Atlanta Dispute Leads To Auction

As a result of the six-month suspension and fine of Ontario-based horseman Rick Zeron, who trained and co-owned the 2018 Hambletonian champion Atlanta, the 4-year-old trotting mare has been put up for auction on the website ongait.com.

The opening bid for Atlanta, who will be honored as the Dan Patch 2018 Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year—and possibly Trotter of the Year and Horse of the Year—on Feb. 24 in Orlando, Fla., was set at $500,000, and on Thursday afternoon the bid was $1 million. Bidding ends at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15.

Zeron was suspended by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission in Ontario in early January after a barn search last July revealed unmarked drugs and counterfeit labels. The search also led to a pair of alleged shock-wave violations and bribery against Zeron.

Zeron has appealed the penalty. Still, because of Standardbred Canada’s O’Brien Award regulations, he was disqualified as a finalist for the Horsemanship Award and Atlanta was disqualified as the already-announced 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year. In the aftermath, Jeff Gural, who owns the Meadowlands, Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs, announced Atlanta would not be eligible to race at any of his tracks if Zeron remained involved in any capacity.

Atlanta was purchased as a yearling for $60,000 by Zeron, Holland Racing Stable, Howard Taylor and Brad Grant as equal 25-percent partners. Early last year, unbeknownst to the other partners, Zeron sold most of his interest to Crawford Farms, retaining only five percent interest.

“We’re selling her to dissolve the partnership,” explained Grant of the decision to put Atlanta on ongait.com. “We have a five-percent partner that has to go. The only way to do it, since he thinks he owns and controls the horse and the rest of us are along for the ride, is to put her up for auction. And it’s an absolute shame.”

Atlanta, who earned more than $1 million in purses in 2018, is currently with Zeron at his winter base at Sunshine Meadows in Florida. On Tuesday (Feb. 12), under the instruction of the 95-percent partners, trainer Tony Alagna went to Zeron’s barn and brought Atlanta back to his stable at Sunshine Meadows. Later on Tuesday, Zeron came and took back Atlanta.

“Nine-five percent of the ownership group wanted the horse moved,” Grant explained of the decision to move the filly to Alagna. “Rick can’t train the horse and race at (Woodbine Mohawk Park), he can’t race at the Gural group of tracks. This mare has a lot of races at those two venues (Mohawk and Meadowlands).

“We moved her to Tony’s barn and then Rick just came and got her. I told Tony don’t get into a confrontation. I just have a hard time understanding how a five-percent owner can get away with what he’s doing. Tony got the horse on the direction of the 95-percenters.”

Continues on page 2
Ongait Serves Those Who Need Instant Marketplace

Horse owner Eric Cherry, who races as Let It Ride Stable and breeds horses under the banner of Doc’s Farm, likes to say that his business ongait.com is “an overnight success that took 16 years.”

On Tuesday night (Feb. 12), ongait.com was a part of the biggest news in harness racing: the sale of the 4-year-old trotting mare Atlanta, winner of last year’s Hambletonian.

“In the first three hours yesterday (Tuesday night) her page had over 4,000 page views,” said Cherry, who previously founded businesses that in the pre-internet years provided live race calls and race results of horse races and winning lottery ticket numbers.

“This (sale) is going to prove to people that ongait is a good place to sell a horse,” he added. “This is a case where they decided to sell the horse on Tuesday, and they’ll have their money on Saturday. You obviously can’t do this with a regular, physical auction.”

Cherry founded ongait.com about 18 years ago as a place to have listings for horses for sale, like the newspaper or magazine “classified” advertising sections. Eight or nine years ago he added the feature to allow bidding on horses listed for sale and final transactions, charging a four-percent commission of the purchase price.

“I would say we’re running at the rate of selling 2,500 horses or breedings a year. Business has probably doubled in the last two years,” said Cherry. —By Kathy Parker

According to Grant and Taylor, Zeron offered to sell his five-percent interest for $200,000. They declined, noting that the price would value the mare at $4 million.

“We couldn’t agree on a buyout, so we’ll see what the market brings,” said Taylor, noting the possibility of a breeding syndicate or European syndicate making a big bid. “My hope is to stay in (retain ownership), but if she brings enough, I guess I will sell.”

Grant agrees with Taylor.

“I’m not going to let her go cheap,” said Grant. “Four of us want to stay in, and depending on how it goes, I indicated to the partnership I’d like to keep the partnership going. We’ve agreed that if there is a (certain) price, we’ll stay in. If it goes beyond that, then good luck to the next one.”

Grant said against the partnership’s wishes because of the uncertainty of ownership, Atlanta was fully staked this year by Zeron. Grant said the stakes payments are all pending, depending on the outcome of the auction.—By Gordon Waterstone
2019 All Nominations Close February 15th

Pepsi North America Cup XXXVI
Three-year-old open pace. Final raced on Saturday, June 15, 2019. $1,000,000 Guaranteed Final Purse.

Arbrow Flight
Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares trot. Final raced on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Purse $250,000 E Final ($175,000 A).

Canadian Pace Classic
Three-year-olds and older open pace. Final raced on Saturday, August 31, 2019. Purse $250,000 E Final ($150,000 A).

Casual Breeze
Three-year-old filly trot. Raced on Friday, August 23, 2019. Purse $150,000 E ($60,000 A).

Elegant Image
Three-year-old filly trot. Final raced on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Purse $350,000 E ($225,000 A).

Eternal Camnation
Two-year-old filly pace. Raced on Saturday, August 24, 2019. Purse $250,000 E ($60,000 A).

Fan Hanover
Three-year-old filly pace. Final raced on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Purse $425,000 E ($275,000 A).

Goodtimes
Three-year-old open trot. Final raced on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Purse $260,000 E ($125,000 A).

Maple Leaf Trot
Three-year-olds and older open trot. Final raced on Saturday, August 31, 2019. Purse $650,000 E Final ($350,000 A).

Metro Pace
Two-year-old open pace. Final raced on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Purse $850,000 E ($300,000 A).

Milton
Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares pace. Final raced on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Purse $250,000 E Final ($150,000 A).

Nassagaweya
Two-year-old open pace. Raced on Saturday, August 24, 2019. Purse $225,000 E ($60,000 A).

Peaceful Way
Two-year-old filly trot. Final raced on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Purse $380,000 E Final ($175,000 A).

Roses Are Red
Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares pace. Final raced on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Purse $370,000 E Final ($225,000 A).

Shes A Great Lady Pace
Two-year-old filly pace. Final raced on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Purse $550,000 E Final ($250,000 A).

Somebeachsomewhere
Three-year-old open pace. Raced on Saturday, June 1, 2019. Purse $180,000 E ($60,000 A).

William Wellwood Memorial
Two-year-old open trot. Final raced on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Purse $400,000 E Final ($175,000 A).

Battle of Waterloo
Ontario Sired Two-year-old open pace. Final raced on Monday, August 5, 2019. Purse $250,000 E Final ($90,000 A).

Battle of the Belles
Ontario Sired Two-year-old filly pace. Final raced on Monday, August 5, 2019. Purse $165,000 E Final ($60,000 A).

Confederation Cup XLI
Four-year-old open pace. Final raced on Sunday, May 19, 2019. Purse $180,000 E ($150,000 A).

Balanced Image
Ontario Sired Two-year-old trotting fillies & colts in 2019. Final raced on Saturday, August 24, 2019. Purse $50,000 E ($20,000 A).

Dream of Glory
Ontario Sired Three-year-old trotting fillies & colts in 2019, non-winners of $75,000 (fillies $100,000) in 2018. Final raced on Saturday, August 3, 2019. Purse $60,000 E ($40,000 A).

Kin Pace

Reminder: Sustaining Payments Due

Please visit WoodbineMohawkPark.com or contact Woodbine Mohawk Park Race Office for detailed information: 905-854-7805 or 1-888-675-7223 (dial 1, extension 4306).

Online Payment Option: Woodbine.com/Mohawk/Standardbred-Nomination/
Rompaway Galaxy Reaches For The Stars In Beissinger Series

Rompaway Galaxy has been a mainstay in Ohio racing for many years, and on Friday night the 8-year-old trotter will take aim at the $700,000 mark in career earnings when he competes in the first of two $17,500 divisions of the Howard Beissinger Series at Miami Valley (Race 8). He will start from post 1 as the 5-2 second choice on the morning line for driver Jason Thompson.

The son of Rompaway Wally comes into the race just $763 shy of $700,000 in a career that began as a 2 year old in 2013. Rompaway Wally earned $161,550 while winning seven of eight starts that year—finishing second by just a head in his lone loss—and dominating the Ohio Sires Stakes circuit.

As a 3 year old in 2014, Rompaway Wally added another $246,944 to his coffers, racing well not only in Ohio Sires Stakes but also in open competition, including finishing second in the Galt Memorial at Maywood and third in the American National at Balmoral Park. Racing in stakes and top-class events at four, Rompaway Galaxy topped the $100,000 mark again, and trotted to a career best of 1:52 at the Meadowlands.

“He’s been a really good horse to take care of. While training he never causes any trouble,” said trainer Chris Beaver, who also leases Rompaway Galaxy from breeder-owner Rompaway Farms and has had the trotter in his barn since October 2016. “I don’t have very many like him that you can race right on through for a long time. He doesn’t seem to take a beating. I don’t have to do a lot of vet work on him or anything like that. He seems to know what he can handle.”

Rompaway Galaxy finished second in the first round of the Beissinger Series last Friday. Beaver admits he didn’t think the trotter could handle the five-eighths mile distance of last week’s opener of the three-week series, which has an increasing medley of distances. The series, for trotters who have raced for purses of $7,500 (minimum) and $15,000 (maximum) in their last three starts, was raced at the dash distance last week and will race at the standard one-mile distance this week. The $25,000 final on Feb. 22 will be raced at 1 1/4 miles.

“I was just hoping we’d get a little piece of it last week as I didn’t think it’d be his forte at all. I was real happy with second,” said Beaver. “Some horses are made for speed and he’s really not that type. But Jason (Thompson) worked out a good trip and was in the right place at the right time. I think he’ll be better in that group as the distance increases, that’s why I was interested in the series. It’s a distance for the final.”

“I think he’ll be better in that group as the distance increases.”

—Chris Beaver

Rompaway Galaxy races with hopples, which Beaver added some time ago.

“I’ve raced him both ways,” said Beaver. “He was getting a little rough in the turns so I put them on to stay a while back. I think he is better in them as it gets him a little more confidence in the turns.”

Rompaway Galaxy has been a staple at Northfield Park for many weeks, and Beaver expects the trotter to return to the half-mile track upon the conclusion of the Beissinger Series. The trotter’s lone win in four starts this year came at Northfield on Jan. 14. That win came in a conditioned event, but Rompaway Galaxy also works his way up the class ladder to the open ranks, where he has scored victories.

“He’ll probably end up back at Northfield since he gets along good there,” said Beaver. “I think though that whenever he gets back up into the open he has a tough time anymore. I won a few opens with him at Northfield but his best classes are just a little bit below. There he’s a lot more competitive.” — By Gordon Waterstone

Summer Assistant Position Looking For A Fun Summer?

HHYF is seeking individual to assist with barn management and driving the truck and trailer this summer. Harness racing background a plus but must enjoy kids and horses too!

Share your harness racing passion with the next generation!

Dates of employment - May 15 to August 15
Salary to commiserate with experience.

If interested, please contact Ellen Taylor at 317-908-0029, or by e-mail at ellen@hhym.org.
First Nuncio Foal Born; Cherry Supports Heston

Nuncio's first foal was born in Sweden last Wednesday (Feb. 6). Nuncio won the 2014 Kentucky Futurity and took a mark of 1:50.4 while competing in the U.S. After his 3-year-old campaign in the U.S. he settled in Sweden with his owner, Stefan Melander, and in 2016 he won the Elitlopp.

Nuncio's first foal, a colt, is out of Ursula Knick, a daughter of French speedster Ready Cash. Ursula Knick took a mark of 1:57.3f and carries a strong Swedish maternal line, as well as American blood. Her dam Ice Tea Knick is by Turbo Thrust, a Supergill half brother to Donerail.

Tomas Mickelsson bred and owns the foal and has already named him King Kennedy, after the famous Swedish soccer player Kennedy Bakircioglu.

Nuncio was bred to 150 mares in Sweden in 2018, the maximum amount, plus four in Denmark and 12 via frozen semen in the U.S.

Among the mares bred to Nuncio in the U.S. are five owned by Russell Williams, president and CEO of Hanover Shoe Farms, and also the breeder of Nuncio. Williams had sold Nuncio as a yearling for just $7,000 and the son of Andover Hall earned more than $2 million.

All five of the mares Williams bred to Nuncio are in foal, as is the one owned by Hanover Shoe Farms. Those mares and their foals are boarded at Walnut Hall Ltd. in Lexington, Ky., so the foals will be Kentucky eligible. Williams said he will continue to support Nuncio in 2019. He also still owns Nuncio's dam, Nicole Isabelle, and plans to breed her to International Moni this year.

Staying with the subject of trotting sires, with three of the hottest trotting sires in the breed, Mike Klau of Southwind Farms is one busy guy these days. Klau manages the books for the syndicates of Muscle Hill, Walner and Tactical Landing.

“Everything is booked; the problem is some people haven’t sent their booking applications in yet,” said Klau on Monday, Feb. 11. “So I’m just trying to tie up all of those details.”

Klau said Muscle Hill and Tactical Landing, who both stand at stud at Southwind’s New Jersey headquarters, have begun breeding.

“We bred Tactical Landing to a few mares last week, and Muscle Hill started today,” said Klau. “Tactical Landing’s (fertility) numbers are fantastic. He’s the most fertile son of Muscle Hill that we’ve seen.”

On the pacing front, breeder Eric Cherry is high on Heston Blue Chip, who he co-owns with Winbak Farm, and he’s backing up his opinion with 40 of his broodmares.

“I said to myself, if I only breed a few mares to him, I’m not giving him a chance,” said Cherry, who owns 25 percent of Heston Blue Chip, who stands stud at Nandi Farm in Pennsylvania. “From just 12 or 13 fillies he’s come up with Zero Tolerance (p,2, 1:51-$485,813).”

Heston Blue Chip is standing his fifth season at stud. In 2018 he was bred to his largest book yet, 89 mares.

“The more I analyze him, I can’t find one weakness,” continued Cherry. “No one can say he was in a weak crop because he beat Sweet Lou, Pet Rock and Thinking Out Loud. And his dam line (which includes the maternal family of Rockin Image, Tellitlikeitis and Rockin Amadeus) is one of the most prolific in the sport with both racing and breeding production. Every branch has produced.”

Cherry said another reason he is supporting Heston Blue Chip (who stands for a fee of $5,000) is because he believes something should be done to stimulate breeding by “backyard breeders.”

Cherry also shared that Call Me Queen Be, his 2017 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Pace winner, is one of 12 mares he is breeding to Sweet Lou this year.—By Kathy Parker
1. Mark stallion selection and highest bid on application (trotters listed in italics). Minimum bids, booking fees and semen transport charges may apply. Stallion manager may reserve right to approve mare. Call 845-294-6330 for additional information.

2. Return application with a check for 10% of amount bid (Canadian bidders may submit bids on Canadian stallions in Canadian funds). If bidding on more than one stallion, please use separate application or plain paper and write separate checks for each bid. All bids are confidential.

3. Bids must be postmarked by Saturday, February 16th, 2019.

4. Make check(s) payable and send to The Harness Racing Museum, 240 Main Street, Goshen, NY 10924. Call or email Joanne Young to let her know that your bid is in the mail.

5. Bidders will be notified starting February 25th.

6. If you are not the winning bidder, your deposit will be returned to you or you may donate it to the Museum. The successful bidder will owe the Harness Racing Museum the remaining 90% of stud fee at the time the mare foals. If no live foal results, a veterinarian’s certificate is required. Your deposit will be returned, or it may be donated to the Museum. Mares not presented for breeding will forfeit deposit.

7. Bids over the advertised stud fees are deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Invest in our future! Encourage our efforts to protect and preserve Harness Racing’s special memories and exciting times!

**CONDITIONS**

**BIDDING APPLICATION FOR 2019 STALLION BREEDING AUCTION**

The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, 240 Main St., Goshen, NY 10924

I bid $__________ for a breeding to __________________________ for the mare __________________________

Sire __________________________ Dam __________________________ Mare is Maiden Barren In foal Due Date ______

A deposit check for $__________ is enclosed (Canadian bidders may submit bids on Canadian stallions in C$ / Canadian funds)

Name __________________________ Phone __________________________

Mailing Address __________________________

City __________________________ State ________ Zip ________ Email __________________________

If you aren’t a winning bidder, would you donate all/part of your deposit to the Harness Racing Museum? YES ______ NO ______

Signature __________________________ Date ________________, 2019

**OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT!**

*NOTE: THIS IS NOT A FINAL LIST!* Call 845-294-6330 for updates

development@harnessmuseum.com

Dream Away DE 2,500
Glide master DE 3,000
Diamond Goal FL Private
Yankee Skyscaper IL 2,500
Always A Virgin IN 6,000
Class Included IN 2,500
JK Endofanera IN 5,000
Charlie De Vie MD 1,500
Rusty’s All In MD 1,000
Lis Mara NJ 2,500
Artiscape NY 2,500
Conway Hall NY 5,000
Crazy Wow NY 3,000
Dewaynecatumnhowe NY 3,500
Dude’s The Man NY 3,500
Manningly NY 2,500
So Surreal NY 2,500
Third Straight NY 1,000
Whataworkout NY 3,000
Art Director OH 2,000
Big Bad John OH 3,000
Bring On The Beach OH 2,500
Cash Hall OH 3,500
Coraggioso OH 2,500
Domethatagain OH 3,000
EL Rocket OH 2,500
Lucky Chucky OH 3,000
Manhardt OH 3,000
McArdle OH 4,000
Mister Big OH 2,000
Semalu Express OH 750
Stormin Normand OH 3,000
Triumphant Caviar OH 5,000
Well Said OH 5,000
Western Vintage OH 3,500
We Will See OH 2,500
Woodstock OH 2,000
Yankee Cruiser OH 3,500
Angus Hall ON C$6,000
Royal Mattjesty ON C$3,500
Sportswriter ON C$6,500
Donato Hanover PA 7,500
Heston Blue Chip PA 6,000
Pacific Renegade PA 1,200
Possess The Will PA 3,500
Sebastian K PA 6,000
Crazy Wow PA 3,000
Dream Away DE 2,500
Glide master DE 3,000
Diamond Goal FL Private
Yankee Skyscaper IL 2,500
Always A Virgin IN 6,000
Class Included IN 2,500
JK Endofanera IN 5,000
Charlie De Vie MD 1,500
Rusty’s All In MD 1,000
Lis Mara NJ 2,500
Artiscape NY 2,500
Conway Hall NY 5,000
Crazy Wow NY 3,000
Dewaynecatumnhowe NY 3,500
Dude’s The Man NY 3,500
Manningly NY 2,500
So Surreal NY 2,500
Third Straight NY 1,000
Whataworkout NY 3,000
Art Director OH 2,000
Big Bad John OH 3,000
Bring On The Beach OH 2,500
Cash Hall OH 3,500
Coraggioso OH 2,500
Domethatagain OH 3,000
EL Rocket OH 2,500
Lucky Chucky OH 3,000
Manhardt OH 3,000
McArdle OH 4,000
Mister Big OH 2,000
Semalu Express OH 750
Stormin Normand OH 3,000
Triumphant Caviar OH 5,000
Well Said OH 5,000
Western Vintage OH 3,500
We Will See OH 2,500
Woodstock OH 2,000
Yankee Cruiser OH 3,500
Angus Hall ON C$6,000
Royal Mattjesty ON C$3,500
Sportswriter ON C$6,500
Donato Hanover PA 7,500
Heston Blue Chip PA 6,000
Pacific Renegade PA 1,200
Possess The Will PA 3,500
Sebastian K PA 6,000
Southwind Cobra Tops
Blooded Horse Sale At $54,000

The annual Blooded Horse Winter Sale held Feb 12, at the Champions Center in Springfield, Ohio, was the strongest in its 56-year history. It was standing room only as owners, trainers and breeders flooded the pavilion to restock stables and acquire broodmares.

“People love coming to a sale to actually see and touch the horses they want to buy,” said sale manager Jerry Haws. “It may take a bit more time and resources, but the dividends far outweigh the cost. Bringing horses to a packed venue of eager buyers is a tremendous marketing tool. Consignors, for the most part, were quite pleased.”

The sale topper was the Muscle Hill 5-year-old trotter Southwind Cobra, who was purchased by Loren Yoder of Iowa for stallion duties for $54,000. Consigned by Windy Ridge Farm, the Grand Circuit winner sported a record of 2:1:53.3 and earnings of $236,834.

Runner-up honors went to the highly competitive 4-year-old pacer Gerardo, a winner of $104,000 last year. Consigned by Doug Dunbar of Ontario, the son of Rockin Image was bought near the end of the sale by Kayne Kauffman for $50,000. Dunbar also signed the ticket for the solid conditioned pacing mare Big Lis for $35,000, one of 29 that Canadian buyers took home. Of those, six were purchased by Brian Doyle for export to Ireland, including the lovely Art Major broodmare Miri for $17,000.

The Burke Racing Stable consignment included a pair of fancy trotting fillies that got breeders’ attention. Winterwood Farm acting as agent had the final bid on Pink Fringes, a daughter of Uncle Peter from the family of B Cor Pete 9,1:53.2 ($893,076) and Tall Cotton 8,1:51.3f ($871,621), for $26,000, and Dublin Valley Farm secured Pat On The Back, a Donato Hanover daughter of Buck I St Pat 7,1:51 ($2,320,637), for $15,000.

For complete sale results visit bloodedhorse.com. The next sale is May 14 and it’s an exceptionally strong market for racehorses. Entries close April 22. (Blooded Horse Sale)

ATTENTION STALLION OWNERS IN MAINE, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, IOWA, WISCONSIN AND ALBERTA

Legislative changes in California have made offspring by stallions in Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Alberta, Canada eligible to the revamped California Standardbred Sires Stakes program (for pacers only).

To be eligible for the 2019 breeding season, stallions must be nominated to the California Sires Stakes program by the extended date of April 1, 2019.

Inquiries to: California Sires Stakes   916-919-7469   csssc@chhaonline.com

Nomination forms can also be obtained at: chhaonline.com
Dan Patch Awards Dinner To Be Streamed Live

The name of the 2018 Horse of the Year will be announced Sunday night, Feb. 24 at the annual U.S. Harness Writers Association’s (USHWA) Dan Patch Awards dinner at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Fla. But even if you aren’t among the attendees you will be able to watch the announcement live via USHWA’s Facebook page.

After a cocktail hour and open bar sponsored by McWicked, the awards ceremony gets underway at 7 p.m., and will be available via the Facebook page, sponsored by Crawford Farms and Crazy Wow. At approximately 10 p.m., emcees Roger Huston and Jason Settlemoir will announce the winner of the E. Roland Harriman Horse of the Year trophy, which follows the revealing of the names of the Pacer of the Year and Trotter of the Year.

To access USHWA’s Facebook page, please click here. The entire video will also be available on the U.S. Trotting Association’s YouTube page the following day, Monday, Feb. 25, by clicking here.

Dinner tickets are still available but must be ordered by Monday, Feb. 18 by contacting Judy Wilson via email at zoe8874@aol.com or by phone at (302) 359-3630. Tickets for the filet mignon featured meal are $175 each.

Post time for the evening is 6 p.m., with a one-hour Red Carpet cocktail reception sponsored by the Southwind Frank Partners. Also starring on the Red Carpet will be Heather Vitale and Heather Wilder, with the two Heathers broadcasting live on their individual Facebook pages. It’s your guarantee to see who’s wearing what and what the attendees have to say about the festivities.

Heather Vitale’s Facebook page can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/PacinHeather. Heather Wilder’s Facebook page can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/heather.k.wilder (USHWA)
Harness Racing’s Biggest Night of the Year!

There is still time to attend!

The 2019 Dan Patch Awards
Night of Champions Banquet

Sunday, February 24, 2019
Rosen Shingle Creek Resort
Orlando, Florida

Honoring the 2018
Dan Patch Champions
E. Roland Harriman Horse of the Year
Trotter of the Year
Pacer of the Year
Hall of Fame Inductees
Communicator Hall of Fame Inductees
Hervey & Smallreed Winners
Grand Circuit Award Winners
USHWA Awards

2019 Night of Champions

For Dinner Tickets Contact
Judy Davis-Wilson at Zoe8874@aol.com

President Shawn Wiles  Vice President Kimberly Rinker
Treasurer Barry Lefkowitz  Secretary Gerry Connors  Chairman of the Board Tim Bojarski

www.ushwa.org
Bit Of A Legend N Prepping
For Levy Series

New Zealand-bred star Bit Of A Legend is ready to make his 2019 debut in Saturday’s $44,000 Open Handicap at Yonkers Raceway and trainer Peter Tritton says the 10-year-old stallion looks as good as ever.

Last year, Bit Of A Legend won five of 21 races, finished second seven times, and earned $549,315. His victories included the Battle of Lake Erie in a career-best 1:49.4 around Northfield Park’s half-mile oval and he was runner-up in the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series championship, Joe Gerrity Jr. Memorial, and Dan Rooney Invitational.

Since arriving in the U.S. in 2016, Bit Of A Legend has won 26 of 77 races and earned $1.79 million. Other top wins include the Gerrity, Bobby Quillen Memorial, and Molson Pace in 2017 and the 2016 Levy championship.

“To me, he seems to be coming up every bit as good as he did last year and the year before,” said Tritton, who trains Bit Of A Legend for Vonknoblauch Stable LLC.

“He’s probably a little more forward this year than he was last year. We gave him a month off, but we couldn’t give him much more because he got too full of himself. I’m very happy with where he is at the moment.”

Bit Of A Legend, driven regularly by Jordan Stratton, is a son of Bettor’s Delight out of Soky’s Legend. He was a two-time Australian Breeders Crown champion Down Under, where he won 20 times and earned $659,686, giving him lifetime earnings of $2.45 million.

Tritton will use the next month to prep Bit Of A Legend for the Levy Series, which begins March 16 at Yonkers. The series consists of five preliminary rounds followed by a $200,000-added final on April 20.

“With any luck through the series he should be right there,” Tritton said. “We’ll give him one or two more runs before the (preliminary rounds). The beauty of him is that he can go right through without a break. He enjoys his work and Jordan looks after him pretty good.

“I just hope we can get through the series and get to the final and draw good. I thought he could have won the last couple if he had drawn better, but he drew the outside both times. It’s hard to win those finals from the outside.”

Tritton is planning to keep Bit Of A Legend on a schedule similar to previous years, although he might not stake the stallion to events on bigger tracks. Bit Of A Legend is winless in eight starts on tracks larger than a half, with two on-the-board finishes.

“He can go around the big tracks, but he’s so slick on a half and can get around those corners so quick,” Tritton said. “I think he loses his advantage on the big tracks, where some of them gain an advantage.” —Ken Weingartner

Top Swedish Mare Darling Mearas
Joining Svanstedt In U.S.

There will be a new face in the older trotting mare ranks this season. The top Swedish mare Darling Mearas is scheduled to be shipped to the U.S. in the next couple of weeks, with her final destination the Ake Svanstedt Stable.

Darling Mearas is a 6-year-old daughter of Cantab Hall and Khao Manee (by Muscles Yankee). Unraced as a 2 year old, as is common in Sweden, she has 12 wins in 28 career starts and has won some of the top events for her generation, among them the Oaks as a 3 year old and European Mare Championship last year at age five. Stefan Persson has trained the mare.

Darling Mearas was bred and is owned by the Wihlborg family’s Snogarps Gard AB.

In an interview with Sweden’s Sulky Sport magazine, Calle Wihlborg said, “Darling is great, but not so good that she can match the very best stallions.

“Together we and Stefan have come to the conclusion that Ake Svanstedt is the best trainer for her and purely historically he has been very good at getting older horses to take a step up.”

Wihlborg said the mare will be staked to all of the top events for older mare trotters, plus the Maple Leaf Trot at Woodbine Mohawk.

Wihlborg added that the decision to send Darling Mearas to the U.S was inspired in part by the success of Pasithea Face S when she raced in America, plus Darling’s future as a broodmare.

“The idea is also that this (racing in U.S.) will result in her being mated with some very good stallion from the American market when she has completed racing, and that we will have a very exclusive offspring,” said Wihlborg.—By Kathy Parker
Gingras continues torrid pace at Big M

Yannick Gingras is having a record stretch for a driver while betting continues at a torrid clip during February at the Meadowlands. After winning 13 races over the span of Feb. 1-2, Gingras followed that up with 10 more wins last weekend (Feb. 8-9) at the Big M, giving him 23 victories in 49 starts, for an incredible win percentage of 47. more

Sports wagering bill discussed in Kentucky

A Kentucky House Committee has begun discussing a proposed bill that would allow sports wagering at horse race-tracks or the Kentucky Speedway in northern part of the state, or with an online app which they registered in person to prove their identities and were of age. more

Shartin N wins qualifier at Dover Downs

The 2018 Dan Patch Older Pacing Mare of the Year Shartin N, in her first appearance since capturing the $175,000 TVG Mares Open last Nov. 24 at the Meadowlands, won a qualifier Wednesday morning at Dover Downs. more

Poillucci looks to double pleasure with pacing mares

Richard Poillucci is looking forward to watching his New Zealand-bred standout Shartin return to action this season and the 6-year-old Dan Patch Award-winning mare has a new stablemate that Poillucci hopes can keep her company on the stakes trail. more

Rivera signed ball part of Dan Patch auction

The United States Harness Writers Association Dan Patch Awards Night has received some great New York Yankees memorabilia and game tickets for the silent auction on Sunday, Feb. 24, at Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando, Fla. A very rare Mariano Rivera autographed baseball heads the list. more

RMTC approves study to find blood doping agents

At its Feb. 11 meeting at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, Fla, the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) board approved the funding of two tactical research projects with a combined price tag in excess of $250,000, as a continuation of its ongoing focus on detecting and eliminating illicit substances in racing. more

Funds needed to rebuild at Goshen Historic Track

For almost two centuries, people have enjoyed watching harness racing in the center of the Village of Goshen at HistoricTrack. As you may be aware, on Aug. 23, 2017, a fire completely destroyed the quaint blacksmith shop, the historic BOCES Barn and the shedrow barn between them. Goshen HistoricTrack and the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame are jointly raising funds to reconstruct the BOCES Barn. more

Goshen Yearling Sale set for Sept. 8

Goshen Standardbred Horse Sales has announced that the 2019 Goshen Yearling Sale will be held on Sunday, Sept. 8, at the Mark Ford Training Center in Middletown, N.Y. The date marks the fifth anniversary of the sale that has grown into the pre-eminent outlet for buying New York-bred trotters and pacers within the Empire State. more

Mark Loewe new VP at The Meadows

Veteran horse racing executive Mark Loewe has been named vice president of racing for the Meadows Casino, Racetrack and Hotel, subject to customary regulatory licensing requirements. more

HHI statement on horsemen unity

My name is Tom Luchento, most of you know, I am president of Harness Horsemen International. I would like to take this time to speak to you about a problem that has recently come to my attention. By now, most of you probably have heard about it, but for those who haven’t, please let me explain. In order to be respectful, I will not mention names or places, but rather speak to the issue. more

Kenny Rice to host new horse racing show

The Horse Racing Show is like none other. A weekly personality and information driven video podcast hearing from and telling the stories of the people in the industry from an entertaining and unique perspective. more

Waco Hanover dies at age 42

Waco Hanover, whose longevity led to stardom well after his career on the racetrack concluded, died Saturday, Feb. 9, at the age of 42. The CBS Sunday Morning Show, which two years ago featured Waco Hanover and his relationship with caretaker Donnie MacAdams, reported Waco Hanover’s passing on its Facebook page Monday, Feb. 11. more

Ohio horseman Charles “Doug” Stovall, 81, dies

Charles D. “Doug” Stovall, 81, of Lebanon, Ohio, died Feb. 10 at Ohio Living Quaker Heights, in Waynesville, after an extended illness. more

Gene Montgomery dies at 84

Horseman and racing starter Gene Montgomery, of Charleston, Ill., passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on Saturday (Feb. 9) at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was 84. more

Maureen Ryan, wife of Yonkers’ Ed Ryan, dies

Maureen D. Ryan, 75, wife of Yonkers Raceway’s long-time track superintendent, Ed Ryan, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 6, surrounded by family at her daughter’s home in Boca Raton, Fla. more
## Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through February 12, 2019

### Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UTR</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betterb Chevron N (6pm)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldine Hanover (4pm)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2 2 1</td>
<td>47,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan Of Terror (7pg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Domingo N (7pg)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4 0 1</td>
<td>44,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sintra (6pg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
<td>43,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fearless Man (9tg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
<td>41,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imarocrofondolog N (7pg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 0 0</td>
<td>40,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendall Seelel (4pm)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 1 0</td>
<td>39,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettor Than Spring (4pg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 1 0</td>
<td>39,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empress Deo (8pm)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 2 0</td>
<td>39,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delightfulmemphisn (6pm)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3 1 0</td>
<td>39,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melady’s Monet (10tg)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 2 1</td>
<td>39,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluebird Rambo (5tg)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
<td>38,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smalltownthrowdown (6tg)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 1 1</td>
<td>38,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acefortyfouramanda (7pm)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
<td>36,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UDR</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>60-44-38</td>
<td>.387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Tetrick</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>89-53-43</td>
<td>.431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stratton</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>42-28-39</td>
<td>.289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Kakaley</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>31-49-40</td>
<td>.296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>92-66-75</td>
<td>.326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brennan</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>43-38-22</td>
<td>.312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trace Tetrick</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>73-30-32</td>
<td>.361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Miller</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>49-62-36</td>
<td>.301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Noble</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>48-42-34</td>
<td>.304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Callahan</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>39-54-48</td>
<td>.228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie Wrenn Jr.</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>67-56-31</td>
<td>.308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexter Dunn</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>39-43-34</td>
<td>.289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>49-27-19</td>
<td>.317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Marohn Jr.</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>28-33-37</td>
<td>.215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Davis</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>35-40-26</td>
<td>.266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Leading Money-Winning Trainers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UTR</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>50-32-23</td>
<td>.446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>21-19-12</td>
<td>.315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>22-36-30</td>
<td>.279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Di Domenico</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>27-13-17</td>
<td>.353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Surick</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>40-32-24</td>
<td>.312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Godinez</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>18-13-17</td>
<td>.375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>23-26-16</td>
<td>.293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Banca</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>13-14-6</td>
<td>.296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Hall</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15-19-4</td>
<td>.336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Harris</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>14-8-9</td>
<td>.346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Givens</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>14-9-13</td>
<td>.365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Columbo</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>19-20-18</td>
<td>.289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Noble</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>14-8-10</td>
<td>.473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Hudson</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12-5-4</td>
<td>.537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Bongiorno</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>17-14-6</td>
<td>.388</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Leading Breeders

### Breeder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>$1,590,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winbak Farm</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1,283,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Farms LLC</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>569,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>284,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Key</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>278,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>275,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletproof Enterprises</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>274,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>270,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland Acres Inc.</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>226,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perretti Farms</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>219,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>192,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Haven Farm</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>186,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Hill Farm Inc.</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>182,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Carver</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>179,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>173,034</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Feb. 6-12 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

### Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>19-4-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie Wrenn Jr.</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>18-18-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Tetrick</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>15-6-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brennan</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>12-7-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trace Tetrick</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>12-7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>12-5-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Miller</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>11-9-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Siegelman</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>10-11-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexter Dunn</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10-9-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10-7-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Davis</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9-6-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Miller</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>9-5-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Page</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>9-5-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Noble</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>9-11-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Goodell</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>9-4-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wally Hennessey</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9-5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Hall</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8-5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Lemus</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7-1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Marohn Jr.</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7-7-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Roy</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7-1-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trainers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trainers</th>
<th>Wins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Surick</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Brian Loney</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Beckwith</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Banca</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Di Domenico</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil Morgan Jr.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.D. Perrin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Clouser Jr.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Bongiorno</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John De Simone</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Hope</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Godinez</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilbur Yoder</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>