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SPECIAL EDITION PREVIEW

Inside
Weekly
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News Digest

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Gural Thinking Outside The Box For Vernon, Tioga

When and where will harness racing resume? Just like all members of society, Standardbred participants are tuned into the news conferences of governors as they deliver information about reopening.

Not surprisingly, harness racing, much less horse racing, is rarely mentioned in their briefings, but there were two notable exceptions on Wednesday.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear gave Churchill Downs permission to open, and the Louisville racetrack announced it will open its stable area May 11 and set a date for racing—without spectators.

“I’ve reached out to the SOA (Standardbred Owners Association) of New York to see about moving some of their purse money to Vernon.”

—Jeff Gural

to open in July—because, “You can’t open an attraction that could bring people from across the state to that attraction and overwhelm a region. We have time (to make a decision), but today, I don’t think you can open...”

Jeff Gural, who operates the Meadowlands, also has two tracks in New York: Vernon Downs and Tioga Downs.

“I’m working on all fronts to get my three tracks open without the public,” Gural said in an interview on Thursday.

Gural has purse money available for Meadowlands races and is in the processing of presenting a plan to the office of New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy about racing without spectators. He said the state’s casino industry is also submitting a plan for reopening.

Gural’s New York tracks, however, need their partner casinos to generate purses for the meets. Gural previously announced that Tioga and Vernon would not open until their casinos reopen. Now he is looking at other options.

“I’ve reached out to the SOA (Standardbred Owners Association) of New York to see about moving some of their purse money to Vernon,” Gural revealed. “I don’t see them having racing at Yonkers as soon as we could have racing at Vernon and Tioga. If we got some money from Yonkers, we could card races for their horsemen and horses. We’ve got plenty of stalls at Vernon and a hotel adjacent to the track.

“Another thing is we need to have a New York Sires Stakes season, and this would allow the sires stakes to get started,” Gural added.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo commented about horse racing in his Wednesday briefing, saying that he did not foresee racing with patrons at the Saratoga Thoroughbred track this summer—the track’s meet is scheduled



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Gural said while he is trying to come up with plans for racing at his tracks, he is aware that the covid-19 pandemic needs to continue to flatten for more business to be authorized in New York and New Jersey.

“By May 15, I think by then there will be data from other states that are reopening earlier, and if there are no big spikes, hopefully New Jersey and New York will start reopening,” he said.

As for his casinos at Tioga and Vernon, Gural said he is naturally uncertain about a future opening date.

“You are going to have to be able to show social distancing,” he noted. “At our casinos, we could close every other

Continues on page 2 >>>>

machine and it would really only affect us on Friday and Saturday nights.”

Below is a review of other racing states/regions:

INDIANA

Indiana’s stay-at-home order is set to expire and according to reports, Gov. Eric Holcomb is expected to share information about reopening the state on Friday.

As of Thursday, there was no date for horses to move into the Harrah’s Hoosier Park backstretch, or for the resumption of racing, even without spectators. Harrah’s Hoosier Park had been scheduled to open its live meet on March 27.

Harrah’s Hoosier Park is set to be acquired by Eldorado Resorts sometime in June.

OHIO

On Monday, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced the Buckeye State’s stay-at-home order would be relaxed and some business could be resumed. The Ohio harness racing industry was hopeful that by the weekend Gov. DeWine’s office would have more details about re-openings, and where harness racing might fall into the plans. Both Ohio harness tracks operators, MGM at Northfield Park and Eldorado at Scioto Downs, have indicated they will open for racing—without spectators—as soon as the state permits. Northfield stopped racing in March, per the state shutdown; Scioto Downs was scheduled to open its 2020 meet on May 5 and is making preparations to open when racing is given a green light. Eldorado has already communicated with horsemen about new social distancing measures and utilization of the tracks’ empty barn area in addition to the race paddock.

In addition, the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association has indicated that the state’s Sires Stakes program will not be able to commence until interstate travel is permitted by the state. The Ohio Sires Stakes Super Night of finals could be delayed until late October or November.

PENNSYLVANIA

Gov. Tom Wolf announced the relaxation of some restrictions would happen on May 8, promising more details on Friday (May 1). Western Pennsylvania has had a much lower incidence of covid-19 than the eastern part of the state and Wolf has said he will reopen the state by regions.

According to the state’s statistical database, Washington, Pa., where The Meadows is located, has had 16 positive covid-19 cases. Luzerne County, where the Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono is located, has had 2,111 positive cases and 82 deaths, with more than 60 percent of the deaths in long-term care facilities. About 65 percent of all deaths from covid-19 in Pennsylvania have been in long-term care facilities.

The Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission met via teleconference on Monday and agreed the commission would write to Gov. Wolf by May 1 and ask him to allow the resumption of horse racing, including harness racing, without spectators. All of the state’s tracks are owned by gaming companies and leadership of horsemen’s organizations are unsure about whether casinos would open racing operations, even if there are sufficient funds in purse accounts.

ILLINOIS

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker extended his stay-at-home order in Illinois until May 30, but with both Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds stabled on the backstretch at Hawthorne Race Course, the Illinois Harness Horsemen’s Association and Hawthorne management are communicating with Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Department of Public Health to get back to work as soon as possible. But as is the case in most states, racing is waiting to take its cues from government.

ONTARIO

Ontario is still under a stay-at-home order but on Wednesday, Woodbine Entertainment CEO Jim Lawson, in an interview with the Toronto Sun, said the track’s Thoroughbred meet—with no spectators—could open in mid-June.

“With the optimism that we all need to share, we anticipate that we are approximately six weeks away from resuming live racing (under the strict conditions being developed with the [Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario]) if the Provincial Declaration of Emergency is lifted and parts of the economy are permitted to gradually reopen following government and health officials’ guidelines,” Lawson told the Sun. “I will continue to provide updates in the coming weeks on how we are progressing towards this optimistic target.” — *By Kathy Parker*



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Green Manalishi S (right) and Hell Bent For Am train on April 15.

StallTZ.as/Adam Strom Photo

Green Manalishi S Second In Sweden; Trotting Mare Lisa America Dies

Green Manalishi S finished second in his 2020 debut as a 4 year old on Friday night, April 24, at the Aby racetrack in Sweden. The Swedish-bred, Courant Inc.-owned son of Muscle Hill, who won last year's Canadian Trotting Classic while in the barn of trainer Marcus Melander, was scheduled to begin his 2020 campaign in North America but when racing was shut down due to the covid-19 pandemic, he was sent back to his native country, where racetracks are open for racing, albeit without fans.

Stefan Melander, who now trains Green Manalishi S, was in the sulky behind the trotter in last Friday's eliminations for the \$199,000 Kungapokalen. Green Manalishi S was moved three wide early and settled in first-over versus the leading Upset Face for the duration of the race. Despite the tough trip, Green Manalishi S took the lead in deep stretch but was unable to fend off the late rally of Aetos Kronos, a son of Bold Eagle trained by Jerry Riordan.

The Melander-trained Click Bait, a son of Cantab Hall, won his elimination for driver Orjan Kihlstrom. Osterc, another son of Cantab Hall who raced in the U.S. for trainers Jimmy Takter and Per Engblom, captured the third elimination for driver Bjorn Goop.

The Kungapokalen final will be raced May 9.

Earlier that day it was announced that Lisa America, one of the top trotting mares in Europe, had died while giving birth to a Ready Cash foal that also did not survive. A daughter of Varenne, Lisa America, who was bred in Italy and campaigned overseas for the late owner Lou Guida and trainer Riordan, won more than \$1.9 million in her racing career with a mark of 1:52.4. At the time of her death, Lisa America was owned by SRF Stable.

Bred by Guida Italia Srl, Lisa America won 22 of 65 career starts. Her last race came in the 2012 Prix d'Amerique in France where she finished last. Riordan subsequently retired Lisa America, pointing toward returning issue with her fetlocks.

Among the many stakes events Lisa America won in her European career was the Prix de Milan and the Grand Prix d'Europa. In 2010 she won the European Grand Circuit series.

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Pennington Delivering Cupcakes To Covid-19 Frontliners

Rob Pennington had expected his April to be filled with work as the assistant race secretary at Harrah's Philadelphia. Instead, as a New Jersey resident, he's watched the news of deaths and lives changed due to the covid-19 pandemic. But with friends who work as nurses in New Jersey hospitals, he soon realized the enormous sadness they were facing in their jobs.

"Talking to my friends who are nurses, there is so much sadness at the hospitals because we have never had so much death in New Jersey," said Pennington. "I didn't know what I could do, but after talking with them I wished I could find something to put a smile on their faces."

One day Pennington received an alert that House of Cupcakes in Princeton, N.J., which won "Cupcake Wars" on the Food Network, would have a mobile food truck near his area. So he drove over to the food truck and picked up four dozen cupcakes.

"I dropped off eight, six packs to my nurse friends on my way home. I just wanted to put a smile on their faces," he shared.

And the idea grew from there.



"I thought that maybe we could deliver cupcakes to nurses at hospitals," said Pennington.

He enlisted the help of Destiny Sheard, who rides his pleasure horse, and his friends in the Standardbred world.

"Destiny worked it out with the hospitals, because you can't just show up with something," said Pennington. "And it wasn't like we could bake cupcakes, because you need to go through a clean kitchen."

Pennington raised \$3,000, with more funds to come in once an auction of two tack trunks (via his Facebook page) is completed. He said all of the funding has come from the Standardbred horse world.

"After tonight (Thursday, April 30), we will have delivered 1,000 cupcakes. Tonight's delivery will be to our fourth hospital," he said.—By Kathy Parker



Looking Back

Dragon Again wins the Freehold Cup

Dragon Again won the \$75,000 Freehold Cup on May 6, 2000, at Freehold Raceway in 1:51.3. Driver John Campbell directed the 5-year-old son of Dragon's Lair to the stakes-record score, besting runner-up Big Tom (1) by a half-length, with Perfect Son (2) third. In January, Dragon Again had swept

his way through the Presidential Series at the Meadowlands, before heading to Canada for a three-month campaign. He marked his return to the U.S. with the Freehold Cup win, which extended his streak to 25 on-the-board finishes for owner Ed Mullinax. (World Wide Racing Photo)

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Stars Desperately Seeking Racing—Part 3

With the calendar turning to May and still no racetracks in North America opening doors due to the covid-19 pandemic, horses continue to be trained in preparation for a racing season. With the calendar unknown and several early stakes either being canceled or postponed until a to-be-determined date, trainers continue to condition their horses. Gordon Waterstone caught up with a few more trainers to get updates on some of their stable stars.

GUARDIAN ANGEL AS—ANETTE LORENTZON

Guardian Angel As won a pair of qualifiers last April at Miami Valley in Ohio before finishing fourth in the Arthur Cutler Memorial at the Meadowlands in



New Image Media Photo

early May, and trainer Anette Lorentzon said that was the same plan she had for the 6-year-old trotter this year until the season was derailed by the covid-19 pandemic that shut down racing.

“I was planning on qualifying him again at Miami Valley like I did last year, but now all that has changed,” said Lorentzon, who trains at her own farm in Paris, Ky., a few miles north of Lexington. “Now I don’t know where we are going to be qualifying, it all depends on what tracks are opening up. He was supposed to go in the Cutler...he’s ready to go whenever they open up.”

Guardian Angel As is owned by Kjell Johansson and Lorentzon’s mother Ann-Christin Lorentzon’s ACL Stuteri Ab, which also bred the son of Archangel.

After earning \$516,746 over his first three years of racing, Guardian Angel As had a spectacular 5-year-old campaign in 2019, posting seven wins in 16 starts with \$798,294 in earnings. Guardian Angel As was the richest older trotter in North America last year—and fourth overall—bringing his career total to \$1,315,040.

The biggest win for Guardian Angel As last year came in the \$450,000 Maple Leaf Trot at Woodbine Mohawk Park where he scored in 1:50.4, equaling his career best set in 2019 over the five-eighths mile oval at Harrah’s Philadelphia. He also won the \$250,000 Spirit of Massachusetts Trot at Plainridge Park and the \$175,000 Cleveland Classic at Northfield Park, where his 1:52 effort not only set a new track record but also a new world record for older trotters on a half-mile track.

“He had a few bad races when he got a little sick on us, but other than that we were very, very happy with him,” said Lorentzon.

Lorentzon, who is training a stable of 60 at her farm, said Guardian Angel As has gone as far as she wants him to in preparation for the 2020 season.

“I haven’t pushed him very hard training yet because I want to know when we are going to go before I start doing that,” she said. “I trained him last Saturday and he trained good. I am still shooting for two qualifiers. I don’t go very fast in the qualifiers because I don’t train very fast at home here. I use the qualifiers as faster training miles.”

A native of Sweden, Lorentzon said she has been keeping watch on her home country via computer and phone conversations with her grandmother. Sweden has remained mostly open during the pandemic, including racing, albeit without fans in the stands.

“I talked to my grandma Sunday and she’s staying home all the time,” said Lorentzon. “Other than that, they’ve been open mostly. They keep most schools open and the racetrack has been going the whole time but no people are watching it.”

THIS IS THE PLAN—RON BURKE

This Is The Plan won just three times in 19 starts last year, but those efforts in the \$500,000 Ben Franklin final at The Downs at Mohegan Sun



Pocono, the \$176,000 Hoosier Park Pacing Derby at Hoosier Park, and the \$150,000 Prix d’Ete at Hippodrome 3R, helped balloon his seasonal earnings to \$778,238 for owners Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brussemi LLC, J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby, and Larry Karr.

This Is The Plan’s bankroll was the most by any 4-year-old pacer last year, and the second highest among older pacers, behind only millionaire McWicked.

The 5-year-old son of Somebeachsomewhere is trained by Ron Burke, who said This Is The Plan’s early-season calendar has changed dramatically with the closing of the racetracks.

“He was in the (MGM Borgata Series at Yonkers) and in every stakes race,” Burke noted of the series for older pacers that was scheduled to get underway last month at Yonkers. “Everything is good with him and he’s ready to go.”

This Is The Plan, whose career earnings top \$1.4 million, made three more starts after capturing the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby on Sept. 20, but could only muster a fourth in the Hollywood Dayton Derby, a seventh in the Dan Rooney Invitational at Yonkers, and a fifth in the Breeders Crown at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Entered in the Nov. 10 Potomac Pace at Rosecroft, This Is The Plan was scratched “sick” by Burke.

“He had gotten a little bit out of whack and he just needed a break,” Burke explained of This Is The Plan’s final trio of efforts in 2019. “But he’s ready now for the first race available.”

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WARRAWEE UBEAUT—RON BURKE

Warrawee Ubeaut turned heads in 2018 when she set a world record of 1:48.3 as a 2 year old at The Red Mile on her way to Dan Patch



New Images Media Photo

Award divisional honors. The daughter of Sweet Lou didn't miss a beat last year as a 3 year old as she won 12 of 19 starts while successfully defending her divisional crown.

The Ron Burke trainee strung together an eight-race win streak in the middle of her season, beginning with a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes score on Aug. 11 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono and culminating in the \$500,000 Breeders Crown on Oct. 26 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The streak also included the \$253,000 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes championship at The Meadows, the \$216,000 Glen Garnsey Memorial at The Red Mile (equaling her career mark of 1:48.3) and the \$155,760 Jugette final at Delaware, Ohio, where she equaled the half-mile world record of 1:50.1 (Call Me Queen Be in 2016 in a Jugette elimination).

Warrawee Ubeaut brings career earnings of \$1,597,605 into 2020 for owners Burke Racing Stable, Phil Collura, J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby and Weaver Brussemi LLC.

As are the majority of Burke's plethora of horses, Warrawee Ubeaut is ready to go. Burke said he wouldn't even need to qualify Warrawee Ubeaut as his horses will be race ready. Burke said Warrawee Ubeaut had been penned in to tackle the boys in the Graduate Series for 4-year-old pacers that was scheduled to get underway on Saturday, May 2, at the Meadowlands.

"She's been in 1:53," said Burke. "She's trained four times better than 1:55. She's ready to go. They're all ready to go. They're already approaching to go in (1):50 right now."

OBRIGADO—PAUL KELLEY

After more than a year off from racing due to suspensory issues, Obrigado returned to the track late last year. It took six starts for Obrigado to return to the



Conrad Photo

winner's circle, the first coming on Feb. 21 with a 1:53.1 effort in a conditioned trot at the Meadowlands. Eight days later and stepping back up in class, Obrigado overcame being saddled with the outside post 10 to win again early in an identical 1:53.1.

A chance for a three-peat by Obrigado was derailed when the covid-19 pandemic shut down racing. Instead, the 10-year-old son of Boy Band remained at the barn of trainer Paul Kelley at Gaitway Farm in New Jersey.

"Two wins and then he was sidelined, like everybody else, by covid-19," said Kelley, who left Obrigado in the hands of assistant Susanne Kovicic while he was winter-based at Sunshine Meadows.

Kelley said that while he hadn't planned on staking Obrigado to any major events in North America, he was eyeing the famed Elitlopp in Sweden on May 31 as a strong possibility.

"Off of his last race, if we had had the chance to keep racing up until now, we were considering taking him over to the Elitlopp," said Kelley, who shares ownership of Obrigado with SRF Stable and Linwood Higgins. "They were looking for American horses and we had nothing to lose. If things had kept trending in the right direction, we were seriously considering it."

After Mitchell Cushing directed the trotter to his first score when regular driver Marcus Miller called in sick, it was Miller back in the sulky that night. Kelley said Obrigado's second win from the outside post came after an equipment change.

"When he won out of the 10 hole, I really wasn't surprised he won," he said. "He was just coming back into form. But just for the heck of it we threw a closed bridle on him for the first time ever. There were a couple of speed horses inside of him, but with that blind bridle on, Obrigado just grabbed the racetrack and went down the road."

Kelley said Obrigado has remained in training and will be ready to race whenever the green light is given.

"We never let him back down," said Kelley. "He was off for so long I didn't want to let him down and then have to try and bring him back again. He's been on a regular training routine. Training once or twice a week, and (Kovicic) rides him some days. He's on the track every day doing something. If they say they are going to race in two weeks, he will need to train just one time fast and he'll be ready to go back at it."

Obrigado had a dream season in 2016, winning eight of 17 starts and \$873,300 on his way to a Dan Patch Award as the Older Trotting Horse of the Year. Obrigado's success has come at a price in regard to possible staking this year, which led to Kelley instead pointing to the Great Northeast Series that is raced at Harrah's Philadelphia and The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

"Off his Dan Patch year, a lot of the stakes races now are based on the money that you've earned either the prior year or the current year," said Kelley. "So some of the races that he had won during his Dan Patch year...after I brought him back after the layoff, even if we paid him in he wouldn't have had enough money made to qualify. I figured, why put him in the races and put up a bunch of money, and then just get the money back, depending on how many horses were in it?"

Kelley, who leaves Sunshine Meadows on Monday and returns north, admits there is one goal in mind for Obrigado this year: Reaching the \$2-million mark. Obrigado's career earnings currently stand at \$1,826,154.

"We'd love to do that (\$2 million)," said Kelley. "He's real sound, real healthy, so everything is good there. If we can just some racing opportunities, he is going to be fine."



Trip Down Breeders Crown Memory Lane

I caught much of Greg Blanchard's interview session last Sunday night on the Central Ontario Standardbred Association's Facebook page with The Hambletonian Society's chief operating officer Moira Fanning and TV stalwarts Dave Brower and Gary Seibel as they reminisced over past Hambletonians and Breeders Crowns. It was a marathon session that lasted more than two hours, and the trio of guests still didn't have enough time to cover all the bases.

While watching four of my closest friends in the business reminisce, I also thought back to the good ole days. So when Boss Kathy "suggested" I write a column about those days long gone and my time helping out on the Breeders Crown trail, how could I say no?

When I was publicity director at Hazel Park in my prior life, we hosted a pair of Breeders Crown finals in the late 1980s. That was when the Breeders Crown was a traveling roadshow, moving from track to track every week, with the races televised live on Friday nights on ESPN.

In 1987 we hosted the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Trot, which saw huge wagering numbers (my late, great friend and director of racing at Hazel Park Ken Marshall said at the time it was the best-bet 2-year-old filly trot ever), which was won by Nan's Catch. That filly, of course, went on to become the dam of the great Moni Maker.

There was a glitch in our first Crown attempt in 1987 when track co-owner Herb Tyner took it upon himself to delay post for the Crown race because of the long lines at the mutuel windows. We came close to running the race after ESPN left the air, but we made it with seconds to spare.

Afterward, I was asked by David and Rikki Caldwell, who owned Nan's Catch, if I could ship them the Orrefors crystal winner's trophy. No problem, but I was going to have to do it when I returned from Florida, where I was headed to help with the Breeders Crown advance PR staff.

I went to Florida for a couple of weeks, and upon my return didn't remember Nan's Catch's trophy in the closet. Until David Caldwell called me in January, asking where it was.

I trekked up to my shuttered office to get the trophy—which by the way weighed about 25 pounds—that I put in a box

and sent by UPS. All was good, until I got another phone call from Mr. Caldwell, telling me that when he opened the box the trophy had turned into a bunch of potato chips.

What I didn't take into account was that the heat had been turned off in the clubhouse, so the trophy basically froze in the Michigan winter and then broke into pieces upon shipping. I had to call Tom Charters and very sheepishly explain what happened, and he said insurance would cover it, so send him the form. Uh oh, I didn't add any extra insurance to the standard \$500, and the trophy was worth more than that.

Tom didn't say a word and another trophy was later sent. Thankfully, he didn't hold it against me and I was asked to return to the Crown PR staff the following year.

There were some Pompano Crown advance trips that lasted several weeks. The trips weren't only to Florida, but my two Breeders Crowns there stand out for me.

The first was in 1989 at Pompano Park when all eight finals for 2 and 3 year olds were contested for the first time on the

same card. My task that night was to work as stage manager for TV hosts Bruce Beck and Gary Seibel, with all the finals shown on a three-hour live telecast on ESPN. We were located in the infield and had a great vantage spot. But it rained off and on throughout the night, sometimes heavy.

Bruce had all his notes written in pen on cards, but the rain smeared everything. Bruce asked me to re-write his notes as best I could, which I did. Trouble was, it took my attention away from the producer, who kept yelling at me on the headset as I was forgetting to give the guys their written instructions for commercial breaks.

I failed miserably as a stage manager. But I'll chalk it up to me just not being good on an off track.

I also have to single out Peace Corps in 1990 at Pompano Park as probably my all-time favorite. Moira assigned me to shadow Peace Corps, who was returning after campaigning the entire year in Europe. Peace Corps had won Crown championships at two and three, but could she three-peat at four?

I remember seeing Peace Corps for the first time and wondering how could she possibly win? She had been in quarantine and had a heavy winter coat since the season had already changed in Sweden. But it mattered not and Peace Corps romped to a six-length win in 1:54.2, a new all-age record for female trotters on a five-eighths mile track. It was Peace Corps' third Crown victory (two years later she won a record fourth Crown final).

I could fill many, many more pages of memories, but I'll leave it here. And simply say I hope to see you all at Hoosier Park this fall for all 12 Breeders Crown finals.



Extra help was always brought in to help publicize the Breeders Crown events, and in the early 1990s Gordon Waterstone had a chance to work with (left to right) Judy Davis-Wilson, Kathy Wade, Pohla Smith, Anne Doolin and The Hambletonian Society's Moira Fanning.

 **harnessracing.com HEADLINES****May stakes at the Meadowlands postponed**

Stakes that had been scheduled for the month of May at the Meadowlands will be postponed to a date to be announced. These stakes include the first leg of the Graduate series for both pacers and trotters, the Cutler Memorial and the New Jersey Sires Stakes for all divisions of 3 year olds. [more](#)

More financial assistance for Ohio horsemen

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and Ohio Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Plan (HHHRP), Trustees as administrators of the Harness Horsemen's Retirement Trust, have announced direct benevolent relief for all 2019 Ohio HHHRP Plan Participants. [more](#)

Standardbred Canada announces 'Return to Racing' blueprint

In early April, Standardbred Canada's Board of Directors appointed a 'Return To Racing' task force to develop a blueprint for the return of Standardbred racing. Today (Monday, April 27), SC's Board has approved the plan and will be releasing 'The Return to Standardbred Horse Racing in Canada Blueprint' to industry stakeholders to assist them in the planning and preparation of racing resuming at racetracks across the country. [more](#)

New HHYF Activity Boxes now available

Nothing replaces braiding a foretop or jogging a horse on the track—we know that! However, in an effort to still provide education and a whole lot of fun, the Harness Horse

Youth Foundation (HHYF) will be offering "Activity Boxes" this summer – four boxes in total, each with its own theme, for May, June, July, and August. [more](#)

Info: regarding hair follicle testing in NY

The Standardbred Owners Association of New York (SOA of NY) has provided the following information to owners and trainers: The procedure as far as the SOA of NY has learned is that commencing April 29, and continuing on April 30 and May 1, the trainers currently in possession any and all horses requiring Hair follicle testing, must call this number 845-794-5061 after 9 a.m. on the dates indicated above if they intend to bring horses to Monticello Raceway to have hair samples drawn. [more](#)

Racetracks and horse owners eligible for PPP loans

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association is pleased to announce that the Small Business Administration today has issued new guidance clarifying that racetracks and small entities such as horse ownership entities are eligible for loans under the Paycheck Protection Loan Program. [more](#)

Letter sent to NY commission re: Goshen qualifiers

The following is a letter sent by Joe Faraldo, president of the SOA of NY, to the New York Gaming Commission regarding qualifiers at Goshen Historic Track: Rob and Ron, With the vast open paddock space at Goshen Historic Track, I reiterate that it would be doable to have qualifiers there and insure that all social distancing mandates, wisely put in place, are observed. [more](#)

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