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Sophs To Slug It Out In Boxing Day Finals At Woodbine

Saturday's Boxing Day 13-race program at Woodbine gets underway at 1 p.m., with the \$34,600 Valedictory Series final and the \$33,400 Niagara Series finals the highlights of the holiday card.

Race 3 is the Valedictory final, which pits eight 3-year-old male pacers including Mohawk Warrior and Cajon Lightning, a pair of relatively new Richard Moreau trainees who appear on paper tough to topple. Moreau has a third entry in Rockinonby, who finished third in both Valedictory prelims. Moreau also just began training Rockinonby after being sent the gelding by his Indiana-based owners that include veteran horseman Ernie Gaskin.

Mohawk Warrior, who is riding a four-race win streak, including back-to-back efforts in the opening two rounds of the Valedictory Series, starts from post 1 while Cajon Lightning, who won a second division in leg one and then was second to Mohawk Warrior last time out, will start from post 2.

Mohawk Warrior is a son of Rocknroll Hanover out of the Allamerican Native mare A And G's Confusion, who won the 2008 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Pace. Sylvain Filion, the leading dash-winning driver in Canada this year and a finalist for the O'Brien Award as the country's Driver of the Year, will be in the sulky.

Mohawk Warrior raced earlier this year in several open stakes, including the \$150,000 American National at Balmoral Park, where he finished third behind Freaky Feet Pete and Lost For Words, and a Circle City split at Hoosier Park, where he was second to the 2015 Horse of the Year Wiggle It Jiggleit.

Mohawk Warrior was purchased privately by Brad Grant after his Am-Nat third-place effort. Sent then to Moreau, Mohawk Warrior is perfect in four starts.

Cajon Lightning moved to Moreau's barn after capturing his opening leg of the Autumn Series at Woodbine in mid-November. Under his new ownership group of Ken Wood, William Dittmar Jr., Stephen laquinta and Minisink Farms, Cajon Lightning finished his sweep of the Autumn Series, including the \$38,000 final.

After capturing his division of the opening leg of the Valedictory, Cajon Lightning came up against his stablemate Mohawk Warrior in round two and had to settle for second. Jonathan Drury picked up the drive for that contest and he remains in the sulky for Saturday's final.

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The Niagara Series for 3-year-old filly pacers has gone in single heats the first two weeks, with Wanda Bayama capturing both. Trained by Stephane Larocque and driven by Filion, Wanda Bayama was a 6-1 winner in round one when she scored a career-best 1:52.4, and a 6-5 winner in round two.

Wanda Bayama starts from post 2, with the 10-horse field including Much Adoo, who was second in both Niagara preliminaries and was the beaten favorite in the opening leg. Chris Christoforou has been named to drive from post 7.—*By Gordon Waterstone*

Open Trot, Progressive Final Top Dec. 26 Race Cards

Five racetracks in the U.S. will be open for live racing on Saturday, Dec. 26, in three different time zones. The Meadowlands (6:35 p.m. post), Northfield Park (6:00 p.m.) and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton (6:35 p.m.) will kick things off in the Eastern time zone, followed by Balmoral Park (7:10 p.m.) in the Central time zone, and then Cal Expo (6:15 p.m.) in the Pacific time zone.

The Meadowlands moved up its post time 30 minutes to accommodate an overflow 15-race card. The races are also overflowing as 14 will have 11-horse fields (10 on the gate and one trailer), with the other a full field of 10.

The featured event on the card is the \$25,000 Open Trot, scheduled as Race 9. Eleven will go to the post, but

“The series has certainly attracted great interest from our horsemen and fans.”

–Dave Bianconi about Northfield’s Progress Claiming Series

the field won’t include Waiting On A Woman and Opulent Yankee, who were respectively the one-two finishers in last weekend’s top trot. The field won’t also include It Really Matters

and Lindy’s Tru Grit, who respectively finished one-two in last weekend’s Open 2 Trot.

The field does include Stirling Cadet, who was third in the Dec. 18 Open Trot behind Waiting On A Woman, who starts from post 3 with driver Jeff Gregory, and Detroit Rapper, who was third—by just a nose—last time out in the Open 2. Detroit Rapper will start from post 1 with Jim Marohn Jr. driving for trainer Rob Harmon.

Hyway Marcus, who was second in the Open 2 Trot on Dec. 11 at the Meadowlands but sat last week out, returns and will start from post 5 with Joe Bongiorno driving for trainer Ron Burke.

Two horses are coming into the race off victories. Starting from the outside post 10 is Upfront Billy, who jumps up in class after a 1:54.4 victory last time out on Dec. 18 at the Meadowlands in a \$12,000 conditioned event. Tweet Me, who will start from the trailing 11 post with Pat Lachance, was a 12-1 upset winner last time out on Dec. 13 in the \$36,800 Preferred Trot at Yonkers Raceway.

Northfield Park also has a \$25,000 contest on Saturday night in the final of the Progressive Series for fillies and mares entered as \$15,000 claimers. Also on tap on the 15-race card at Northfield is the \$20,000 Progressive final for fillies and mares (\$8,000 claimers) and the \$12,500 Progressive final for fillies and mares (\$5,000 claimers).

“This is the second year we’ve done the series, which continues over the next few race cards as well for other divisions,” said Northfield Park executive vice president of racing Dave Bianconi. “We’ve had several claims through all the four-week series and it’s made for great racing. The series has certainly attracted great interest from our horsemen and fans.”



**FREE
Program
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THIS WEEK’S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Saturday, December 26

1:40p	Wdb3	Valedictory 3CP final	Trackmaster PPs
3:40p	Wdb9	Niagara 3FP final	Trackmaster PPs
8:20p	Nfld8	Progressive Pace final	Trackmaster PPs
9:15p	M9	Open Trot	Trackmaster PPs
9:20p	Nfld11	Progressive Pace final	Trackmaster PPs

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Race 11 is the top Progressive final, with Nutmegs Yankee the 7-5 morning-line favorite. The 7-year-old daughter of Real Desire was claimed out of leg 2 on Dec. 11 by owner Mark Jakubik and trainer Justin Lloyd, where she finished third. The new connections opted to not race Nutmegs Yankee in leg 3 and instead were rewarded when she captured an \$8,000 conditioned event in 1:54.2. Nutmegs Yankee returns for the rich final and will start from post 5 with the track’s leading driver, Ronnie Wrenn Jr., in the sulky.

Aaron Merriman, who has locked up the 2015 North American dash title, will be behind the 4-1 second choice Lady Ashlyn, who starts from post 1. The 8-year-old daughter of Dawn Ofa New Day was second in the first two series preliminaries and then last time out was taken out of contention when she was interfered with at the three-quarters.

Arthur Blue Chip Getting Back To Winning Ways At Pompano

Arthur Blue Chip picked up his fourth victory of the season on Sunday night, Dec. 20, at Pompano Park when he won the \$11,500 Open Handicap Pace. The race was the 14th start for "Arthur" this year. Due to injuries, he was off his entire 3-year-old season and didn't make his first start until Aug. 29.

Arthur Blue Chip went a very game first-over journey to post a new lifetime mark of 1:50.1 with Wally Hennessey handling the lines for trainer Dr. Ian Moore, who co-owns with Serge Savard and the R G McGroup Ltd.

"The current plan is to race him every couple of weeks at Pompano. I didn't want to stop with him right now because he had been off so long and had lost muscle," said Dr. Moore. "Then in February they have a series at Pompano and we'll go in that. Then after that, if all goes well, he'll get a little break before he starts racing at Mohawk and we'll see how he is."

A 4-year-old stallion by Shadow Play, Arthur Blue Chip was the kind of fast 2 year old who gets a horseman's heart pumping. He won six of 11 starts at age two and finished second in the Governor's Cup in his last race as a freshman, on Nov. 30. But the colt's headstrong nature, which was partly manifested by kicking the walls of the stall, resulted in a broken bone that required time off. Then other ailments surfaced.

"He incurred more than one injury over the last two years," said Dr. Moore. "Now, he seems to have really matured mentally from when he was a 2 year old. He seems to be a different horse. The biggest change has been in the past three to four months, since Tami Sepper has been his caretaker. She had been working for Richard Moreau but was laid off. He's really taken to her. Before Tami was with him, it took two men to walk him into the paddock."

In the race at Pompano Sunday night, at the outset the trio of Alexa's Jackpot, Cadillac Phil and Arthur Blue Chip were all vying for the lead with Next Thing Smoke'n also in the mix with Hennessey deciding to stay out of the early war and find a spot in fourth ahead of Bluehourpower. With Alexa's Jackpot and Cadillac Phil trading punches early, it was the former leading at the :26.3 quarter for a few strides before Cadillac Phil took over, only to relinquish the lead again to Alexa's Jackpot past the half in :54.2.

Once the dust settled there, Arthur Blue Chip left his cozy pocket in fourth and trudged up first-over, reaching the saddle pad of the leader past three quarters in 1:22.2. From there, Arthur Blue Chip forged to the front and easily held off Bluehourpower, in turn, a neck better than Alexa's Jackpot and a neck and a nose better than Cadillac Phil.

In his previous start at Pompano, Arthur Blue Chip had broken stride, so the victory was redemption, but also proved that it was only the track surface that had bothered him in that race, not the bit of tendonitis in a front leg.

"The first time at Pompano he just didn't get over the track. He needed more grab," revealed Dr. Moore, who added that Arthur threw a shoe at the three-quarter pole in



Arthur Blue Chip

the Dec. 20 race. "So we added that and I took his hobbles up an inch, from 62 to 63 (inches)."

It's obviously too early to tell if Arthur Blue Chip will be able to tangle with Dr. Moore's Dan Patch champion older pacer State Treasurer in 2016.

State Treasurer is also in Florida at Dr. Moore's headquarters at Southern Oaks in central Florida. He gets turned out three to four hours every day in a paddock.

"The only jogging he really does is when we take him to the field and tow him with a golf cart," said Dr. Moore. "I'm not planning on starting to get him ready until February. He gets into shape pretty quickly, and that's what I did last year." —By Kathy Parker



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It Was 20 Years Ago Today...

It was 20 years ago today that Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play. It was also 20 years ago this week that the 3-year-old colt pacer Jenna's Beach Boy was the star of opening night at the Meadowlands, easily capturing the \$100,000 Rambling Willie Invitational.

On a brisk 29-degree night on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1995, the Bill Fahy-driven Jenna's Beach Boy led at every call—:26.3, :56.3 and 1:25.2—before crossing the finish line 2 1/2 lengths ahead of runner-up Ball And Chain in

1:52 28/100ths. Yes, that time is correct as the Meadowlands experimented that race meet with timing races in 100ths of a second. Today that mile is simply 1:52.1.

The win was Jenna's Beach Boy's 14th in 16 starts and came a few weeks prior to him being voted divisional honors as well as Pacer of the Year. As impressive as the effort was, because the Invitational came 23 days after his previous start—a win in Windsor Raceway's Provincial Cup—there was some pre-race concern by trainer Joe Holloway.

"We couldn't train (at White Birch Farm) so we had to ship to the Meadowlands in a snowstorm,"



New Image Media Photo

"He didn't just win, he won pretty easy."

—trainer Joe Holloway about Jenna's Beach Boy's win at the Meadowlands on Dec. 26, 1995

Holloway remembered of Jenna's limited training schedule prior to the race due to continued poor weather. "And he was racing older horses, which is always tough. But he raced really good that night. He didn't just win, he won pretty easy."

Jenna's Beach Boy's sophomore season also included a Breeders Crown victory in early November at Woodbine. He finished his year with \$1,031,793 in earnings for owners Lee and Linda DeVisser, who were later voted the 2015 Owners of the Year.

The son of Beach Towel was named on 196 of 230 ballots for 3-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year, far ahead of David's Pass (26 votes) and Village Connection (8 votes). In Pacer of the Year voting, Jenna received 168 votes, outdistancing Pacific Rocket (15 1/2 votes), David's Pass (15 votes) and Ellamony (13 votes). In Horse of the Year balloting, Jenna's Beach Boy received 81 1/2 votes as runner-up to the 3-year-old filly trotter CR Kay Suzie, who received 119 1/2 votes.

Jenna raced one more year in 1996 as a 4 year old, finishing his career with 30 wins in 42 starts, a mark of 1:47.3 taken at four at the Meadowlands, and earnings of \$1,972,172. After a stallion career mostly at Peninsula Farm in Kentucky, Jenna's Beach Boy was euthanized earlier this

month on Dec. 4, after being diagnosed with testicular cancer in early 2015.

"Some of the things he did were pretty amazing," said Holloway, who was voted the 1995 Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year Award. "The first horse to race in 1:49 on all-sized tracks. He didn't just break world records, he shattered them. What he accomplished on the racetrack was pretty special."

The Dec. 27 issue of The Horseman reported that there was an on-track crowd of 10,537 for the Big M's Opening Night 12-race program. The on-track betting was \$1,684,282 for a total handle of \$2,790,545.—By Gordon Waterstone

OTHER CHRISTMAS WEEK 1985 RACE HAPPENINGS

Drivers at Balmoral and Maywood Park went on strike from Dec. 21 through Dec. 26 when the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association (IHHA) voted to discontinue the policy of guaranteed payments to drivers, who had been receiving a guarantee of \$25 for each drive. The drivers went on strike because of the proposed change that would discontinue the guarantees and to pay both drivers and trainers—who had not been guaranteed any monies—five percent of the purse. The IHHA offered a counter proposal to the drivers of six percent, but that was turned down. The drivers returned to work on Dec. 26 and the new policy went into effect on Jan. 1, 1996.

There were several changes made for the 1995-96 Meadowlands meet. Tad Stockman was named presiding judge, filling the post that had been held by Hugh Gallagher, who accepted the position of director of racing at Rosecroft Raceway. Assistant general manager Chris McErlean added overseeing the publicity department to his responsibilities. Also, Carol Hodes was named the daytime manager of the public relations department and Anne Doolin was named the night manager.

Keystone Endeavor and driver Joe Ferrignia won the \$18,000 Open Pace on Dec. 23 at Yonkers in 1:55.1. Despite being assigned the outside post 8, No Manners and driver Wally Hennessey won the \$10,000 Invitational Pace at Pompano Park in 1:55.1. SJ's Photo and driver David Wade won the Dec. 26 Premio Gaetano Turilli at the Tor di Valley track in Rome, Italy, in a mile rate of 2:00.1 for the 2,100 meter distance. With Dave Palone in the sulky, Camourous posted her 22nd win of the year by capturing the \$10,000 Preferred Pace for fillies and mares on Dec. 22 at The Meadows. She became the first mare to put together back-to-back 20-win seasons since Tarport Hap in 1975 and '76. Billy Parker Jr. won six races at Monticello Raceway on Dec. 23, increasing his track-record seasonal total to 522 victories. Slot machines at Dover Downs became a reality on Dec. 29 when the Delaware racetrack opened its gaming parlor with 500 machines.

Racing On Christmas? Yes, At Pompano In 1970s

Racing on Christmas? Bah, humbug! But hold your horses! Back in the 1970s, Pompano Park, owned and operated by Fred Van Lennep, raced for several years on Christmas Day.

Roger Huston was the announcer and he had to be reminded that the track was open and that crowds of 4,000-5,000 attended the night-time racing programs.

"I think it was Hector Van Lennep who started the tradition, feeling that people would be tired of spending all day at home and needed some night-time entertainment," Huston recalled. "I think the attendance was very good on those nights in the early '70s.

"My fondest recollection was of Mr. and Mrs. Van Lennep dancing at The Top of The Park after the races," Huston added. "They always started the party off after the races. It was a beautiful scene in those days as we certainly had a lot of Pompano Pink color."

The Christmas programs, all in the evening, also were well supported by the horsemen, and Florida Breeders Stakes were scheduled. On Dec. 25, 1971, the Castleton-owned Great Love won a Florida Breeders Stakes with Castleton trainer Glen Garnsey driving, with Bill Popfinger second with Rely On Me. On Christmas night in 1978, Carl Allen drove his 2-year-old trotting filly Laurna Jean to a victory in a Florida

Breeders Stakes in front of a crowd of 5,801. Laurna Jean went on to produce Country Janine, the dam of Kentucky Futurity winner CRTrack Master.

On Christmas evening in 1975, Walter Paisley made the trek to Florida from his home in Illinois to try to pick up some wins in his attempt to win the dash championship from his fellow Illinois rival Daryl Busse. Paisley, 34, had seven drives on the warm but windy night and won one, but by the end of the year he was two shy of Busse's 360 wins. (Busse won four of 10 races at Aurora Downs on Dec. 31 while Paisley was shut out.)

While Pompano raced on Christmas Day, the track was closed on Christmas Eve and on New Year's Eve during those years. The last Christmas racing program was held at Pompano in 1978. Calder Race Course, a Thoroughbred track in South Florida, held Christmas programs for many years as well. This year there will be no live racing in North America on Dec. 25, although many tracks will be in action Saturday, Dec. 26, including Woodbine and the Meadowlands.

Chris Gooden Photo



"My fondest recollection was of Mr. and Mrs. Van Lennep dancing at The Top of The Park after the races."

—Roger Huston



Michael Lisa/Last Photo

Grace Cashman Makes Another Meadowlands Appearance

Grace Cashman, the granddaughter of the late John Cashman Jr. and Nancy Cashman, sang the National Anthem before the beginning of the Dec. 20 New York Giants football game at MetLife Stadium at the Meadowlands Sports Complex. Grace performed the National Anthem before the Hambletonian card at the Meadowlands in 2014. Michael Lisa, track photographer at the Meadowlands, also shoots at Giants home games and shared these photos in a collage for harness racing fans. Grace is the daughter of John and Nancy's son Brian and is a junior at St. Luke's School in New Canaan, Ct. On Hambletonian Day in 2011, Grace and her brother,

Teddy, accompanied their father to the Meadowlands to visit with their grandparents.



PA Bill Will Change Commission Structure

Pennsylvania House Bill 941 has been approved by the House of Representatives, and if it passes the Senate and is signed by Gov. Tom Wolf, the state will finally have a single horse racing commission.

However, the new Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission will be different than most others because the members of the commission will, by law, come from both breeds and also include legislators, a representative of the Department of Agriculture, and a veterinarian.

Per House Bill 941, a commission within the Department of Agriculture will be created to “independently regulate the operations of horse racing, the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering and the promotion and marketing of horse racing....”

The commission will be comprised as follows:

Four members appointed by the Governor—one individual representing the thoroughbred horsemen’s organizations in this Commonwealth (of Pennsylvania), selected from a list of at least 10 qualified individuals submitted by the thoroughbred horsemen’s organizations; one individual representing a thoroughbred breeder organization selected from a list of at least 10 qualified individuals submitted by a thoroughbred breeder organization; one individual representing the Standardbred horsemen’s organizations, selected from a list of at least 10 qualified individuals submitted by the Standardbred horsemen’s organizations; one individual representing a Standardbred breeder organization, selected from a list of at least 10 qualified individuals submitted by a Standardbred breeder organization;

One member appointed by each of the following, none of whom shall be a member of a horsemen’s organization or breeder organization: The President pro tempore of the Senate; the Minority Leader of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

The Secretary of Agriculture or the secretary’s designee, who shall be a nonvoting ex officio member;

One individual who is a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine in this Commonwealth, who shall not be a member of a horsemen’s organization or breeder organization, appointed by the Governor.

Within the commission, the day-to-day mechanics of regulating horse racing will fall to the Office of Horse Racing, with a bureau for both Thoroughbred horse racing and Standardbred horse racing. Each bureau will have a director which HB 941 states “shall not be supervised by the Department of Agriculture. The commission shall assign the directors duties and responsibilities as required to fulfill the commission’s obligations under this ARTICLE or any other act. The commission may, by order, delegate duties and responsibilities to the bureau director as the commission determines necessary to discharge the day-to-day licensing, enforcement and administrative operations of the commission.”



Santa Makes Appearance At The Meadows

Santa Claus drove himself to the party (in a jog cart of course) and the Washington County Food Bank benefited from an evening of harness racing at The Meadows on Friday night, Dec. 18. As the photos show, snow made an appearance in the area that night as well, making travel especially easy for Santa’s sleigh.

The Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) hosted the event, which helped to raise money and awareness for the local food bank.

“This was our first time working with the Washington Food Bank, and it’s a relationship we will definitely continue,” said MSOA president Rich Gillock. “It was a great night of racing and we are pleased that we could partner with them to help families in our area.”

HB 941 also addresses funding for the regulation of horse racing, which caused the threat of a shutdown of racing from the Department of Agriculture just prior to this year’s Standardbred Horse Sale auction in Harrisburg.

HB 941 states that, beginning July 1, 2016—the beginning of the next fiscal year for the commonwealth, funding for the regulation of horse racing will be appropriated from the State Racing Fund, the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund (which is the depository for receipts from expanded gaming), and the General Fund. In addition, beginning July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, “1% of the previous fiscal year’s deposits into the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund shall be transferred from the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund to the State Racing Fund to provide for the promotion of horse racing.”

Hanover Shoe Farms president and CEO Jim Simpson, who has been involved in meetings to solve issues with funding the regulation of horse racing in the state, said he believes the new framework for regulation is fine.

“I’m enthused about it. The Department of Agriculture has been trying to consolidate the commissions for a decade or longer, but this seems like a good solution,” said Simpson.

Also of note, HB 941 calls on the Gaming Control board to explore and submit a report on the potential of fantasy sports as a gambling product in Pennsylvania.

New Tax Bill Has Important Provisions For Horse Industry

In what might be seen as a thaw in Congressional relations, a bi-partisan tax bill, with multiple provisions favorable to the horse industry, has now been passed by Congress. Although the bill has now touched down safely, there were a few gusts and swells that threatened its passage right up to the end. President Obama has signaled he will sign it shortly.

The \$622 billion bill extends or reinstates multiple tax provisions that have been raised, lowered, or allowed to expire over the last decade. Some have now been made permanent in the new bill; others extended for one or two years; but all are retroactive to January 1, 2015 so horse owners and industry stakeholders can take advantage of them for this year.

The bill, called the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, includes several provisions important to the horse industry and championed by the American Horse Council for some time. These benefits include making all race horses depreciable over three years; the ability to immediately expense or write-off up to \$500,000 in depreciable business property; and bonus depreciation, which allows the deduction of 50% of the cost of new property purchased and placed in service. All of these provisions apply to horses and other assets used in a horse business.

The bill reinstates the 3-year-depreciation schedule for all race horses for all of 2015 and 2016. "This means that if an owner has begun training or racing a horse this year, or will begin training or racing it next year, the three-year depreciation schedule will apply. Owners and trainers don't have to get involved in deciding when to begin training the horse to qualify for the 3-year period, rather than 7 year; it is automatic for all race horses placed in service in 2015 and 2016. The provision allows horse owners to begin training their race horses when they think best and take advantage of the shorter three-year period," noted American Horse Council president Jay Hickey. "Most horses race over three years, not seven, so this is really a fairer schedule."

The bill also raises the so-called Section 179 business expense deduction back to \$500,000 and makes it permanent, effective January 1, 2015. It had reverted to \$25,000 for 2015. This change will allow anyone in the horse business to immediately depreciate up to \$500,000 of the

cost of any investment in industry assets, including horses, fences, equipment, tack, trucks, etc., purchased and placed in service in 2015 and 2016. The deduction is still reduced dollar-for-dollar once investments in all one's business activities hit \$2 million.

"The 179 expense deduction is a real stimulus to the \$102 billion horse industry and will support thousands of jobs," said Hickey. "And it applies to all depreciable assets used in the horse business, including horses, be they yearlings, race or show horses, mares, stallions, or breeding shares."

The bill restores bonus depreciation for qualifying new property, including assets used in the horse business, such as yearlings and other equipment, purchased and placed in service during 2015 through 2019. It had expired for 2015, but is now restored to 50 percent for business property placed in service during 2015, 2016 and 2017. It then phases down to 40 percent in 2018, and 30 percent in 2019. The first use of the horse or equipment must begin with the taxpayer. Yearlings are eligible for bonus depreciation and new equipment, but not horses like mares or stallions that have raced, shown, or been bred, since they have already been used.

The extender bill would also restore and make permanent favorable tax treatment for land donated for conservation purposes, particularly land donated by farmers and ranchers.

"The AHC has been working to have all these provisions increased or reinstated and is pleased they have been acted upon. They have been made retroactive to cover all of 2015. "We had hoped these provisions would have been extended earlier in the year. This would have made planning and decisions to invest in the horse business easier. Congress apparently follows the 'better late than never schedule,'" said Hickey. (*American Horse Council*)

Tax Bill benefits include:

- **Making all race horses depreciable over three years;**
- **The ability to immediately expense or write-off up to \$500,000 in depreciable business property, such as horses, fences, equipment, tack, trucks, etc., purchased and placed in service in 2015 and 2016;**
- **Bonus depreciation, which allows the deduction of 50% of the cost of new property purchased and placed in service.**



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USHWA Announces Award Winners

The U.S. Harness Writers Association has announced its 2015 award recipients, all of whom will be recognized during the annual Dan Patch Awards banquet scheduled for Sunday, March 6, 2016, at the Hyatt Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Bergstein Proximity	James W. Simpson
Trainer	Jimmy Takter
Driver	David Miller
Owner	George Teague Jr.
Rising Star	Montrell Teague
Breakthrough	Gabe Prewitt
Good Guy	Jo Ann Looney-King
Unsung Hero	Joanne Young
Breeder	Hanover Shoe Farms
Trotting Broodmare	Margie Seelster
Pacing Broodmare	Mozzi Hanover

Information on tickets and accommodations for the event can be found at <http://www.ushwa.org/>.

Canada Announces O'Brien Finalists

Standardbred Canada has announced the finalists for the 2015 O'Brien Awards, which honor Canada's best in harness racing over the past season. The winners will be announced at the annual O'Brien Awards Black Tie Gala on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016, at the Hilton Mississauga/ Meadowvale hotel in Mississauga, Ont. One of the 24 horse finalists will be named Horse of the Year.

CATEGORY	FINALISTS
2FP	LA Delight & Twin B Thong
2CP	Betting Line & Control The Moment
3FP	Solar Sister & Wrangler Magic
3CP	Artspeak & Wakizashi Hanover
OMP	Lady Shadow & Venus Delight
OHP	All Bets Off & State Treasurer
2FT	All The Time & Caprice Hill
2CT	Southwind Frank & Tony Soprano
3FT	Mission Brief & Wild Honey
3CT	Pinkman & The Bank
OMT	Bee A Magician & Shake It Cerry
OHT	Daylon Magician & Resolve
Driver	Sylvain Fillion & Randy Waples
Trainer	Richard Moreau & Jimmy Takter
Horsemanship	Travis Cullen & Dr. Ian Moore
Breeder	William Andrew/Meridian Farms & Marvin Katz/Al Libfeld
Future Star	Ron Adams & Clarke Steacy

Mission Brief NJ Standardbred Of Year

The 3-year-old trotting filly Mission Brief has been named the winner of the Secretary of Agriculture's Trophy as New Jersey Standardbred of the Year for 2015. Also selected New Jersey Sires Stakes Horse of the Year, Mission Brief will be honored on Jan. 24, 2016 at the 59th annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at 1 p.m. at O'Connor's Restaurant (formerly Charley's Other Brother) in Eastampton, N.J.

Voted the nation's 2-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year in 2014, she also won the Dan Patch Award as 3-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year in 2015.

The daughter of Muscle Hill-Southwind Serena wrapped up her 3-year-old campaign with 10 wins and three seconds in 14 starts, banking more than \$1 million toward a career total of \$1,599,587 for the ownership of the Burke Racing Stable, Our Horse Cents Stables, J&T Silva Stables and Weaver BrusceMI LLC. The Ron Burke trainee was regularly driven by Yannick Gingras.

Undefeated in her New Jersey Sires Stakes competition, including the \$100,000 final at the Meadowlands, she also won the \$307,040 Elegant Image at Mohawk Raceway, the \$185,000 Zweig at Vernon Downs, the \$187,400 Matron at Dover Downs, the \$144,000 Continental victory at the Meadowlands and the \$174,000 Moni Maker at The Meadows.

She made a bid to best the boys in the \$1 million Hambletonian at the Meadowlands, winning her elimination, but finishing second to Pinkman in the \$1 million final on Aug. 8.

Bred by Steve Stewart, Black Creek Farm and Andrea Lea Racing Stables Inc., she sold for \$150,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale. (SBOANJ)

TwinSpires Barred In Virginia

TwinSpires, one of three Advance Deposit Wagering companies licensed to accept on line horse racing wagers in Virginia, is no longer able to do so.

At its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 16, the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) set a deadline of 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, for TwinSpires to pay an outstanding total of \$688,000 owed under state law to various groups, including the Virginia Equine Alliance, the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, the Virginia Harness Horsemen's Association, and the state Breeders Fund, among others. If TwinSpires did not come into full compliance by that date and time, its license in the Commonwealth to accept wagers from Virginians would be suspended immediately and not renewed for 2016.

On Friday, TwinSpires advised the VRC in writing that it would not comply with the Commission's order. Shortly afterwards the Commission issued a formal written order stating TwinSpires license "is hereby suspended, effective immediately . . . (and it) shall take all appropriate steps to notify its customers . . . and provide (them) the ability to retrieve any funds held on deposit." (Virginia Equine Alliance)

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 21, 2015 (week difference Dec. 16-21).

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	2,100	433-353-285	.345	\$13,552,083 (\$34,070)
David Miller	2,568	384-367-368	.277	12,362,591 (43,935)
Tim Tetrick	2,525	465-362-331	.308	11,997,334 (0)
Jason Bartlett	2,653	514-468-364	.337	9,837,631 (0)
Corey Callahan	3,393	627-492-487	.313	9,731,775 (69,302)
Brian Sears	1,975	376-314-281	.326	9,359,345 (0)
George Napolitano Jr.	3,145	832-559-382	.404	8,567,733 (0)
George Brennan	2,467	399-325-309	.277	7,634,454 (0)
Brett Miller	2,322	274-321-309	.239	7,394,839 (37,445)
Daniel Dube	2,396	355-313-277	.259	7,394,260 (0)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	4,787	977-767-684	.341	\$24,866,633 (\$63,801)
Jimmy Taktar	783	183-147-104	.382	12,945,377 (3,000)
Rene Allard	1,676	433-275-219	.393	6,177,017 (0)
Tony Alagna	670	141-100-86	.336	4,655,620 (2,000)
Jeff Bamond Jr.	847	137-134-137	.304	4,641,221 (0)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	1,788	334-290-218	.318	4,378,254 (0)
Julie Miller	746	122-134-105	.310	3,719,911 (23,070)
Ake Svanstedt	519	102-72-53	.308	3,501,485 (5,500)
Brian Brown	591	142-92-84	.374	3,427,741 (0)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	1,366	309-187-173	.344	3,277,800 (25,965)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	1,066	742	2,440	\$29,962,473
Winbak Farm	1,011	676	2,270	18,818,652
Brittany Farms	288	206	785	11,995,856
Perretti Farms	299	207	749	7,707,841
White Birch Farm	155	116	373	5,936,885
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	137	90	275	5,849,849
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	246	165	548	5,320,319
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	200	140	459	5,213,683
Steve Stewart	141	99	292	4,476,118
Frederick Hertrich III	156	120	356	4,350,898

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Dec. 16-21 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

Starts

W-P-S

Aaron Merriman	68	14-11-7
Josh Sutton	43	14-7-4
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	56	14-10-12
James MacDonald	41	9-3-4
Corey Callahan	52	8-3-5
Dan Noble	47	8-2-7
Dave Palone	39	8-7-5
Scott Coulter	37	8-4-5
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	26	7-4-2
Chris Page	48	7-7-3
Jim Pantaleano	38	7-5-3
Kurt Sugg	23	7-2-3
Paul MacKenzie	33	7-3-4
Tony Hall	38	7-4-5
Anthony Napolitano	23	6-2-2
Bob McClure	47	6-13-7
Jason Thompson	44	6-10-3
Jonathan Drury	29	6-5-2
Steve Wiseman	20	6-1-3
Sylvain Filion	38	6-1-4

Trainers

Wins

Steve Wiseman	6
Carmen Auciello	5
Ron Burke	5
Mark Ford	4
Randy Bendis	4
Robert Lounsbury	4
Victor Puddy	4
Virgil Morgan Jr.	4
Brett Wilfong	3
C. Brian Loney	3
Colin Johnson	3
Dean Nixon	3
Frederick Ward Jr.	3
Gerald Lee Jr.	3
James Ellison	3
John Kina	3
Luke Plano	3
Richard Moreau	3
Steven Ray	3

JANUARY 2016



sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

					1	2
					New Year's Day	
3	4	5	6 The Horseman	7	8	9
				Blizzard 3&4YO FM Pace (Wdb)	Snowshoe 3&4YO Pace (Wdb)	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Lifetime Dream Mare Trot (Wdb)			Blizzard 3&4YO FM Pace (Wdb)	Snowshoe 3&4YO Pace (Wdb)	Lifetime Dream Mare Trot (Wdb)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Tattersalls Select Mixed Sale at E. Rutherford, N.J.		Suburban Downs Pace (Haw) Whizzer White Pace (Haw)	Dygart Trot (Haw) Fox Valley Flan FM Trot (Haw)	Blizzard Pace final (Wdb) Ohyouprettything FM Pace (Haw) Pretty Direct FM Pace (Haw) Snowshoe Pace final (Wdb)	
24	25	26	27 The Horseman	28	29	30
	Lifetime Dream Mare Trot final (Wdb)		Suburban Downs Pace (Haw) Whizzer White Pace (Haw)	Dygart Trot (Haw) Fox Valley Flan FM Trot (Haw)	Ohyouprettything FM Pace (Haw) Pretty Direct FM Pace (Haw)	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Suburban Downs Pace final (Haw) Whizzer White Pace final (Haw)	Dygart Trot final (Haw) Fox Valley Flan final (Haw) Miss Vera Bars 3YO Filly Pace (Wdb)	Ohyouprettything final (Haw) Ontario Girls 4YOM Pace (Wdb) Pretty Direct final (Haw) The Count B 3YO Trot (Wdb)	Ontario Boys 4YO Pace (Wdb)

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