

Billmar Scooter Riding High For Buters

The 8-year-old pacing mare Billmar Scooter has been in trainer Amber Buter's barn since the beginning of 2011 when her husband, driver Tyler Buter, purchased an interest in the daughter of Keystone Raider. Since that time, Billmar Scooter has scored 27 victories in 94 starts, with earnings of \$564,492 for the Buters and partner Gene Oldford of Oldford Farms.

With career earnings of more than \$700,000, Billmar Scooter is undoubtedly a star on the racetrack, but in the Buter barn she has to take a back seat of sorts to stable stand-

"She's definitely in the shadows of Feeling You, but she'd be a star in a lot of stables."

— Tyler Buter
on Billmar Scooter

out Feeling You, who won the 2013 Blue Chip Matchmaker final last winter at Yonkers Raceway and is on the verge of reaching the \$1-million mark in career earnings for Oldford and the Buters.

"She's definitely in the shadows of Feeling You, but she'd be a star

in a lot of stables, that's for sure," Tyler Buter said of Billmar Scooter. "She's a tough racehorse."

Billmar Scooter will get one more chance to add to her 2013 resume when she lines up behind the gate in post 3 in Race 8 on Friday at the Meadowlands, a B-1 race for fillies and mares. With the Buters in Michigan for the holidays visiting Tyler's parents, Todd and Lynette, Corey Callahan will get the drive.

Although Billmar Scooter has 189 career starts under her belt, this will be just her sixth appearance at the Big M. After four off-the-board finishes, she scored a 1:52 victory on Nov. 29 in a similar conditioned event. Billmar Scooter has started primarily at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and Yonkers for the Buters, where she has posted 17 and eight of her victories, respectively. Her other win for the barn came last August at Vernon Downs.

"She's really versatile," said Buter. "She can race on any size track; if there was a quarter-mile track, she'd get around it. She'll race wherever you put her."

"Over the last two years I bet she hasn't had more than \$100 in vet work. She is just really, really low maintenance. She's a perfect horse to be around; you couldn't ask for a better horse."

Billmar Scooter has 41 career victories, with her biggest paydays coming via a pair of wins in \$60,000 opens in 2011 at Pocono.

"She's done it the hard way, that's for sure," said Buter.

Buter said plans call for Billmar Scooter to continue racing when the calendar turns to January, unlike previous campaigns.

"We've been turning her out in the winters and giving her a break, but it had been taking her too long to get back into form," he said. "This year we are going to race her through the winter, maybe every other week, and keep her sharp." — *By Gordon Waterstone*

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Sweet Talkin Satin Joins Burke Brigade

One of the latest acquisitions for the Burke Stable is Sweet Talkin Satin, who will be making his second start in Burke colors on Saturday night at the Meadowlands in Race 6.

Sweet Talkin Satin, a 3-year-old son of the Indiana sire Always A Virgin, finished second in his first start for the Burke Stable, which now shares ownership of the horse with Weaver Brussemi LLC, J & T Silva Stables, and Phillip Collura. He was a



quick leaver for driver Yannick Gingras, firing from post 10 to take the lead in a :26.2 opening panel. Gingras yielded before re-taking command at the :53.4 half. He led the race until just before the wire, when he was edged by Validus Deo, who broke the beam in 1:48.4.

While Time To Quit, another recent Burke acquisition, raised eyebrows by stepping up his game considerably

Continues on page 2 >>>

in his first start for the Burke brigade, Sweet Talkin Satin brought a very respectable resume to his new digs and his first start ever at the Meadowlands couldn't be considered a surprising effort. Earlier this year he finished second in the Battle of the Brandywine consolation and in early summer he was the runner-up to Vegas Vacation in a division of the Somebeachsomewhere at Mohawk, pacing in 1:48.4.

Sweet Talkin Satin was purchased as a yearling by Ontario horseman Jim Ainsworth, who raced him close to home and then sent him to Tom Tetrick, father of drivers Tim and Trace, for Indiana Sires Stakes action this summer. The \$30,000 yearling earned more than \$200,000 for Ainsworth and his partner William Boden in two seasons.

Bred by Mitchel Skolnick's Bluestone Farms, Sweet Talkin Satin also carries plenty of championship blood. He is out of the No Nukes mare Silky Satin, also the dam of Art Director p,3, 1:49.3 (\$1,123,734). Silky Satin's dam is a sister to Miss Elvira, the dam of Artsplace.

Last Weekend To Try Pocket, Tablet Products

Since announcing the upgrade to its Pocket and Tablet Handicapper products with the addition of harness racing, TrackMaster has experienced overwhelming demand. The free race card promotion concludes on Jan. 1, 2014. This free period then includes weekend racing from the Meadowlands, Cal-Expo, Bal-moral Park and all other tracks racing this weekend.

The TrackMaster Pocket and Tablet Handicapper can be downloaded for free at itunes.com and play.google.com. The app includes a demo race card and the ability to download a free race each day. A tutorial especially created for harness racing can be viewed on YouTube.

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WEEKEND FEATURED RACES

Friday, December 27

All times listed are local.

8:51p M6 A-1 F&M Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:11p M7 B-1Trot [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:30p M8 B-1 F&M Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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

Saturday, December 28

10:25p Wdb10 Preferred Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

10:27p M11 A1/FFA Pace [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Joe Thomson Wins Bergstein-Proximity Award

The U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) has released the majority of their 2013 award winners for excellence in the Standardbred industry. All the winners will be honored at USHWA's annual banquet on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014 at Dover Downs

Here is the list of the winners:

- Bergstein-Proximity Achievement—**Joe Thomson**
- Driver—**Tim Tetrick**
- Trainer—**Ron Burke**
- Owners—**Burke Racing Stable & Weaver Bruscelli LLC**
- Rising Star—**Corey Callahan**
- Breakthrough—**Heather Wilder**
- Good Guy—**George Ducharme**
- Unsung Hero—**Sam Landy**
- Breeder—**White Birch Farm**
- Pacing Broodmare—**Worldly Treasure**
- Trotting Broodmare—**Beehive**

I Luv The Nitelife Named N.J. Standardbred Of Year

I Luv The Nitelife, one of the top pacers of the year, has been named 2013 Secretary of Agriculture's Trophy winner as New Jersey Standardbred of the Year as selected by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

I Luv The Nitelife will be among the honorees at the 57th Annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at 1 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2014 in Eastampton Township, N.J.

I Luv The Nitelife, trained by Chris Ryder and driven in most of her starts by Tim Tetrick, is owned by Richard Young and Joanne Young.

In 2013, I Luv The Nitelife compiled a record of 13 wins, one second and one third from 15 starts, banking \$1,253,757. Added to her two-year-old season, she possesses a lifetime record of 17 wins, five seconds and two thirds from 25 starts. Her career earnings sit at \$1,943,287. (*SBOANJ*)

Live Handle Up 28 Percent At Rosecroft

The recently concluded 29-night fall meet at Rosecroft Raceway showed a 28 percent increase in total live handle versus the comparable 2012 meet. A robust export handle, especially on Tuesday evenings, helped fuel the increased wagering figures. Exports were up 39 percent for the fall meet; live on-track handle was down just under three percent.

Another highlight of the fall meet was the strong Maryland racing presence. Over 85 percent of the entrants and purse winnings at Rosecroft were went to horses and horsemen in the Maryland preferred racing program. Two 12-race cards in the fall meet filled exclusively for Maryland preferred horses.

"These positive results are tempered with our disappointment that Rosecroft was not selected as the gaming loca-

tion for Prince George's County," said Chris McElean, vice president of racing for Penn National Gaming, parent company of Rosecroft Raceway. "We have worked closely with the racing industry to bring stability but the gaming decision will certainly have a long term impact for all involved."

Rosecroft has been approved for 54 live racing dates in 2014 starting March 8. (*Rosecroft*)

Vintage Master To Remain In Ontario

Although the original plan had Vintage Master moving to New Jersey for the 2014 breeding season, it has been decided that the world champion racehorse and promising young stallion will remain in Ontario for next year.

According to Brittany Stallion Management, he will continue to stand at Winbak Farm of Canada in Caledon, Ont.

Brittany manager Art Zubrod said he was disappointed that the planned move to New Jersey didn't work out, but was pleased at the demand for Vintage Master that exists in Ontario, where he had stood his first two seasons.

"Obviously, the move to New Jersey just didn't pan out," Zubrod said.

"We went against the grain and tried to support racing and breeding in the state and the new Meadowlands, but the drop-off in demand for New Jersey eligibles, as we saw at the sales last fall, has certainly carried through to the current stallion market." (*Brittany Stallion Management*)

Important Deadlines For PA Breeders

The Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission reminds horsemen that Pennsylvania-sired yearlings must be nominated to the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes, with the first supplemental nominations, for those missing the regular May 15 deadline, requiring postmarking by Dec. 31. Owners who pay after this date will incur a higher fee during the Jan. 1-Mar. 15, 2014 period, and must also make the March 15 two-year-old payment.

Postmark deadlines for early 2014:

Stallions standing in Pennsylvania must have their registration paperwork postmarked by Feb. 1 to be eligible for the Sire Stakes and Harness Breeders Fund programs.

Owners who want their broodmares foaling in 2014 to participate in the State Harness Breeders Fund program must have the proper paperwork postmarked by Feb. 15. These mares, bred to Pennsylvania-registered stallions, must be stabled in Pennsylvania for 180 contiguous days which include foaling in-state.

The first round of Sire Stakes racing eligibility payments must be postmarked by March 15.

For supplementary nomination forms of yearlings contact Jerry Connors gconnors@pa.gov or Pennie Dodson pdodson@pa.gov, or call (717) 787-5539. (*PSRC*)

JANUARY 2014



sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

			1 New Year's Day	2 Super Bowl 3&40T (M)	3	4
5	6	7	8 The Horseman AND FAIR WORLD	9 Super Bowl 3&40T (M)	10	11
12	13 Snowshoe 3&40P (Wdb)	14	15	16 Super Bowl final (M)	17 Blizzard 3&4F&MP (Wdb)	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Snowshoe 3&40P (Wdb) Tattersalls Mixed Sale at E. Rutherford, N.J.	21	22	23	24 Blizzard 3&4F&MP (Wdb)	25
26	27 Snowshoe final (Wdb)	28	29 The Horseman AND FAIR WORLD	30	31 Blizzard final (Wdb)	

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