Millies Possesion Makes PASS Debut

The Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) season for 3-year-old filly trotters gets underway Friday afternoon at Harrah's Philadelphia, with a total of $170,004 on the line for four divisions.

There are several seasoned performers on the track, including Windy Corner and Magical Beliefs, respectively first and second in last year’s $253,000 PASS championship at The Meadows. They meet up in the fourth $42,601 division (Race 13). Sonnet Grace, who closed out her freshman campaign with a win in the $490,000 Goldsmith Maid at the Meadowlands, starts in the third $42,201 split (Race 11). But trainer Jim Campbell is sending out a first-time starter.

That newbie in PASS for 3-year-old filly trotters on Friday afternoon is Millies Possesion, who was unraced at two.

a $12,000 maiden event on May 1 at Harrah's Philadelphia. She’ll start from the outside post 7 with Dexter Dunn driving in a field that includes Fate Smiled (post 4), who was third in last year’s PASS final.

“She had some soundness issues last year. She was training down real nice up until then,” said trainer Jim Campbell about Millies Possesion. “It’s hard on them to not race and then go against the ones that had raced last year. But she’s a nice, big strong filly and I’m very happy with the way she’s come back so far.”

Campbell admits he was so happy with Millies Possesion’s maiden-breaking win that he accelerated her schedule by entering her in the opening PASS leg.

“I was taking it one race at a time and didn’t really have any set schedule for her,” said Campbell. “After her two qualifiers the plan was to race her in overnights, and I was not even sure if she would need another one of them. But as good as she raced, we decided to give her a shot in the Sires Stakes.”

Campbell said Millies Possesion has a full stakes schedule on her plate, but he doesn’t want to look too far ahead of Friday’s start where the filly lines up on the outside of the seven-horse field.

“We’ll see how the race shapes up,” he said. “Chester is a track where you don’t want to be too far back because it puts you out of the race. She has a long career ahead of her and this race isn’t going to be the highlight of her career.”

Millies Possesion is a homebred daughter of Possess The Will of Jules Siegel's Fashion Farms. Millies Possesion is out of the Broadway Hall mare Fashion Athena, a winner of more than $300,000 on the racetrack for trainer Campbell whose scores including some on the PASS circuit and a career-best 1:53.2 effort in an International Stallion division at The Red Mile in 2012.—By Gordon Waterstone
Controversial Scratch At Miami Valley

The $100,000 Sam “Chip” Noble Memorial for older mare trotters at Miami Valley on Monday, May 6, attracted five entries, but only four went behind the gate. The field was reduced by one as post time approached when Bettor Joy N was scratched by the Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) because the mare did not have a U.S. freeze brand or tattoo.

When Bettor Joy N was given Lasix at the appropriate pre-race time, the on-track vet used a microchip reader to identify Bettor Joy N. The New Zealand-bred mare was implanted with the microchip when she arrived in the U.S. last December, and that microchip has been accepted in Delaware and New York, where she has made starts this year.

Other states also accept microchips for ID. In Kentucky, the regulations read: “A horse shall not start....if the horse has not been tattooed, freeze branded, or received an electronic horse identification microchip which accurately identifies the horse and is compliant with the international standard.”

While Indiana regulations still only stipulate a horse can be identified by a lip tattoo or freeze brand, officials there can use discretion and accept microchips. The current regulation is expected to be updated to include microchipping at an upcoming meeting of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission.

The OSRC followed its regulations regarding the identification of horses, which haven’t been updated since 2011 and not since the U.S. Trotting Association mandated the use of microchipping 14 months ago.

The Ohio rule was never conveyed to any of the connections of Bettor Joy N, including trainer Jim King Jr., who later discovered microchipping wouldn’t be accepted in Ohio until May 24.

Bettor Joy N was warmed up by King as usual, and it wasn’t until he was hooking up her bridle in preparation for the post parade that he was notified that she had been scratched.

Miami Valley presiding judge John Yinger was not in the judges’ stand on Monday due to personal reasons, and trainer King was told by track officials that they needed to contact OSRC executive director Bill Crawford by phone to make a final ruling. Requests for explanation from Crawford were not answered.

Shortly after the Noble was contested, which was won easily by Shartin N, Bettor Joy N’s stablemate in King’s barn, the U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) issued a statement noting its disappointment in the OSRC’s ruling.

The USTA statement noted that the use of microchips for identification purposes was approved in March 2018 by its board of directors and all state racing commissions were alerted to the policy change. The new rule specifically stated that foals of 2019 and beyond are required to be microchipped and starting in 2021 all Standardbreds in the U.S. will be required to have a microchip. The statement also noted that all racetracks—including Miami Valley—have been given a microchip reader, which could have been used to identify Bettor Joy N.

Other trainers noted afterward that the OSRC should have notified all the connections of the stakes starters of local regulations. When entered, Bettor Joy N’s papers noted she was microchipped only.

Both Shartin N and Bettor Joy N are owned by trainer King’s wife, JoAnn Looney-King, Richard Poillucci and Tim Tetrick Racing. The disappointment with the scratch led to Tetrick not bringing Shartin N into the winner’s circle.

With the short field, Shartin N received 55 percent of the purse, which means she earned $55,000. As of Thursday morning, the connections have not heard any word on whether or not the $4,750 in nomination and starting fees for Bettor Joy N will be refunded.—By Gordon Waterstone
**REMINDERS FOR MAY 15TH**

### SUMMER SERIES NOMINATIONS DUE

- **DREAM MAKER**
  - Two-year-old open pace.
  - Purse: $50,000 Guaranteed
  - Final: Monday, August 12, 2019
- **WHENUWISHUPONASTAR**
  - Two-year-old filly pace.
  - Purse: $50,000 Guaranteed
  - Final: Tuesday, August 13, 2019
- **DEFINE THE WORLD**
  - Two-year-old open trot.
  - Purse: $50,000 Guaranteed
  - Final: Thursday, August 22, 2019
- **PURE IVORY**
  - Two-year-old filly trot.
  - Purse: $50,000 Guaranteed
  - Final: Thursday, August 22, 2019

### YEARLING NOMINATIONS DUE

- **2020 CHAMPLAIN OPEN**
- **2020 CHAMPLAIN FILLY**
- **2021 SIMCOE OPEN**
- **2021 SIMCOE FILLY**
- **2021 SBOA FILLY**

### SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE

- **PEPSI NORTH AMERICA CUP XXXVI**
  - Three-year-old open pace.
  - Final: Saturday, June 15, 2019
- **ARMBRO FLIGHT**
  - Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares trot.
  - Final: Saturday, June 15, 2019
- **BATTLE OF THE BELLES**
  - Ontario Sired two-year-old filly pace.
  - Final: Monday, August 5, 2019
- **BATTLE OF WATERLOO**
  - Ontario Sired Two-year-old open pace.
  - Final: Monday, August 5, 2019
- **CANADIAN PACING DERBY**
  - Three-year-olds and older open pace.
  - Final: Saturday, August 31, 2019
- **CANADIAN TROTTING CLASSIC**
  - Three-year-old open trot.
  - Final: Saturday, September 14, 2019
- **CASUAL BREEZE**
  - Three-year-old filly trot.
  - Final: Friday, August 23, 2019
- **CHAMPLAIN FILLY**
  - Trot: Thursday, August 29, 2019
  - Pace: Saturday, September 7, 2019
- **CHAMPLAIN OPEN**
  - Trot: Friday, August 30, 2019
  - Pace: Saturday, September 7, 2019
- **ELEGANTIMAGE**
  - Three-year-old filly trot.
  - Final: Saturday, September 14, 2019
- **ETERNAL CAMNATION**
  - Two-year-old filly pace.
  - Final: Saturday, August 24, 2019
- **FAN HANOVER**
  - Three-year-old filly pace.
  - Final: Saturday, June 15, 2019
- **GOODTIMES**
  - Three-year-old open trot.
  - Final: Saturday, June 15, 2019
- **MAPLE LEAF TROT**
  - Three-year-olds and older open trot.
  - Final: Saturday, August 31, 2019
- **METRO PACE**
  - Two-year-old open pace.
  - Final: Saturday, September 21, 2019
- **MILTON**
  - Three-years-olds and older fillies and mares pace.
  - Final: Saturday, September 21, 2019

### OTHER EVENTS

- **NASSAGAWEYA**
  - Two-year-old open pace.
  - Final: Saturday, August 24, 2019
- **PEACEFUL WAY**
  - Two-year-old filly trot.
  - Final: Saturday, September 14, 2019
- **ROSES ARE RED**
  - Three-year-olds and older fillies and mares pace.
  - Final: Saturday, June 15, 2019
- **SHES A GREAT LADY PACE**
  - Two-year-old filly pace.
  - Final: Saturday, September 21, 2019
- **WILLIAM WELLWOOD MEMORIAL**
  - Two-year-old open trot.
  - Final: Saturday, September 14, 2019

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

Online Payment Option: woodbine.com/mohawk/standardbred-nomination/
Is Elitlopp Trip In Atlanta’s Future?

On Monday, Atlanta was ultra-impressive in her 4-year-old debut in the $100,000 Miami Valley Distaff for older trotting mares at Miami Valley, cruising to a 7 3/4-length in 1:50.4 for driver Yannick Gingras.

That led to immediate speculation that the 2018 Trotter of the Year could be invited to the Elitlopp, set for May 26 at the Solvalla track in Stockholm, Sweden. On Tuesday, in a Facebook Live telecast, Solvalla officials discussed Atlanta while a video of the Miami Valley Distaff was shown.

The day after Atlanta’s victory, trainer Ron Burke told Weekend Preview that while he has yet to receive an official invitation from Solvalla Racetrack officials to bring the 2018 Trotter of the Year to Sweden for the May 26 Elitlopp, he would agree only if he can find suitable travel arrangements.

Atlanta wouldn’t be Burke’s first Elitlopp starter; in 2009 he sent the trotting mare Buck I St. Pat overseas, but she finished seventh in her elimination and failed to advance to the same-day final. Remembering the long journey Buck I St. Pat had to take to arrive at Solvalla, Burke said he wouldn’t put Atlanta through the same trip.

“I know we can go, but if I don’t get the right flight for what’s best for her, I’m not going.”

—Ron Burke

Burke. “It was too much (for Buck I St. Pat), it was like, plane, train and automobile. I’m not doing that (again). If I can get straight in there or straight into France and come with the French horse, I’d do that.

“I also have to find out what is the total down time in quarantine, and stuff like that. I want to go as late as I can and I want to leave as quick as I can. I hope they get hold of me pretty soon. They haven’t really called me, only a couple of texts. We will need to work out my concerns as I am doing whatever is best for the horse.”

Driving Atlanta for the first time in a pari-mutuel race, Gingras was impressed.

“She was very good; she was great,” said Gingras. “Atlanta is so easy on herself and you don’t really know how fast she is going. She gets over the ground really easy.”

Atlanta trotted individual fractions of :26.4, :29 (1:55.4), :27.1 (1:23) and :27.4, and Gingras said there was no noticeable difference.

“I let her trot a little bit up the backstretch and she went :27.1, and it sure didn’t feel like she was going that fast,” he said.

The victory boosted Atlanta’s career earnings to $1,240,689. The daughter of Chapter Seven, who was voted the 2018 Trotter of the Year, is owned by Crawford Farms, Brad Grant and Howard Taylor. The trio of entities remain after Atlanta was sold at auction over the winter to dissolve a partnership that included former trainer Rick Zeron, who Burke gave credit to.

Osterc Racing In PASS With Heavy Heart

Last Saturday Osterc won the $118,950 Dexter Cup final at Freehold Raceway, and four days later on May 8 the sad news was announced that the 3-year-old colt trotter’s namesake, Tomaz Osterc, who had worked for trainer Jimmy Takter the past two years before returning to his native country of Slovenia, had passed away at the age of 33.

With Takter now retired, the trotter Osterc is being trained by Per Engblom, the longtime assistant in the stable. Not resting on his Dexter Cup laurels, Osterc is scheduled to line up in post 3 in the second of three divisions of the $171,001 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) on Saturday afternoon at The Meadows with driver Yannick Gingras.

Tomaz Osterc was born in Slovenia on Dec. 5, 1985. He came to the U.S. and began working for Takter in 2016. He was diagnosed with brain cancer and underwent surgery approximately 18 months ago, but returned to work in the Takter barn. Last fall he drove three horses in qualifiers at The Red Mile, finishing second, third and fourth.

Takter, whose wife Christina shares ownership of the trotter Osterc with Goran Falk and named the colt in honor of his stable assistant, said the tumor had returned and Osterc underwent surgery on Monday (May 6) in Slovenia.

The trotter Osterc won five of seven starts last year, including the $253,000 PASS championship at The Meadows. The son of Cantab Hall’s win in the Dexter Cup increased his career earnings to $285,876.

“They did a great job with her,” said Burke. “She has a great mouth, just a great attitude.”

Burke said the only equipment change he made was to take off the trotting hobbles.

“Did nothing. She is pretty much a push-button horse,” said Burke. “Being honest, more than any horse that I’ve ever had. I’ve never had a horse that is less complicated. It’s pretty much just put the harness on her.” — By Gordon Waterstone
# The 2021 Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace

**Foals of 2018 to be Raced in 2021**

- **$50 Nomination Fee**
  - Due May 15, 2019
- **$650,000 Estimated Total Purse**

## Nominations Close May 15, 2019

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Entered by_________________________________________

Owner or Authorized Agent

Address___________________________________________

Telephone No.____________________________________

Trainer_________________Telephone No._______________

E-Mail ____________________________________________

**Make Check Payable To:**

THE MEADOWLANDS

Mail to:
Scott Warren
Race Secretary of Standardbred Racing
Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment
On Racetrack Drive
East Rutherford, NJ 07073

Amount $ _______________________________

Conditions available upon request

For information contact: Scott Warren
Racing Secretary of Standardbred Racing
201-The-BigM  playmeadowlands.com

Text “Meadowlands” to 84700 for Racing Office information
Gingras Looking Forward To World Driving Championship

Yannick Gingras is looking forward to having a good time when he participates in the World Driving Championship, which will be held May 24-31 in Sweden. But the U.S. representative knows that for all the fun, it won’t take long for his competitive instincts to kick into high gear.

“Right around the first race,” Gingras said with a laugh. “I’m very competitive. No doubt, I’m not going there to finish second; I want to go there and try to win it. But I want to embrace the whole thing.

“I know many of the guys in the competition are really guys that like to win. It’s going to be a hard challenge. It’s going to be some hard racing, but I’m very much looking forward to it. You’ve got to have fun also. You want to try to win, but you also want to enjoy the experience.”

Gingras, 39, will be making his first appearance in the World Driving Championship, which was introduced in 1970 and is now held every two years. Twelve drivers from 11 countries are participating in this year’s event, which returns to Sweden for the first time since 2001.

Gingras has raced in Sweden on several occasions during his career. The first leg of the World Driving Championship will be at Solvalla Raceway with three races on May 24 and one race the following day. There will be no races on Elitloppet Day on May 26 at Solvalla.

The action resumes May 27 with five races at Lindesbergs Fornaboda followed by five races May 28 at Sundbyholm and five races May 29 at Dalatravet Rattvik. After a one-day break, the champion will be crowned after the final five races at Gavle.

“As far as the racing goes, it doesn’t hurt that I’ve raced there in the past,” said Gingras. “But you also have to remember there are going to be guys from everywhere, so the style of racing is going to be a little of everything. You just have to go in there open minded and drive the race as it comes. I don’t think it’s going to be Scandinavian type of racing; I think it’s going to be like a free for all, really, in a way. We’ll see how it goes.”

For his career, Gingras has earned $171 million in purses, a total that ranks eighth in harness racing history, and won 7,153 races. Among his numerous accomplishments, he has captured 21 Breeders Crown trophies, which is sixth among all drivers in the history of the event, and was the regular driver of Foiled Again, the sport’s all-time richest horse.

Dave Magee was the most recent U.S. representative to win the championship, in 1995. The two other winners representing the U.S. were Ron Pierce in 1989 and Joe Marsh Jr. in 1974.

“It’s definitely a great honor and something I’m looking forward to,” Gingras said about being selected to represent the U.S. “I go into every race the same way; I want to win them all. If I get to (win the championship) it would be a great accomplishment. It would be something I remember the rest of my life.” (Ken Weingartner)

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<tr>
<th>Driver (country)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Ebbinge (Netherlands)</td>
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<td>Mika Forss (Finland)</td>
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<td>Rodney Gatt (Malta)</td>
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<td>Yannick Gingras (U.S.)</td>
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<td>Eirik Hoitomt (Norway)</td>
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<td>James MacDonald* (Canada)</td>
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<td>Michael Nimczyk (Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franck Nivard (France)</td>
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<td>Ulf Ohiisson (Sweden)</td>
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<td>Matthew Williamson (New Zealand)</td>
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*defending champion
SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE MAY 15
Previous payments must have been made to be eligible

Two-Year-Olds

BREEDERS CROWN No. 33
US $500,000 in 2019
To race Friday, October 25, Woodbine Mohawk Park, Campbellville, Ontario
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 18
Less: $500
Entrance Fee: $5,000

THE ELEVATION
-$125,000 Est. in 2019-
-$500
Open. To be raced Friday, September 20 at Hoosier Park
Entrance Fee: $750

FOX STAKE No. 93
$44,686 in 2018
-$500
Open. To be raced Wednesday, August 7 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis.
One heat only
Entrance Fee: $1,200

HOOSIER STAKE No. 83
$89,224 total in 2018
-$100
To be raced Wednesday, August 7 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis
Entrance Fee: $200

KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT PACER/TROT 2019
-$200,000 Est. in 2019-
-$10,000-
To race Friday, September 20 at Hoosier Park
Entrance Fee: $1,500

KEYSTONE CLASSICS 2019
Early Closing Events For Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Olds
$360,988 total in 2018
-$400-
Colt & Gelding Trot to be raced Wednesday, September 25 at The Meadows
Colt & Gelding Pace to be raced Saturday, September 28 at The Meadows
Filly Trot to be raced Tuesday, September 24 at The Meadows
Filly Pace to be raced Saturday, September 28 at The Meadows
Entrance Fee: $400

LANDMARK STAKE EARLY CLOSER
$42,950 total in 2018
-Colts & Geldings: $250-
-Fillies: $125-
To be raced Friday, July 5 at Goshen Historic Track
-Colts & Geldings Entrance Fee: $300-
-Fillies Entrance Fee: $150-

LIBERTY BELL 2019
Early Closing Events For Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Olds
-$75,000 Est. per division in 2019-
-$400-
Colt & Gelding Trot/Pace to be raced
Wednesday, October 16 at Hanover's Philadelphia
Filly Trot/Pace to be raced Thursday, October 17 at Hanover's Philadelphia
Entrance Fee: $400

MATRON SERIES 2019 (for 2-year-olds)
-$727,900 in 2018
-$500
To be raced Thursday, November 7 at Dover Downs
Top 8 format.
Entrance Fee: $1,000

RALPH WILFONG No. 82
$28,032 in 2018
-$500-
Open. To be raced Wednesday, August 7 at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis.
One heat only
Entrance Fee: $600

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL EARLY CLOSER
$267,200 total in 2018
-$300-
All divisions to be raced Sunday, August 25 at Tioga Downs
Entrance Fee: $500

JOHN SIMPSON MEMORIAL EARLY CLOSER
$387,200 total in 2018
-$400-
Colt & Gelding Trot/Pace to be raced
Sunday, October 6 at Hanover's Philadelphia
Filly Trot/Pace to be raced Wednesday, October 9 at Hanover's Philadelphia
Entrance Fee: $400

TOMPKINS-GEERS EARLY CLOSER
$225,700 total in 2018
-$300-
All divisions to be raced Friday, August 9 at Tioga Downs
Entrance Fee: $500

Three-Year-Olds
SUPPLEMENTS (Early Closers)

THE COURAGEOUS LADY FILLY PACER
-$125,000 Est. in 2019-
-Supplemental Nomination: May 15 - $3,500-
To race Saturday, October 12 at Northfield Park
Entrance Fee: $1,500

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
Hambo Contract With Meadowlands Extended; No Heats In 2020

The Hambletonian Society and the Meadowlands Racetrack have signed a two-year contract extension guaranteeing the host venue of the $1.2 million Hambletonian, $600,000 Hambletonian Oaks and the $400,000 Hambletonian Maturity through 2023.

The Meadowlands has been the longest-running host track of America’s Classic Trotting event, having held the race for 37 years since the Society relocated the race from the DuQuoin State Fair in Illinois to The Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, N.J. in 1981. It is traditionally held the first Saturday in August, with this year’s $1.2 million event slated for Aug. 3. The race is simulcast internationally and attracts record wagering handle and attendance at the north Jersey track.

“We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Hambletonian Society,” said Jeff Gural, CEO of Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment. “We pride ourselves on showcasing world-class harness racing and the Hambletonian, Hambletonian Oaks and Hambletonian Maturity are an important part of our Championship Meet.”

John Campbell, president and CEO of the Hambletonian Society, echoed those sentiments. “We are extremely pleased with our relationship with the Meadowlands, and consider the Meadowlands the true home of the Hambletonian. The Society is delighted with the resurgence of harness racing in New Jersey and the Hambletonian contract extension is another indication of the strength and permanence of the sport in the Garden State.”

The Hambletonian has undergone multiple format changes and been raced at six host tracks since 1926. The racing conditions allow for flexibility in the format, and in 2020 eliminations will be contested the week before to determine the final field. Hambletonian No. 95 is set for Aug. 8, 2020.

Prior to 1991, entrants had to win two heats to be declared the Hambletonian winner, though that only occurred three times in Meadowlands history. From 1991-1996, the same day heat format was still utilized, but the winner of the final heat was declared the Hambletonian winner. In 1997 the eliminations moved to the week before the event so the Meadowlands could create a week-long Hambletonian Festival, including Breeders Crown Open races. When Jeff Gural leased the Meadowlands from the state of New Jersey in 2011, same day heats were put back in to play for the race in 2012, and will remain through the race of 2019.

“The flexibility in the conditions allows the Society to always act in the best interest of the race, the sport, our host track partners and most importantly the health and welfare of the horse,” continued Campbell.

Eligibility to the Hambletonian begins each year with a May 15 yearling nomination and continues with sustaining payments through a horse’s 2 and 3-year-old year. There are no supplements to the Hambletonian or Oaks.

The Hambletonian is the first leg of the trotting Triple Crown. It is currently the only harness race to be broadcast on network TV, and has been for more than 30 years. (Hambletonian Society)
THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY-SERVICED RACES
Trotting & Pacing Stakes
FOR FOALS OF 2018
NOMINATION FEES DUE May 15, 2019

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*Codes office use only
*** No Separate Filly Division

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We’ve Been There!
Derby DQ Reminds Me Of ’17 Hambo

For anyone involved in harness racing, last Saturday’s Kentucky Derby outcome had to conjure up memories of the 2017 Hambletonian, when winner What The Hill was disqualified for causing interference in the stretch. That race brought into scrutiny the judges’ protocol in making decisions, including questions as to why an alleged incident in the first turn was never brought into play.

Even with TV cameras positioned around the track there are still some angles that aren’t the best. That’s why the Hambo first-turn incident could not be resolved; there was no definitive video available.

As we all watched the Derby drama unfold on TV we saw the Churchill stewards viewing all the different camera angles. And with 19 horses racing in the “run for the roses” and on a sloppy track that’s 80 feet wide in the homestretch—the same width as harness tracks such as The Meadows, Miami Valley and Pompano Park and narrower than the Meadowlands (90 feet) and Pocono Downs (103 feet)—they need lots of camera angles.

So do I believe the correct decision was made in disqualifying Maximum Security from a Kentucky Derby victory? Absolutely. The DQ wasn’t about whether the interference affected the outcome of the race—it was simply was there interference that violated the rules.

The rules clearly define interference, and that’s what happened in that last turn when Maximum Security moved to his right at least three paths. Jockey Luis Saez admitted afterward to NBC’s Donna Brothers that the horse bore out, in his mind due to the roar of the crowd in the infield.

Horse racing is extremely lucky that there wasn’t a major disaster when Maximum Security came over because the legs of War of Will, who had been chasing behind and was beginning to make a move, came close to clipping heels. Give credit to jockey Tyler Gaffalione for being able to steady War of Will because if he had gone down, several others directly behind would have followed suit, especially on the “sloppy” track.

I’ve been in the judges’ stand for plenty of races, at Hazel Park and Northville Downs in Michigan, where I formerly worked as the PR director, and more recently at The Red Mile. So I understood the process involved when the NBC commentators noted there was an “objection” filed.

People are questioning why the judges didn’t flash the “inquiry” sign before—or even after—the objection was filed. My belief is that they saw something had happened in that last turn—from a stand more than a quarter mile away—and were looking at all the camera angles determining if an inquiry was needed.

I was told by the Racing Commission’s executive director Marc Guilfoil that Flavien Prat, the jockey on runner-up Country House, filed an objection immediately after the race on the backside by telling an outrider to radio the stewards he was claiming foul. Jon Court, who was aboard Long Range Toddy, then filed a second objection.

Even with the objections, with all the novice fans watching, it seems also posting the inquiry sign might have been best to explain to the masses the stewards were studying the videos. We’ve all seen the “inquiry” and “objection” lights flashing simultaneously.

We all know the outcome and that Country House was elevated to first. But because of Court’s objection, Maximum Security was placed back to 17th and behind that horse, according to rules.

Actually, an objection could have also been filed by Chris Landeros, the jock on Bodexpress, who was also bothered by Maximum Security’s actions. Which brings up another question. Why didn’t Gaffalione file an objection himself? He said afterward he didn’t see any need to because his horse finished seventh and wouldn’t have received any additional purse money had his objection been successful. And we’ve all heard that reasoning given before in harness racing, so I certainly understand his thinking.

Because there were so many casual fans watching—I saw some comments afterward wondering why War of Will wasn’t declared the winner since he was bothered most—I wish there had been a better line of communication open between the judges’ stand and the NBC commentators. Major sports all have some transparency between officials and broadcasters, whether it be by a former ref/umpire in the booth or like the NBA and college basketball, where refs explain their decisions to the broadcasters. And I wish the head-on video had been made available immediately to NBC because if anyone had questioned the decision, that to me would have made it an open-and-shut case as Maximum Security is clearly seen moving to his right and bothering multiple horses.

That’s why I didn’t understand Maximum Security’s owner filing an appeal to the racing commission, an appeal that was denied. I hope the connections don’t decide to take the matter to civil court. I don’t see any chance of winning. Maybe they should ask the connections of What The Hill.

“A leading horse if clear is entitled to any part of the track. If a leading horse or any other horse in a race swerves or is ridden to either side so as to interfere with, intimidate, or impede any other horse or jockey, or to cause the same result, this action shall be deemed a foul.”

–Kentucky Horse Racing Commission regulations
The 2020 Breeders Crown Championship Series Will Be Hosted By Harrah’s Hoosier Park

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BREEDERS

The Breeders Crown No. 34 Yearling Payment of $150.00 for foals of 2018 is due on May 15, 2019.

This payment makes yearlings by the following stallions eligible to race in the Breeders Crown as 2-year-olds in 2020 and 3-year-olds in 2021, subject to the conditions and payments in those years.

Stallion Nominations for Breeders Crown No. 34

A Rocknroll Dance
Always A Virgin
Always B Miki
American Ideal
Andover Hall
Andoversure
Angus Hall
Archangel
Art Major
Art Official
Artiscape
Artspeak
Bar Hopping
Betterthancheddar
Betting Line
Bettors Delight
Big Bad John
Big Jim
Bolt The Duer
Break The Bank K
Bring On The Beach
Broadway Hall
Cantab Hall
Captaintreachorous
Chapter Seven
Class Included
Classic Card Shark
Control The Moment
Conway Hall
Crazed
Creatine
Credit Winner
Dejambro
Deweycheatumnhowe
Donato Hanover
Dontyouforgetit
Dragon Again
E L Titan
Encore Encore
Explosive Matter
Father Patrick
Fred And Ginger
From Above S
Glide master
Googoo Gaagaa
Gucci
Here Comes Herbie
He’s Watching
Heston Blue Chip
Holiday Road
Il Sogno Dream
JK Endo Fanera
Johnny William
Justice Hall
Kadabra
Lionhunter
Lis Mara
Love You F
Lucky Chucky
Maharahaj S
Manningly
McArdle
Mister Big
Mr Web Page
Mr Wiggles
Muscle Hill
Muscle Mass
Muscle Massive
Muscles Yankee
Musclesprcintomian
My MVP
Net Ten Eom
Panther Hanover
Pet Rock
Ponder
Possess The Will
Prestidigitator
R C Royalty
Racing Hill
Real Desire
Rock N Roll Heaven
Rockin Amadeus
Rockin Image
Roll With Joe
Royal Mattjesty
Royalty For Life
Sebastian K S
Shadow Play
So Surreal
Somebeachsomewhere
Southwind Frank
Sportswriter
State Treasurer
Straight Shooting
Sunshine Beach
Swan For All
Sweet Lou
Tellinthe Jokes
Thinking Out Loud
Third Straight
Triumphant Caviar
Trixton
Uncle Peter
Vintage Master
We Will See
Well Said
Western Ideal
Western Vintage
Whataboutit
Wheeling N Dealin
Winning Mister
Wishing Stone
World Of Rocknroll
Yankee Cruiser
Yankee Glide
Zola Boko S

The above list is subject to omissions and corrections

Foals of 2018 by the above stallions will be eligible to the open division (for 3-year-olds and older) of the Breeders Crown in 2021 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, 2021. Conditions for Breeders Crown No. 34 are available from The Hambletonian Society website: www.hambletonian.com or in the 2019 U.S.T.A. Stakes/Futurities Nomination Booklet.

For more information contact:

BREEDERS CROWN at (609) 371-2211

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Lax Thoroughbred Rules Are Commonplace, But Are Harness Racing’s Too Tough?

Lately, it seems if there’s a banana peel to slip on, Thoroughbred racing will plant its hoof squarely in the middle of it. On Saturday at the Derby, the sport was again in the spotlight as stewards disqualified a winner for the first time in the history of the race.

As you’ve all no doubt seen, the infraction itself was clear. Maximum Security shifted over several paths (presumably due to crowd noise) and interfered with at least two other horses. He was set back.

For my harness only friends, this made perfect sense. But in the sport where owners pay for silks and a colt racing six times a year can be considered a taxing schedule, it’s never as simple as that. In Thoroughbred racing, contact, pushing out of a box, or using an 1,100-pound animal as a fullback, are considered part of the sport, and rules can be selectively enforced. Although Maximum Security committed pretty bad interference, you never really know if a DQ will result, and there’s ticket confetti strewn across tarmacs across the nation to prove it.

When we add another variable - the Derby – it’s far worse, and Hall of Famer Bob Baffert crystallized it when he told SI’s Tim Layden via text, “No one calls an objection in the Derby. It’s always a roughly run race. I’ve been wiped out numerous times [but] sometimes you have to take your ass-kickings with dignity.”

I’m sure you’ve wagered (or owned or trained) a horse where even one little swerve – the proverbial ‘tic tac’ foul - resulted in a placing. In some cases it probably wasn’t deserved, but by the letter, you’re out a bet, or a purse check.

I think it’s apparent that Thoroughbred racing is too lax on inquiries. Herding, general interference, pushing your way into a hole (or getting out of one) happens dozens of times a week and can be dangerous. In this day and age, it’s something the sport should be more cognizant of, and I believe they’d be well-advised to move more toward the rules this sport lives by.

However, does harness racing need to look at the race in a complete context – more like Thoroughbred stewards do – to ensure our bettors and owners are getting a fair shake in a public contest? Perhaps it does.

Dean Towers is a long time bettor, Standardbred horse owner and handicapper. He is a marketer by trade, has presented at several gambling conferences across the continent, and is a Board Member of the Horseplayers Association of North America.
Ups And Downs Of The Breeding World

Breeding season is in its final weeks in terms of mares foaling, and those mares foaling in the coming weeks will keep stallions busy until close to July 1. Although I realize it doesn’t quite compare with the royal baby born to Prince Harry and Meghan, I’m thrilled to report that my namesake, the Andover Hall-sired Kathy Parker, gave birth to a filly by Muscle Hill on April 19. The filly was given my name thanks to Christina and Jimmy Takter. As a 2 year old in 2015 she gave me a huge thrill when she battled to the wire with Broadway Donna in the Jim Doherty Memorial on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands, missing the victory by a nose. Unfortunately, Kathy was a filly who was an early achiever who struggled as a 3 year old. At the end of her sophomore campaign she was purchased by Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld and joined their powerful band of broodmares, and I naturally have high hopes for her, as do they.

Kathy’s first mating was to Muscle Hill and it resulted in a colt born last March. Named Media Mogul, Kentuckiana Farms’ manager Bob Brady told me he’s a colt with the body to be a first session yearling.

Kathy is scheduled to be bred back to Muscle Hill. Her foals by Muscle Hill carry a 3x4 cross to the great Valley Victory as he is the grandsire of Muscle Hill and appears as the sire of the third dam on his maternal line.

Another broodmare at Kentuckiana Farms received another chance at a foal last Saturday, although her days as a producer are waning. Brady told me they had successfully flushed an embryo from the great matron Stienam’s Place, who is now 25 years old. The embryo resulted from a breeding to Stay Hungry. Stienam’s Place was a top filly in her day and now claims the $2.4 million winner Put On A Show among her offspring. Brady said Stienam’s Place is still sassy and carrying good weight and he is hoping she will produce one more daughter.

Another top pacing female, Pure Country, the only pacing mare to win Dan Patch year-end honors at ages two, three and four, is confirmed in foal for the first time. Adam Bowden of Diamond Creek Farm told me that the daughter of $2.4 million-winning Somebeachsomewhere was slow to cycle, but once she did she promptly got in foal to the Diamond Creek stallion Sweet Lou.

In other news from the Bluegrass breeding scene, I recently learned that some of Kentucky’s top Thoroughbred stallions routinely receive acupuncture treatment to keep their musculoskeletal framework in limber form. I also learned that some Thoroughbred farms use it on yearlings as well once they’ve brought them in from the fields to begin the serious prep work for the sales.

Obviously, because of The Jockey Club’s prohibition on artificial insemination, Thoroughbred stallions do much more work than Standardbred studs, jumping a mare multiple times a day instead of just once. I was curious about whether or not acupuncture was common for Standardbred stallions so I reached out to Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky, executive vice president at Hanover Shoe Farms. She told me their stallions do not receive routine acupuncture.

Getting back to mares and foals, breeders always ride a rollercoaster, even those with great horses in their broodmare bands. In April the Harness Racing Hall of Fame announced that Southwind Serena and Graceful Touch, two mares residing at Huntorton Farms in Paris, Ky., would be inducted into the Hall in 2019. Unfortunately, both mares lost their foals this year.

“Graceful Touch was in foal to Trixton and was almost to full term when she had a dystocia (most commonly an abnormal alignment of the head or forelimbs of the foal in the birth canal) and we lost the foal. Southwind Serena was in foal to Father Patrick and she lost her foal in late February or early March,” shared Huntorton’s Steve Stewart.

“I tell people the winner’s circle is coveted, but if you’re a breeder, so is a live foal,” said Stewart philosophically. Since losing their foals, Graceful Touch has been bred to Tactical Landing while Southwind Serena was bred to Walner. Huntorton recently welcomed perhaps the most famous Walner foal of the season.

The world champion filly Mission Brief 3, 1:50.2f, delivered her second foal, a filly by Walner, on March 27. Her first foal, a filly by Father Patrick, was born last year. Walner is also Mission Brief’s mate for 2019. The 7-year-old daughter of Muscle Hill-Southwind Serena is owned by the Mission Brief Stable (Glencaire Racing Stable, Marvin Schmucker, Tom Schmucker, Steve Stewart, Black Creek Farm, Dublin Valley Farm and Maumee River Stables).

Lastly, here’s another reason to mention Walner’s name: breeder Riina Rekila has reported that her mare Random Destiny, the dam of Walner, delivered a Muscle Hill colt on May 6 in Finland.—By Kathy Parker
What has been your biggest thrill/moment in harness racing?
Winning the Blue Chip Matchmaker final with Feeling You, who my wife Amber and I trained. It was special because we owned and trained her, and obviously the big purse helps.

Who is the best horse you’ve ever been associated with?
I’ve had a lot of above-averages horse but nothing comes to mind like world champions.

Let’s say you are Mr. Ed, the talking horse from 1960s television. Which horse would you like to talk to and what would you say?
That would be Habanero, the first good horse that Amber and I owned. He won a few opens but more a high-conditioned horse. He was given to us because the owner didn’t get along with him. I’d ask him, ‘Why are you so crazy?’ He was a handful.

Which racetrack is your favorite and why?
Pocono. I grew up driving a lot at Hazel Park’s five-eighths and I’ve always liked racing on a five-eighths. The surface is obviously really good at Pocono and you can make a lot of speed on that track so it’s fun to drive there.

How much time do you think there should be between races?
Two minutes (laughing). It’s so hard as a driver when you come off the track and you have 10 minutes between races to get into a rhythm and stay in a zone. It’s nice at Pocono because you get off the track and they call five minutes. They run them off pretty quick there.

What are your favorite things to do when you’re not racing?
I would say hanging out with the family. Our kids are Hayleigh, who is 9, and Tye, who is 3. Doing sports and after-school activities. Hanging out with them around the barn is fun.

What’s your idea of a great vacation?
Something that involves golf. We go on a golf trip every December and that’s really fun. Warm and golf.

Do you have anything on your “bucket list” to do or see?
I would love to go to the West Coast and golf there. Pebble Beach or Spyglass. And go to Hawaii; I’d love to get there somebody.

What person or persons in history would you like to have dinner with?
For the past I would say my grandpa Glenn, who passed away about seven or eight years ago. For the present I would have to say Tiger Woods.

If you weren’t in harness racing, what would be your occupation?
Golf but I’m not good enough. I’d be hungry (laughing). If I was good enough it’d be golf because it would be a dream to play on the tour. Or it would be baseball. I had a scholarship to play college ball at Adrian College but backed out at the last minute to pursue the horses full-time. It wasn’t Division One but who knew what it would have led to.

Are you a music lover and if so, what do you listen to?
Johansson belies Blood Money poised to make noise
Nancy Johansson was a fan of Blood Money before she ever got to train the horse. Now that the 3-year-old male pacer is in her stable, she is an even more ardent admirer. more

Great Northeast Series heats up on Sunday
This Sunday promises some spectacular racing at the two tracks served by the Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen’s Association (PHHA), with the Great Northeast Open Series (GNOS) staging a trio of $30,000 events, for open pacers at Harrah’s Philly in the afternoon and for mare open pacers and open trotters at Mohegan Sun Pocono at night. more

Racing commissioners worry about formaldehyde
All racing regulatory commissions have been put on notice that the banning of voluntary race day furosemide administrations by some US racetracks or lawmakers is expected to encourage a return to practices deemed cruel, inhumane, or potentially dangerous to the health and welfare of a horse. more

Graduate Series keeping stars in sight
Finding a way to keep harness racing’s marquee performers on the track has always been a puzzle that if solved would allow the sport’s fan base to follow equine standouts not only through the end of their 3-year-old seasons, but beyond. more

NJ TrotPac has fundraiser underway
The SBOANJ and TrotPAC would like to thank those who supported TrotPAC’s efforts these past few years as our industry struggled. more

Ind. Horse Racing Commission director to retire
Although an official date has not been set, Indiana Horse Racing Commission executive director Mike Smith recently announced plans to retire. more

Swandre The Giant romps in qualifier in ’19 debut
Swandre The Giant, who won three Indiana Sires Stakes (ISS) finals last year before being sold for a reported $1 million, made his 3-year-old debut on Thursday morning at The Meadows. Now trained by Ron Burke, Swandre The Giant won easily in 1:56.1 with Ricky Macomber Jr. in the sulky. more

Andy Miller breaks hand in ATV accident
Driver Andy Miller told harnessracing.com early Wednesday night that he will be sidelined for possibly a month after breaking his right hand riding a quad at his home earlier in the day. more

Two Confederation Cup elims; powerhouse land together
Sixteen of the continent’s top aged pacers are set to contest Confederation Cup eliminations this coming Sunday evening at Flamboro Downs. By the looks of the draw, it appears as though one of the eliminations will be a dogfight. more

For real: Lets Get Real wins debut at age 10
Winning a race is always special for an owner. But when Linda Schwaid and her husband Era “Ernie” Williams watched their homebred pacer Lets Get Real win his career debut this past Saturday at Freehold Raceway, it provided a rush that lasted for days. more

Relocation of Adios statute complete
The statue of the Adios that for more than 50 years has welcomed visitors to The Meadows Racetrack has been relocated on the track’s property, near the entrance to the track’s backstretch, which also happens to be the far right lane as drivers proceed to the casino. The move was completed Tuesday. more

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## Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through May 7, 2019 (week difference May 1-7).

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

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UDR</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weslynn Dancer (5tm)</td>
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### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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<tr>
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<th>W-P-S</th>
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<td>1,034</td>
<td>251-167-124</td>
<td>.372</td>
<td>$3,385,680 ($340,222)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>156-150-128</td>
<td>.328</td>
<td>3,095,046 (173,609)</td>
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<td>George Brennan</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>146-124-92</td>
<td>.316</td>
<td>2,703,691 (141,835)</td>
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<td>Jordan Stratton</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>127-113-128</td>
<td>.279</td>
<td>2,612,208 (171,128)</td>
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<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>1,454</td>
<td>312-228-200</td>
<td>.348</td>
<td>2,315,501 (174,882)</td>
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<td>808</td>
<td>102-118-115</td>
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<td>801</td>
<td>114-110-140</td>
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<td>Brett Miller</td>
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<td>188-170-127</td>
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<td>Corey Callahan</td>
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<td>120-146-133</td>
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<td>Dan Noble</td>
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<td>157-121-132</td>
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<td>1,670,732 (115,305)</td>
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<td>Daniel Dube</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>60-50-43</td>
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<td>1,551,749 (75,800)</td>
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### Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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<td>$4,130,940 ($571,682)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>119-94-63</td>
<td>.331</td>
<td>2,158,408 (98,532)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Surick</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>152-170-80</td>
<td>.353</td>
<td>1,328,680 (44,139)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Di Domenico</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>88-62-62</td>
<td>.318</td>
<td>1,247,752 (86,160)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>106-95-78</td>
<td>.313</td>
<td>1,096,370 (62,930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Banca</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>49-53-49</td>
<td>.283</td>
<td>1,093,976 (72,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim King Jr.</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>48-24-25</td>
<td>.367</td>
<td>1,062,806 (97,471)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>58-84-33</td>
<td>.236</td>
<td>967,614 (35,388)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Bongiorno</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>67-41-34</td>
<td>.380</td>
<td>924,574 (59,895)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Harris</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>49-39-30</td>
<td>.346</td>
<td>854,656 (22,245)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Godinez</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>55-63-53</td>
<td>.308</td>
<td>816,978 (96,395)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Hudson</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>38-30-28</td>
<td>.376</td>
<td>792,630 (51,185)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virgil Morgan Jr.</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>66-51-41</td>
<td>.278</td>
<td>769,515 (75,343)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Colombo</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>59-54-45</td>
<td>.288</td>
<td>708,272 (25,626)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilbert Garcia-Herrera</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>34-41-45</td>
<td>.268</td>
<td>673,322 (84,960)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Leading Breeders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>$7,031,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winbak</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>5,351,320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittany Farms LLC</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>2,421,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>1,234,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1,126,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1,079,502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midland Acres Inc.</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>1,041,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Key</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1,001,387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Stewart</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>990,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>888,392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>890,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Haven Farm</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>879,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulleproof Enterprises</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>848,543</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>837,772</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perretti Farms</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>758,680</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Leading Money-Winning Sires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Foals</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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</thead>
</table>

#### 3YO Pacers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Foals</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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</table>

#### 3YO Trotters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Foals</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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</table>