Photo King Looks For 44th Win Photo

Purchased as a yearling for $33,000 in 2007, Photo King has resided in many barns over the years. This past week the 12-year-old gelding trotter was in the stable of trainer Jeff Bamond Jr. Bamond’s father Jeff, in partnership with Mel Fink, claimed Photo King for $10,000 on Jan. 11 at the Meadowlands (he finished second in that race.) It was the third time in the trotter’s last five starts he had changed hands via the claiming route.

Trainer Bamond entered Photo King back into the same claiming handicap race on Friday night at the Meadowlands, but being the only name dropped into the box for the higher price tag of $12,500, he was assigned post 10 in the $9,450 contest (Race 3). The outside spot doesn’t faze Bamond, who has named Corey Callahan—who was in the sulky for Photo King’s runner-up finish last time out—to drive.

“Purses are pretty good for the lesser classes at the Meadowlands... and I always liked that horse.”
—trainer Jeff Bamond Jr. on claiming Photo King

Bamond said he had no choice but to enter Photo King for the higher claiming price, citing New Jersey law regarding sales tax. In New Jersey, the 6.8 percent sales tax has to be paid the first time a horse is claimed in a calendar year (Jan.-Dec.), so Bamond and Fink had to pay the tax on $10,000. If Photo King is claimed Friday night for $12,500, the new connections would only have to pay tax on the price difference of $2,500.

“I had to put him out there because in New Jersey you have to pay tax on the claim so you have to move up to protect the tax,” Bamond explained. “I was hoping they had a shorter field and if he drew outside it would be the eight hole, but I think Corey will be alright there.”

So what piqued Bamond’s interest in claiming a double-digit-aged trotter?

“Purses are pretty good for the lesser classes at the Meadowlands,” said Bamond, “and I always like that horse. When (trainer) Jay Randall had the horse at Saratoga, I always paid attention. I figured we’d give it a shot.”

Photo King has had a workman-like career. Entering Friday’s race, Photo King has made 272 career starts with 43 wins, 41 seconds, 36 thirds and $418,474 in earnings. He took his mark of 1:53.2f as a 5 year old in 2012 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.
Indiana-Based Haynes Busy At Miami Valley

There are plenty of Hoosier-based horsemen racing at Miami Valley Gaming (MVG), and one of them is Walter Haynes Jr. On Friday night Haynes will start two horses at MVG, including the 5-year-old pacing mare Amazing Arya in the featured $25,000 Open Handicap Pace for fillies and mares.

Amazing Arya, a daughter of Rockin Image, will be starting from post 10—a trailing position.

“It sure is a tough field,” said Haynes, noting the depth of the competition.

All but two of the mares in the 10-horse field competed in last Friday’s Open for fillies and mares. Rock Me Baby won that race by a neck over Allbeastnobeauty, but this week she starts from post 9 (she was among the mares drawing for posts 5-10).

Amazing Arya took a lifetime mark of 1:51.2 last year and has career earnings of $266,914. She made 30 starts in 2018 that race by a neck over Allbeastnobeauty, but this week she lands in November. He banked $233,263 from 22 starts in 2018. Haynes began training the now 7 year old in 2017, following the purchase of the horse by Carsey, McGill and the Black And White Stable of Indiana.

One of the veterans in Haynes’ stable is I Know My Chip, who was stakes-placed in major open trotting events in 2018. Haynes began training the 7-year-old in 2017. He was stakes-placed in major open trotting events in 2018. Haynes began training the now 7 year old in 2017, following the purchase of the horse by Carsey, McGill and the Black And White Stable of Indiana.

“I just brought him in from being turned out last Thursday,” said Haynes on Tuesday, Jan. 15. “He’s been jogging. I think we will be following the same schedule as last year.”

In 2018 I Know My Chip finished second in the Crawford Trot and Cleveland Trotting Classic, fourth in the John Cashman Jr. Memorial on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands, and fifth in the TVG final at the Meadowlands in November. He banked $233,263 from 22 starts in 2018.

“He can be a temperamental horse, but otherwise he’s easy and doesn’t have any issues,” said Haynes. “Sometimes he jogs fast and sometimes he’s like a turtle! But once he’s racing I don’t train him too hard.”

Haynes said he hopes I Know My Chip gets a chance in some of the big races in 2019.

“He’s so good off the gate and gets position, but then on Hambo Day he never got out until it was too late,” recalled Haynes. “He finished behind a wall of horses.”

By Kathy Parker
### Meadowlands

**MEADOWLANDS**

**Winner of Cutler Memorial may receive an invitation to the 2019 Elitlopp**

- $800,000 KINDERGARTEN CLASSIC PACE & TROT
  
  **2019 Kindergarten Finals at the Meadowlands**
  
  - $490,000 GOldsmith Maid
  - $470,000 GOVERNOR’S CUP
  - $400,000 VALLEY VICTORY
  - $400,000 THREE DIAMONDS
  - $350,000 JIM DOHERTY MEMORIAL 2YO FILLY TROT
  - $350,000 PETER HAUGHTON MEMORIAL 2YO COLT TROT

- $650,000 MEADOWLANDS PACE
  - $350,000 STANLEY DANCER MEMORIAL COLT TROT
  - $250,000 DEL MILLER MEMORIAL FILLY TROT
  - $190,000 MISTLETOE SHALEE FILLY PACE

- $1,000,000 TVG FFA CHAMPIONSHIP PACE & TROT with Mare divisions for both

  **3YO**
  - $500,000 GRADUATE 4YO PACE & TROT FINALS with $75,000 legs
  - $475,000 WR HAUGHTON MEMORIAL FFA PACE*
  - $300,000 JOHN CASHMAN MEMORIAL FFA TROT*
  - $260,000 SAM McKEE MEMORIAL FFA PACE*
  - $200,000 LADY LIBERTY FFA MARE PACE*
  - $200,000 GOLDEN GIRLS FFA MARE PACE*
  - $200,000 ARTHUR CUTLER MEMORIAL FFA TROT*
  - $155,000 DR. JOHN R. STEELE FFA MARE TROT*
  - $100,000 MISS VERSATILITY FFA MARE TROTTING SERIES*

**Older Horses**

- $175,000 ARTISCAPE FFA MARE PACE*
- $175,000 JOIE DE VIE (formerly Muscle Hill) FFA MARE TROT*
- $175,000 CRAWFORD FARMS FFA TROT*
- $175,000 ROLL WITH JOE FFA PACE*

*denotes leg of TVG championship series

Calendar listing all Meadowlands stakes dates available at playmeadowlands.com/horsemen

### Tioga + Vernon Downs

**TIOGA + VERNON DOWNS**

**Events Close Mar 15, 2019**

**NY Sired**

- $1,000,000 EMPIRE BREEDERS CLASSIC 2YO, 3YO & STALLION NOMINATION for both Pacers & Trotters

**Older Horses**

- $175,000 ARTISCAPE FFA MARE PACE*
- $175,000 JOIE DE VIE (formerly Muscle Hill) FFA MARE TROT*
- $175,000 CRAWFORD FARMS FFA TROT*
- $175,000 ROLL WITH JOE FFA PACE*

*All four FFA Stakes will be raced at Tioga Downs in 2019

Calendar listing all Tioga & Vernon stakes dates available at tiogadowns.com/horsemen

All purses not listed as guaranteed (g) are estimates.
Miller’s Return Adds To Competitive Miami Valley Racing

There’s a new face—actually an old face—back racing in Ohio in 2019. The face belongs to Brett Miller, who has returned to his Buckeye roots after competing on the East Coast since 2014.

While the year is still young, Miller currently ranks second on the drivers’ dash list at Miami Valley Raceway, behind only Trace Tetrick. Buoyed by his 16 drives in the recent three-day North America Drivers Championship, (where he finished second behind Miami Valley’s 2018 dash champ Dan Noble), Miller sits atop the money-winning leaderboard.

“Things have actually picked up quicker than I expected. I didn’t expect to get this many drives this quick,” said Miller, who has the most starts of any driver at Miami Valley in 2019 with 95 mounts (through Jan. 17). “So it’s been very good so far.”

Tetrick said while the Miami Valley driving colony is extremely competitive, he welcomes the arrival of Miller, who is closing in on 8,000 career wins and $84 million in purse earnings.

“Brett is a great driver and he puts horses in the right spot,” said Tetrick. “He is very good to drive with. I’ve driven with Brett before and he is very professional. He doesn’t take unnecessary shots. When he’s in play, he’s in play. He’s not out there to hurt you or run you over.”

Miller finished fourth in the Meadowlands driver standings during the 20-17-18 meet with 61 wins and almost $1 million in purse earnings. He captured the 2016-17 Meadowlands dash title with 113 wins. He has 345 career victories at the Big M with $6.5 million in purse earnings.

“The biggest thing from driving out east is that here (in Ohio) there are a lot of young and talented drivers and it makes it a very aggressive style of racing.” —Brett Miller

Tetrick agrees.

“Yes, it’s just a total different style altogether,” said the 42-year-old Tetrick, who has dominated the Hoosier Park standings for several years. “There is no passing lane so it makes for a different style of racing in general because it never opens the inside for an extra outlet. So you do things you normally wouldn’t do than on a big track with a passing lane (such as Hoosier Park). There, even if you are laying third you still have a shot. Here, with no passing lane, if you stay third, you hope the horses sitting one-two are good enough to keep going and you have a chance to get out late.”

Miller said he was satisfied with runner-up honors and a $5,000 check for finishing second in the Drivers Championship. Miller held a slim lead over Noble going into the last contest race but he finished last and earned zero points. Noble finished second and took home the title and the $10,000 first-place prize.

“Going into the day, with the draw that I had I felt like I had to finish really, really good with my first five drives,” said Miller. “My last three drives I had a draw that was bad and the morning-line odds were bad. I knew if I had any shot of winning it I was going to have to do excellent with my early ones. I felt like I did, but it was that last one I had. I had the nine hole and the horse went off at 50-1, and I just couldn’t do anything with it.”

While Tetrick is disappointed he didn’t make the final of the Drivers Championship after capturing the 2018 title, he said the year has gotten off to a good start.

“I drive for some good trainers and they have the horses classified right and that helps make my job easier,” said Tetrick, who will pass the 5,000-win mark early this year. “Things have been going really good so far.” —By Gordon Waterstone
Rick Zeron Suspension/Fine Details

Harnessracing.com has obtained a copy of the specific ruling issued by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) that resulted in Rick Zeron receiving a 180-day suspension and $10,000 fine. In announcing the sanctions on Jan. 9, the AGCO only stated which rules were violated and not the specifics.

According to the AGCO ruling, an inspection was conducted at the stable of Zeron on July 6, 2018, where he was found to have violated several rules. The AGCO ruling was issued Jan. 9, 2019, and lists the violations as:

1. Possessing improperly labelled medications;
2. Failing to have proper prescription for medications;
3. Attempting to avoid detection by using counterfeit medication labels;
4. Attempting to bribe another licensee to adjust their statement to help hide his use of counterfeit medication labels;
5. Using “shockwave” therapy within the prohibited 96 hour period on the following horses:
   • Lady Ella (Freeze Brand 5NM62), shockwaved on April 25, 2018 and qualified on April 27, 2018 at Mohawk Raceway;
   • Urban Legend (Freeze Brand 6N525), shockwaved on May 16, 2018 and qualified on May 18, 2018 at Mohawk Raceway.

In an email, AGCO director of racing Brent Stone told harnessracing.com that the ruling issued stands as is and further specifics, such as medications involved, are not available.

Zeron was a 2018 O’Brien Award of Horsemanship finalist, an award he previously won in 2010 and 2016, but he has been disqualified by Standardbred Canada. Atlanta, who is trained and co-owned by Zeron, has also been disqualified as an O’Brien finalist for 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year. Standardbred Canada’s O’Brien Award eligibility policy states: “An O’Brien Award will not be presented to any individual or entity who has served, or is currently serving a penalty for a continued period of 180 days or more during a calendar year. If the penalty continues through any part of the following calendar year, said individual is also ineligible for an O’Brien Award in the second year of the penalty. Outstanding appeals and/or stays do not alter the conditions of eligibility for O’Brien Award consideration.”

Atlanta has already been announced as the winner of the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) Dan Patch Award as 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year and is considered a candidate to be named Trotter of the Year and Horse of the Year at the Dan Patch Awards banquet on Feb. 24 in Orlando. The Integrity Committee of USHWA met by conference call over the weekend and an announcement on Atlanta’s status is expected later this week, but USHWA does not have a stringent policy similar to that of Standardbred Canada.

Zeron’s suspension is scheduled to begin Jan. 24 and run through July 22. — By Gordon Waterstone
Cash Hall sired the top two-year-old trotting colt in the Ohio program in 2017 from his first Ohio-sired crop of only 29 foals. That was Sultan Of Cash 2,1:57.1f, who won 7 of 8 starts and earned $126,515.

From his second Ohio-eligible crop, limited again to only 29 foals, Cash Hall outdid every other Ohio trotting sire with his two-year-olds in 2018. He had the best two-year-old trotting filly the Ohio program has ever seen in Only Take Cash. Trained and co-owned by Bob McIntosh, Only Take Cash won 8 out of 9 starts, finishing second in the only one she lost, taking a record of 1:56f and winning $272,140. She won the $275,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Final by 5 1/2 lengths.

But that wasn’t all, by any means. Cash Hall also had one of the very best Grand Circuit two-year-old trotting colts in Chin Chin Hall, who took a record of 1:54.4 and earned $201,320. Among his wins was the $86,000 Bluegrass Stake at Lexington and an elimination of the classic Valley Victory, where he finished a close second in the $435,900 final.

Cash Hall stands at Cool Winds Farm, in Lima, Ohio, under the management of Walnut Hall Ltd. At his fee of $3,500, live foal, he is unquestionably the best trotting sire value Ohio has to offer.
Wally Hennessey Scores An Ace On His Way To 10,000 Wins

Closing in on 10,000 wins for his career, Hall of Fame driver Wally Hennessey is certainly no stranger to success on the racetrack. And now the 62 year old can claim success on the golf course as he made his first hole in one on one on Friday, Jan. 11.

Hennessey’s ace came while playing at Heron Bay Golf Course in Coral Springs, Fla., for six years the site of the PGA Tour’s Honda Classic. His foursome included horseman Maurice “Bucky” Goldschmidt and Alan Stewart and Sue Allen, longtime friends from Prince Edward Island. Hennessey used a 7 iron to ace the 140-yard 14th hole.

“I was the last to hit, and like anybody who has never had a hole in one, while the ball was in the air I thought, ‘If I get a bounce I have a chance,’” remembered Hennessey, who shot 80 for his 18-hole round. “As it takes the bounce, I said, ‘I’ve got a chance, I’ve got a chance.’ And then it went in the hole. Now that’s off the bucket list.”

Hennessey said his entire group consisted of three foursomes, and the hole in one cost him $300 at the “19th hole.”

“Some left but the ones that stayed, we celebrated,” said Hennessey of his after-party to celebrate the hole in one. “I felt good, they felt good, and believe me, our waitress felt good too.”

The leading driver at Pompano Park in south Florida, Hennessey’s 2019 campaign is off to a good start as he already has 28 victories to his credit, placing him third in the early North American standings behind only Tim Tetrick and Aaron Merriman (tied with 36). He topped 300 wins for the third year in a row in 2018, with his victory total of 382 his second-most ever and behind only his 419-win year in 1995.

Since turning 60 on Oct. 4, 2016, Hennessey has won nearly 900 races. Last year he found the winner’s circle at a rate of 30 percent, and his UDR led North American (drivers with 500+ starts) with a career-high .440.

“I am not rejuvenated; I feel like I’m driving the same as I always have,” said Hennessey. “I always felt that I drove aggressively. The big difference is the horsepower. My opportunities are the same—you can see my number of starts are always around the same every year—but the last couple years, especially at Pompano, the ones I’m driving have a good chance to win.

“I’ve always believed to be successful, and not just as a harness driver but with anything, you have to have confidence. And I don’t lack that.”

– Wally Hennessey

Hennessey Remembers Moni Maker

While Wally Hennessey has more than 45,500 career drives, it’s the starts behind the two-time Horse of the Year Moni Maker that stand out more than any other.

“I’m in the Hall of Fame partially because of Wally Hennessey, but she just took my career to the top,” said Hennessey, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007, one year after Moni Maker. “When you’re associated with Moni Maker, whether you’re an owner, trainer, driver or groom, they know who you are. The same as when Clint Galbraith had Niatross.”

Hennessey said probably his most special moment with Moni Maker came when he was not sitting behind her, but alongside her. That came when Hall of Fame Thoroughbred jockey Julie Krone rode Moni Maker in an under-saddle time trial in 2000 at The Red Mile. Hennessey and Moni Maker’s trainer, Jimmy Takter, drove the prompters that urged Moni Maker to her world-record 1:54.1 clocking.

“I didn’t think I was going to be able to make it because then I wasn’t going to be in Lexington, but Geoff Stein talked me into it,” remembered Hennessey. “I didn’t think they really needed me. She was going to be the star of that day. But Jimmy and I drove the prompters. And now I can tell you one thing, it was one of the highlights of my career, by far. By far.

“And looking back at the videos now, and seeing Julie Krone, I get a little emotional. I am so happy that I went there, compared to watching it on video and having regrets.”

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Diamond Creek Joins Captain Crunch Team

The team at Diamond Creek Farm in Pennsylvania probably has one specific rooting interest for the Feb. 3 Super Bowl—that it not go into overtime. That's because the farm will begin breeding its stallions the very next morning. Traditionally, breeding season starts Feb. 15 for most farms.

“We’ll open our shed Feb. 4,” shared Diamond Creek’s Adam Bowden. “We’ve had quite a bit of success breeding mares early. Our stallions give quite a bit of semen and there are fewer mares being bred then, so conception rates have been very high for people who bred mares early.”

Diamond Creek stands A Rocknroll Dance, Always B Miki, Father Patrick, Southwind Frank and Sweet Lou at its Wellsville, Pa., farm, located about 20 miles southwest of Harrisburg.

In the last few days Bowden laid the groundwork for a new member of the stud barn. Diamond Creek has purchased an interest in Captain Crunch, the Dan Patch 2-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year in 2018.

Captain Crunch finished off his freshman season with open-lengths victories in the Breeders Crown and Governor’s Cup for owners 3 Brothers Stable (Alan, Steven and Ronald Katz), Rojan Stable (Norman and Robert Aerenson), Caviart Farms (Buck and Judy Chaffee) and Christina Takter. Nancy Johansson trains the colt.

Captain Crunch is from the first crop of 2013 Pacer of the Year Captaintreacherous and is out of the Artiscape mare Sweet Paprika, a half sister to $3.4 million winner Sweet Lou and $2.7 million winner Bettor Sweet.

Walner’s First Foal

The first foal by Walner, the 2017 Dan Patch 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year, was born on Wednesday morning, Jan. 16, at Hanover Shoe Farms in Pennsylvania. The foal, a colt pictured here, is the first foal of Chezatter, a daughter of Explosive Matter-Chez Lucie (by Malabar Man). Chezatter was campaigned by Purple Haze Stables and trained by Trond Smedshammer, taking a mark of 1:53.4 as a 2 year old and winning an elimination of the Breeders Crown. She never raced beyond two qualifiers at age three, knuckling over in her second qualifier at the Meadowlands and injuring a suspensory.

Walner stands at stud at Southwind Farms in New Jersey.

“The thing that makes Captain Crunch especially attractive as a stallion is he’s a son of Captaintreacherous and from Sweet Lou’s maternal family, so he has two very young, very successful stallions up close in his pedigree,” said Bowden.

While Captain Crunch represents the future at Diamond Creek, its present stars will soon return from Down Under and be back at the farm’s Pennsylvania breeding headquarters.

“All of our stallions that shuttled to Australia and New Zealand will be back by Feb. 1,” said Bowden. “Always B Miki is scheduled to be back Jan. 27 or 28.”

Thoroughbred stallions that shuttle Down Under from North America have already returned home.

“Our stallions breed until the middle of January down there, so that’s why they arrive a little closer to the start of our breeding season,” explained Bowden.

The Diamond Creek stallions will fly into New York where they will enter quarantine at the ARK at JFK International Airport in New York. The ARK at JFK is privately owned. A spokesperson for the ARK said that while the U.S. Department of Agriculture is involved in the importation process, there has been no change in USDA staffing there.

If the U.S. government shutdown continues, shipping semen across the border to Canada could be jeopardized.

“We’ve already made calls to the offices that handle that on the border and they are unsure right now what might happen,” said Bowden. — By Kathy Parker
Sheila Napier, who works in the Chris Beaver Stable, has been named the recipient of the 2018 Caretaker of the Year Award sponsored by Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park (HRRNP) in conjunction with the U.S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA).

Napier, 37, has worked for Beaver for three years, and in 2018 her horses included the $500,000-winning 3-year-old filly trotter Custom Cantab. She also had four horses that made the Ohio Sires Stakes championship card at Scioto Downs, including three in the 2-Year-Old Filly Trot. Prior to working for Beaver, Napier’s 10-year stint with Ron Potter including being the caretaker of the 2011 Little Brown Jug winner Big Bad John.

“I’ve always read about this award and this is really great,” said Napier, a native of Cincinnati whose first job working with horses came while in high school in 1995 at the Delaware (Ohio) Equine Lab. “I’ve been doing this for a long time and something I looked forward to as far as possibly getting, but maybe in Ohio and not this big.”

All caretakers in North America were eligible for the award, with nomination letters submitted detailing the skills and special qualities of the nominee. A seven-member panel—all of whom were former caretakers themselves—selected Napier as the winner.

Beaver nominated Napier, and in his letter he noted, “Sheila takes unrivaled pride in the condition of her horses. I can rest at ease when she has a horse racing. I know it will get on the road on time and will be wearing all the right equipment, even if I can’t make it.

“Her horses are never shorted on the care that I expect for them and that is required,” added the Ohio-based Beaver who also winter trains at Spring Garden Ranch in Florida. “She can’t stay away from her horses. She truly loves them and takes incredible pride in their accomplishments. My life would be a lot easier if more grooms brought the passion into their work that Sheila has.”

Napier said she usually has at least eight horses under her care in the Beaver barn, and it was Custom Cantab who was the star in 2018. Included among Custom Cantab’s 13 wins were the Indiana Sires Stakes Super Final at Hoosier Park and the season-ending Matron at Dover Downs.

“Oh, that filly,” said Napier, whose travels always include her 11-year-old daughter Jess. “Custom Cantab is one of those special little fillies that wants to finish in the top three her whole life. She’s quite sassy, amazing and full of heart. I absolutely love that filly; she is very special.”

As winner of the HRRNP Caretaker of the Year Award, Napier will receive a cash prize of $500, transportation, hotel accommodations and two tickets to USHWA’s annual Dan Patch Awards banquet on Sunday, Feb. 24, at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, where she will be presented a trophy.

Napier, along with all the USHWA 2018 award winners, will be recognized during the Dan Patch Awards banquet. Information on accommodations at Rosen Shingle Creek and dinner tickets can be found at www.usha.net. (Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park/USHWA)
Itty Bitty A Pleasant Surprise For Katz

Owner Evan Katz makes a habit of perusing the listings on online auction sites. In fact, he checks them almost daily in the hopes of finding another horse to add to his stable. When Katz came across a listing for Itty Bitty in fall 2016, he found a diamond in the rough.

Then a freshman, the pacing filly by Always A Virgin out of the Warrior For Peace mare Bananiah had 15 starts on the Indiana fair circuit for owner-trainer-driver Charles Conrad. Itty Bitty earned two wins and another eight seconds and thirds, but it was her finishing ability that caught Katz’s eye.

“She showed some really good fair lines in Indiana with some really good final quarters. If you know the tracks there, anything semi-decent is a real fast last quarter,” Katz said. “She was always closing. From the top of the stretch to the wire, she was always passing horses. That’s what you have to look for, horses that finish.”

Despite her low opening bid, as a regular user Katz knew that the online auctions are generally quiet until the timer reaches the final few minutes. He waited and waited, but there was little activity. When the auction ended, Katz bought the filly for $8,000.

“It’s pretty much sight unseen. You go by the lines and hope the people are being upfront with you,” Katz said. “There’s an offer or a starting bid and in the last 10 minutes, usually people really start to bid. There really wasn’t a whole lot of action on her.

“I’m not sure why other people really didn’t go after her,” he continued. “I don’t think the guy who had her realized the potential. She’s really a natural. She’s loves to race.”

Katz gave Itty Bitty to Billy Parker and sent her to Monticello for her first start subsequent to the auction. They spotted her in a $3,300 overnight for non-winners of a pari-mutuel race Oct. 5, 2016. Itty Bitty’s rivals proved vastly overmatched as she circled the field and stormed away to an 18-length win.

She stopped the clock in 2:00.1 with a :27.3 final quarter. “That’s what you have to look for, horses that finish.”

“From the top of the stretch to the wire, she was always passing horses.”

–Evan Katz

Horse Dies In Incident At Ohio County Fairgrounds

A 28-year-old man is in police custody after he allegedly broke into the Stark County Fairgrounds in Canton, Ohio, early Monday morning, Jan. 14, and released 15 Standard-breds from their stalls, allowing them to run loose on the nearby streets. Fourteen of the horses were recovered safely but one had to be euthanized as a result of injuries sustained when it fell through the ice at a nearby lake.

Harnessracing.com has learned all the involved horses are trained by Jeff Cox. Cox also shared ownership with Michael Soehnlen of the 3-year-old gelding trotter Cravin For Cash, who was euthanized after firefighters tried for more than hour to rescue him from the frigid waters.

A son of Dontyouforgerit, Cravin For Cash had three wins in eight starts last year, including a mark of 1:58 taken in a 2-year-old race at The Red Mile, and $26,600 in earnings.

According to reports, Jonathan Ford entered the fairgrounds by unknown means around 5:30 a.m. and released the horses. It took police, fire and multiple volunteers several hours to gather all the horses. Ford was arrested and charged with breaking and entering, inducing panic, disrupting public service and possession of drugs. Police found two types of marijuana in Ford’s possession, according to the report.

Barn Fire In Michigan Kills Seven Horses

Longtime Michigan horsewoman Ann Russell and her daughter, Erin Spychala, lost their entire stable in an early-morning barn fire on Sunday, Jan. 13, in Pinckney, Mich. The fire was reported around 5 a.m. and killed all seven horses in the barn, including five Standardbred racehorses, one broodmare and a riding pony.

The horses killed in the fire include the 8-year-old pacing gelding R Duneshine and the 4-year-old trotting mare Victoryssuperangel, both of whom made recent starts in Ohio. Victoryssuperangel raced Jan. 4 at Northfield Park and R Duneshine raced on Jan. 6 at Miami Valley, competing in one of the races that was part of the first day of the North America Drivers Championship.

Also killed were the 11-year-old pacing gelding Bursting Blaze, the 5-year-old gelding trotter J-S Maple Jac and a riding horse named Sam who has been owned by Spychala for several years. Also destroyed by the fire were a truck and trailer and all of the horse equipment. No cause of the fire has yet been determined.

A GoFundMe page has been set up to help Russell and Spychala. To go to the GoFundMe page and donate please click here.
Dr. King Jr. Pace Friday at Big M
The Meadowlands will honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a special event Friday night, when they host a race that will feature African-American drivers exclusively in the first of 14 races on the card. more

Miller hopes Trolley keeps rolling on
Trolley is back on track. Trainer Erv Miller just hopes he can stay there. A 6-year-old male trotter, Trolley has won four of six races since returning from a 13-month absence because of a broken coffin bone. more

Meadowlands announces ’19 stakes schedule
The Meadowlands’ 2019 Grand Circuit stakes schedule will offer more than $13 million in purses led by Harness Racing’s most coveted prize, the 94th edition of the $1 million Hambletonian Stake. more

Woodbine Mohawk announces stakes schedule
Woodbine Entertainment on Thursday revealed its industry-leading $16 million-plus Standardbred stakes lineup for 2019. The 2019 stakes schedule is headlined by the 36th edition of the $1 million Pepsi North America Cup on Saturday, June 15 and the return of the $6 million (US) Breeders Crown to Mohawk Park on Oct. 25 and 26. more

Stay Hungry granted stallion exemption
Hanover Shoe Farms has announced that pacing stallion Stay Hungry has been granted exemption from the Stallion Restriction Rule. This exemption permits foals from Stay Hungry’s first crop, as well as all future crops, to race at The Meadowlands, Vernon Downs and Tioga Downs. more

Deadline near for NJSDF mare registration
Owners of mares in foal that are based in New Jersey are reminded that the deadline to register a mare for the 2018 foaling season to the Standardbred Development Fund is Jan. 31. The registration fee is $100 and the mare registration forms are available on the New Jersey Sire Stakes website—www.newjerseysirestakes.com. more

Aaron Merriman drives 11,000th winner
Aaron Merriman scored the 11,000th win of his driving career while driving Brooklynite in Northfield Park’s 10th race on Wednesday (Jan. 16). Brooklynite started from the second tier, brushed boldly and the half to take the lead and never looked back, winning by 5-1/4-lengths in 1:52. more

Bud Hatfield “feels like a kid again”
When it comes to racing, Bud Hatfield wouldn’t trade the feeling he gets from his horses for the world. In the past several years, the 69-year-old Ohioan has shared in ownership of a number of successful horses, including millionaire Bar Hopping and stakes-winners Wolfgang and You Know You Do. In December, he reached new heights when his Kissin In The Sand was named the 2018 Dan Patch Award winner for best 3-year-old female pacer. more

Marcus Melander credits “rise” to good team
Marcus Melander’s name will be on the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s 2018 Rising Star Award, but the 27-year-old trainer says the recognition extends beyond one person. more

Blake MacIntosh hopes for big year
Blake MacIntosh has to wait several months to see if multiple-stakes-winner Courty Choice can return this year to take care of unfinished business—more on that in a moment—but only a day to get an indication whether Clear Idea can return to business as usual. more

DSOA awards banquet held
On Friday, Jan. 11, the Delaware Standardbred Owners Association held their 22nd annual awards dinner. On this evening the Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund champions were also honored, along with some other awards deserving recognition. more

New president/COO named at Northfield Park
MGM Resorts International (NYSE: MGM) (“MGM Resorts” or the “Company”) announced today that it has appointed Chris Kelley as the new president and COO of the Ohio resort, currently known as the Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park. The Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park will be rebranded when MGM Resorts acquires the property, which is expected to occur in the first half of 2019. more

Tioga Downs grants presented
As part of the commitment of Tioga Downs and owner Jeff Gural, Tioga Downs was pleased to host its very first check presentation ceremony officially announcing the recipients of the first $250,000 in funding through the Tioga Downs Regional Community Foundation, a non-profit organization that reviews and selects applications for grant funding. more

Woodbine Ent., COSA reach 5-year deal
Woodbine Entertainment and the Central Ontario Standardbred Association (COSA) jointly announced Friday the agreement in principle of a new five-year deal that includes an investment in capital upgrades and an increase in purses, further solidifying Woodbine Mohawk Park as one of the leaders in total purses paid for Standardbred race-tracks in North America. more

Western NY horseman Lester Tourville dies
Lester Tourville, 87, of Hamburg, N.Y., died Jan. 12, 2019, at Hospice Buffalo. He was a driver and trainer at Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs until he retired in 2004. more
Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through January 15, 2019

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

<table>
<thead>
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<th>W</th>
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<td>Itty Bitty (5pm)</td>
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<td>Bags To Riches (5ph)</td>
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<td>Drinka Beer (4pg)</td>
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Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Jan. 10-15 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers

Wayne Givens.............................................................3
Richard Banca ............................................................3
Rene Allard .................................................................3
Laura Perino ...............................................................3
Jose Godinez..............................................................3
Eric Ell.........................................................................3
Doug Hinklin ...............................................................3
Dan Noble...................................................................3
Tyler George ...............................................................4
Wally Hennessey.........................................................4
Mike Wilder ...............................................................4
Kathleen Plested.........................................................4
Andrew Adamczyk ......................................................4
Bob McClure.................................11 .....................8-0-1
Andrew Harris...........................................................6
Tyler George...............................................................6
Nick Surick..................................................................5
Scott Di Domenico...........................................................5
John Mangello............................................................3
Patti Harmon...............................................................4
Rick Plano.................................................................4
C. Brian Loney............................................................4
Kathleen Plested.........................................................4
Andrew Admaczyk.......................................................4
C. Brian Loney............................................................4

Winners

Robert McIntosh Stables Inc. 34 ...............10-4-7
Jim Pantaleano 34 .................................10-4-7
Brett Miller .................................48 ...............11-11-1
Tim Tetrick .............................................35 ...............11-5-5
Aaron Merriman .........................................................59
Bruce Aldrich Jr .........................................................31
Michael Merton .........................................................36
Mike Wilder ...............................................................44
Wally Hennessey.........................................................30
Bob McClure.................................11 .....................8-0-1
Dan Noble .........................................................42 ...............8-11-4
Dexter Dunn .........................................................32 ...............8-5-4

Leading Breeders

Breeder                      Starters | Winners | Wins | Earnings
HANOVER SHOE FARMS INC. 311 51 54 $525,655
WINBAK FARM 286 47 50 491,680
BRITTANY FARMS LLC 76 21 22 225,785
ROBERT J. KEE 64 12 12 113,586
BULLETPROOF ENTERPRISES 52 10 12 112,781
SEEELSTER FARMS INC. 76 9 10 111,234
BLUE CHIP BLOODSTOCK INC. 62 13 14 99,064
ROBERT McINTOSH STABLES INC. 55 9 11 90,412
PERRETTI FARM 48 8 11 86,670
MIDLAND ACRES INC. 58 9 10 85,066
VICTORY HILL FARM INC. 41 10 10 79,673
SPRING HAVEN FARM 42 10 11 77,506
WHITE BIRCH FARM 51 7 8 65,067
KENTUCKIANA FARMS GEN PAR 37 7 7 63,423
STEVE STEWART 45 7 7 61,930

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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<td>33-21-16</td>
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<td>30-30-21</td>
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<td>12-13-14</td>
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<td>Jordan Stratton</td>
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<td>Corey Callahan</td>
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<td>Jim Pantaleano</td>
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<td>23-16-15</td>
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<td>Trace Tetrick</td>
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<td>23-3-10</td>
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<td>Dexter Dunn</td>
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<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
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Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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