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Harness Racing

WEEKEND PREVIEW

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015

Inside
Weekly
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News Digest

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Stitch In Time Ready For Prime Time At Meadowlands

It's not often that total purses on a given night nowadays at the Meadowlands top those offered at the slots-enriched Yonkers Raceway across the Hudson River, but that's the case on Friday night. While Yonkers is giving away \$150,000 in purses on a 12-race card, the Meadowlands offers \$160,000 in purses on a 13-race program.

While the average purse at Yonkers is higher than at the Meadowlands on Friday—\$12,500 versus \$12,307—the richest race of the night is the \$25,000 Open Handicap Trot at the

"I'd like to find a few more babies like him, but that doesn't happen very often."

—Todd Buter about
Stitch In Time

Big M. Carded as Race 9, the race features Crosbys Clam Bake, who scored a 29-1 upset in the top-class event last Friday night, and Handover Belle, who was just a neck behind in second. Crosbys Clam Bake and Handover Belle drew for the two outside spots, respectively landing the eight and nine hole. The field also includes the highly-regarded Opulent Yankee, who finished sixth—beaten just 1 3/4 lengths—in last week's Open Trot in what was his first start since finishing eighth in the \$250,000 Graduate final on July 11.

Also in the field is Stitch In Time, who is returning to the big track at the Big M after competing at The Downs at Mohagan Sun Pocono and Saratoga. Trained by Todd Buter, Stitch In Time's career mark of 1:53.1 came back on April 3 at the Meadowlands in an \$8,000 conditioned event.

Owned by Buter's wife, Lynette, in partnership with Michiganders Carol and William Fuhs, Stitch In Time is a five-time winner this year and has 24 wins in 75 career starts for earnings of \$162,768. Anthony Napolitano will drive the 5-year-old gelded son of Keystone Nordic from post 2.

"When Pocono closed I was looking for a spot to get him started, and I thought that while Saratoga was about done,



Stitch In Time

Fred Brown Photo

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WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

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we'd race him there a couple of times," Todd Buter explained about Stitch In Time, whose last win came Nov. 7 at Pocono and is coming into Friday's race off a second-place finish in the top trot at Saratoga on Dec. 6. "About two months ago we put him on Lasix and that's seemed to help him. And he seems to like it better on a big track than a half-mile track."

Buter purchased the Esquire Spur mare Spurtacular Itch and a six-month-old Stitch In Time for just \$1,400 as part of the Bonley Farm mare dispersal at the 2010 Great Lakes Mixed Sale in Lansing, Mich.

"It was the last sale we had in Lansing and Karen (Greengard, of Bonley Farm) was dispersing some of her mares, and that colt came through," remembered Buter. "I always liked the Keystone Nordics, and this was the last crop of his that

Continues on page 2 >>>>

were going to be eligible in Michigan. I had another home-bred weanling at the time and was looking for a mate for him so we bought the mare and the colt. I'd like to find a few more babies like him, but that doesn't happen very often."

Unraced at two, Stitch InTime competed in the Wolverine State at three. Later, while Todd remained in Michigan as he attempted to sell the family farm, "Stitch" was sent to Lynette, who had already joined their son Tyler and daughter-in-law Amber at Mark Ford's training center in New York. When the farm was sold in August 2014, Todd joined his family.

"He was kind of a big, growthy colt and didn't race at two, and we just raced him around the Michigan fair circuit as a 3 year old. We brought him out here to New York early in his 4-year-old year," Buter explained about Stitch InTime, who earned \$91,068 last year with nine wins in 30 starts.

Stitch InTime is a full brother to the \$281,976-winner Mottown Dreamgirl. Buter said Spurtacular Itch was sold in early 2011 to Fair Meadow Farm and Hoosier Standardbred Farm in Indiana, where she since had just one foal in 2012, that an unraced Mr. Cantab colt. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Inter Dominion Set For Sunday In Perth, Australia

The historic Inter Dominion, the greatest harness race in the Southern Hemisphere, is set to be held Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Gloucester Park track in Perth in Western Australia. Gloucester Park hosted the inaugural Inter Dominion in February 1936.

Perth, which is located about 2,000 miles from Sydney—a few hundred miles less than the distance between New York and Los Angeles—became known worldwide as the "City of Light" when homes and streets were flooded with lights as American astronaut John Glenn passed overhead while orbiting the earth on Friendship 7 in 1962. The city repeated the act as Glenn passed overhead on the Space Shuttle in 1998.

The Inter Dominion will carry a purse of \$1.3 million, with approximately \$560,000 (US) in prize money to the winner.

As is the tradition, the Inter Dominion will feature a full field of 12 despite the fact that it will be contested over a half-mile oval. Nine horses will start on the wings of the gate, or barrier, as it is referred to in Australia and New Zealand, with three in the second tier.

Beautide, who won the 2015 Inter Dominion, which was held in March at the seven-eighths Tabcorp Park Menangle track north of Sydney, did not make the 2016 event—yes, the Sunday race is technically the 2016 edition of the Inter Dominion—due to health problems.

Horses qualified for the Inter Dominion by competing in three events and accumulating points. This qualification system was a departure from the 2015 ID, which determined the field from just one qualifying event.

Following the draw for post positions, Lovers Delight NZ was made the favorite by virtue of drawing post 1. He won

Continues on page 3 >>>>



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, December 11

All times listed are local.

- 3:35p Mea9 **WO/Preferred** Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:46p M6 **Open 2** Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:50p Wdb5 **Niagara** 3FP [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 9:50p M9 **Open** Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)

[Click here to download all Friday PPs](#)

Saturday, December 12

- 7:30p Wdb1 **Valedictory** 3CP [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 7:50p Wdb2 **Valedictory** 3CP [Trackmaster PPs](#)
- 8:50p YR6 **Open** Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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the last qualifying round at Gloucester Park on Dec. 4, scoring over Lennytheshark. The past performance line for Lovers Delight notes that his earplugs “failed to release.”

Also of note about Lovers Delight NZ, his dam, Love Isin The Air, is also the dam of U.S. winner Beach Romance NZ p,6, 1:49.3 (\$258,557), who took his mark at the Meadowlands in 2006.

North American horse breeders will notice that eight of the 12 Inter Dominion finalists are by stallions who stand at stud at Blue Chip Farms and also shuttle to the Southern Hemisphere: American Ideal, Art Major and Bettor’s Delight.

Bettor’s Delight has 748 Australian registered foals from 13 foal crops, with his foals of racing age generating an average earnings per starter figure of \$57,662. Art Major has 1,548 Australian registered foals with \$42,312 in average earnings per starter.

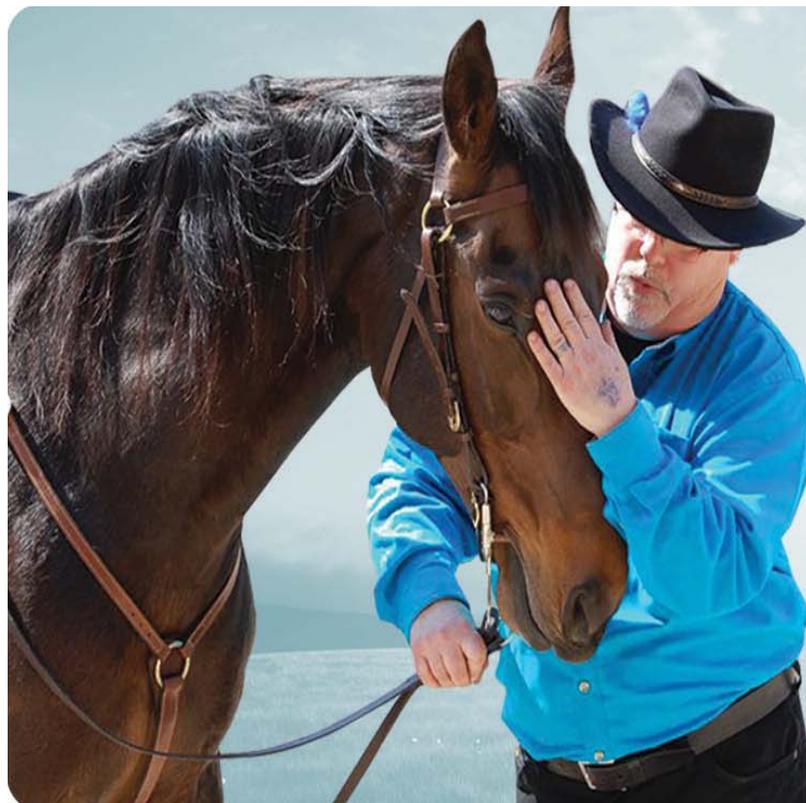
American driving ace Tim Tetrick is taking time off from working in the U.S. to attend the Inter Dominion and had hoped to pick up a drive. While Tetrick does not have a drive in the big race, he will be competing in five of the 10 races on the card. Among the drivers he will be competing against are James Rattray and Luke McCarthy, who spent time in the U.S.

Tetrick competed in the World Drivers Challenge in the Sydney area earlier this year. He took a tour of the Gloucester Park track not long after his arrival in Perth and the video was posted on the Gloucester Park website. Tetrick said he was invited to return to Australia and was happy to make the long trip because, “I’m a big horse racing fan, and that’s part of being over here in Australia, to be a fan of the sport too.” Click [here](#) to watch the interview. — By Kathy Parker

TABtouch Inter Dominion

*Gloucester Park, Perth, Australia; Sunday, Dec. 13
Purse: \$1.3 million (Aus.; approx. \$936,000 U.S.);
Post Time: 2:50 p.m. (local)*

No.—HORSE (Age, Sex, Sire-Dam-Sire of dam)	Trainer/Driver
1—LOVERS DELIGHT NZ (8g, Bettor’s Delight-Love Isin The Air-Butler BG)	S. Reed/C. Lewis
2—WAYLADE NZ (5h, Washington VC-Letspartyallnite-Pacific Rocket)	G. Hall Sr./G. Hall Jr.
3—LENNYTHESHARK (6h, Four Starzz Shark-Botswana-Albert Albert)	D. Aiken/C. Alford
4—PHILADELPHIA MAN (7h, Art Major-My Liberty Belle-Fake Left)	E. Stewart/G. Lang
5—OUR BLACKBIRD NZ (8g, Bettor’s Delight-Starling NZ-Majestic Chance)	R. Olivieri/S. McDonald
6—LIBERTYBELLE MIDFREW NZ (5m, Christian Cullen-Lucinda Midfrew NZ-Live Or Die)	M. Reed/M. Reed
7—AVONNOVA (9g, Art Major-Mini Slick-Maple Lanes Strike)	I. Gurney/S. Graham
8—DEVENDRA (6g, Bettor’s Delight-Queen Carey-Walton Hanover)	J. Rattray/J. Rattray
9—MY HARD COPY NZ (6h, American Ideal-Readallaboutit-Presidential Ball)	C. Hall/G. Hall
10—FLAMING FLUTTER (6h, Bettor’s Delight-Twice As Hot NZ-In The Pocket)	G. Webster/G. Sugars
11—MAJOR CROCKER (5g, Art Major-Aratusa Lass-DM Dilinger)	V. Vallelonga/TBA
12—BLAZIN N CULLEN NZ (6g, Christian Cullen-Rye Hanover-Western Hanover)	J. McCarthy



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Jenna's Beach Boy Euthanized At 23

World champion Jenna's Beach Boy p,4, 1:47.3 (\$1,972,172), a three-time Breeders Crown champion, was euthanized Friday morning, Dec. 4, at Peninsula Farm outside of Lexington, Ky. He was 23. The son of Beach Towel had been diagnosed with testicular cancer earlier this year.

Jenna's Beach Boy was bred by Lee and Linda DeVisser of Holland, Mich., who made a trip to Lexington this fall to see the horse they religiously had followed during his racing career. He was also a favorite of the Duer family and staff at Peninsula Farm, where he was known as an easy-going horse with a friendly personality.

Jenna's Beach Boy's dam, Five O'Clock Cindy, was campaigned by the DeVissers. They named Jenna after one of their granddaughters.

Driven by Bill Fahy throughout his three-year racing career, at two Jenna's Beach Boy finished up his season with a Breeders Crown triumph and seven wins in 12 starts. After the Breeders Crown trainer Joe Holloway learned the colt was racing with a hairline P-1 fracture. It healed and Jenna began his sophomore season with a string of victories that included the New Jersey Classic, but just before the North America Cup he suffered a P-1 fracture on an opposite leg. No surgery was required and Jenna returned to the track in September, winning an invitational at the Delaware County Fair and then a late-closer at The Red Mile in a world record clocking of 1:48.4. He went on to Woodbine and captured the Breeders Crown.

At age four, Jenna lowered the all-age race world record to 1:47.3 at the Meadowlands on June 22, 1996. The Breeders Crown was held at the Meadowlands on Aug. 9 and he won that as well, then went on to capture the Senior Jug at the Delaware County Fair before being retired in a trackside ceremony at The Red Mile. He finished his racing career with a record of 42-30-5-3.

"I knew I had a great horse," said Holloway of his time training Jenna's Beach Boy. "At two he won the Breeders Crown with a broken bone and he came back and did so much at three and four. I really did appreciate him."

Jenna's Beach Boy stood at stud at the Duer family's Peninsula Farm for most of his 16 seasons at stud, although he did shuttle to an Indiana farm for his last three seasons, 2011 through 2013. Foals from his last crop will be 2 year olds in 2016.

Jenna's Beach Boy's sire credits include the millionaires Total Truth p,4, 1:48.3 (\$2,022,433), Shanghai Lil p,2, 1:51.2 (\$1,011,378), Lady MacBeach p,2, 1:52.1 (\$802,206), Three Olives p,3, 1:51 (\$1,022,801), Allamerican Theory p,3, 1:49.3 (\$831,173), Quik Pulse Mindale p,3, 1:48 (\$777,331) and With Anticipation p,4, 1:47.2 (\$481,933). His daughter Mozzi Hanover is the dam of 2015 sensation Wiggle It Jiggle It, with other broodmare sire credits Western Silk p,3, 1:50.1 (\$1,679,347), Hana Hanover p,5, 1:48.4 (\$1,206,644) and Feel Like A Fool p,7, 1:49.3f (\$115,091).

Last month Peninsula's other stallion resident, Valley Victor, the sire of top trotters in the Midwest, was euthanized at age 22.



Jenna's Beach Boy wins the 1996 Breeders Crown Older Pace at the Meadowlands with Bill Fahy driving.

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World Champion, Lindy-Bred Delicious Set To Race In Paris

The world champion American-bred mare Delicious will be taking on Europe's best on Saturday at the Vincennes track in Paris when she competes in the Prix du Bourbonnais, a prep race for the Prix d'Amerique.

The Bourbonnais is contested at a distance of 2,850 meters (1.77 miles) with a starting gate. It will be the first start for Delicious outside of the U.S. and Sweden. The trip to Paris is important on several fronts for Delicious, who is owned by Bengt Agerup's Stall Zet and trained by Daniel Reden.

Reden is generally conservative in his remarks about the horses he trains, and often drives, but Delicious, a daughter of Cantab Hall, makes him more cautious.

"Delicious has had problems with stomach ulcers," shared Reden in an email. "I adapt the training for her and the stomach. She will go down (to Paris) and compete...then we will see how the long journey and everything around it goes."

This past summer the 6-year-old mare won in 1:50.2 over a five-eighths mile track in Sweden, setting a world record. She later won the Sundsvall Open over a field that included Creatine.

Delicious is out of the Italian-blooded mare Ipsara LB, who was bred by Lindy Farms, with Delicious also bred and raised by Lindy. A small filly, she was sold for just \$8,000 as a yearling, selling under the name, now appropriate, of Ferrari Lindy.

Trained by Ron Gurfein in the U.S. at ages two and three, Delicious won eight of 23 races, took a mark of 1:52.2 and earned \$254,244. Among her victories was a stakes-record score in an Arden Downs Stakes at The Meadows, when she was driven by Aaron Merriman.

"She's a pleasure to drive, a real professional," Merriman said after the then 3-year-old Delicious set the Arden Downs mark in the summer of 2012. "If she gets a little bigger and a little more mature, she'll show even more than she did today."

Merriman was prophetic as Delicious lowered her mark to 1:52.2 later that fall at the Red Mile, edging Maven by a neck. Owners Jerry Silva and Patrick Quaid decided to sell



Stall/Zet/Adam Storm Photo

Delicious

Prix du Bourbonnais

Hippodrome de Vincennes, Paris, France; Sunday, Dec. 13; Distance: 2,850 meters

No.—HORSE (Age, Sex, Sire-Dam-Sire of dam)	Driver
1—DUKE OF GREENWOOD (5h, Otello Pierji*-Nikki Groenhof-Meadow Road)	H. Langeweg Jr.
2—ANETTE DU MIREL (5m, Laetenter Diem-Lisa du Mirel-Ulf d'Ombree)	E. Raffin
3—TREBOL (8h, Hot Blues-Sally Can Wait-Prince Mystic*)	G. A. Pou Pou
4—DELICIOUS (6m, Cantab Hall-Ipsara LB-Lemon Dra)	O. Kihlstrom
5—TRESKOOL DU CAUX (8h, Kool du Caux-Intervista-Off Gy)	Y. Lorin
6—MOSES ROB (9h, Ganymede-Etoile Rob-Friendly Face)	P. Levesque
7—SOLEA RIVELLIERE (9m, Calife des Noues-Heloa Rivelliere-Pelops)	Ph. Daugeard
8—OLMO HOLZ (7h, Uronometro-Veuve du Kras-Park Avenue Joe)	Ch. Martens
9—VILLAGE MYSTIC (6h, Love You*-Netchka d'Orgeres-Full Account)	D. Bonne
10—VISION INTENSE (6m, Prodigious-Intense Action-Cezio Josselyn*)	J. Ph. Dubois
11—UN MEC D'HERIPRE (7h, Orlando Vici-I Love You Darling-Buvetier d'Aunou)	Franck Nivard
12—TEXAS CHARM (8h, Cygnus d'Odyssee-Kamela Charm-Cocktail Jet*)	J. Dubois
13—TIEGO D'ETANG (8h, Chaillot-Harolene-Vroum d'Or)	C. Bigeon
14—UP AND QUICK (7h, Buvetier d'Aunou*-Fichtre-Quiton du Coral)	J. M. Bazire

* denotes American blood
Otello Pierji, by Buvetier d'Aunou (Royal Prestige-Nesmle-Caprior); Prince Mystic, by Mystic Park-Princess Crown, by Speedy Crown; Love You, by Cocktail Jet (Quouky Williams-Armbro Glamour-Super Bowl) out of Guilty Of Love (And Arifant-Amour d'Aunou. Amour d'Aunou by Speedy Somolli out of Nesmile); Cezio Josselyn, by Armbro Goal-Quezia-Patara

the filly, consigning her with Northwood Bloodstock. Stall Zet bought her for \$100,000, with Delicious earning approximately \$400,000 in 2014 and '15.

Reden won't make any predictions about a possible Prix d'Amerique start for Delicious, who first needs to enhance her credentials to make the cut for the prestigious race. Delicious can pick up points in the Prix prep races, which includes the Bourbonnais, and boost her earnings, which is also a consideration for the Prix d'Amerique. But she also must be comfortable with traveling, and spending time outside of her normal environment in Sweden.

One thing in the mare's favor is that she will be driven by her regular driver, Orjan Kihlstrom, who is very familiar with the Vincennes track, having won the 2014 Prix d'Amerique with Maharajah.

"It's Delicious who decides everything," concluded Reden. "I will never come around a horse like her again." — *By Kathy Parker*

STRETCH CALL

BY DAVE BRIGGS

WEG's Lawson On Culture, Customers and Cardinals

Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) CEO Jim Lawson said he is fond of telling employees that he would like Canada's largest horse racing outfit to model itself after baseball's St. Louis Cardinals.

"Every year it turns over, but, boy oh boy, as an organization they're competitive every year and I think it has to do with the pride throughout the entire organization," Lawson said recently during a lengthy interview. "From the person that takes the ticket to the very top, you can feel the pride and excitement of being part of the St. Louis Cardinals organization and no surprise, the St. Louis Cardinals organization is one of the most successful MLB franchises in the last 10 or 15 years. I think that's a cultural thing.

"That's the kind of culture we want to build here. That's through communication and transparency and getting people excited about racing and passing that on to the customers."

Lawson became CEO of WEG in April and his first assignment was to try to change the culture at WEG to attract customers and drive wagering.

"The entire focus over the last four or five months has been on listening, communicating with people. We've had many town halls. We've had employee functions. Just making people feel part of it," he said.

"I think if you can get people to understand and appreciate how this place works, make them feel like they own it, get excited about it, they're going to pass all of those values on to the customers. It just makes for a healthier organization."

Lawson said he was thrilled to have a customer tell him that at a recent Thoroughbred card at Woodbine, "the young people were excited about racing and to show people how to bet. There just seems to be a good feeling about the place right now. That's how it manifests itself. Remove some of the hierarchy and communicate with people. Let people be part of it and ultimately you pass that excitement in that ownership to the customer."

Wagering on both WEG's Standardbred and Thoroughbred product is up double digits in 2015, but Lawson acknowledges some of the gains are simply from a strong U.S. dollar versus a shrinking Canadian one. Woodbine does decent business south of the border and in 2014 the currencies were closer to par.

Lawson said WEG is trying to be more responsive to betting customers and even hired an "innovation person" within its wagering operations.

"You've seen our guaranteed Pick 4s... Our Jackpot Hi-5s have been extremely successful and we're looking at new and better ways of being innovative. We're hoping we work with the (Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation) on lottery-style products and improving and expanding our distribution network for our wagering product through the OLG distribution network.

"I think the vision is that we need to bring more racing to more people and that's through our events, it's through competing with all of the Internet gaming and doing it through new and innovative and more simple ways of wagering."

It all starts at the board level, where about half of WEG's directors are horse owners.

"I think it's important that our board members understand the challenges of horse racing, what it's like to breed a horse, what it's like to own a horse, how the industry works. So, in a perfect world, we would be adding those skill sets. I'd like to encourage them all to have a horse just to see how challenging it is," he said, emphasizing horse ownership is not the main requirement of board members.

"The entire focus over the last four or five months has been on listening, communicating with people!"

—Jim Lawson

"Certainly, the focus, which we're quite proud of, is to bring in experts. In marketing, for example, we just added Christine Magee who is one of the gurus in this country. She is an Entrepreneur of the Year and is in the Retail Hall of Fame. From a marketing standpoint, we've brought in Michelle DiEmanuele who has gaming expertise and she's an HR expert. She's the CEO of Trillium Health Group. We brought in the CEO of Corus Entertainment from a broadcasting, entertainment, HPI perspective. Our chair of our audit committee is a recognized financial expert.

"I'm a big proponent of having horse racing people there. But at the same time, we have 2,000 employees here, or close to it. We've got labor negotiations, we've got a big food and beverage operation, we've got 62 people in our broadcasting department, we have a large land development opportunity and between the two sites (Woodbine and Mohawk) we have 1,000 acres of land that we hold. This business really needs the expertise in finance, and it needs the expertise in gaming and entertainment and broadcasting and government relations. You just get lucky if you find a person that has those types of skill sets that also happens to be interested in horse racing. We do our best to bring the proper skill set on the board and that's what good governance is about."

Always keeping in mind that WEG's "sole mandate is horse racing."



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.



White Birch's Michael Parisi Dies At 51

Harness racing was rocked by the news early Sunday morning, Dec. 6, that Michael Parisi, owner of White Birch Farm, a leading breeding farm and training center in New Jersey, had died on Saturday, Dec. 5. Mr. Parisi was 51. No details were available about Mr. Parisi's passing.

White Birch Farm, which was founded by Mr. Parisi's parents, has bred scores of major stakes winners, among them Captaintreacherous and Bee A Magician, and is the home to an elite broodmare band, which includes the \$2 million winner Darlin's Delight. Although White Birch utilized agencies to sell its horses, Mr. Parisi was usually in attendance at the fall Grand Circuit meet in Lexington and in Harrisburg.

Visitation will take place on Friday, Dec. 11, from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at Papavero Funeral Home, 72-27 Grand Ave., Maspeth, N.Y. 11378. The phone number is (718) 651-3535.

The Funeral Mass will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m. at Transfiguration Church, 64-14 Clinton Ave., Maspeth, N.Y. 11378.

Interment at St. John's Cemetery, 80-01 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, N.Y. 11379.

Florida Gov. Approves New Gaming Compact

After months of negotiations, Florida Gov. Rick Scott quietly signed a compact with the Seminole Tribe on Monday, Dec. 7, that will generate nearly \$3 billion in added revenue to the state over seven years in exchange for the exclusive right to operate blackjack and add craps and roulette.

Under the previous agreement, the tribe agreed to pay at least \$234 million a year in exchange for the exclusive right to operate slot machines at four casinos outside of Miami-Dade and Broward. The new agreement starts with a minimum guarantee of revenue to the state at \$325 million a year in the first and rises to \$550 million in the seventh year.

The 20-year deal also allows the Florida legislature to open the door for pari-mutuels to operate new slots casinos in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties and allows the existing South Florida racinos to seek voter approval to operate limited blackjack tables.

The agreement must now be approved by both the House and Senate, which are expected to ratify the compact. The expansion of gaming licenses may be more subject to debate. Among the provisions of the new agreement affecting pari-mutuel facilities are adding blackjack to the existing pari-mutuel facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties and a reduction in the pari-mutuel tax. Pompano Park is located in Broward County.

Click [here](#) to read the Miami Herald story about the compact.

"King" Richard Hoping To Wear Crown Again

Richard Gutnick is happy to see this year coming to an end, at least as it relates to his racehorses. But Gutnick, the sport's Owner of the Year in 2012 when his Chapter Seven was Horse of the Year and Market Share was Hambletonian champion, is looking optimistically for a better 2016.

And Chapter Seven and Market Share figure as prominently in this future as they do in Gutnick's past.

Market Share, who was turned out in September after winning one of nine races in 2015, is being pointed toward a return to action next season and the first foals of Chapter Seven will begin racing next year. Gutnick shares ownership in six Chapter Seven-sired colts and owns one home-bred filly by the stallion.

"This could be a very interesting year," Gutnick said.

"We're hoping Market Share will be back to his old self and of course I'm looking forward to the summer with the Chapter Seven (2 year olds).

"I'm hoping Market Share can get back to the way he was in 2013 and 2014, as opposed to this year. This is the year when anything that could go wrong did go wrong. I can't complain because I had a year, 2012, where anything that could go right did go right."

Market Share—owned by Gutnick, TLP Stable and Bill Augustine—has won 26 of 66 career races and earned \$3.72 million. He is a two-time Dan Patch Award winner, receiving the trophy for best 3-year-old male trotter in 2012 and best older male trotter in 2013.

Market Share is expected to start preparing for next season in mid-January. Gutnick said trainer Linda Toscano will take her time in bringing the soon-to-be 7 year old back to action.

"Hopefully with the four months off any little aches and pains should be gone and he can get back in the appropriate frame of mind," Gutnick said. "I don't care about the early races. It's a long season and it's difficult to be ready early and late.

"Unfortunately, the way they write the races now, there's a big gap of time since the Maple Leaf Trot was moved from July to September. If you go to the early ones, then you have a month off. To me it's poor planning by the powers that be. It's a shame they can't all work together and get a good program. But we'll go from there."

Gutnick said if Market Share is unable to be competitive at the sport's top level, he will retire the stallion.

"That horse doesn't owe me anything," Gutnick said. "I owe him a lot, just like I owe Chapter Seven a lot. All you can do is the best you can by them.

"I just consider myself very fortunate to have owned the horses like I have had." (HRC)

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Hannah Miller Named Amateur Driver Of Year

She's known as "Hurricane Hannah" because she has taken amateur racing by storm. This year, in her first full season of driving, and overwhelmingly against male counterparts, Hannah Miller has won 32 races and will finish with a .425 UDR in 118 drives, and for her prowess the U. S. Harness Writers Association has unanimously named her the National Amateur Driver of the Year. And Miller is the first woman to win this award.

"I am thrilled to be named amateur driver of the year," Miller said when reached by phone. "I never expected this success but I have so many great people behind me that have done so much to help me achieve this award. (My boyfriend) Nick (Surick) has put so much work into this and I wouldn't be able to drive such good horses without him. He has made it possible for me to travel all over the country and overseas to compete in amateur races. Trish Coyle and Miriam Kraemer have also done so much for me and put in endless hours at the barn, on the road, and at the racetrack to make all of this possible. My family continuously supports me and I am so grateful for everyone that has helped me get to this point."

This year Miller has driven at 21 different racetracks in the United States and Canada and she also represented the United States in an international amateur driving competition in Spain earlier this year.

"Hannah took the series by storm winning 12 Billings races while earning the overall point championship title," said Billings Series vice president Steve Oldford. "She bested her male counterparts in three of the five seasonal series and she exemplified complete competence and professionalism while dominating. She worked hard and earned the respect of her fellow drivers all season." (*John Manzi*)

Nominations Open For Caretaker Of Year

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 Caretaker of the Year. The award, sponsored by Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park in conjunction with the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), recognizes the unsung heroes of the sport—the caretakers who maintain the health and welfare of the horses on a daily basis.

Initially titled Groom of the Year Award when first presented in 1982, the honor was instituted as a result of a speech given by Delvin Miller at the annual Harness Tracks of America meeting when Miller received HTA's Stanley F. Bergstein Messenger Award. Previously sponsored annually by HTA and Hanover Shoe Farms, the tradition now continues.

The HRRNP Caretaker of the Year will receive a cash prize of \$500, a trophy, and transportation costs to the USHWA Dan Patch Awards Banquet in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Sunday evening, March 6, where he or she will be recognized for the achievement. The winner also will enjoy a two-night

stay at the host hotel for the USHWA activities, as well as two complimentary dinner tickets.

Any caretaker working for any stable in North America is eligible. All that is needed to nominate is a letter or email from an individual or group detailing the skills and special qualities of the caretaker.

The winner will be chosen by a seven-person selection committee comprised of USHWA members, all of whom are former caretakers: Tim Bojarski (chair), Tom Charters, Moira Fanning, Dean Hoffman, Rob Pennington, Kim Rinker and Shawn Wiles.

All nomination letters and emails must be received and/or postmarked by Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, and sent to chair Bojarski at: Tim Bojarski, 7523 Maple Road, Akron, N.Y. 14001 or a159star@gmail.com. (*USHWA/Northfield Park*)

Meadowlands Off To Strong Start In December

While the first three weekends of the Meadowlands' meet were impossible to compare to the prior year due to the Breeders Crown being raced at the East Rutherford oval in 2014, this past weekend was the first true indicator in terms of wagering handle. The early returns are very encouraging.

The Friday, Dec. 4 program handled \$2,758,743 compared to \$2,273,465 in 2014, an increase of \$485,278 or 21 percent. On Saturday, Dec. 5, total handle was \$2,722,745, compared to \$2,307,791 in 2014, an increase of \$414,954, or 18 percent. Combined the weekend saw \$900,232 in additional handle compared to 2014, or 19.6 percent. In addition, on-track handle realized an increase of over 10 percent as well.

Full fields remain the key to the Meadowlands' success.

"We have the bigger track with 10 horses across," said Meadowlands chairman Jeff Gural. "That is where we have an edge and we have to capitalize on that. We had 254 betting interests in 26 races, that's nearly 9.8 horses per race, which is where we need to be."

Gural added that coordinating post times has become a focal point of the meet as well.

"We hired a consultant who coordinates with other racetracks, Thoroughbred and Standardbred alike so that our races are not going off at the same time as races that could negatively impact our handle. There are so many tracks out there to keep track of and to have one person being able to focus on just that task throughout the night is a big help to us. We have also developed a schedule with Woodbine where our races are essentially 10 minutes apart from one another. We haven't had a single race this meet go off close to Woodbine."

There have been a few other tweaks that seem to be helping as well.

"The earlier post certainly hasn't hampered us thus far and it has helped on the back end of the card as we aren't ending too late," said Gural. "In addition, by moving post up, we were able to put a race between our early and late

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pick four and this weekend shows us that move is working as well. On this weekend in 2014, our early pick four averaged \$42,000 and our late pick four came in at \$63,000. This year the early pick four averaged \$49,000 and the late pick four \$72,000, so that move seems to have helped as well."

The on-track attendance is also an area in which Gural's team is making a big push.

"We are spending serious money in marketing and promotions to bring people to the facility for racing," he said. "We have a presence in midtown Manhattan in the form of a large digital billboard and we have other strategically located billboards throughout the New York City area. We have pushed forward with direct marketing and retaining our current players as well as building our player rewards club, which has grown every month this year. Our on-track promotions are second to none and we have a giveaway every race night. This past Saturday there was a line out the door to get a long sleeve t-shirt. We will continue to push forward in enhancing the on-track experience. We also had a Christmas party for our VIP guests this past Saturday and all of our skyboxes were filled with groups holding their Christmas parties at the Meadowlands. The facility continues to prove to be marketable to groups for all occasions."

Also, coming into the program on Saturday night, Dec. 5, there were a pair of carryovers in the two Jackpot Super Hi-Five wagers. The first of those jackpots was hit to the tune of \$36,414 in the fifth race. The winning 20-cent ticket was wagered through a TVG outlet.

Prince Palani, a 13-1 upset winner, led the longshot parade that resulted in there being just a sole winning ticket in the Super Hi-Five. Smile A Little, a 59-1 bomb, finished second followed by 7-1 Steady Warrior third. That trifecta returned over \$5,600 for a \$2 wager and was the catalyst for the jackpot being hit. The official top five in the order of finish were 4-6-7-5-1.

The jackpot Super Hi-5 at the Meadowlands produced a pair of six-figure payouts in 2015, returning \$173,094 on July 4 and \$200,000 on March 14. The Jackpot Super Hi-Five is offered with a 20-cent minimum in the fifth and last race of each racing program. (*Meadowlands*)

Kaplan: "Bring Horse Racing To The People"

Innovation is the theme of the 42nd annual Symposium on Racing & Gaming in Tucson and the two-day program got off to a lively start on Tuesday morning, Dec. 8, with a whirlwind of new ideas for attendees to contemplate.

The opening session was titled "45 Ideas in 45 Minutes" and a diverse panel of racing experts tossed out new ideas to the audience in a fast-paced session.

"Racing should take its show on the road," said Darryl Kaplan, editor of Standardbred Canada's Trot magazine, "Horses should race down city streets, on beaches, and

over frozen canals. Take risks, and bring horse racing to the people."

Steve Byk, host of "At the Races with Steve Byk," said that racing should emulate the tax-free shopping day concept by offering takeout rollbacks on target days that generally produce lower handle. Byk suggested that tracks try a "Tax Free Tuesday."

The ideas came so fast and furious that attendees were told in advance not to take notes because a synopsis of the 45 ideas would be distributed afterwards.

Ellen Harvey of Harness Racing Communications detailed the efforts of the U.S. Trotting Association to appeal to new owners with seminars and camps. One advantage that harness racing offers, she emphasized, is that owners can jog, train, and perhaps drive their own horses which is unlike owning Thoroughbreds. Harvey said that attendees for the seminars hail mostly from the ranks of racing fans and that efforts to recruit pleasure horse owners have been unsuccessful. She said that almost 20 percent of the attendees at the USTA owners seminars have followed up by purchasing a horse. In many cases they purchase more than one horse and also bring in partners.

Digital marketing strategies for horse racing was addressed by Rob Key.

Key spoke about his family's background in harness racing and the social media efforts of his Manhattan-based firm Converseon for the United State Trotting Association.

"Word-of-mouth is the most credible and powerful form of advertising," Key said. "Social media is word-of-mouth turbocharged."

Key detailed the success of the Harness Racing FanZone and the "Ambassadors" programs in creating more "buzz" for harness racing on social media.

An interesting Wednesday afternoon session addressed "Serious Realities in Fantasy Sports."

Hai Ng moderated the panel of three on-site speakers with Sen. Raymond Lesniak of New Jersey participating via Skype.

Lesniak said that due to pending court cases, New Jersey is "in limbo" regarding the regulation of fantasy sports.

He also indicated that people in New Jersey are looking at bringing "historical racing" to the state's race tracks.

John Ford, CEO of BAM Software & Services LLC, said that he believes that fantasy sports at tracks would help racing because the fantasy sports bettor and the horse racing bettor are remarkably similar people.

"They are both analyzing data and placing wagers," Ford said.

Jack McGrail of the Oregon Racing Commission disagreed and said he saw no benefit of having tracks offer fantasy sports wagering. "It would not help the pari-mutuel handle," said McGrail. (*Racetrack Industry Program*)

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Milestone Wins For Roberts, Aldrich Jr.

Driver Jonathan Roberts garnered his 3,000th win with Cowboy Artist for trainer Trevor Stafford in 1:55.2 at Rosecroft Raceway on Tuesday night, Dec. 8. Roberts comes from a family that has been involved in the harness racing business on the East Coast for decades.

Bruce Aldrich Jr. drove Unimpeachable to his 6,000th career victory on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Monticello Raceway.

Horseman Shawn Armour Dies In Accident

Maryland horseman Shawn Armour, 41, was killed on Thursday morning, Dec. 3, when his car collided with a commercial garbage truck at an intersection in Coloma, Md., according to the Cecil County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Armour raced horses primarily in Maryland and Delaware.

According to a report at Cecildaily.com, the truck cut into the path of a 2006 Nissan Sentra driven by Armour.

Click [here](#) for the entire story.

Gingras, Callahan, Brett Miller Heading To Oz

Some of the best drivers from around the world will converge on Victoria next March for the inaugural International All Star Series conducted by Harness Racing Victoria, the state where the great Australian city of Melbourne is located.

Five local drivers will represent Victoria on tracks right across the state, while five star international reinsmen will make up the World Team. The series will culminate on Great Southern Star night at Tabcorp Park Melton on Saturday, March 12.

The World team will be made up of New Zealand pair Dexter Dunn (current World Driving Champion) and Anthony Butt (seven-time A. G. Hunter Cup winner), Canada's Yannick Gingras (the No.1 driver in the USA and the biggest name in the sport worldwide) and leading U.S. drivers Brett Miller and Corey Callahan.

Representing Victoria will be Chris Alford and Gavin Lang (over 5000 wins each), Greg Sugars (over 2,000 wins), Kerry Manning (world record reinswoman) and Jason Lee (two-time Concession Driver of the Year).

"This is going to be great. I'm so excited to be heading to Victoria for the first International All Star Series," Gingras said. "There will be no holds barred out there and I'm really looking forward to getting on track, as I imagine all the guys will be."

The International All Star Series will see the stars trek from Melton on Monday, March 7, to Echuca on Tuesday night, March 8. Then it will be off to Maryborough for Wednesday, March 9, Ballarat on Thursday night, March 10, and the action turns to Bendigo on Friday night, March 11.

All the competing drivers will be wearing personalized silks, which they helped design themselves to reflect their personalities. All of the races will be penalty free and trainers' incentives will also be offered. (*Harness Racing Victoria*)

Top Meadows Honors To Atta Boy Dan, Chef Lee

The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) has named its 2015 award winners, as voted on by the organization's members.

Atta Boy Dan, owned by Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Brussemi, has been named Pacer of the Year and Horse of the Year. Atta Boy Dan won 10 of 13 starts at The Meadows during the season en route to more than \$225,000 in earnings. He paced his best mile in 1:49.1, a track record for aged pacers. Ron Burke trains Atta Boy Dan, a 6-year-old son of Western Terror.

Trotter of the Year honors went to the horse also named 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Trotter of the Year, Chef Lee. Owned and trained by Norm Parker, the Cantab Hall gelding was 8-for-12 locally, earning more than \$165,000.

Toddler Tantrum (Western Terror) was named the top freshman pacer of the year, winning four of seven local starts for owners Don Tiger, Birnam Wood Farms and Seth Rosenfeld. Tim Twaddle trains Toddler Tantrum.

Danika P, by Yankee Cruiser, was the 2-year-old filly pacing champion, winning one of six for the Burke Stable, Weaver Brussemi and the M1 Stable. Ron Burke trains Danika P.

Major Matter, a gelding by Explosive Matter, who split time between sire stakes and fair stakes, was named the top freshman male trotter for the season. Owned by trainer Rick Beinbauer along with his wife, Regina, Major Matter was 3-for-5 at The Meadows, taking a mark of 1:57.2.

The top 2-year-old filly trotter was Goodtogo Hanover, trained by Bill Zendt. The Explosive Matter filly is owned by Zendt in partnership with Gary Saul.

Royaltyhasarrived (Western Terror) was named the top pacing colt for owners Virginia and Kathy Schoeffel and Mike Munn. A five-time local winner during the year, Royaltyhasarrived is trained by Steve Schoeffel. Fashion Rocker, a daughter of Rocknroll Hanover, was named 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year, winning four of 10 starts at The Meadows for owners Burke Racing, Weaver Brussemi and Bethann Palone. Ron Burke trains.

Acadia Farms, Marty Wollam and George Berlin own Manhattan Miss, the top sophomore trotting filly. Wollam trains the daughter of Broadway Hall.

Do Me Honor, by Cheyenne Rei, was named the top older pacing mare, retaining the title she also earned in 2015. Owned and trained by Bill Bercury, the 7 year old won six races for the season and banked over \$116,000 locally.

Dunn Stable's Classicality, a 5 year old by Classic Photo, was the top older trotting male, winning four races and banking more than \$110,000 for trainer Lisa Dunn.

The top older trotting mare was Whata Donato, owned by Frank Poerio. Whata Donato, a 5-year-old daughter of Donato Hanover, is trained by Doug Snyder. (*MSOA*)

RACE LINES

Final Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
 Harness Racing Communications for the week of November 24, 2015

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. Wiggle It Jiggleit (30)	3pg	25-21-3-0	\$2,031,995	338	1
2. Freaky Feet Pete (3)	3pc	17-15-2-0	853,774	269	2
3. Southwind Frank (1)	2tc	12-11-0-0	786,419	267	3
4. Mission Brief	3tf	14-10-3-0	1,008,517	207	5
5. Pinkman	3tg	17-11-3-1	1,892,865	202	4
6. Pure Country	2pf	10-10-0-0	689,968	142	7
7. Always B Miki	4ph	4-4-0-0	301,210	136	6
8. Bee A Magician	5tm	18-10-5-0	980,845	81	8
9. Wild Honey	3tf	16-7-7-0	1,149,532	65	9
10. D'One	5tm	5-4-0-0	329,150	39	—

Others receiving votes: L A Delight, State Treasurer 37, Resolve 20, Wakizashi Hanover 17, JL Cruze 11, Artspeak, Divine Caroline 9, Bettor's Edge 6, Boston Red Rocks, Shake It Cerry 5, Broadway Donna, Crazy Wow, Venus Delight 4, Double Exposure 3, All The Time, Yankee Moonshine 2, Anndrovette, Betting Line, Control The Moment, Dot Dot Dot Dash 1.

Note: L A Delight received one first-place vote.

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through December 8, 2015 (week difference Dec. 2-8).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Wiggle It Jiggleit (3pg)	26	22	3	0	\$2,181,995
Pinkman (3tg)	17	11	3	1	1,892,865
Wakizashi Hanover (3pg)	20	11	4	2	1,153,700
Wild Honey (3tf)	16	7	7	0	1,149,532
Crazy Wow (3tc)	17	9	3	1	1,027,612
Mission Brief (3tf)	14	10	3	0	1,008,517
The Bank (3tc)	18	5	8	0	998,652
Bee A Magician (5tm)	18	10	5	0	980,845
Artspeak (3pc)	17	6	5	1	883,684
State Treasurer (6ph)	19	9	1	5	865,807

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Yannick Gingras	1,995	417-328-272	.346	\$13,317,934 (\$145,725)
David Miller	2,481	366-355-354	.275	12,189,373 (144,585)
Tim Tetrick	2,525	465-361-332	.307	11,995,644 (1,469)
Jason Bartlett	2,618	509-466-362	.339	9,784,728 (34,290)
Corey Callahan	3,248	612-478-468	.318	9,560,933 (147,394)
Brian Sears	1,954	374-306-279	.326	9,301,055 (97,600)
George Napolitano Jr.	3,093	819-550-377	.404	8,435,148 (127,245)
George Brennan	2,443	394-324-308	.277	7,582,014 (54,395)
Daniel Dube	2,352	351-311-268	.261	7,334,471 (61,770)
Brett Miller	2,204	265-307-286	.241	7,256,453 (93,825)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	4,670	950-750-667	.340	\$24,560,342 (\$218,271)
Jimmy Taktar	776	182-146-103	.383	12,927,917 (3,500)
Rene Allard	1,654	425-270-218	.392	6,104,132 (68,830)
Tony Alagna	667	140-100-86	.336	4,644,740 (880)
Jeffrey Bamond Jr.	827	135-130-137	.306	4,605,604 (35,625)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	1,756	323-282-217	.314	4,280,399 (87,287)
Julie Miller	729	120-128-103	.309	3,675,271 (26,710)
Ake Svanstedt	511	100-71-53	.307	3,486,985 (8,272)
Brian Brown	591	142-92-84	.374	3,427,741 (0)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	1,324	303-182-166	.347	3,237,015 (22,556)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc	1,063	736	2,376	\$29,458,971
Winbak Farm	1,009	667	2,217	18,477,260
Brittany Farms	288	206	771	11,859,669
Perretti Farms	299	206	732	7,543,903
White Birch Farm	154	115	361	5,860,279
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	136	90	268	5,805,762
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	245	164	538	5,241,586
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc	198	139	449	5,125,997
Steve Stewart	141	97	286	4,419,593
Frederick Hertrich III	156	119	349	4,283,627

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Dec. 2-8 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	69	22-11-6
Dave Palone	50	15-10-5
Corey Callahan	91	14-13-13
George Napolitano Jr.	50	14-6-4
Jason Merriman	70	12-6-11
Aaron Merriman	85	11-21-17
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	65	11-9-11
Yannick Gingras	68	11-15-11
Allan Davis	65	10-10-6
David Miller	78	10-11-7
Jim Pantaleano	41	10-4-7
Sylvain Filion	35	10-4-6
Alfred Carroll	41	9-10-1
Bob McClure	47	9-7-9
Jonathan Roberts	37	9-4-2
Mark Beckwith	30	9-4-2

Trainers Wins

Ron Burke	20
C. Brian Loney	10
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	8
Melissa Beckwith	7
Rene Allard	7
Richard Moreau	7
James Clouser Jr.	6
Sam Schillaci	6
Bruce Aldrich	5
Jackie Rousse	5
Scott Di Domenico	5
Carmen Auciello	4
Douglas Lewis	4
Gene Vallandingham	4
James Kennedy	4
Jim Graham	4
Kimberly Asher	4
Pat Lachance	4
Patrick Shepherd	4
Paul Corey	4
Robert Lounsbury	4
Russell Bratt	4
Sam Coven	4
Trent Stohler	4
Tyler Stillings	4
Virgil Morgan Jr.	4