Raceway in 1:48.2, equaling the track record. Driven by Matt Kakaley, All Bets Off edged Split the House by a nose. He tied Nuclear Breeze’s 2007 track record in the inaugural edition of the Potomac Pace.

Erkki Laakkonen dies

Erkki Laakkonen, owner of Andover Hall, has passed away at the age of 75. Mr. Laakkonen died on Sunday, Nov. 20 in Finland. Many of the horses that Mr. Laakkonen bred were known for their “EL” moniker.

Indiana’s Dave Stohler dies

Kenneth D. “Dave” Stohler, of Markleville, Ind., passed away on Thursday, Nov. 17, after battling medical issues. While working full time at his regular job, Mr. Stohler trained and raced horses on the side. Training horses also led to him and his family deciding to breed some of their own stock. The Stohlers saw something special in their third horse purchase, who also became their foundation mare, Hasty Grand Slam. Although from a humble pedigree and performance on the track, she produced the winners of $1,420,905, among them Extreme Velocity, who won the 1997 Breeders Crown Mare Pace at the Meadowlands.
Final Standardbred Poll
Hambeltonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by Harness Racing Communications for the week of November 22, 2016

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- **27 & 28, 2017**
- **November 13-16, 2017**
- **February 13 & 14, 2017**
- **May 8, 2017**

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