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Sugar Dance Looks To Dance Into Blizzard Final Winner's Circle

A pair of series finals highlight Friday night's card at Woodbine Mohawk Park, including the \$36,000 Blizzard final for 3- and 4-year-old pacing mares and the \$40,000 Snowshoe final for 3- and 4-year-old pacing colts and geldings.

Sugar Dance won her division of the opening round of the Blizzard Series at Woodbine Mohawk Park with driver Doug McNair; then Jody Jamieson directed the 4-year-old pacing mare to victory in the second round on Jan. 23. Trainer Ed Hennessey has again listed Jamieson to be Sugar Dance's dance partner in Friday night's final (Race 5).

"I told Ed when I got off the track last time, 'Don't change a thing. Not even the driver,'" Jamieson said with a laugh.

"I could be wrong...but I think it will take a really bad trip to get her beat!"

—Jody Jamieson

While Sugar Dance won her preliminaries from posts 4 and 7, she is saddled with the trailing post 10 in Friday's final. Sugar Dance is listed as the 3-1 second choice on the morning line, behind the 5-2 Back In The Game, who also has won both her Blizzard preliminaries. Driven by McNair, Back In The

Game will start from post 2.

Jamieson said he isn't overly concerned with the trailing starting spot, which has won six of 50 races thus far in 2020 at Mohawk Park (12 percent).

"If we get through the first turn and are able get into the flow, that's all she needs to do," said Jamieson. "There will be some angling up until that point, but if I get clearance anywhere, I'll let her do her thing.

"I could be wrong...but I think it will take a really bad trip to get her beat."

While McNair rallied Sugar Dance from fourth at the three-quarters to a 1:57.1 victory in the Blizzard opener, Jamieson sat a two-hole trip with the mare until the stretch last week, where she drew clear to a four-length victory in 1:52.1. The time was a career best for the 4-year-old daughter of 2007 Progress Pace winner Ghee's House.

"She was really, really good," said Jamieson. "She really surprised me. I'm glad I got a chance to drive her."

Sugar Dance is owned by Hennessey's wife, Sandy, in partnership with Paula Sugars of Whitmore Lake, Mich. Sugar Dance is out of the Modern Art mare Sugar Biscuit, who earned just \$5,266 on the track for the Hennessey's and Sugars before being sold to Ohio State ATI (Agricultural and Technical Institute). Ohio State ATI is listed as the breeder of Sugar Dance, who had been racing at Miami Valley and Hollywood Dayton in Ohio before crossing the border for the

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WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

- Emerald Isle undergoing rebirth—pg. 2**
- Pompano racing during Super Bowl—pg. 4**
- FaceTime Bourbon wins Prix d'Amerique—pg. 4**
- Class Included moving to Illinois—pg. 5**
- Erv Miller concentrating on youth—pg. 6**
- Flrst Over with Kathy Parker—pg. 7**
- Super Bowl LIV picks—pg. 8**

Blizzard Series. Overall, Sugar Dance has six wins in 13 career starts and \$28,870 in earnings.

As for the Snowshoe final (Race 7), the 5-2 morning-line favorite is the Chris Christoforou-driven Better B Going, who starts from post 2 after a first and third in the opening two rounds.

Warrawee Vital, who also won both his Snowshoe prelims, starts from post 6 as the 3-1 second choice with driver Trevor Henry. A son of Captaintreacherous, the \$32,000 yearling purchase Warrawee Vital is a half-brother to world champions Warrawee Needy and Warrawee Ubeaut. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Emerald Isle Training Centre In Southern Ontario Undergoing Rebirth

Emerald Isle Training Centre, a 40-year-old facility which had been closed for over a year, has been sold and new owner John George is in the process of bringing it back to its glory days.

George is a newcomer to the racing game. Based in nearby Oakville, Ont., he operates a thriving custom lighting business on both the wholesale and retail levels. His decision to buy the 95-acre property was simply based on his perception of it being a good opportunity.



John George

"I wanted to own a farm to get away from the stress of my business which I've had for 30 years," said George. "Through an electrician friend I learned of the property. I know nothing about horse racing but after investigating I was able to negotiate a deal."

In 2005, the training center was purchased by Ireland's Alan Wallace. He expanded the operation with the construction of four barns to bring stabling capacity to 180.

Four years ago Wallace sold the training center and Wallace's son, Gary, stayed on, but the new owner made no new investments. Last November George stepped in.

"Gary is remaining and is the one I'm relying on," says George. "He knows it inside out and I've followed his lead. All the equipment had been sold off so it took \$250,000 just to get that sorted."

The sale took place in November with just enough time to add 240 tons of material to the half-mile track.

"Things are good with the barns other than some exterior cleanup needed once spring arrives," said George. "All the paddocks will be re-fenced so there is a fair bit of investment needed yet."

Located approximately 20 minutes from Woodbine Mohawk Park, Emerald Isle has served as a valuable base of operations for American ship-ins during stakes season as well as for local stables.

"Word is just getting out we are open for business but there will be few relocating until the end of winter," says George.

"We'll be doing a big recruiting effort. People will be impressed with all the changes when we get finished. I know in business you have to spend money to make money. For the next while that is what we'll be doing."

An immigrant from South India at the age of 17, George says he is totally committed to putting Emerald Isle Training Centre back on the map. — *By Harold Howe*

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THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Friday, January 31

7:45p MVR6 **F&M Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

8:30p Wbsb5 **Blizzard Pace** final [Trackmaster PPs](#)

9:10p Wbsb7 **Snowshoe Pace** final [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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Saturday, February 1

9:28p M7 **Preferred Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

11:14p M12 **Preferred Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)

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\$450,000 Governor's Cup 2YO Colt Pace
\$450,000 Three Diamonds 2YO Filly Pace
\$400,000 Peter Haughton Memorial 2YO Colt Trot
\$350,000 Jim Doherty Memorial 2YO Filly Trot

3YO

\$650,000 Meadowlands Pace
\$300,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial Colt Trot
\$250,000 Del Miller Memorial Filly Trot
\$200,000 Mistletoe Shalee Filly Pace

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Pompano Park Racing On Super Bowl Sunday

It's been a long, long time since a U.S. harness racetrack raced on Super Bowl Sunday, but that will be the case this Sunday at Pompano Park. Kick-off for Super Bowl LIV on Sunday is 6:30 p.m., and Pompano Park's 10-race card gets underway at 7:20 p.m.

"I've always thought it odd that tracks don't race on Super Bowl Sunday but have no qualms about racing Easter Sunday," said Pompano Park's director of racing Stacy Cahill. "I am racing Sunday (because) no one else is. We had no problem filling the box and will have a fantastic night of wagering."

Cahill said that although this year's Super Bowl is being played in Miami, racing with an earlier post time to hopefully attract out-of-towners who were there for the game was not possible.

"I can't race earlier in the day because of statutory agreement with the Thoroughbreds," said Cahill. "So that was out of the question."

A few drivers have chosen to not race Sunday night, including Wally Hennessey, Mike Simons and Dave Ingraham.

"I chose not to drive because Super Bowl Sunday is a family day for me," said Hall of Famer Hennessey, who leads the Pompano dash and earnings standings. "I always have this holiday penciled even, so even when the schedule came out, I wasn't racing on Super Bowl Sunday. For me, it's a good, family day, and a day to celebrate."

A handful of Canadian tracks will be in action on Sunday. Two of those tracks—Fraser Downs (3:45 p.m. EST) and Century Downs (4:25 p.m.)—race in the afternoon, while Flamboro Downs has a 6:55 p.m. post. Several Thoroughbred racetracks will also have live cards, but all during the afternoon. The list includes Santa Anita, where first post is 11 a.m. Pacific (2 p.m. EST).

Only a handful of racetracks will be open Sunday night for simulcasting, including Miami Valley and Red Mile. Other sites, such as the Meadowlands and Yonkers, will be closing at 6 p.m. As of Thursday afternoon, TVG's schedule for Sunday night included only pre-taped 30-minute shows on past Thoroughbred races, but track announcer Gabe Prewitt told Weekend Preview he was hoping something could change.

Racing on Super Bowl Sunday has been done in the past. Balmoral Park raced one year with a nighttime post but it was more than 25 years ago.

"We tried it once, and once was enough," remembered former Balmoral Park simulcast director Jim Hannon. "It didn't go very well."



Gerard From Photo

Face Time Bourbon Wins Prix d'Amerique

France's Face Time Bourbon, driven by Sweden's Bjorn Goop, won the famed Prix d'Amerique on Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Vincennes Racetrack in Paris. Face Time Bourbon, a 5-year-old son of Ready Cash, won in a mile rate time of 1:55 for 2,700 meters (about 1.67 miles). Face Time Bourbon is trained by Sebastien Guarato, who also trains 2019 Breeders Crown Open Trot champion Bold Eagle.

Years ago, Balmoral did race some afternoons on Super Bowl Sunday, as did the Meadowlands. For many years Sunday afternoon racing was a staple at the Meadowlands, and in conjunction with the championship football game the Super Bowl day card included the final of the Super Bowl Series for trotters.

It's been a great week at Pompano as a pair of exotic wagers saw record pools. On Monday (Jan. 27), the Pick-4 pool was a record \$127,452, while on Tuesday (Jan. 28), a \$31,977 carryover on the Pick 6 led to an additional record \$112,279 being wagered. Although none of the six winners were sent off higher than 9-2 in the wagering, the 5-4-4-4-2-2 combination returned \$6,682.05. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

Golden Paradise Aims For Three In A Row At Miami Valley

What a difference a year makes.

Last January, pacing mare Golden Paradise was competing in the Claim to Fame Series at Miami Valley Raceway. This January, she is already a two-time winner of the fillies and mares open at the same track, where on Friday she will try to capture her third in a row.

And, in between, she won the Indiana Sires Stakes championship for pacing mares.

So, it's safe to say trainer/co-owner Tyler George is very grateful Golden Paradise was not claimed a year ago.

"No kidding," George said with a laugh. "I would have been kicking myself, that's for sure."

Golden Paradise, a 6-year-old daughter of Allthatgltrsis-gold out of Paradise Island who began her career on the Indiana fairs circuit, is the 5-2 morning-line favorite in Friday's \$22,500 fillies and mares open handicap. She will start from the outside, post 7, with driver Trace Tetrack.

For her career, Golden Paradise has won 30 of 86 races and \$259,302. Her current ownership group, made up of George, Sam Schillaci, and Wrenn Jr. Racing, came together in November 2018. After working with the mare to resolve tying-up issues and changing her routine, she began to click on a more consistent basis. Since the beginning of 2019, she has won 12 of 28 starts and \$157,675.

"She hasn't really changed physically much," George said. "She calmed down a little bit, just kind of matured. She's become a professional. We've had some nice mares that are faster than her, but she just never has a bad day. She just always puts in a good effort every time.

"I really appreciate that about her. She's very consistent. And she's very easy to drive. Trace said the other day he could drive her with no handholds right now. That's hard to find. Plus, she's very versatile. She'll race just as well off a trip as if you put her in play."

Golden Paradise's current form shows three wins and two seconds, both by a head, in her past five races. George, who was among the horse's trainers prior to owning the mare with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Schillaci, said her breeding also might be a factor in her development.

Class Included Sold, Moving To Illinois For 2020

Class Included, an unraced full brother to Muscle Hill, has been sold to Illinois breeders David Gingerich of Frontier Farms in Arthur, Ill. The 8-year-old stallion will stand at stud at Farrier Acres in Arcola, Ill., for a fee of \$2,500.

"He's a very good prospect because of his breeding and his good 2 year olds in Indiana, but also because of the change in the Illinois program," said Gingerich. "The stallion has to stand in Illinois for foals to be eligible to the Colt Stakes and other (Illinois-restricted) stakes, but the mare can be anywhere to be bred and can foal anywhere and the foal will be eligible. This is a big change."

Class Included's first crop raced in 2019, with Dude Included 2, 1:57.2 (\$94,360), the third-place finisher in last year's Indiana Sires Stakes Super Final, among his small crop of 16 foals. Another member of Class Included's first crop is Isittuesdayyet 2, 1:59.4.

Class Included was unraced due to injury. He was stepped on as a foal and suffered cracked ribs. He was owned by the Class Included Stable, which was managed by Mitchel Skolnick of Bluestone Farms.

Class Included serviced 44 mares in 2019 while standing at Victory Hill Farm in Indiana. Gingerich said he has 30 mares and plans to breed 10 to Class Included.

"She's out of an Abercrombie (sired) mare, you don't see that very often in the program anymore, and those horses, years ago, just got really good when they got older," George said.

After the mare began to show improvement last year, her connections supplemented her to the Indiana Sires Stakes. She will compete in the sire stakes again this season.

"She fits pretty good with those horses, I think," George said. "Beyond that, it would probably be hard for her. We'll just keep her around here and have a little fun with her. We'll race at Miami Valley and Hoosier a little bit, maybe Scioto. She's already exceeded all our expectations."

Regardless of where Golden Paradise does compete, it is safe to say where she will not race anytime soon.

"No more claimers," George said, laughing. *(Ken Weingartner)*

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Erv Miller Concentrating On Youth, But Trolley Still In Stable

Not too many “colt” trainers, as horsemen who specialize in young horses were once called, keep a string of overnight horses in the winter. Erv Miller falls into that category with 88 two and three year olds at his winter headquarters at Southern Oaks Training Center in central Florida, and just 25 in Pennsylvania.

One member of Miller’s northern stable is the 4-year-old trotting mare Grandma Heidi, who competes in an overnight on Friday night at the Meadowlands (Race 6). She’s the 3-1 second morning-line choice.

Bred by Michael Anderson’s Paymaq Racing and Mystical Marker Farms, longtime clients of Miller’s Stable, Grandma Heidi is named after Miller’s wife, who became a grandmother when son Marcus and his wife Sara had their first child.

Grandma Heidi showed speed at age two, trotting a :27 and change last quarter, but Miller decided not to keep her in training.

“She was just a big, immature filly,” he said of the decision.

Last year Grandma Heidi made it to the races, but she did not have the speed to be a stakes filly in New York. But the daughter of Muscle Mass was competitive and consistent, putting together a 16-6-2-2 scorecard with \$55,840 in earnings.

This year Grandma Heidi has two second-place finishes in her only two starts, but because Miller’s clients race few older horses, he said plans call for her to be sold.

One older horse in the Miller Stable who was consigned to the recent Tattersalls Winter Mixed Sale was not sold as intended. That was Trolley, a 7-year-old stallion by Donato Hanover who earned \$183,154 last year.

Trolley only made five starts in 2018, late in the season, after standing at stud in Indiana. Although he hails from the same maternal line as the great European sire Viking Kro-



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nos, Trolley received a poor reception in Indiana, breeding just six mares.

Trolley kicked off his 2019 season with a bang by winning five of six Preferred Trots at the Meadowlands in January, February and March, and then finishing second in the \$175,200 Cutler final in May. This winter, however, he made two starts in early January and performed poorly.

“He had a high liver count for a while and we couldn’t get that under control, so we’re just turning him out to freshen him up,” said Miller of Trolley, whose only break in 2019

came when he had a month off after finishing ninth in the Cashman Memorial on Hambletonian Day—but trotting in 1:51.1.

Miller said Trolley was consigned to the Tattersalls sale because some of the owners of the horse wanted to sell. As it turned out, Miller had others who wanted to buy into the horse, hence the horse stayed with Miller.— *By Kathy Parker*



Trolley



A Great Prix, But Why Not An American Winner?

Last Saturday I was able to watch the Pegasus Cup Thoroughbred race on NBC just before I tuned in to catch the University of Kentucky basketball team squeak out a win in overtime. Yep, Kentucky is my alma mater.

I happened to stay tuned for the Pegasus Cup trophy presentation and winner's circle festivities and while the on-air hosts were talking about the absence of the winning horse's trainer, Bob Baffert, I saw well-known Standardbred owner Daniel Plouffe shaking hands!

I later texted Plouffe about his connection to the winner and he told me he is a longtime friend of Montreal native Donato Lanni, a bloodstock agent who works closely with Baffert. (Lanni, by the way, learned his horsemanship on the backstretch at Blue Bonnets and worked at Castleton Farm before the late John Cashman got him in the door of a Lexington Thoroughbred farm.)

Plouffe, you might remember, won the Little Brown Jug with Blissfull Hall and now he has his sights set on capturing great trotting races as a partner in the \$1.1 million yearling Maverick.

Although the Pegasus Cup was telecast on NBC, when it came to the camera views of the race, this wasn't the same quality of telecast as Thoroughbred racing's Breeders' Cup. I'm not exactly sure where the cameras were positioned to pick up the action in the turns and on the backstretch, but the angle from above left the horses looking like they were computer-generated images in a video game.

On the other hand, French trotting organizers put on one of the finest telecasts of horse racing on the globe on Sunday, Jan. 26, for the Prix d'Amerique. They use cameras on a rail on the homestretch and on wires in other locations, and despite the large circumference of the Vincennes track, 1,975 meters or about 1.27 miles (Gulfstream is 1 1/8 miles), you could see the action as closely as if you were riding in a patrol vehicle alongside the horses.

The very first Prix d'Amerique was held in 1920, with the race created to honor America's assistance to France in World War I, and French trotting organizers have stayed true to the race's founders, putting on a grand parade on the track's homestretch to celebrate America. Forget the drinking in the infield and hat contests, the horse—and America's

connection to horsepower—is the featured attraction on Prix d'Amerique day at Vincennes.

Although red, white and blue stars and stripes are everywhere you turn on Prix d'Amerique day at Vincennes, it has been 21 years since the Star Spangled Banner reverberated throughout the Vincennes property, a token to the winner to play their country's national anthem. The only two American-owned horses to win have been Delmonica Hanover (1974) and Moni Maker (1999).

I was there for Moni Maker's victory and it was an incredible moment for American trotting. A large American entourage—so large we filled a tour bus—was in Paris to cheer for Moni Maker. Of course, we realized we might witness history, but we had no way of knowing that after Moni Maker's momentous achievement, another 21 years would go by without an American flag raised in triumph.

So why hasn't an American horse—an American-bred, trained, based and owned horse—been back in the Prix d'Amerique winner's circle?

Any serious fan of trotting is well aware that having a horse truly ready for the Prix d'Amerique is a huge undertaking. After a tough North American campaign, can a trainer really keep a top trotter in training following the TVG races, which are held in late November, and then venture on to France to take on the world's best?

But the Prix d'Amerique carries a substantial purse, 900,000 euros, with 405,000 euros to the winner, which means an American-owned horse would earn approximately \$450,000 with a victory. There is no single race in North America that carries that return to the winner, except for the Yonkers International, with a purse of \$1 million and thus \$500,000 to the winner. And no American owner is chasing this kind of money?

The truth is our talent pool is not as big as that of the French trotting population. The chances of a American stallion competing in the Prix d'Amerique are slim to none as there is much more than \$450,000 to gain when a top stud prospect is set to begin his second career as a sire. Geldings, by the way, are not permitted to compete in the big Prix. So that leaves mares, hence the American winners of the race have been Delmonica Hanover and Moni Maker.

Are there any American horses currently in training that could take on the world's best in France? And if there was such a horse, do we have any owners willing to take the risk to pursue this kind of a goal?

Right now, I'm not sure we have a horse who could be a serious Prix d'Amerique contender. We have two great trotting mares still in training, Atlanta and Manchego, but while they are extremely fast, neither has the size of Moni Maker. I contacted Manchego's owner, Barry Guariglia, and he expressed doubt that the 2021 Prix would be a goal for his mare.

With so many great horses competing in North America, I just can't believe we're still waiting for another American-owned horse to win the Prix d'Amerique.—By Kathy Parker

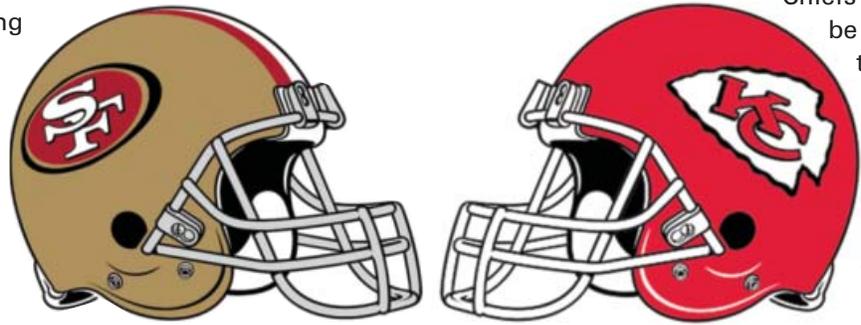
WHO DO YOU LIKE?

SUPER BOWL LIV—SAN FRANCISCO 49's vs. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The line for this year's Super Bowl stayed steady at Kansas City -1.5 until earlier this week, when 49er money pushed it down to -1. Last year, 30 of the 43 who made selections for HarnessRacing Weekend Preview went with the winning Patriots, who bested the Rams 13-3. Scoring was far lower than anybody predicted, thus Weekend Preview's editor, Kathy Parker, gets props for being the "closest" with a score of 24-16—40 total points. Trainer Tom Fanning missed by one with a score of 24-17. With only 16 total points scored last year, it would be remiss not to mention trainer Brian Brown's prediction of "a really high-scoring game" and the Patriots winning 50-45!

- GARNET BARNSDALE** (handicapper)
49ers 27, Chiefs 17. Defense still wins Super Bowls and the Niners D is just playing too well right now. They will find a way to stop Mahomes.
- NICHOLAS "ACE" BARNSDALE** (handicapper)
Chiefs 38, 49ers 24. Niners won't be able to match Mahomes' electric offense, and won't have an answer for it either. Andy Reid's boys won't stall out now.
- JASON BARTLETT** (driver)
Chiefs 42, 49ers 35. I like the Chiefs because of their great offense. The only thing that scares me a little bit is the 49ers defense, but Mahomes is so mobile I wonder if the 49ers are ready for it.
- DAVE BIANCONI** (Northfield Park)
49ers 27, Chiefs 24. The 49ers have a great defense and a great running game. That should get the job done. By the way, the score of the 2021 Super Bowl will be the Cleveland Browns 97, any NFC victim 0. The Baker Mayfield dynasty will begin...again!
- TIM BOJARSKI** (Batavia Downs)
49ers 35, Chiefs 28. Given the early problems Houston and Tennessee gave Kansas City before the Chiefs got it in gear the last two weeks, I feel San Francisco will pick up on their schemes and exacerbate their results as they have better defensive horses to call on than both previous KC opponents. Despite the unbelievable talent of Patrick Mahomes, I feel San Francisco is a more complete team and will prevail.
- BOB BONI** (Northwood Bloodstock)
Chiefs 31, 49ers 27. Two quality teams on both sides of the ball but the Chiefs have the best player in Mahomes and I look at that as the difference. One of the more interesting Super Bowl games going in.
- GEORGE BRENNAN** (driver)
49ers 27, Chiefs 24. I think San Francisco's defense is going to show up strong.

- DAVE BROWER** (Meadowlands)
Chiefs 44, 49ers 31. Kansas City is just too explosive and I haven't seen anybody that can stop the machine that is Patrick Mahomes!
- BRIAN BROWN** (trainer)
Chiefs 35, 49ers 32. I think the 49ers are the better team, but I'm going to root for the Chiefs. I heard the Chiefs were the favorites, but I think the 49ers are the best team. I'm still pulling for the Chiefs.
- MURRAY BROWN** (Curmudgeon)
49ers 38, Chiefs 35. It promises to be one of the greatest of all Super Bowls. Both teams are loaded. If someone put a gun to my head, I'd go with the 49ers, because I think their defense might be a little better.
- TODD BUTER** (trainer)
Chiefs 31, 49ers 28. Mahomes will win it, he's the best.
- STACY CAHILL** (Scioto Downs/Pompano Park)
49ers 31, Chiefs 28. I chose San Fran because Jimmy G learned from the greatest of all-time, Tom Brady. I think Patrick Mahomes is fantastic but Jimmy Garoppolo will have a more level head in a game like this.
- MICHAEL CARTER** (USTA)
49ers 42, Chiefs 36. Jimmy Garoppolo has always been a favorite of mine since he played for the Patriots. I knew he would be a comparable replacement when Brady retired, but he moved on before being able to take the role. This team has been absolutely dominant as of late, and should have no issues with the Chiefs
- COREY CALLAHAN** (driver)
Chiefs 38, 49ers 31. Both teams put up big numbers last game and they are fun offenses to watch, especially Kansas City's. Mahomes does things that are just ridiculous.
- JOHN CAMPBELL** (Hambletonian Society)
Chiefs 34, 49ers 30. It's going to be a good, tight game. I think Mahomes is a better quarterback. Historically, the better quarterback usually wins. Andy Reid has kicked around a long time and he deserves a Super Bowl.



Continues on page 9 >>>>

WHO DO YOU LIKE?

CHRIS CHRISTOFOROU (driver)
Chiefs 35, 49ers 27. I think the Chiefs have more power on both sides of the ball. That Mahomes kid is absolutely better.

TOM FANNING (trainer)
Chiefs 31, 49ers 21. The two best teams are in it. The 49ers defense is so good, and the Chiefs have never seen a defense like this. But Patrick Mahomes is the best player in the league right now, and Andy Reid deserves to win it.

ERNIE GASKIN (trainer)
Chiefs 36, 49ers 18. Mahomes is mahomey! He's great!

VICKI GINGRAS (wife of driver)
49ers 35, Chiefs 21. I have to go with Jimmy Garoppolo even though Mahomes is amazing. Jimmy G was raised in the Patriots system and that's the best.

YANNICK GINGRAS (driver)
Chiefs 34, 49ers 27. I think the Chiefs have too powerful of an offense. I think San Fran will score, but they'll have to score a lot to just keep up with Mahomes.

JEFF GURAL (Meadowlands/Tioga/Vernon)
Chiefs 35, 49ers 21. I just think Mahomes and the Chiefs' offense is too good.

ANDREW HARRIS (trainer)
Chiefs 36, 49ers 27. I love San Francisco and I'm a Garoppolo fan because I am a huge Patriots fan, but I think Mahomes under pressure takes so much better control of his team. He is such a better leader, and he can put more on his shoulders than what Garoppolo can in their careers.

MARK HERLIHY (trainer)
49ers 35, Chiefs 28. I just think the 49ers defense is too tough. Both offenses are explosive enough, but the 49ers have had a phenomenal run. Kansas City has the best quarterback, but I think the 49ers have the best overall team.

JOE HOLLOWAY (trainer)
Chiefs 35, 49ers 28. Hasn't anybody watch the games? The Chiefs look great.

CLAY HORNER (Woodbine Entertainment Group)
Chiefs 34, 49ers 26. Mahomes is a wizard. Andy Reid is so imaginative and 50 years of waiting creates a real hunger. I think it is a terrific match-up. I ordinarily cheer for SF against most teams but I'm all behind KC here.

ROGER HUSTON (Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assn.)
Chiefs 28, 49ers 24. You have to go with the best player on the field: Patrick Mahomes. Be there!



MARVIN KATZ (breeder/owner)
49ers 31, Chiefs 24. San Fran has a much stronger defense than KC. San Fran can run the ball and thereby shorten the game and reduce the amount of time available to the KC offense.

PAUL KELLEY (trainer)
49ers 41, Chiefs 37. Frankly, I'm surprised the NFL is even having a Super Bowl this year without the Patriots in it. I'm going with the 49ers because they have a Brady protégé as quarterback. Jimmy G learned from the greatest.

TOM KELLY (former MLB manager/owner)
Chiefs 34, 49ers 24. I managed Patrick Mahomes' father on the Twins and I remember him when he was very young. Patrick's godfather is LaTroy Hawkins, who used to pitch for the Twins.

JOE LEE (amateur driver)
49ers 34, Chiefs 27. I think the 49ers move the ball better and are a little more explosive than the Chiefs.

AARON MERRIMAN (driver)
Chiefs 35, 49ers 31. I think it will be a shootout. Mahomes will be the difference. He's athletic enough to offset San Francisco's defense.

PACEY MINDLIN (Miami Valley)
Chiefs 31, 49ers 28. The Chiefs find holes in the 49ers defense in a good one.

DAVE PALONE (driver)
49ers 27, Chiefs 24. Kansas City has been getting off to slow starts but they've been able to overcome it, I'm not sure they can do that against San Francisco.

CHRIS PAGE (driver)
49ers 34, Chiefs 28. The 49ers have a great defense and defense wins championships and Super Bowls. I'm a defense guy.

KATHY PARKER (Weekend Preview)
Chiefs 28, 49ers 24. I will be shocked if this Super Bowl is a snoozefest with the explosive Mahomes on the field, so I'm picking Kansas City.

GABE PREWITT (Red Mile/Pompano Park)
49ers 24, Chiefs 20. San Francisco's defense will make some big plays and prevail. And I really like the under!



Continues on page 10 >>>

WHO DO YOU LIKE?

GARY SEIBEL (Cal Expo)
 49ers 35, Chiefs 31. Arguably the two best and most consistent teams all year long. I live in Niner country for half the year and have watched them play all season. San Fran is the whole package: top offense and defense. KC comes at you with Mahomes, Kelce and company. I think it will be exciting and close, but...Go Niners!

JASON SETTLEMOIR (Meadowlands/Tioga/Vernon)
 49ers 36, Chiefs 24. Jimmy Garoppolo is about as close to Tom Brady as you're going to get this year and DEFENSE wins ballgames.

NANCY TAKTER (trainer)
 Chiefs 28, 49ers 21. I like Patrick Mahomes. He's a young, dynamic quarterback. And I'm an Eagles fan and Andy Reid is the Kansas City coach, and he's one of the best coaches ever.

GEORGE TEAGUE JR. (owner/trainer)
 49ers 31, Chiefs 25. I believe it's going to be a good game but I'm rooting for the underdog. A lot of people are raving about KC, but the teams are very similar in styles. It'll be fun to watch.

MONTRELL TEAGUE (driver)
 Chiefs 35, 49ers 28. I'm an Andy Reid fan; he coached the Eagles before. I think Mahomes will be the tougher quarterback than Garoppolo.

TIM TETRICK (driver)
 Chiefs 34, 49ers 28. They have the best quarterback in Mahomes. If they can get ahead of the 49ers, I don't think the 49ers can make up ground. If the Chiefs get behind, they can score a lot of points quick.

HEATHER VITALE (TV personality)
 49ers 36, Chiefs 21. San Francisco has an amazing defense. You could argue how true the saying is, "defense wins championships." In this Super Bowl, I totally think it will.

GORDON WATERSTONE (Weekend Preview)
 Chiefs 24, 49ers 8. I had Chiefs 31-17, but changed in tribute to Kobe Bryant who, along with Magic, are my two all-time favorite NBA players who didn't wear a Pistons uniform. Chiefs have the best QB in the game and heir apparent to Brady. Mahomes stars and earns the first of multiple Super Bowl MVPs.

DAVE WEAVER (TVG)
 Chiefs 45, 49ers 42. In a back-and-forth battle of epic proportion, with seven lead changes, Patrick Mahomes throws for a Super Bowl record 527 yards and the Chiefs beat the 49ers. Also, most importantly, the coin toss is heads.

MARK WEAVER (owner)
 49ers 34, Chiefs 31. Jimmy G gets his Super Bowl ring while the quarterback who ran him out of town in New England is playing golf.

KEN WEINGARTNER (USTA)
 Chiefs 41, 49ers 28. The Chiefs just keep matriculating the ball down the field and give Andy Reid the opportunity to run out the clock in the Super Bowl, with a lead this time.

HEATHER WILDER (wife of driver)
 Chiefs 37, 49ers 24. I think Mahomes is a better quarterback than Jimmy G. I even think they're better when you look at the entire lineup. They are hungry!

MIKE WILDER (driver)
 49ers 38, Chiefs 24. The 49ers defense is explosive. Mahomes and KC won't be able to overcome a slow start this time.

ART ZUBROD (breeder/owner)
 Chiefs 35, 49ers 24. The defenses are comparable but Kansas City can put up more points. I don't think the 49ers can come from behind on the Chiefs.



**The Horseman's
 2020 Breeders Book
 STALLION STATION
 is now available [here!](#)**



Last call for reservations for Dan Patch Awards

It is last call to make room reservations at the luxurious Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Fla., for the U.S. Harness Writers Association's (USHWA) annual Dan Patch Awards banquet on Sunday, Feb. 23. If you are planning to attend the gala festivities that will honor the best equines and humans in the sport in 2019, room reservations must be made by Friday, Jan. 31. Rooms are nearly sold out so make sure you don't get shut out! [more](#)

Post time, betting changes at Meadowlands

Management at the Meadowlands is never afraid to shake things up, and starting on Friday, Feb. 7, Big M fans will see an earlier start to the races with a 6:55 p.m. post time, and once the card begins, they'll have a new array of wagers to titillate their wagering palates. [more](#)

JL Cruze keeps rolling along

Wherever he goes, JL Cruze is still the man. "Everybody knows him, everybody loves him," trainer Eric Ell said about the 9-year-old trotter, who was a Dan Patch Award winner in 2015. [more](#)

How to watch the O'Brien Awards live

If you aren't attending the 2019 O'Brien Awards Black Tie Gala, no worries. Grab your favorite refreshments, get comfortable in your recliner and you can enjoy all the live action from the comfort of your own home as the event will be video streamed live on standardbredcanada.ca. [more](#)

New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon held

On Sunday, Jan. 26, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture held its 63rd annual New Jersey Breeders Awards Luncheon at Hilton Gardens Inn in Hamilton. [more](#)

The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono opens Feb. 8

The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono is pleased to announce their 2020 racing season schedule. The track in Northeast Pennsylvania is looking forward to its 55th year of harness racing excellence. [more](#)

Mohawk Park introduces Ontario-sired Series

Woodbine Mohawk Park will play host to a new series for Ontario-sired 3-year-old pacers and trotters this April and May. [more](#)

A "superfecta" year for Chris Page

Chris Page put together quite the superfecta in 2019. The 36-year-old driver piloted Ohio's Horse of the Year in 2-year-old male pacer Elver Hanover, notched career victory 5,000, increased his workload on the Grand Circuit, and got married. [more](#)

France's Cleangame invited to International

Yonkers Raceway Director of Racing Alex Dadoyan presented Jean Michel Bazire with a 'Save the Date' for the 2020 MGM Yonkers International Trot for his trotter Cleangame. At Hippodrome de Vincennes in Paris for this weekend's Grand Prix d'Amérique, Dadoyan made the presentation after the Bazire trained and driven C D captured the Prix de Yonkers Raceway Thursday (Jan. 23). [more](#)

Management team news from Blue Chip

Blue Chip Farms is pleased to announce several exciting changes to our management team to maintain and strengthen our industry-leading on farm care, customer service and equine development. [more](#)

Celebration of Life for Jay Sears in Pompano

A Celebration of Life for horseman Jay Sears will be held Saturday, Feb. 22, in Pompano Beach, Fla. Sears passed away Jan. 12. [more](#)

Free Handicapping qualifier by DerbyWars

DerbyWars.com will host a free WHHC qualifier on Friday (Jan. 31), with the winner receiving a free entry to the \$150,000 World Harness Handicapping Championship at The Meadowlands on April 18. [more](#)

Mohawk Million nomination deadline is Feb. 18

Woodbine Entertainment would like to issue a reminder to all interested parties of its upcoming stakes nomination deadline on Feb. 18, with a focus on the Mohawk Million and its major 2-year-old trotting events. [more](#)

Hanover Shoe Farms buys Youaremycandygirl

Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. has announced that it has purchased 2017 Two-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year and world champion Youaremycandygirl P, 3, 1:48.2M (\$1,566,292). [more](#)

NJ Breeders Maturity announced

The Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Sire Stakes has announced that it will institute four new events for 4-year-old trotters and pacers beginning in the spring of 2020. The new races, called the New Jersey Breeders' Maturity, will be open to all horses that were nominated as yearlings to either the New Jersey Sire Stakes Premier Division or the New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund. [more](#)

NJ trainers help with data to fulfill appropriation

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) is in the process of collecting data to complete the state required status report on the horse industry. [more](#)

RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through January 28, 2020 (week difference January 15-28).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Sintra (7pg)	4	4	0	0	\$55,260
Keystone Phoenix (6pg)	4	3	0	1	49,500
The Dark Shadow (6pg)	4	3	0	0	42,625
Pet Shark (7pg)	4	3	0	0	38,540
Danikova (5pm)	4	3	0	0	36,250
Tookadiveoffdipper (6pg)	3	2	0	1	35,200
Sweet Mr Pinetucky (6tg)	4	2	1	0	35,045
Windsong Leo (8pg)	3	3	0	0	35,000
Twin B Speed Dial (6pg)	4	3	0	1	34,992
Fixed Idea (4pg)	4	3	1	0	34,905
Swansea (5tg)	3	1	1	1	34,800
Soho Lennon A (10pg)	3	3	0	0	34,500
Smalltownthrowdown (7tg)	3	2	0	1	34,240
Granite (7pg)	4	2	1	0	33,250
Little Ben (9pg)	3	1	2	0	33,000

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Aaron Merriman	360	104-69-49	.441	\$641,563 (\$291,663)
Jason Bartlett	192	43-43-21	.385	624,609 (394,237)
Tim Tetrick	188	62-27-31	.465	529,048 (300,065)
Corey Callahan	258	35-33-39	.257	463,167 (244,980)
Dexter Dunn	156	38-26-26	.392	455,482 (209,653)
Jim Marohn Jr.	167	30-25-21	.305	451,757 (222,595)
George Brennan	173	30-27-16	.291	444,070 (257,820)
Trace Tetrick	221	39-26-23	.277	417,550 (235,675)
Chris Page	226	30-24-22	.224	353,775 (205,881)
Mike Wilder	194	42-27-34	.352	352,324 (206,995)
Brett Miller	227	36-18-34	.253	350,265 (212,355)
Jeremy Smith	224	23-41-22	.237	347,962 (149,755)
Jordan Stratton	161	14-23-22	.212	343,447 (206,360)
Tyler Smith	224	27-29-31	.239	340,277 (184,117)
Austin Siegelman	222	20-26-26	.194	327,268 (189,820)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	273	59-45-31	.346	\$740,393 (\$402,432)
Rene Allard	81	25-16-10	.460	362,637 (233,040)
Scott Di Domenico	97	23-13-11	.349	296,521 (159,787)
Andrew Harris	84	24-10-11	.396	280,390 (139,560)
Carmen Auciello	138	16-22-15	.241	275,109 (132,343)
Richard Moreau	158	22-25-24	.278	264,785 (142,665)
Nick Surick	171	36-25-19	.329	230,327 (139,230)
Jim King Jr.	46	17-7-3	.476	191,454 (55,275)
Richard Banca	54	12-12-6	.383	191,107 (124,037)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	78	21-6-10	.355	189,225 (120,595)
William Rhoades	77	30-16-11	.553	167,813 (73,944)
Joseph Columbo	110	12-12-21	.233	152,690 (76,092)
Peter Redder	61	9-12-8	.301	151,670 (71,230)
Tyler George	41	16-1-6	.453	141,820 (66,070)
C. Brian Loney	92	22-5-13	.316	115,645 (59,924)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	338	86	96	\$1,122,485
Winbak Farm	328	94	108	878,468
Seelster Farms Inc.	94	29	40	356,316
Brittany Farms LLC	77	21	28	314,029
Steve Stewart	77	29	35	301,726
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	68	20	29	205,538
Midland Acres Inc.	58	16	21	201,939
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	47	16	18	190,669
White Birch Farm	51	13	16	188,485
Robert J. Key	62	15	21	177,444
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	47	14	18	156,905
Vieux Carre Farms	34	12	14	139,200
Victory Hill Farm Inc.	41	14	16	124,660
Spring Haven Farm	46	10	11	122,440
Frederick Hertrich III	46	10	11	120,313

Leading Money-Winning Sires

USTA statistics through January 29, 2020

All Age Pacers

Sire Name	Foals	Starters	Earnings
BETTOR'S DELIGHT	1627	304	\$1,177,772
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	1055	193	828,600
MACH THREE	1219	245	743,418
AMERICAN IDEAL	1141	170	591,216
ART MAJOR	1353	161	522,866
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	509	111	439,408
SHADOW PLAY	699	116	412,767
WELL SAID	752	120	407,018
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	792	124	400,563
BIG JIM	339	79	351,088
SPORTSWRITER	851	161	348,765
WESTERN IDEAL	918	102	339,230
WESTERN TERROR	1074	112	327,438
DRAGON AGAIN	1142	119	309,149
MCARDLE	770	97	282,949
ROCKIN IMAGE	673	89	259,445
PET ROCK	348	68	255,016
JEREME'S JET	571	74	253,807
ROCKNROLL HANOVER	1046	84	244,391
YANKEE CRUISER	740	55	224,081

All Age Trotters

Sire Name	Foals	Starters	Earnings
CANTAB HALL	1178	78	\$280,334
KADABRA	1099	80	257,937
CRAZED	524	45	207,525
SWAN FOR ALL	636	49	203,793
MUSCLE HILL	773	40	197,290
MUSCLE MASS	732	63	193,487
CREDIT WINNER	983	40	187,534
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	620	60	177,234
DONATO HANOVER	997	57	175,414
CHAPTER SEVEN	365	39	157,975
ANGUS HALL	1098	51	147,251
YANKEE GLIDE	919	54	139,463
MUSCLE MASSIVE	462	43	132,793
ANDOVER HALL	951	34	111,357
LUCKY CHUCKY	355	18	91,406
MANOFMANYMISSIONS	281	33	89,141
JUSTICE HALL	295	25	87,534
DEJARBRO	357	20	83,252
CASH HALL	480	19	81,600
CONWAY HALL	992	33	81,593

2020 FEBRUARY



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
26 Prix d'Amerique Trot (Vincennes)	27	28	29	30 Wine & Roses FM Trot (Wbsb)	31 Blizzard F&M final (Wbsb) Snowshoe H&G final (Wbsb)	1 O'Brien Awards dinner at Mississauga, Ont.
2 Groundhog Day	3 Pepsi H&G Trot (Wbsb)	4	5	6 Wine & Roses F&M Trot (Wbsb)	7 Beissinger Medley Trot (MVR)	8 Dailey Medley Pace (MVR) The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono opens
9	10 Pepsi H&G Trot (Wbsb)	11 Blooded Horse Winter Speed Sale at Springfield, Ohio	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Beissinger Medley Trot (MVR) Wine & Roses FM Trot final (Wbsb)	15 Dailey Medley Pace (MVR) Hawthorne Race Course opens
16 Saratoga Harness opens	17 Presidents' Day Pepsi H&G Trot final (Wbsb)	18	19	20	21 Beissinger Medley Trot final (MVR)	22 Dailey Medley Pace final (MVR)
23 USHWA Dan Patch Awards dinner in Orlando, Fla.	24	25 Mardi Gras	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29

**STAKES PAYMENT
DUE FEB 17**

**MEADOWLANDS
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