Fazoli’s CEO Howard Starts Petition To Resume Racing In Ohio

Simply put, Carl Howard is angry. Howard, the CEO of the fast-food Italian food chain Fazoli’s, owns 14 Standardbreds on his own and 50 percent of another 23 that primarily compete in Ohio. The shutdown of racing in the Buckeye State has prompted Howard to initiate a petition drive to send to Governor Mike DeWine that asks for racetracks to be allowed to reopen, at least without fans, by May 15.

“This is something I put together,” said Howard. “I reached out to a PR firm I used in Columbus in the past. They did some work with me at Fazoli’s when I first started there.

“I’m not asking for anything, and I’m not trying to be the face of anything. I’m trying to get something going with a viral campaign to let people understand that a lot of lives are at stake here. I don’t think people really have an understanding of what’s going on and people are starting to get angry. They’re getting angry because they don’t have any money and can’t feed their family. I have people reaching out to me, asking for loans to feed their family, to feed their horses, and that’s scary.

“For me personally, I’m the CEO of Fazoli’s and that’s my first and paramount responsibility, but I built this into a pretty nice business over the last decade. This is very painful for me personally. This isn’t necessarily a white-knight thing, I’m trying to help myself also.”

Howard said he received a text message Wednesday night from Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association president Steve Bateson regarding the petition.

“Steve Bateson, who I don’t think even gets paid, sent me a text last night that said, ‘Hang in there buddy, we’re working on it.’ He didn’t have to do that.”

Howard noted that while Gov. DeWine is a friend of harness racing—he presented the trophy to the connections of 2019 Little Brown Jug champion Southwind Ozzi in the winner’s circle—he understands the state’s leader has plenty on his plate.

“Governor DeWine is doing his best,” said Howard. “It’s hard for him to worry about horse racing when he spent all weekend trying to figure out his budget cuts. As a CEO of a company a lot smaller than the state of Ohio, he had to be working on that around the clock.

“I have a picture of Mike DeWine and I together at the Little Brown Jug. I know he understands it, I just don’t know if realizes the impact. He has so many things going on. My goal is to get attention for all the horsepeople who are desperately struggling in this unique and abnormal time of their life. That’s the sole purpose. Nothing more than trying to help.

Continues on page 2 ››››
Dear Governor DeWine,

On behalf of Ohio’s horsemen and women, our employees, track operators and their employees, as well as harness racing fans, thank you for your compassionate leadership on the COVID-19 crisis. You have been faced with a myriad of difficult challenges, and your efforts to balance health and economic concerns are admirable.

However, our industry, which employs directly or indirectly over 5,000 Ohioans, needs your support. With racing on hold, groomers, trainers and other employees are going without paychecks. Veterinarian bills, blacksmiths, stable rents and utilities are going unpaid.

In addition to thousands of workers losing their income, the impact of our tracks being closed is affecting all Ohioans. Our racing venues and their satellite signals provide a significant source of tax dollars paid to the state of Ohio. While the state faces budget cuts and is losing needed tax dollars, we can safely generate taxable income for all Ohioans.

With almost no sports on TV and none airing daily, a significant economic windfall could be gained if we restart racing quickly. We hope this fact has not been overlooked in your plans to reopen the state. Our daily handle would be at a record level if we could get our tracks open this month.

The harness racing industry in Ohio dates back to the late 19th century. Columbus is home to the United States Trotting Association and many leaders of our sport. Ohio has long been a front-runner in harness racing, with Delaware, Ohio, hosting the internationally recognized Little Brown Jug, which you personally attended last year. You witnessed what our sport means to Ohioans.

It is important to note that harness racing, while an exciting sport, does not require a crowd. Fans around the state and the country can enjoy races at our tracks in Columbus, Dayton and Cleveland from anywhere via satellite. Fans can watch and wager online or enjoy racing on TV, as they are already doing so in several states. Kentucky, Florida, California and Arkansas currently are allowing thoroughbred racing without an audience.

The harness racing industry has developed a comprehensive safety and sanitation strategy that will allow operations to resume safely, including social distancing plans for workers.

We ask that you allow the racing tracks to reopen in May without fans, so the state’s harness racing industry does not perish. We will defer to you and your medical authorities on when fans may return to the stands and under what conditions.

With no clear direction on when racing can resume, our industry is on the verge of collapse, threatening jobs, the health of the horses we love and tax revenue the state desperately needs.

There is nothing to be gained by allowing this uncertainty to continue. The risk to reopening – if any – is very low. If racing does not begin soon, horsemens and women will be forced to find other employment, livelihoods will be lost, and owners will be forced to sell their animals and cease operations, all with devastating long-term effects to our industry.

Thank you for listening to our plea.

Howard noted the amount of purse money currently being lost in Ohio.

“Not including sires stakes, our overnight purses on a weekly number is $950,000 in Ohio,” he said. “So we’re taking $950,000 out of the income stream that would have been spent for trainers, drivers, grooms and owners. We use that money and invest it. I’ve never taken dime out; every time we make money we buy more horses and try to build it up.

“I know it hasn’t been a gigantic tax loss for the state, the casinos are probably hurting way more than the horses, but it does have a trickle-down economic impact because the $950,000 in purses isn’t getting spread around.

“You have the grooms. People don’t realize they make most of their money going to the racetrack for the races to paddock horses. If their horse performs well they always get a slice of the pie. Now they don’t get any of that. And they aren’t getting the hours that they used to because a lot of horses aren’t training. Some aren’t getting any hours because the horses have been turned out because that’s the cheapest alternative.”

As of noon on Thursday, the petition drive had resulted in more than 600 signatures. You can read the petition above, and you can click here to sign.

“There is no deadline, but we now have enough signatures where I can take it to the local press and draw some attention,” said Howard.— By Gordon Waterstone
The June Midwest Mixed Sale will provide the ideal marketplace for both breeding stock and racehorses. With other mixed sales cancelled in April and May due to the Covid issue, a late June sale will be the perfect time to buy and sell as harness racing gets back underway.

Demand will be at a high and buyers will be looking for young horses and conditioned horses, as well as breeding stock.

**Online bidding will be available!**

**ENTRIES CLOSE MAY 11**

or when full...enter online now at www.midwestauctionco.com or call 260-463-1649
Mykindachip Back Home
In Indiana With Bowermaster

We all need some good news, and Jeff Fought brought some to trainer Shane Bowermaster’s barn on Monday, May 4.

Fought showed up and walked through the open doors while leading Mykindachip, an 11-year-old gelding by Art’s Chip. You could say the pacer was back home as Bowermaster campaigned Mykindachip with his late father, Dan.

This past winter Fought was hanging out at Spring Garden Ranch in Florida with Bowermaster and heard the story of how much the veteran pacer had meant to Bowermaster and his family.

“When I was in Florida this winter, Shane talked about this horse a lot, and about his Dad,” recalled Fought. “The horse was racing with Burkes (Burke Racing and partners) and Shane said to me that he wondered if they would ever sell the horse.”

So at some point before the covid-19 shutdown, Fought called Mark Weaver, who shared ownership of Mykindachip, to ask if the horse was for sale.

“Mark said, ‘Make an offer,’” Fought remembered. “But I don’t really like making offers; I’m not comfortable pricing other people’s horses. So I left it at that.”

Fought’s involvement with Standardbred racing was at one time mostly his Cornerstone Stock Farm in Shipshewana, Ind., but last fall he dispersed his broodmares. Today he owns 38 racehorses (many in partnerships), has six yearlings to sell, and keeps two retired broodmare buddies, the 26-year-old Bolero Takara (dam of Shamballa and Fought’s 2019 stakes winner Shamwow p.3, 1:49.4-$197,075), and the 20-year-old Evil Cnivel, on his farm. He also owns the Midwest Auction Company, which recently announced a new June mixed sale.

Once covid-19 shut down racing, and Weaver shared that Burke Racing was selling some horses online. Fought checked out the list of horses for sale. Mykindachip was not among them, so Fought called Weaver again.

“I just decided I was going to buy the horse and give him to Shane,” shared Fought. “It wasn’t any kind of giveaway deal, because the horse had been racing really good (two wins and a third in eight starts at Miami Valley) before the shutdown. Then I had to get the horse well before Shane shipped north.”

Fought decided he wanted to surprise Bowermaster with Mykindachip, so he boarded the horse at Pacesetter Farm in Indiana before the Bowermaster Stable arrived back in Indiana after wintering in Florida. He told Bowermaster’s girlfriend, Jody Morone, but others in the barn learned of the purchase, and of course his presence at Pacesetter Farm was known by a few.

“This winter I got the privilege to train some horses for Jeff Fought of Connerstone Farm. Not only did I gain a great owner but a great friend as well! Over dinner one night and a couple drinks Jeff and I talked about horse racing in general about the good old days about family and of course about some great horses. Of course MyKindachip was at the top of my list of horses that we never forget and who just simply live forever in our hearts. Jeff listened to me talk of memories of chip racing and just simply what he meant to myself and my parents. My mom had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and my father’s health was not the best either and we fell on hard times and had to sell chip to pay medical bills. As I got a lump in my throat telling the story I could see in Jeff’s face he knew what this horse meant to me. Jeff simply said “stories like that are what horse racing really is all about!” He assured me one day you’ll get him back I’m sure. Well as you can see from the video Jeff made sure I got him back. Jeff made a deal purchased chip for us to race and for me to retire him when the time comes and live with me forever! Today my faith in the horse business and in humanity in general was restored! To everyone that helped make it a surprise and made this happen I thank you!” — By Kathy Parker
A New And Improved Joe Holloway

What’s changed for you during the covid-19 shutdown? Well, for Hall of Fame trainer Joe Holloway, he’s been sporting a new physique.

Holloway began a diet in late December and now, slightly more than four months later, he has lost a total of 75 pounds. Now down to a “svelte” 188 pounds, Holloway said he hopes to drop another 10 pounds to get to his ideal weight.

Holloway admits dieting wasn’t easy, especially having to spend so much time at home as a result of the covid-19 pandemic that shut down not only the U.S. but also the world.

“With the quarantine, I haven’t lost a lot in the last three or four weeks, but I want to get another 10 off, with 15 my ultimate goal,” said Holloway. “It shouldn’t be a problem to get it off by the end of the month and before we hopefully get busy.”

With the help of trainer Ross Wolfenden’s wife, Ingrid, who represents a company that specializes in a healthy regimen, Holloway embarked on the diet.

“Last December, my heart rate was up and I was out of breath doing everything,” said Holloway. “I decided I needed to get the weight off. I went on this diet right after I went on a golf trip. It was an easy diet, and that’s what I did right after the golf outing in December.

“I have protein bars and shakes and you have one meal a day, like a steak and salad or chicken,” he added. “The weight came off very quickly.”

Holloway used the Optavia diet plan to shed the pounds. According to Optavia’s website, the diet prescribes eating a mix of “purchased, processed food—called ‘fuelings’—and homemade ‘lean and green’ meals. Carbs or calories are not counted. Instead followers add water to powdered food or unwrap a bar as part of six-or-so mini meals per day.

Optavia’s plan costs approximately $400 a month, which Holloway said is a bargain considering his usual monthly food bill.

“For me this is cheap,” said Holloway. “Now I don’t go to Peking Pavilion, a Chinese restaurant out here, twice a week. So that saves me about $150 a week. I am used to going out to dinner and buying a big, bottle of wine. So this is saving me money.”

Holloway said he is now forgoing using a cart when he plays golf in lieu of walking the course. He said he tries to walk five miles daily.

“My target weight is 180 pounds. I want to get below 180,” concluded Holloway. “And I haven’t been 180 in a while. I’ll stick to this diet another couple of weeks and get there.”—By Gordon Waterstone
THE 2022
MEADOWLANDS PACE
FOALS OF 2019 TO BE RACED IN 2022

$50 Nomination Fee
Due May 15, 2020

$650,000
Estimated Total Purse

NOMINATIONS CLOSE MAY 15, 2020

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<th>Color Sex/Age</th>
<th>Sire</th>
<th>Dam</th>
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Entered by __________________________________________ Owner or Authorized Agent

Address ____________________________________________

Telephone No. ______________________________________

Trainer ___________________ Telephone No. ____________

E-Mail ____________________________________________

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
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Mail to:
Scott Warren
Race Secretary of Standardbred Racing
Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment
On Racetrack Drive
East Rutherford, NJ 07073
Amount $ __________________________

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Racing Secretary of Standardbred Racing
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Text “Meadowlands” to 84700 for Racing Office information
Indiana Announces Phased Approach; Racing Could Begin June 14

On Friday, May 1 Indiana’s governor released a five-stage phase-in for Indiana businesses to re-open using differing dates through July 4. The Indiana Horse Racing Commission and racetrack management have been working in conjunction with the governor’s office to confirm where horse racing falls within this reopening plan and the timeline below outlines those stages. Please be aware that all information relayed below is subject to change at any time as new information becomes available.

In addition, Indiana racetracks have a reopening plan that includes additional protocols and procedures that all participants will be asked to abide by to ensure everyone’s health and safety as these stages are rolled out. Both racetracks will be posting those protocols on their website.

STAGE 2:
May 11 – Essential travel restrictions are lifted (local non-essential travel allowed). Horses currently located in Indiana will be allowed to begin moving onto the backside of both racetracks. This applies only to those trainers with horses currently located in-state. Please contact Harrah’s Hoosier Park or Indiana Grand’s racing office to schedule your arrival date.

STAGE 3:
May 24 – No travel restrictions; horses originating from out-of-state are allowed. Horses currently located outside of Indiana will be allowed to begin moving onto the backside of both racetracks. This applies to those trainers with horses originating from out of state. Please contact Harrah’s Hoosier Park or Indiana Grand’s racing office to schedule your arrival date.

STAGE 4:
June 14 - Pari-mutuel racing allowed to commence – spectator free.

STAGE 5:
July 4 – Pari-mutuel racing and County and State fair racing anticipated to begin (with spectators) should there be no change in the ‘Back on Track Indiana’ roadmap.

Governor Holcomb’s ‘Back on Track Indiana’ roadmap includes four guiding principles the state of Indiana will utilize to determine if the stages outlined continue to move forward. Participants should be aware that if these principles are not met, the stages may be paused, or we may need to return to an earlier stage. Details regarding the principles can be found at www.backontrack.in.gov

“Our industry leaders, from racetrack management, horsemen associations and IHRC staff have been working diligently to advocate for our racing industry to get us to this point. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation and understanding as we move forward and navigate through this reopening process,” stated Deena Pitman, Indiana Horse Racing Commission Executive Director. (Indiana Horse Racing Commission)

Looking Back

Whelan Willie Wins 2000 Berry’s Creek Final

Whelan Willie (inside), sent to the front by driver John Campbell, held on to win the $350,000 Berry’s Creek final for 3-year-old colt pacers by a head over the Mike Lachance-driven Brioso Hanover on May 13, 2000 at the Meadowlands. The son of On The Road Again won in 1:51 on a track labeled ‘good’ as a result of a thunderstorm that brought heavy rain. Because of a broken left hobble before the start, the judges ruled that Camotion was a non-starter, which resulted in $210,456 in wagers being refunded. Whelan Willie, who was given his moniker by breeder-owner Gunther Untlit because of his wailing in the barn in the morning when it was feeding time, raced in the Berry’s Creek for trainer Mark Silva, who was overseeing the horse during his Meadowlands starts for regular conditioner Howard Okusko Sr. For Campbell, it was his fourth Berry’s Creek final victory, and two years later he would add a fifth with Mach Three. (Michael Lisa Lisa Photo)
Aaron Merriman Goes From 100 MPH To Zero

With racing shut down due to the covid-19 pandemic, driver Aaron Merriman’s record streaks of six straight years of more than 4,200 drives and three consecutive years with 1,000 or more wins will come to an end.

Through May 7 of last year, Merriman had won 312 of 1,454 starts, with $2.3 million in purse earnings. This year, through his last drive at Northfield when racing shut down on March 18, Merriman has 231 wins in 875 starts, with $1.48 million in purse earnings.

In January of this year, Merriman went past the 12,000 mark in career wins, and his pace was such that he would have topped 13,000 wins by year’s end.

“I won’t be doing (those numbers) this year,” said Merriman, the busiest and winningest driver in North America for several years now. “It’s disappointing and I’m getting a little stir crazy, but the positive is me not being and not having any friends or family that were sick. It’s a tough thing.

“I was on a roll, but it’s hard to dwell on that,” added Merriman, who was voted the 2018 Driver of the Year by members of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. “Every day it’s in my mind that I’m in the same boat as everybody else. If you’re healthy, and your family and friends are healthy, that’s what should be important at this point.”

Merriman’s pre-shutdown days consisted of driving from his home near Northfield Park in Ohio to The Meadows in western Pennsylvania, where he would drive the afternoon card. Merriman would then jump back into his car and return home, where he would compete on the night-time program at Northfield Park.

“I miss the racing a lot, but I don’t miss driving my car,” he said with a laugh. “I was filling up the gas tank four times a week, now it’s been every couple of weeks. This was a big change for me.”

Merriman said he has used the extra time to do a bit of closet cleaning.

“I purged a bunch of clothes that I’ve had for about 15-20 years,” said Merriman. “I had seven huge bags of clothes that I took to the Salvation Army. I did it slowly; I didn’t tackle it aggressively.”

Merriman said he only watches minimal TV, but he has been tuning in for The Last Dance, the multi-part documentary series about basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

Alan Leavitt Back On Kentucky Horse Racing Commission

Standardbred racing and breeding in Kentucky now has two representatives on the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. Gov. Andy Beshear has appointed Alan J. Leavitt of Walnut Hall Ltd. to the commission. Leavitt has previously served on the commission when Beshear’s father, Steve, was Kentucky’s governor and now joins Ken Jackson of Kentuckiana Farms as the only Standardbred members of the commission.

Other new members of the Commission include Jonathan Rabinowitz, who Beshear designated as the commission’s new chairman.

Rabinowitz, managing partner of the Morgan and Morgan law offices in Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia, is a co-owner of the Amsden Bourbon Bar in Versailles, Ky., and co-owns For the People Racing Stables. He is believed to have played a significant role during the current coronavirus pandemic in getting the governor’s office to approve resumption of racing in Kentucky, with Churchill Downs now scheduled to open May 16.

Merriman said he finally had a chance to meet some of his neighbors—”my neighbors across the street put up a ‘for sale’ sign last Saturday”—while doing yard work.

“I’m doing the yard work that I really haven’t been able to do for the last three years,” said Merriman. “So that’s kind of fun.”

Merriman said he’s also taking the dog for longer walks now. And while the pit-terrier mix the red-haired Merriman rescued is named ‘Red,’ it’s only a coincidence.

“He had another name when I went and met him, and then when I went back to pick up him a week later, they told me they were informed his name was Red,” said Merriman. “He does have kind of a red tint to him.”

Merriman has also helped trainer Billy Rhoades train some horses, and he plans on doing the same in the coming weeks for Bill Bercury. He said he’ll be ready to climb back into the sulky as soon as possible, and the more the better.

“I’m sure when they get rolling they’ll try and stack a bunch of cards together,” said Merriman. “But right now we have no clue when we’re coming back. I think we can be going back a little bit sooner, only because our governor (Mike DeWine) did such a very good job.”—By Gordon Waterstone
YEARLING PAYMENTS DUE MAY 15*

One list and one check keeps your yearlings eligible to these top events.

*per USTA rule 12.02 all payments must be postmarked by midnight Monday, May 18

Don’t forget to stake your yearling!

**Foals of 2019**

**TROTTERS**
- Arden Downs
- Breeders Crown*
- Currier & Ives
- Dexter Cup
- Hambletonian
- Hoosier Stake No. 85
- Horseman No. 113
- Ralph Wilfong No. 84***
- MGM Yonkers Trot
  *** no separate filly division

**PACERS**
- Adios
- Arden Downs
- Breeders Crown*
- Cane Pace
- Fox Stake No. 95***
- Hoosier Stake No. 85
- Horseman No. 113
- MGM Grand Messenger
- Progress Pace***
  *** no separate filly division

Make checks payable and send all entries to:
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Be sure to check our website for complete conditions, race dates & payment forms!

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Phone: 609-371-2211 • Fax: 609-371-8890 • Web: hambletonian.com

We Accept
Preferred Equine Has New Website, Plus Thoroughbred Division

Despite this generally static time in the horse racing business, there's one thing that's new and improved for industry participants, and that's the attractive, redesigned website recently unveiled by the sport's number one sales agency, Preferred Equine Marketing.

“Our website, preferredequine.com, is the storefront of our company,” said owner David Reid, “and it was time for remodeling both at the entrance and inside the premises. Although our original site served us extremely well since the early days of the internet, it was time to not only freshen the look and add some features, but to make it more readily accessible over all devices.”

Reid said he and his staff are very pleased with how it all turned out, and expects that clients and customers will be pleased as well when they see it offers an even easier-to-use interface than before.

While maintaining previous features like sale entry forms and online catalogs, the updated site adds enhancements like a “Hall of Fame” of both yearling and mixed sale graduates, a section on the clients the agency proudly represents, and expanded information on company offerings.

Also new to users is a section of the website dedicated to Preferred Equine’s Thoroughbred sales and bloodstock business, with Philip Antonacci heading up growth and development of that recently formed addition to the company.

Antonacci, from one of harness racing’s most prominent families, is a graduate of the Thoroughbred industry’s Godolphin Flying Start program and came to his position after working with a number of that breed’s most respected horsemen and women, including Wesley Ward, Todd Pletcher and Gai Waterhouse.

“Our whole team is excited to continue our expansion and further involvement in the Thoroughbred marketplace,” Antonacci said. “Preferred’s 30 years of experience in the Standardbred business—in which 22,000 horses have been sold—instills a certain degree of confidence that we can offer a level of service to new Thoroughbred clients and crossover clients that can rival any sales agency.”

Reid said the expansion is a natural that will serve to complement their ongoing commitment to harness racing. “The goal at Preferred is to not only create value for our customers across the horse racing industry, but to offer shared ideas and the best in service and amenities.

“Our business model—along with an improved experience while using our website—are ways to help accomplish that.” (Preferred Equine Marketing)

Ashley Tetrick Named To USTA Board Of Directors

District 12 of the U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) Board of Directors announced Tuesday that Ashley Tetrick has been selected to replace John Brennan as a director for the organization. Brennan, who was a USTA director for 23 years and chairman of District 12, died March 10.

Tetrick’s term will begin immediately and will run until the next District 12 meeting, which has yet to be determined, but typically is held in late fall.

“Ashley mentioned to Jacquie (Ingrassia) that she would be interested,” said new District 12 Chairman Jeff Gregory. “We discussed it, and both felt that she would be a good fit. She’s young, has fresh ideas and is not afraid to speak her mind and she’s replacing a guy who also wasn’t afraid to speak his mind.

“She’ll fit into the seat very well because she’s well-versed and knowledgeable about our industry and wants to participate,” added Gregory.

An owner and breeder, Tetrick is the wife of Hall of Fame driver Tim Tetrick. She is well known for creating and managing the highly successful Tetrick Racing brand and social media platforms as well as her passion regarding horse aftercare.

“It is an honor to be a part of the U.S. Trotting Association as a board member,” said Tetrick. “After attending my first USTA annual meeting, I was inspired and wanted to use my knowledge to help our sport. John Brennan and I were very good friends and for many years he suggested that I take the leap to be on this board. Through his passing, I hope that I can become an asset to our business and make him proud.”

A graduate of Purdue University with a degree in business marketing, Tetrick worked as the marketing and sales director for Frank’s Pharmacy, a respected equine pharmaceutical company, for six years before her daughter Trysta was born.

In 2015, she created “Tetrick Racing” to promote the brand to fans through numerous social media platforms that now have more than 30,000 followers. Later, she added “TetrickRacingGear.com” that promotes branded clothing with sales in the U.S. and 18 different countries.

Tetrick was a guest speaker at the 2015 World Trotting Conference in Australia when she traveled there with her husband Tim, who finished third in the World Driving Championship while representing the U.S. She is a former world champion barrel racer who has combined her love for riding, racing and marketing of harness racing to fans all over the world.

Tetrick joins Gregory, Ingrassia, Chris McErlean and Jason Settlemoir on the USTA Board of Directors for District 12. (USTA)
Lawson Still Hopeful For Racing In June At Mohawk

It was announced on Tuesday, May 5 that Woodbine Entertainment, Ontario Racing and Racetracks of Canada have requested that Historical Horse Racing be legalized.

In an announcement posted on the Ontario Racing website, the three organizations have jointly stated that the legalization of Historical Horse Racing (HHR) would provide much needed financial relief to the Canadian horse industry without requiring government funding.

“The legalization of HHR is an innovative horse industry solution that would provide a much-needed injection of funds to the care of horses and support the livelihoods of those who work in the horse industry,” the announcement said. “HHR would provide support during the immediate crisis period, as well as during any future shutdowns that may be necessitated by the potential of a second or third wave of COVID-19.

“This solution is unique because it provides an opportunity to offer a sustainable economic solution for an entire industry, without the need for any increase in public funding.”

On a live Facebook broadcast on the Central Ontario Standardbred Association (COSA) website on Wednesday night, Woodbine CEO Jim Lawson spoke about his hopes for resuming racing at Woodbine’s tracks and Historical Racing.

“There’s light at the end of the tunnel,” said Lawson in the broadcast moderated by Greg Blanchard. “We’ve always felt that way; we just didn’t know how long the tunnel would be. I’ve said quite openly that we’re hoping to resume live racing in June, and that’s still the plan. We’re putting detailed plans in place to ensure that happens.”

Lawson and COSA president Bill O’Donnell both noted that in the last days of live racing at Mohawk in March, the track followed social distancing and safety protocols that will continue when racing resumes.

“We have shown through live racing at Mohawk and operating the backstretch at Woodbine — for two months now — that we can operate in a safe environment,” Lawson said. “I think we are a business that can move ahead in June. We’re not talking about next week; we’re talking about doing this right. We’re working with medical consultants to make sure they have blessed our protocols, and with government.”
Two-Year-Olds

BREEDERS CROWN No. 34
$600,000 in 2020
To race Friday, October 30, at Harrah's Hoosier Park, Anderson, Indiana
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 23
Entrance Fee: $600

THE ELEVATION
-$125,000 Est. in 2020-
-$500-
Open. To be raced Friday, September 25 at Harrah’s Hoosier Park
Entrance Fee: $750

FOX STAKE No. 94
$55,150 in 2019
-$450-
Open. To be raced Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis. One heat only.
Entrance Fee: $1,200

HOOSIER STAKE No. 84
$91,400 total in 2019
-$100-
To be raced Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis
Entrance Fee: $200

KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT PACE/TROT 2020
-$200,000 Est. in 2020-
To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah’s Hoosier Park
Entrance Fee: $1,000

KEYSTONE CLASSICS 2020
Early Closing Events For Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Olds
$339,600 total in 2019
-$400-
Colt & Gelding Pace/Trot to be raced Tuesday, September 15 at The Meadows
Filly Pace/Trot to be raced Tuesday, September 15 at The Meadows
Entrance Fee: $400

LANDMARK STAKE EARLY CLOSER
-$42,500 Est. total in 2020-
-Colts & Geldings: $250-
-Fillies: $125-
To be raced Friday, July 3 at Goshen Historic Track
-Colts & Geldings Entrance Fee: $300-
-Fillies Entrance Fee: $150-

LIBERTY BELL 2020
Early Closing Events For Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Olds
-$75,000 Est. in 2020-
-$400-
Colt & Gelding Trot/Pace to be raced Friday, October 9 at Harrah’s Philadelphia
Filly Pace/Trot to be raced Wednesday, September 23 at Harrah’s Philadelphia
Entrance Fee: $400

MATRON SERIES 2020 (for 2-year-olds)
$692,200 total in 2019
-$500-
To be raced Thursday, November 5 at Dover Downs
Top 8 format.
Entrance Fee: $1,000

RALPH WILFONG No. 83
$33,383 in 2019
-$400-
To be raced Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis.
One heat only.
Entrance Fee: $600

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL EARLY CLOSER
$246,100 total in 2019
-$300-
All divisions to be raced Friday, August 28 at The Meadowlands
Entrance Fee: $500

JOHN SIMPSON MEMORIAL EARLY CLOSER
$442,400 total in 2019
-$400-
Colt & Gelding Trot/Pace to be raced Friday, October 23 at Harrah’s Philadelphia
Filly Trot/Pace to be raced Friday, October 16 at Harrah’s Philadelphia
Entrance Fee: $400

TOMPKINS-GEERS EARLY CLOSER
$260,700 total in 2019
-$300-
All divisions to be raced Friday, July 3 at The Meadowlands
Entrance Fee: $500

Make checks payable and send all entries to: THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY
Cranbury Gates Office Park, 109 South Main St., Suite 18, Cranbury, NJ 08512-3174
Stars Desperately Seeking Racing—Part 4

Although no harness racetracks in North America have reopened after being shuttered as a result of the covid-19 pandemic, horses continue to be trained in preparation when the doors are again open. Over the past few weeks, Gordon Waterstone has caught up with several trainers on their preparations of some of the sport's returning stars from 2019, and he spoke to a few more this week.

SUNNY DEE—BOB MCINTOSH

Injured at two, Sunny Dee made a big splash as a 3-year-old in 2019, posting a 23-13-5-3 resume with $478,070 in earnings for breeders-owners Robert McIntosh Stables, CSX Stables and Al McIntosh Holdings. Voted the O'Brien Award winner as Canada's 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year, Sunny Dee's victories included several Ontario Sires Stakes, the USS Indianapolis at Harrah's Hoosier Park, and a pair of 1:49.4 career-best efforts at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

“She kicked a wall and broke a coffin bone,” trainer Bob McIntosh explained of Sunny Dee’s absence as a freshman. “I was really high on her too and was sick about it. But she made up for it last year.”

McIntosh said Sunny Dee, who is out of the Western Hanover mare West Of LA and thus a half-sister to millionaires LA Delight and Somewhere In LA, was being pointed toward the Roses Are Red at Mohawk Park, which had eliminations scheduled for June 13 and final on June 20.

“I went in 2:02 last week and I trained her back in 1:59 on our farm track here (on Monday, May 4),” said McIntosh, a member of both the U.S. and Canadian Hall of Fames. “Around the first of June she’ll be ready to roll. I have a good farm track so I’ll probably train her in 1:55 or 1:56 before I qualify her.”

McIntosh said having raced six horses already in 2020, he had to alter schedules with the shutdown.

“I had half a dozen racing when they shut things down, so I just backed off of them and am training them a decent mile every two weeks.”

ONLY TAKE CASH—BOB MCINTOSH

Trainer Bob McIntosh also has the 4-year-old trotting mare Only Take Cash in his stable based on his farm just outside of Windsor, Ont. The daughter of Cash Hall is a two-time Ohio Sires Stakes champion, and with her seven wins last year including a Casual Breeze division, she was voted the 2019 O’Brien Award as the 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year.

Only Take Cash’s sophomore resume also included a runner-up finish in the $282,000 Elegantimage final and fourth in the $500,000 Breeders Crown final at Woodbine Mohawk Park, as well as a second in the $178,150 Matron at Dover Downs.

McIntosh said he trained Only Take Cash in 1:59 on his farm track on Monday, May 4. He said Only Take Cash was being pointed toward the opening leg of the Miss Versatility Series on May 29 at Mohawk and then the Armbro Flight elimins on June 12 at Mohawk. McIntosh said there was a bigger prize at the end of the calendar.

“She has some starts at Mohawk in June, but I am going to pick my spots,” he said. “My ultimate goal is the Breeders Crown (in late October at Harrah’s Hoosier Park).”

ZERO TOLERANCE—JOE HOLLOWAY

Zero Tolerance was a seven-time winner in 2018 as a 2-year-old, and the daughter of Heston Blue Chip came back to win another seven races last year at three. Owned by Val D’Or Farms and Ted Gewertz and trained by Hall of Famer Joe Holloway, Zero Tolerance comes into 2020 less than $20,000 shy of the $1-million mark in career earnings.

After banking $485,813 at two, Zero Tolerance added another $494,923 in 2019. Her sophomore bankroll was

Continues on page 14
buoyed by wins in the $225,000 New York Sires Stakes final at Batavia Downs and the $232,700 Empire Breeders Classic at Tioga Downs, as well as a second-place finish in the $300,000 James Lynch Memorial at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Holloway added Lasix late last year on Zero Tolerance, but bleeding issues forced her to miss the Breeders Crown. Holloway said Zero Tolerance is now ready to race whenever he sees the green flag.

“I think they’d give us notice that next week we’ll have qualifiers, then in a couple weeks we’ll race,” said Holloway, “so I’ll train her one more fast time and then go.”

Zero Tolerance is eligible to the Roses Are Red, which has elims on June 13 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The 4-year-old mare could have also been on the guest list for the $100,000 Betsy Ross Invitational on May 24 at Harrah’s Philadelphia.

“I was just looking for any race,” Holloway said with a laugh. “I’ll find her a couple of starts and then we’ll go from there.

“We’re in a holding pattern now. I have couple of 3-year-old fillies in the same boat, and a couple of 3-year-old trotting colts in the same boat. They’ve all been fast enough to be ready to qualify. The 2 year olds, I’ve been taking them down to get them ready to baby race in June. “

**LINDY THE GREAT**

The 6-year-old trotter Lindy The Great is now in the barn of Andy and Julie Miller at Gaitway Farm in New Jersey. Bred by the Antonacci family’s KR Breeding, which shared ownership with Robert Rudolph, Lindy The Great has 14 wins in 47 career starts with $649,125 in earnings.

Last year’s Caesars Trotting Classic winner and Allerage Farms Open Trot runner-up, Lindy The Great was sold at January Tattersalls Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands for $450,000 to Rene Allard. But when Allard was arrested in March as part of a doping scandal, Lindy The Great was placed for sale. The son of Crazed-Highscore Kemp was purchased privately.

The new ownership group includes Andy Miller Stable Inc. and Team Lindy The Great, which consists of VIP Internet Stable, John Mehlenbacher, John Schmucker, Ira Wallach and B & I Stables. Crawford Farms Racing was also part of the Team Lindy The Great partnership but according to Andy Miller, dropped out shortly after new paperwork was filed with the U.S. Trotting Association.

“The owners decided to move him and came to us,” said Miller. “The Crawfords owned part of him and now they’ve decided to get out too, so we bought part of him.”

Miller said Lindy The Great, who finished second in the 2017 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot and third in the Kentucky Futurity, has been in Team Milers’s barn about a month. Lindy The Great had won a qualifier for Domenico Cecere on Jan. 11 at the Meadowlands in 1:52.3.

“We’ve been training him for about a month now and he’s ready to race whenever we’re allowed to,” said Miller, who was in the sulky behind Lindy The Great for that seven-length qualifying victory. “We’ll just have to qualify him and he’ll be ready to go.”

Miller said plans called for Lindy The Great to race in the now-postponed Arthur Cutler Memorial that had been scheduled for May 16 at the Meadowlands. He said another big stakes on the calendar is the John Cashman Memorial on Aug. 8 at the Big M.

Miller said their barn at Gaitway is full with 60 horses, half of which are 2 year olds.

“Hopefully we’re back racing soon,” said Miller. “We’re kind of lucky since we come to the barn and train in the mornings, so we have a little something to do. The babies are going out like normal and hopefully in June we can qualify the babies. Then it will be a totally different story.”
**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BREEDERS**

**The Breeders Crown No. 35 Yearling Payment of $150.00**

**For foals of 2019 is due on May 15, 2020.**

This payment makes yearlings by the following stallions eligible to race in the Breeders Crown as 2-year-olds in 2021 and 3-year-olds in 2022, subject to the conditions and payments in those years.

### Stallion Nominations for Breeders Crown No. 35

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<td>Creatine</td>
<td>Love You</td>
<td>Shadow Play</td>
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The above list is subject to omissions and corrections.

Foals of 2019 by the above stallions will be eligible to the open division (for 3-year-olds and older) of the Breeders Crown in 2022 and to the Breeders Crown open division in subsequent years upon payment of the advertised fees for the specific year’s open event. Owners of eligible 3-year-olds will have the option of entering either or both the 3-year-old and the open event by making the 3-year-old payment due February 15, 2022. Conditions for Breeders Crown No. 35 are available from The Hambletonian Society website: www.hambletonian.com or in the 2020 U.S.T.A. Stakes/Futurities Nomination Booklet.

For more information contact:

**BREEDERS CROWN at (609) 371-2211**

Checks payable to and mail to:

**THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY, INC.**

109 South Main St., Suite 18

Cranbury, New Jersey 08512-3174

[www.hambletonian.com](http://www.hambletonian.com)
Supplemental entries for Jug in 2022
Little Brown Jug Society president Tom Wright has announced some sweeping changes to future Little Brown Jugs and its filly companion event, the Jugette. In 2022, the Little Brown Jug will start accepting supplemental entries with a payment of $45,000 (Jugette supplements would pay $15,000). more

Online wagering immediately approved in Michigan
The Michigan Gaming Control Board on Wednesday issued an order that will allow online wagering on horse racing. The order allows online wagering through a third-party provider, which must be selected by management at Northville Downs, the state's lone remaining racetrack. more

Standardbred Transition Alliance accredits first organizations
The Standardbred Transition Alliance (STA) announced the completion of its inaugural accreditation and grant process on Tuesday. The three aftercare agencies accredited by the STA are: New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program with locations in Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania; Racer Placers in Jefferson, Wis.; and Sunshine Horses in Clay, N.Y. more

Dancin Yankee’s book full and closed
Cool Winds Farm is proud to announce that the stud book for World Champion and 3-time Ohio Older Pacer of the Year Dancin Yankee p,1:47.2f ($2,003,907) is full and closed for the 2020 breeding season. more

Antonacci Family Foundation donates $125K to food drive
According to Masslive.com, the Antonacci Family Foundation has donated $125,000 to launch the Millions of Meals food drive with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The $125,000 donation was announced by representatives of the foundation and the Food Bank at Trinity United Methodist Church on Tuesday morning, May 5. more

Remembering Cornstalk’s 1983 Ohio Sires Stakes championship
Ohio trainer-driver and Hall of Famer Howard Beissinger was no stranger to the winner's circle and in 1983, he brought forth onto the Ohio Sires Stakes scene a colt with close ties to his heart, the youngster Cornstalk. more

Western Fair cancels 2020 Camluck Classic
After much consideration, management at The Raceway at Western Fair District has made the decision to cancel the Camluck Classic Invitational which was scheduled to return for Friday, May 29. The $150,000 race is slated to return in 2021. more