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Beckhams Z Tam Prepping At Meadowlands For Levy

The six-week George Morton Levy Memorial Series for older pacers gets underway on March 16 and among the nominees is Beckhams ZTam, who won the \$527,000 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace in 2017 at Hoosier Park. But while Beckhams ZTam won that race over his home track for locally-based trainer Jamie Macomber, the 5-year-old pacer is now in the barn of East Coast-based Bruce Saunders.

After finishing fifth in a qualifier at Yonkers and then posting a second-by-a nose effort in his 2019 pari-mutuel debut over that same half-mile track, Beckhams ZTam will start from post 8 in Saturday night's \$25,000 Preferred Handicap Pace at the Meadowlands.

"He came in around Christmas so we got him ready and qualified him and raced him once at Yonkers," said Saunders. "He's at the Meadowlands this week and our objective is to be ready, tight and right for the Levy that starts on March 16."

After being broke and trained at two by Indiana-based Wilbur Eash, Beckhams ZTam was sent to Macomber, who is also based in the Hoosier State. But since Macomber is winter training in Florida, Beckhams ZTam is in Saunders' barn to prep for the Levy. Beckhams ZTam is owned by Bill Matz's ZTam Stables. Matz, in partnership with Cory Plotkin, is part of M&M Harness Racing, which also owns Saunders-

trained standouts Mangogh and Heavenly Sound.

"I've trained horses for Bill Matz for quite some time and since the horse will be racing in the Levy at Yonkers he thought it'd be a good fit for me to train him down and get him ready for that event," Saunders noted.

"He's at the Meadowlands this week and our objective is to be ready, tight and right for the Levy."

—Bruce Saunders

While Beckhams ZTam brings with him a resume that includes a Breeders Crown championship, he isn't the first Crown champion in Saunders' barn. In 2010 he won the 3-Year-Old Colt Pace with Rock N Roll Heaven.

"He's a terrific horse," said Saunders of Beckham's ZTam. "I've watched him because of Bill's interest. He acts like a good horse around the barn. He's a very laid back. Feels good in the morning and he seems happy to do what you ask him to do. Very intelligent. Those are the kind of horses that usually let their talent flow."

While Jim Marohn Jr. drove Beckhams ZTam in his seasonal debut at Yonkers, Dexter Dunn gets the call on

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Saturday at the Meadowlands. Saunders said he expects Marohn to be in the sulky when the Levy Series starts in two weeks.

"I think Jimmy will drive him unless he has an obligation for something else," said Saunders. "There are a group of drivers like (Tim) Tetrick, who usually shows up, and Yannick (Gingras) comes over. I don't know when (Brian) Sears is planning on putting his colors back on. It'd be nice to hook up with somebody that

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THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

All times listed are local.

Friday, March 1

9:10p YR8 F&M **Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
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Saturday, March 2

8:30p YR6 **Preferred Trot** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:05p MVR10 **Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:10p YR8 **Open Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
 9:25p M7 **Preferred Pace** [Trackmaster PPs](#)
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could start with him at the beginning and go with him until the end. If Jimmy drives him throughout the series it'd be wonderful."

Saunders said racing Beckhams ZTam on a half-mile track wouldn't be an issue, pointing out last week's runner-up finish at Yonkers and a 2018 victory in the \$152,000 Prix d'Ete at Hippodrome 3R.

"Wilbur Eash, who bought and broke the horse for Bill, trains on a half-mile track and he was convinced he was terrific on a half-mile track," said Saunders. "It certainly appeared that way in Canada.

"In his first start (on Feb. 23) I wasn't quite happy with the way he negotiated the turns. It was a little different racetrack as they had some mid-program rain and they came out with a screen and tightened it up and it got very hard. I don't know if it was the firmness of the track that bugged him or whatever, but we did a little work on him and rather than going back there this week and racing five or six weeks in a row on a half, I figured we'd stretch him out on the bigger turns and then go back there. I can make some equipment changes and things like it. I'm sure he'll negotiate the course fine when the money time comes."

Saunders said he expects Beckhams ZTam to return to Ma-comber's barn sometime later to race in stakes at Hollywood Dayton and Hoosier Park. — *By Gordon Waterstone*

HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

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Event 30 – Pace – 3YO Colts & Geldings

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W/O \$100,000 Lifetime Ineligible

(State Bred Wins for \$20,000 or Less First Money Not Considered on Wins)

Leg 1: Friday, April 5	\$ 15,000
Leg 2: Friday, April 12	\$ 15,000
Leg 3: Friday, April 19	\$ 15,000
Final: Saturday, April 27	\$ 60,000e (\$ 40,000a)

Event 31 – Trot – 3YO Colts & Geldings

“THE WALNER”

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W/O \$100,000 Lifetime Ineligible

(State Bred Wins for \$20,000 or Less First Money Not Considered on Wins)

Leg 1: Friday, April 5	\$ 15,000
Leg 2: Friday, April 12	\$ 15,000
Leg 3: Friday, April 19	\$ 15,000
Final: Saturday, April 27	\$ 60,000e (\$ 40,000a)

Event 32 – Pace – 3YO Fillies

“THE WORLDLY BEAUTY”

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W/O \$100,000 Lifetime Ineligible

(State Bred Wins for \$20,000 or Less First Money Not Considered on Wins)

Leg 1: Saturday, April 6	\$ 15,000
Leg 2: Saturday, April 13	\$ 15,000
Leg 3: Saturday, April 20	\$ 15,000
Final: Saturday, April 27	\$ 60,000e (\$ 40,000a)

Event 33 – Trot – 3YO Fillies

“THE SHAKE IT CERRY”

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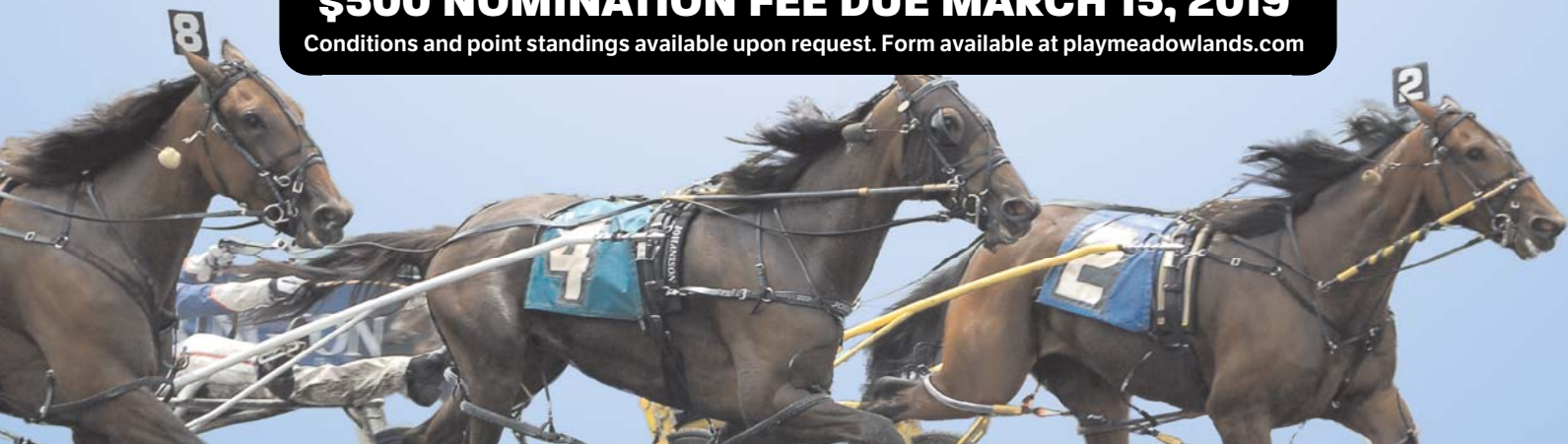
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Leg 1: Saturday, April 6	\$ 15,000
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Maine Harness Racing Facing Legislative Threat

Maine harness racing is being threatened by legislation that proposes a reallocation of proceeds from slot machines revenues generated at the state's racetracks, Scarborough Downs and Bangor Raceway. The bill is scheduled for a committee hearing on March 6 and Maine harness racing groups have organized to protest the proposed changes.

In addition to the Maine Harness Horsemen's Association (MHHA) and Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association, the state has one spokesperson who knows his way around the Maine statehouse: State Representative Don Marean.

"In my 15 years at the statehouse, this is the most dangerous bill that has ever been presented," Marean said. "But this is not a bill that was written because of extraordinary demands for funding something else. This is an animal rights bill, put forward by a group that hates harness racing and this is its latest attack to kill the industry. The head of this group is using the education system as a screen to take funding away from harness racing."

The bill includes provisions to decrease revenue to purses, including the Maine Sires Stakes.

"I believe we can kill the bill in committee, but we have no assurances. We have to be mobilized and organized," said Marean. "All segments of the industry are fired up. The (Maine) breeders association and MHHA have reached out to their membership, and vendors that benefit from the industry. I think we've got an organized plan, but people must show up and reach out to legislators."

Marean said he knows the industry has some support among legislators, and Gov. Janet Mills has personal knowledge of the industry as well.

"I have requested a meeting with the governor and it is supposed to take place this week," shared Marean. "In the past she's been a legislator that I served with, so I've known her for quite some time. She recently served two terms as our attorney general. And her husband was once involved in harness racing and served on the racing commission."

Marean said his message to his fellow lawmakers regarding the bill is simple: "This is not welfare; it is an incentive to stimulate business, and our numbers are up in Maine." —

By Kathy Parker



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Owner Of Fiftydallarbill Racing A Blend Of Older, Young Horses

Fiftydallarbill, the Indiana sensation, will be back on the track as a 4 year old in 2019. Owner John Barnard said that his winner of \$831,198 is presently in training and he hopes for the horse to make the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial his first big stakes appearance of the season.

But while he's waiting for Fiftydallarbill to return to action, Barnard has plenty to do, even when he's enjoying sunshine in Miami Beach, where he lives.

"I have 155 acres in Michigan and we keep the horses outside in the winter, turnouts and retired horses, but I was up there when it was 22 (degrees) below," shared Barnard. "We decided the horses needed to be inside but some of them wanted to stay out."

Barnard has about 25 broodmares, with most of them boarded at Alvin Schwartz' farm in Indiana. The Schwartz farm also stands the pacing stallion Straight Shooting, who Barnard co-owns.

Barnard is presently racing a mare by Straight Shooting who has given the sire his biggest money-winner: the 4-year-old mare JB's Shooting Star.

JB's Shooting Star has banked \$135,758, most of it earned in Illinois, where her sire stood his first season at stud. Last year JB's Shooting Star finished second in the \$125,140

Barnard is racing three horses at the Meadowlands this weekend.

Plum Peachy on the Illinois championship night at Hawthorne. Now she's racing in the top class for fillies and mares at Miami Valley for trainer Jace Sundeen.

She'll be starting from post 1 in Race 10, the \$25,000 Open for fillies and mares, on Friday night at Miami Valley.

"They asked us to move into the class and she ended up winning," said Barnard of JB's Shooting Star, who has banked \$20,750 from her six Miami Valley starts this year.

"I've got enough broodmares so she's going to keep racing," said Barnard of JB's Shooting Star, whose fourth dam is the one-time world champion Hit Parade. "I think she's going to get better. I'm real happy with her. We never pushed her hard."

Barnard is also racing three horses at the Meadowlands this weekend: Max Volo (Friday, Race 12, post 1), Backseat Terror (Saturday, Race 2, post 1) and McThriller (Saturday, Race 6, post 3).

"I'm racing more horses this winter in part to keep people working, and we're trying to generate a little revenue," Barnard said of his foray east, where he has his horses at White Birch Farm with Katricia Adams, who helped him when he was on the road last year with Fiftydallarbill. "We're looking for places to race year-round and that's tough to do in the Midwest."

As for his Meadowlands starters, Barnard described them as overnight horses who need to be in the right conditions.

John Barnard with Fiftydallarbill at Breeders Crown.



Dean Gillette Photo

"Classification is the toughest part," he said. "You've got to find a spot where a horse can be competitive."

He describes McThriller, who he bought at the January Meadowlands sale, as "a real nice horse who I think is improving." Backstreet Terror "we've brought along slow. She seemed to be getting colt sore so we took our time and I think she's going to be a nice older mare. I was happy with her last race (a third-place finish in a 1:53.1 mile, beaten just one length)."

Barnard has about 20 two year olds—homebreds and Indiana-sired yearlings purchased last fall—and says he will continue to stick with his plan to have a "blend of overnight horses and (stakes) colts."

As for the star of his racing stable, Barnard said Fiftydallarbill is healthy and if all goes according to plan, will qualify in late March or early April.

"He loves to race and he's staked to the big races," said Barnard. "The best race of his life was last year's Indiana final (which he won), because that came after only five days when he had raced two heats in Kentucky (Futurity).

"I'm a realist," Barnard added. "I know the 4-year-old year is a tough year for a horse." —By Kathy Parker

Bettor's Delight Son Has Chance To Win Australia's Miracle Mile Again

Australia's famed Miracle Mile race is set to be contested Saturday night, March 2, at the Tabcorp Park Menangle track north of Sydney. The race will carry a purse of \$1 million, with \$550,000 (approximately \$392,000) going to the winner. Purse money will be paid to the first eight finishers.

The Ainsworth Miracle Mile field was determined by prior races which awarded points. Among the finalists is the Miracle Mile defending champion My Field Marshal NZ, who won last year's event in an Australasian record time of 1:46 9/10ths. He'll be starting from post 9 on the gate in this year's edition.

My Field Marshal generally races from off the pace and turns in a big late rally, and the seven-eighths mile Menangle track gives him opportunity to win with this strategy.

A sharp early quarter and strong early pace would should help My Field Marshal's chances.

"Mark Purdon holds the key to the race (with three in it)," said Tim Butt, the trainer of My Field Marshal, in interviews with Australian media.

Chase Auckland became the third pacer from Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen's All Stars stable (with Thefixer and Spankem) to earn a ticket into the Miracle Mile when given a wildcard spot into the final.

Purdon was the trainer of Lazarus N before he was exported to the U.S. Rasmussen gained acclaim in Down Under racing as the trainer and driver of four-time Inter Dominion winner Blacks A Fake.

Except for Chase Auckland NZ, all nine of the Miracle Mile finalists are sired by American stallions. My Field Marshal NZ is by Art Major. This year's race includes three sons of Bettor's Delight and one son of Somebeachsomewhere.

Poster Boy is a 4-year-old son of Somebeachsomewhere out of the Artsplace mare Aston Villa, who was bred by Armstrong Bros. and exported to Australia as a 2 year old. Poster Boy won the prestigious Chariots Of Fire race in

AINSWORTH MIRACLE MILE

Tabcorp Park, Menangle, Australia; Saturday, March 2; Race 7; Post Time: 9:28 p.m. AEST (5:28 a.m. EST); Distance: 1,609 meters; Purse: AU\$1,000,000 (approx. \$730,000)

No.—HORSE (Age, Sex, Sire-Dam-Sire of Dam)	Trainer/Driver
1—POSTER BOY (4h, Somebeachsomewhere-Aston Villa-Artsplace)	E. Stewart/C. Alford
2—THE FIXER NZ (5g, Bettor's Delight-Tosti Girl-Christian Cullen)	M. Purdon/N. Rasmussen
3—CHASE AUCKLAND NZ (4g, Auckland Reactor-Delicota-Falcon Seelster)	M. Purdon/L. McCarthy
4—YAYAS HOT SPOT NZ (8g, Jeremes Jet-Star Of Heaven-In The Pocket)	S. Tritton/ L. Manzelmann
5—OUR UNCLE SAM (5g, Sportswriter-Rooftop Fairy-Village Jasper)	C. Frisby/A. Frisby
6—MY ALPHA ROCK NZ (6g, Rock N Roll Heaven-The Sparks A Flyin NZ-Sands A Flyin)	P. Tritton/L. Tritton
7—SPANKEM NZ (4g, Bettor's Delight-Crushem-Holmes Hanover)	M. Purdon/M. Purdon
8—TIGER TARA NZ (8h, Bettor's Delight-Tara Gold-Dream Away)	K. Pizzuto; T. McCarthy
9—MY FIELD MARSHAL NZ (7h, Art Major-Foreal NZ-Washington VC)	T. Butt/A. Butt

1:49.1 and then the coveted post 1 for the Miracle Mile final in the "barrier" draw, as the draw for post positions is called in Australia.

The Miracle Mile field also includes Tiger Tara, a winner of the Inter Dominion and runner-up in this season's New Zealand Cup. Tiger Tar drew post 7 for the Miracle Mile.

Since being switched from the half-mile Harold Park oval in downtown Sydney to Tabcorp Park Menangle back in 2009, no pacer has won the Miracle Mile from the three outside posts—six, seven and eight.

RTN will carry the race live. To watch a replay of the race, click on this link <http://www.harness.org.au/racing/video-replays/> and select Tabcorp Park Menangle, Race 7, March 2. — By Kathy Parker

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McWicked Named 2018 Horse of the Year

McWicked on Sunday became the oldest pacer in history to be named Horse of the Year, receiving harness racing's top honor to cap the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Dan Patch Award banquet at Rosen Shingle Creek. The 7-year-old stallion bested pacing mare Shartin N, 86-27, to claim the trophy. Atlanta, who was named Trotter of the Year, finished third with eight votes.

Earlier in the night, McWicked was named Pacer of the Year, 95-31, over Shartin N. McWicked is owned by Ed James' SSG Stables and trained by Casie Coleman. Brian Sears was McWicked's primary driver, but David Miller also won on the Grand Circuit with the stallion. A son of McArdele out of Western Sahara, he was bred by Andray Farm.

McWicked led the sport in earnings last year, with \$1.57 million, and became the oldest horse in 43 years to top the money standings. For the season, McWicked won 12 of 19 races, capping his campaign with a five-race win streak, and hit the

board a total of 17 times.

Earlier this month, McWicked was named Horse of the Year in Canada. Coleman has trained three Horse of the Year winners in Canada, but McWicked was her first in the U.S., as well as the first for owner James.

"Winning a double (Horse of the Year) with him, and doing it with a horse that's 7 turned 8, it's not often that it happens!"

—Casie Coleman

Sears, who drove McWicked in 12 of his 19 races, has sat behind four Horse of the Year honorees.

"We've been fortunate to have three horses of the year in Canada, and to get it done here is pretty awesome," Coleman said. "Winning a double (Horse of the Year) with him, and doing it with a horse that's 7 turned 8, it's not often that it happens. Now we have to hope he can do it again next year. He's going to be another year older, but I see no reason why he shouldn't be just as good next year. We'll see what happens."

McWicked's victories last season included the Breeders Crown, Ben Franklin Pace, William R. Haughton Memorial, Canadian Pacing Derby, TVG Series Open championship, Dan Rooney Invitational, and Allerage Farms Open. His 1:46.2 clocking in the Allerage was the second-fastest race mile in history.

Atlanta became the first filly to win the Hambletonian since 1996 when she captured the \$1 million final Aug. 4 at the Meadowlands. Driven by Scott Zeron, she won eight of 14 races last year and led all 3-year-old filly trotters with \$1.01 million in purses.

A daughter of Chapter Seven out of Hemi Blue Chip, Atlanta was owned in 2018 by trainer Rick Zeron, Michelle and Al Crawford's Crawford Farms, William Holland's Holland Racing Stable, Howard Taylor, and Brad Grant. She was bred by Order By Stable. The horse sold recently for a record \$1.55 million to a group led by Michelle Crawford.

"I'm very happy," Crawford said. "I was very excited to hear her for Trotter of the Year. I think she deserves it. I watched her from the beginning and she's just a freak, a really phenomenal filly." (Ken Weingartner)

Foiled Again Makes Surprise Dan Patch Appearance

Moments into his speech to accept the Stan Bergstein-Proximity Award on behalf of legendary pacer Foiled Again during Sunday's U.S. Harness Writers Association's Dan Patch Awards banquet, co-owner Joe Koury Jr. was halted by USHWA member Gordon Waterstone. Koury knew he had not exceeded his time limit because he was just getting started, so he was surprised.

Surprise was about to turn to shock.

"Don't you think we ought to have the award-winner here to accept his award?" Waterstone soon said to Koury.

Enter Foiled Again.

Foiled Again turned the idea of a surprise party upside down when he emerged from behind the curtained stage area to the delight of the 320 banquet attendees at Rosen Shingle Creek resort. Only a handful of people knew in advance of Foiled Again's appearance, which was conceived by Waterstone with Foiled Again's co-owners Ron Burke and Mark Weaver.

"I was wondering what was going on," said Koury, who like the entire Burke Brigade other than Burke, Weaver and Foiled Again's caretaker for the night, Devan Miller, had no idea of the plan.

"Next thing you know, Foiled was coming out. I was absolutely shocked. It was a great experience. It was exciting."

Said Joe Koury Sr., "When Foiled showed up, it was unbelievable. I was shocked. Tears were rolling down my cheeks, it was just amazing."

"I didn't expect it; that's the last thing that would have crossed my mind," said Yannick Gingras, who

drove Foiled Again for the majority of the gelding's career and won numerous major stakes together. "I thought it was really cool, something different."

Many others had the same reaction, which was what Burke and his co-planners had hoped.

"It was unbelievable," Burke said. "I knew it would be a hit, especially with my father (Mickey), but it was a hit with everybody. It was one of the coolest moments ever. We thought it would be something nobody would be expecting and would add a little bit of fun, and it did."

Waterstone, who in addition to being a member of USHWA is associate editor of The Horseman And Fair World magazine, worked with the resort's staff to set up Foiled Again's appearance. It required an extra bit of insurance



Chris Tilly Photo

"We thought it would be something nobody would be expecting and would add a little bit of fun, and it did!"

—Ron Burke

Continues on page 9 >>>

and a protective covering for the banquet room carpet, which was new.

"I called Mark about bringing Foiled Again to the banquet and he said to talk to Ronnie," Waterstone said. "I called Ronnie and he said absolutely, but he wanted to do it as a secret.

"It came off better than I thought it would. You keep your fingers crossed. The reaction was unbelievable. To be involved in this was really cool."

Foiled Again was already staying near Orlando, at the Burke's winter stable in Astor.

"Devan did a great job," Burke said. "She had to prep him for it and people were wondering why she was prepping him when he was just there hanging out. He looked incredible. I was thrilled."

Unfazed by the cheers that filled the banquet room and the joyful commotion that soon engulfed him, Foiled Again stood perfectly for his admirers.

"He was like a little showman," Joe Koury Sr. said. "He's like a celebrity, a celebrity of the humblest measure. It was just unbelievable. He's amazing. I love him to death."

Foiled Again reached harness racing's mandatory retirement age of 15 when the calendar turned to 2019. He is the

sport's all-time richest horse, with \$7.63 million in purses, and ranks ninth with 109 lifetime wins. He received Dan Patch Awards for best older male pacer in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and was Pacer of the Year in 2011.

Last year, he embarked on a Farewell Tour that attracted numerous fans to racetracks across North America, as well as garnering mainstream media attention. He will be inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in July.

Foiled Again is owned by Burke Racing, the partnership of Weaver and Mike Brussemi, and the Koury family's JJK Stables. The group bought the horse in 2008 when he was 4. He was trained by Mickey Burke briefly before Mickey retired and handed the lines to his son Ron.

"He's a dream come true," Joe Koury Jr. said. "To be a part of this with such great friends and partners is amazing. We were all young guys who, for the most part, were just getting started. He brought us up all together and put us on a different level. It's just been a phenomenal ride."

And now that the ride is completed, Foiled Again will enjoy a life of leisure.

"He's basically going to live my dad's life," Ron Burke said with a laugh. "They'll be hanging out together forever." — *By Ken Weingartner/USTA*

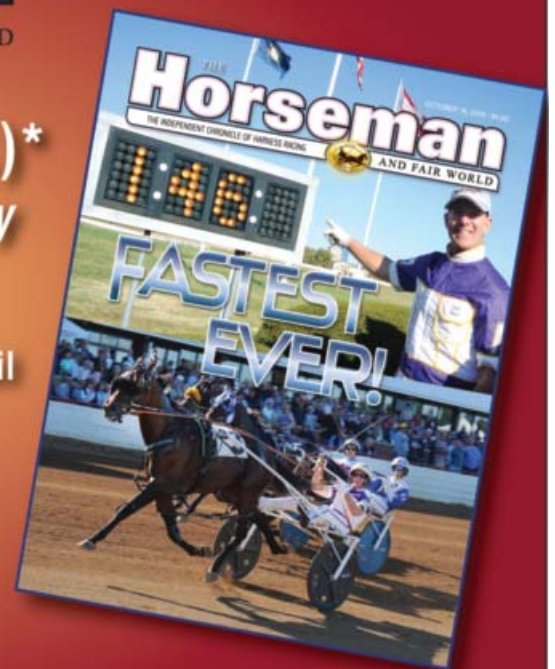
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Michigan Hall of Famer Gene Oldford Dies

Eugene D. "Gene" Oldford, 86, whose career in harness racing as a breeder, owner, and administrator led to his induction into the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame in 2013 as well as numerous other accolades, passed away peacefully on Feb. 25, 2019, at Blue Water Hospice Home in Michigan.

Mr. Oldford was a longtime member of the MHHA board of directors, past president of Harness Horsemen International, and member of the U.S. Trotting Association. He received the 2014 HHI Person of the Year Award as well as multiple honors from MHHA including Board Member of the Year, Owner of the Year, and an Appreciation Award.

Among his favorite horses was Godiva Hall, a multiple-stakes-winner and world-record-setting female trotter, in the mid-2000s. Other top horses included pacers Billmar Scooter and Park Avenue. His current group of horses included stakes-winners Two AM and Chin Chin Hall, a 3-year-old trotter who is eligible to this summer's Hambletonian.

His son Stephen is a U.S. Trotting Association director and amateur driving champion.

Mr. Oldford was born to parents Stephen and Clara (Hallett) Oldford on July 28, 1932, in Detroit. He graduated from Croswell-Lexington High School in 1950 and attended St. Clair County Jr. College and the University of Michigan. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Panama.

Mr. Oldford, along with his brother Bill, acquired Huron Tool and Manufacturing, now Huron Inc., in Lexington, from their father Stephen in 1958. The company was sold to US Industries in 1968. He founded Oldford and Associates, an automotive manufacturer's representative sales firm, in 1973 where he continued to work until his unexpected death. He was also co-founder of Black River Manufacturing, Port Huron, along with partners Jarold Hawks and Isaac Lang Jr.

Always active in his community, Mr. Oldford served in various leadership roles on the Worth Township Board, Boy Scouts of America, Jaycees, Croswell-Lexington Little League, Masonic Lodge and Trinity Episcopal Church.

Over the years, he gave generously to his community establishing the Stephen and Clara Oldford Scholarship fund to assist students attending St. Clair County Community College.

Mr. Oldford is survived by his three children, Stephen (Gale), Susan Zappa and Laurie. He was blessed with five loving grandchildren, Michelle (Manny) Chavez, Troy (Kelly), Kara, Joey Zappa and Vincent; and three great-grandchildren; Alex Chavez, Bensen Chavez, and Brooklyn. He is also survived by special friend, Nancy Edmonson; brother, William; sister-in-law, Jill Meyers; niece, Kathy (Gwen) Johansen; and nephews, Will (Ann Marie) and Douglas (Amy) Gough. He was preceded in death by his former wife San-

Scott Warren Named Racing Secretary At Meadowlands

Scott Warren has been named racing secretary at the Meadowlands beginning March 1, succeeding Peter Koch who departs to pursue another opportunity.

Warren hails from Berlin, Md. where he began working in the Racing Office at Ocean Downs as a teen. This venture led to a 17-year stint on the Maryland Standardbred circuit, first as a Race Office assistant followed by track announcer at the aforementioned establishment prior to taking over as racing secretary at Rosecroft Raceway. He relocated his skill sets to Vernon Downs to serve as the racing secretary in 2011 and was eventually named director of racing, handling many racing related responsibilities, including calling the races since the 2015 season. During his new assignment with Meadowlands Racing and Entertainment, Warren will continue serving as the race secretary at Vernon Downs.

Scott has been in the Meadowlands office since Jan. 1, working with Koch to become familiar with the horsemen and the racing product.

"I would like to thank Jeff Gural and Jason Settlemoir for giving me this opportunity to work at the Meadowlands. It is a dream come true," said Warren. "There are numerous people that have been influential along the way, but this wouldn't be happening now if it wasn't for Rick Bonekemper giving me the chance as a teenager for a couple summer meets at Ocean Downs and bringing me along to Rosecroft in 1995 and Jason Settlemoir for hiring me at Vernon Downs, which ultimately has given me the opportunity now to work at the biggest track in harness racing.

"It also wouldn't be possible to take on this position without the talented supporting cast I will work with over the course of the year in the Meadowlands Racing office. It is an exciting time right now at the Meadowlands with the increased money for purses that will hopefully make racing even better than it already is." (*Meadowlands*)



dra S. Oldford, niece Barbara L. Edwards and former son-in-law Joseph R. Zappa.

Mr. Oldford was a loving and generous man who made friends wherever he went. He deeply loved his family and friends and lived a very active and full life.

Funeral services were held on March 2. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church, Project Blessing, Blue Water Hospice, The Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame or New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program. (*USTA*)



North America Cup attracts 82 nominations

Woodbine Entertainment Thursday announced that 82 three-year-old pacers have been nominated to the 36th edition of the \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup. [more](#)

The Big M's great February eight

The Meadowlands is known for good business and good racing in the wintertime, but even the track's biggest supporters – whether management or fan – might have been a tad surprised at how things transpired at the mile oval over the course of the eight racing programs during the month of February. [more](#)

Fallen horse causes “no contest” at Yonkers

Yonkers Raceway's fourth race Tuesday night (Feb. 26) was declared a no contest because of an accident, but thankfully there were no injuries. [more](#)

Weingartner, Pikelný on USHWA ballot

Ken Weingartner, the media relations manager for the U.S. Trotting Association, and Phil Pikelný, who worked as a publicist, broadcaster, and was co-author of a biography of the great pacer Rambling Willie, were selected for places in the mid-summer balloting which could lead to their being elected to harness racing's Communicators Hall of Fame, in voting conducted Saturday (Feb. 23) by the directors of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. [more](#)

Harness writers hold annual meeting in Florida

The United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), the leading organization of harness racing's chroniclers, held its annual meetings at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Fla. For the second consecutive year this past Saturday and Sunday. The writers' meetings were held in conjunction with the group's annual Dan Patch Awards Banquet. [more](#)

First Hoosier Park qualifiers of 2019 set for March 13

With the return of live harness racing at Harrah's Hoosier Park Racing & Casino just over a month away, preparations for the 2019 season are underway throughout the property. Opening day of the 160-day meet is set for Friday, March 29, with a daily post time of 6:30 p.m. Horses don't arrive for a little over a week, but the Harrah's Hoosier Park team has been hard at work to get ready for 2019. [more](#)

SBOANJ announces breeding incentive programs

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey will again offer a resident mare rebate as well as pacing stallion incentive program in 2019. SBOANJ membership is required to qualify for all programs. [more](#)

Virginia announces residency awards for foals

The Virginia Harness Horse Association (VHHA), in conjunction with the Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA), is introducing a new Certified Residency Bonus Program that will begin immediately for foals born beginning in 2019. [more](#)

Date change for the 2019 Midwest Mixed Sale

The Midwest Auction Company has announced a date change for the 2019 Midwest Mixed Sale, which will again be held the same weekend as the Michiana Classic Yearling Sale. Due to a scheduling conflict at the venue, the 2019 Midwest Mixed Sale will be held on Friday, Nov. 29, instead of the date previously announced. [more](#)

Michiana Classic date moved to Nov. 30

The Hoosier Classic Sale Company has announced a date for the Michiana Classic Yearling Sale. Due to a scheduling conflict at the Michiana Event Center, the date for the 2019 Michiana Classic Yearling Sale has been changed to Nov. 30. The entry deadline remains Aug. 1. [more](#)

CHHA 2019-2020 scholarship application now available

The Christian Harness Horsemen's Association (CHHA) wants to see our harness racing youth succeed. To help students, CHHA plans to award two scholarships in 2019: the \$1,000 John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship; and the Rambling Willie Scholarship (amount TBD). [more](#)

Illinois Hall of Famer Larry Marsh dies

Lawrence E. "Larry" Marsh, 86, founder of the first Arlington Million, co-founder of Hollywood Park Race-track in Los Angeles, member of both the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association Illinois Harness Racing Hall of Fame and the Illinois Standardbred Racing Hall of Fame, died peacefully in his home in Safford, Ariz., on Saturday, Feb. 16. [more](#)



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RACE LINES

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through February 26, 2019

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Don Domingo N (7pg)	7	5	1	1	\$77,550
Itty Bitty (5pm)	7	2	2	1	64,655
Delightfulmemphisn (6pm)	6	4	1	0	61,250
Melady's Monet (10tg)	5	2	2	1	61,020
Smalltownthrowdown (6tg)	5	1	3	1	60,280
Fan Of Terror (7pg)	6	5	0	1	57,100
Sintra (6pg)	5	5	0	0	56,795
Betterb Chevron N (6pm)	5	3	0	1	53,280
Bags To Riches (5ph)	5	3	1	1	51,870
Dw's NY Yank (10tg)	5	2	0	0	51,040
Ballerat Boomerang (6pg)	8	2	1	3	49,230
Aldine Hanover (4pm)	6	2	2	1	48,750
Double A Mint (4pm)	7	3	2	1	47,736
B Yoyo (9tg)	6	3	1	0	47,188
Malnificent (4pm)	5	4	0	0	47,000

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	340	71-64-49	.361	\$1,249,267 (\$116,155)
Jordan Stratton	357	62-46-53	.295	1,088,137 (221,250)
George Brennan	332	68-50-35	.324	1,081,717 (154,460)
Tim Tetrick	392	109-71-52	.423	974,720 (79,433)
Aaron Merriman	609	124-87-91	.333	933,604 (71,863)
Matt Kakaley	331	36-54-55	.255	877,917 (74,470)
Trace Tetrick	401	98-50-39	.346	846,586 (113,160)
Brett Miller	443	75-79-52	.307	784,692 (89,885)
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	512	98-80-66	.321	737,569 (80,689)
Jim Marohn Jr.	385	47-48-47	.232	731,032 (166,823)
Dan Noble	388	63-57-54	.290	715,402 (85,945)
Corey Callahan	466	53-68-61	.238	710,602 (85,603)
Dexter Dunn	364	53-53-47	.270	683,987 (58,506)
Yannick Gingras	304	68-38-30	.326	668,569 (98,402)
Chris Page	370	53-47-49	.258	623,306 (117,284)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	291	86-52-36	.436	\$915,366 (\$155,167)
Rene Allard	177	35-31-25	.342	594,789 (101,451)
Carmen Auciello	267	31-49-45	.274	494,120 (69,517)
Scott Di Domenico	162	35-17-24	.324	447,118 (45,635)
Nick Surick	283	65-46-30	.355	438,010 (83,042)
Richard Moreau	217	39-37-28	.317	415,015 (83,163)
Richard Banca	122	18-18-17	.276	364,292 (57,470)
Jose Godinez	123	21-20-18	.310	335,886 (27,193)
Andrew Harris	92	17-15-10	.312	300,630 (44,987)
Joseph Columbo	153	25-25-23	.304	298,845 (34,141)
Michael Hall	104	19-23-8	.331	286,642 (26,875)
Lance Hudson	49	16-8-8	.472	285,595 (50,520)
Virgil Morgan Jr.	120	22-14-15	.290	265,796 (35,590)
Wayne Givens	84	15-17-15	.351	256,223 (34,170)
Jennifer Bongiorno	97	22-18-12	.371	238,437 (25,547)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	418	140	192	\$2,118,389
Winbak Farm	392	139	196	1,782,796
Brittany Farms LLC	107	44	69	713,578
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	71	26	40	403,036
Robert J. Key	87	28	38	381,841
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	87	30	45	376,443
Seelster Farms Inc.	99	27	38	369,685
Bulletproof Enterprises	64	23	32	334,026
Midland Acres Inc.	71	24	37	312,940
Perretti Farms	59	21	34	287,084
Frederick Hertrich III	62	16	25	286,186
Steve Stewart	75	22	28	271,053
White Birch Farm	66	20	28	267,276
Spring Haven Farm	59	19	25	254,012
Victory Hill Farm Inc.	53	20	34	246,251

Leaders Of The Week

Ranked by wins for Feb. 20-26 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

Drivers	Starts	W-P-S
Michael Merton	32	16-4-5
Aaron Merriman	59	14-7-10
Ronnie Wrenn Jr	68	14-11-10
Austin Siegelman	86	13-16-15
Chris Page	59	12-8-9
Jordan Stratton	56	12-12-5
Tony Hall	47	12-6-6
Trace Tetrick	63	12-9-5
Jim Marohn Jr.	57	11-8-5
Mike Wilder	49	11-8-7
Dave Palone	40	10-5-2
George Brennan	52	10-7-7
Andy Miller	36	9-7-2
Billy Dobson	27	9-2-4
Brett Miller	64	9-9-5
Shawn Gray	25	9-6-3
Simon Allard	38	9-3-3
Tyler Smith	52	9-5-5
Wally Hennessey	32	9-4-3
Yannick Gingras	36	9-5-7

Trainers	Wins
Ron Burke	16
Nick Surick	13
Andrew Adamczyk	7
C. Brian Loney	7
Rene Allard	7
Richard Moreau	7
Gerry Sarama	5
Norm Parker	5
Tyler George	5
Carmen Auciello	4
Dan Ater	4
Daniel Gill	4
Kathleen Plested	4
Leon Smith	4
Patti Harmon	4
Ross Croghan	4

MARCH 2019



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
24 USHWA Dan Patch Awards banquet in Orlando, Fla.	25 Paver Sr. Mem. OT (MVR)	26	27	28	1 Coven Jr. Mem. OMP (MVR)	2 Williams Mem. OP (MVR)
3 Dunn Mem. F&M Pace (Mea)	4 Paver Sr. Mem. OT (MVR) Petticoat F&M Pace (YR)	5 Mardi Gras Sagamore H&G Pace (YR) Weaver Mem. H&G Trot (Mea)	6 Ash Wednesday Wohlmut Mem. H&G Trot (Mea)	7	8 Coven Jr. Mem. OMP (MVR)	9 Williams Mem. OP (MVR) USTA annual meeting begins in Columbus, Ohio
10 Daylight Savings Time begins Dunn Mem. F&M Pace (Mea)	11 Paver Sr. Mem. OT (MVR) Petticoat F&M Pace (YR)	12 Sagamore H&G Pace (YR) Weaver Mem. H&G Trot (Mea)	13 Horseman Wohlmut Mem. F&M Trot (Mea)	14	15 Blue Chip Matchmaker OMP (YR) Coven Jr. Mem. OMP (MVR)	16 Levy Memorial OHP (YR) Secretary's HP (PcD) Williams Mem. OP final (MVR) The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono opens
17 St. Patrick's Day Owens Mem. OMP (MVR)	18 Brown Mem. OT (MVR) DSBF 3CT/3FT (DD) Petticoat F&M Pace (YR)	19 Dr. Farwick Mem. OT (MVR) Hiteman Mem. OHP (MVR) Sagamore H&G Pace (YR)	20 First day of Spring DSBF 3FP (DD)	21 DSBF 3CP (DD)	22 Blue Chip Matchmaker OMP (YR) Dr. Mossbarger Mem. OMP (MVR) Dunn Mem. F&M Pace final (Mea) Weaver Mem. H&G Trot final (Mea) Wohlmut Mem. F&MT final (Mea) Northville Downs opens	23 Levy Memorial OHP (YR) Secretary's HP (PcD) Tharps Mem. OHP (MVR)
24 Owens Mem. OMP (MVR) Secretary's OT (PcD)	25 Brown Mem. OT (MVR) DSBF 3CT/3FT (DD) Petticoat F&M Pace final (YR)	26 Dr. Farwick Mem. OT (MVR) Hiteman Mem. OHP (MVR) Sagamore H&G Pace final (YR)	27 DSBF 3FP (DD)	28 DSBF 3CP (DD)	29 Blue Chip Matchmaker OMP (YR) Dr. Mossbarger OMP (MVR) Harrah's Hoosier Park opens Harrah's Philadelphia opens	30 Levy Memorial OHP (YR) Tharps Mem. OHP (MVR) Secretary's H&G Pace (PcD) Scarborough Downs opens
31 Owens Mem. OMP final (MVR) Secretary's 4&Up OT (PcD)	1 April Fool's Day Brown Mem. OT final (MVR) DSBF 3CT/3FT final (DD) Secretary's MP (PcD) Weiss F&M Pace (PcD)	2 Dr. Farwick Mem. OT final (MVR) Hiteman Mem. OHP final (MVR) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD) YR/SOA Bonus OT (YR)	3 DSBF 3FP final (DD)	4 DSBF 3CP final (DD)	5 Blue Chip Matchmaker OMP (YR) Dr. Mossbarger OMP final (MVR) Walner 3CT (M) Wiggle It Jigglet 3CP (M)	6 Levy Memorial OHP (YR) Secretary's H&G Pace final (PcD) Shake It Cherry 3FT (M) Tharps Mem. OHP final (MVR) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD) Worldly Beauty 3FP (M)

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