Wish Coming True For Rooney
Finalist Bettor’s Wish

Everybody’s wish in harness racing is to find a gem of a yearling at a modest price, and then watch that find become successful on the racetrack and return a hefty dividend. That’s the case of Bettor’s Wish, who cost his connections just $20,000 as a yearling and in 14 starts has already returned $302,056.

Bettor’s Wish was one of 34 yearlings sold by breeder Brittany Farms at the 2017 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale, and when the son of Bettor’s Delight brought a bid of just $20,000 from trainer Chris Ryder, Brittany’s farm manager, Art Zubrod, couldn’t resist buying back in.

Zubrod, and his wife, Leah Cheverie, are now co-owners of Bettor’s Wish with Ryder, Ken Solomon and Lisa Ezzo’s Bella Racing Ltd. After a five-win freshman campaign, Bettor’s Wish is two-for-two in 2019, including a 1:53.2 win in one of two Art Rooney Pace eliminations last Saturday at Yonkers Raceway.

“I wish we could do that all day long,” Ryder said about the modest purchase price. “He was $20,000 but he shouldn’t have been $20,000.”

“He was a horse I liked a whole lot, and I like Chris (Ryder), and I thought he’d be a good investment for $5,000,” said Zubrod. “And he was!”

Bettor’s Wish will now aim for a three-peat in this Saturday’s $300,000 Rooney final, starting from post 6 with Dexter Dunn driving.

Air Force Hanover, who won the second Rooney elimination in 1:52.4, drew the outside post 8.

“The draw, you couldn’t make it up, could you?” Ryder said with a chuckle while noting the outside post draw for the two elimination winners.

Although Bettor’s Wish has usually been forwardly placed out of the gate, Ryder said his early speed has never really been used.

“We’ve never really tested his gate speed out, but yes, he has gate speed,” said Ryder.
in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Waterloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by a neck in the $201,983 final.

After another OSS Gold victory, Bettor’s Wish arrived back in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes series. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish finished fourth in the $250,000 final. He then finished up his year with a trio of OSS contests at Woodbine Mohawk Park, which included a career-best 1:51.1 win and a second-by-a-head finish in the $173,250 Super Final.

With $272,056 in earnings, Bettor’s Wish was the seventh richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second richest first-year offspring of Bettor’s Delight, behind only Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

“He’s been sound, hardly any vet bills, and loves what he’s doing,” said Zubrod.

While Ryder said he was unsure about sending Bettor’s Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second head finish in the $173,250 Super Final.

which included a career-best 1:51.1 win and a second-by-a-year with a trio of OSS contests at Woodbine Mohawk Park, finished fourth in the $250,000 final. He then finished up his

ries. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubrod.

Metro Pace champion Stag Party.

richest 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. He was the second
ties. After a pair of seconds in the two prelims, Bettor’s Wish

in Ryder’s barn for the three-week Kentucky Sires Stakes se-

terloo elim at Grand River, Bettor’s Wish finished second by

in OSS Gold contests. After then winning his Battle of Wat-

 Teens —

Wish to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the June 1 Somebeach doing, apparently, “ said Zubro
Defending Champs Return For Harrah’s Philly Invitationals

Sunday afternoon’s action-packed race card at Harrah’s Philadelphia includes a trio of $100,000 invitationals for older horses.

Shartin N, Will Take Charge and Filibuster Hanover, who respectively won the 2018 editions of the Betsy Ross for mares, the Maxie Lee for trotters, and the Commodore Barry for pacers, are all back to defend their titles in this year’s $100,000 renewals. And while all three won last year’s contests after starting from inside posts, this year they will all line up in spots on the right side of the starting gate.

Shartin N, who won the 2018 Betsy Ross in 1:49.3 after starting from post 3, will put her nose on the gate in post 7 this year for driver Tim Tetrick. It was Tetrick who directed the now 6-year-old daughter of Tintin In America to last year’s score, one of 19 on her way to Dan Patch honors as the Older Pacing Mare of the Year.

The only other holdover from last year returning in the Betsy Ross is Apple Bottom Jeans, who starts from post 2, Apple Bottom Jeans will be driven by Corey Callahan, who was being last year’s Betsy Ross runner-up Blue Moon Stride. Also in the field is Youaremycandygirl, who starts from post 4 with Matt Kakaley picking up the drive from trainer Ron Burke with regular reinsman Yannick Gingras in Sweden competing in the World Driving Championship.

Kakaley drove Youaremycandygirl once before, that coming exactly one year ago in a New York Sires Stakes split at Saratoga where she tired late to a well-beaten sixth-place finish (in 1:52.2 mile) after opening up a dozen-length lead through sizzling fractions of :26.4, :53.3 and 1:22.2.

“She got away from me,” remembered Kakaley. “She was hitting the bike that day and it wasn’t anything special withing from post 2, Apple Bottom Jeans will be driven by Corey Callahan, who was being last year’s Betsy Ross runner-up Blue Moon Stride. Also in the field is Youaremycandygirl, who starts from post 4 with Matt Kakaley picking up the drive from trainer Ron Burke with regular reinsman Yannick Gingras in Sweden competing in the World Driving Championship.

Kakaley drove Youaremycandygirl once before, that coming exactly one year ago in a New York Sires Stakes split at Saratoga where she tired late to a well-beaten sixth-place finish (in 1:52.2 mile) after opening up a dozen-length lead through sizzling fractions of :26.4, :53.3 and 1:22.2.

“She got away from me,” remembered Kakaley. “She was hitting the bike that day and it wasn’t anything special with

Continues on page 4 ››››
Injured Andy Miller
Returns To Sulky

When driver Andy Miller took a tumble off his quad while riding on his property May 8 and broke his right hand, he told Weekend Preview he would likely miss one month of racing. With his doctor’s blessing, Miller will return to the sulky for three overnighters at Harrah’s Philadelphia on Friday—just 16 days after the accident—and then again on Sunday when he directs Top Flight Angel in the $100,000 Maxie Lee Invitational Trot.

“I’ll be going at it a little light for a bit,” said the 50-year-old Miller. “My doctor said I could do limited work. He said to not overdo it, but I’m not going to sit here and tell you I’m going to be on the lead no matter what. He is good out of a hole too; actually, probably a little bit better out of a hole.”

Courtly Choice, the 2018 Little Brown Jug champ, starts from post 4 with David Miller driving for trainer Blake MacIntosh. Courtly Choice needs a first or second to surpass the $1-million mark in career earnings.

Will Take Charge won last year’s Maxie Lee from post 4 and this year the 6-year-old trotter will start from post 5. While it was Gingras who was behind Filibuster Hanover in that race—where eventual Horse of the Year McWicked finished fourth—Kakaley has driven Filibuster Hanover many times and knows the Burke trainee very well.

“That’s OK, he has enough speed where (post 7) shouldn’t be too much of a problem to be able to get him into the race,” said Kakaley. “He can leave fast. I’m not going to sit here and tell you I’m going to be on the lead no matter what. He is good out of a hole too; actually, probably a little bit better out of a hole.”

Courtly Choice, the 2018 Little Brown Jug champ, starts from post 4 with David Miller driving for trainer Blake MacIntosh. Courtly Choice needs a first or second to surpass the $1-million mark in career earnings.

Will Take Charge won last year’s Maxie Lee from post 4 and this year the 6-year-old trotter will start from post 5. While it was Tim Tetrick who was behind Will Take Charge last year, trainer Jeff Gillis has turned to Scott Zeron this time around.

Will Take Charge’s 1:50.3 win in the 2018 Maxie Lee equaled the world record for a five-eighths mile track. Included among Will Take Charge’s rivals this year is Homicide Hunter, whose 1:48.4 win last fall at Red Mile is the fastest ever trotter. Homicide Hunter starts from post 3 with driver George Napolitano Jr. Starting from post 8 with Brian Sears driving for trainer Marcus Melander is 2018 Yonkers International winner Cruzado Dela Noche, who won the $175,200 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial on May 4 at the Meadowlands in his only start of the year.

With $958,708 in career earnings, a win by Will Take Charge will send the trotter past the $1-million mark in earnings.—By Gordon Waterstone

Injured Andy Miller
Returns To Sulky

When driver Andy Miller took a tumble off his quad while riding on his property May 8 and broke his right hand, he told Weekend Preview he would likely miss one month of racing. With his doctor’s blessing, Miller will return to the sulky for three overnighters at Harrah’s Philadelphia on Friday—just 16 days after the accident—and then again on Sunday when he directs Top Flight Angel in the $100,000 Maxie Lee Invitational Trot.

“I’ll be going at it a little light for a bit,” said the 50-year-old Miller. “My doctor said I could do limited work. He said to not overdo it, but it was OK to do a little work. I never had a cast, just a brace. It feels pretty good, not bothering me too bad.”

Miller said it was just an unfortunate accident that caused him to miss some time in the sulky.

“I was riding the four-wheeler on the side of a hill and hit a log and tipped it over,” he said. “It wasn’t like I was going fast or anything, it just rolled over.”

So how’d the bike come out of it?

“The bike is fine. It rolled down the hill a little bit but it’s OK,” said Miller.

Miller’s four weekend drives are all with horses he trains in tandem with his wife, Julie. The quartet includes Top Flight Angel, who starts from post 7 in the Maxie Lee.

Top Flight Angel, who won the 2017 Yonkers Trot and last year at age four picked up hefty second-place checks in the Breeders Crown final and Harry Harvey Invitational to bring his career earnings to more than $800,000, is still in search of his first win in 2019 after five starts.

“Post 7 isn’t the best spot,” admitted Miller. “He hasn’t drawn the best.”

Miller last directed Top Flight Angel on May 5 in the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial at the Meadowlands, finishing 9p8 behind winner Cruzado Dela Noche (also in Maxie Lee) after starting from post 10. With Daniel Dube and Marcus Miller driving in his next two starts in opens at Yonkers and Harrah’s Philadelphia, the 5-year-old son of Archangel has a second and a third behind Maxie Lee starters Will Take Charge and Homicide Hunter.

“Every start he gets a little better,” said Miller. Miller isn’t the only recently-sidelined driver to return to the sulky. On Thursday, leading Canadian driver Bob McClure, who broke his pelvis in a qualifying accident April 25 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, was listed on eight drives.—By Gordon Waterstone
Sholty Looks For Last Win
With Mr. Vicktor In EBC Final

As the only son of the late Hall of Famer George Sholty, a career in harness racing was certainly a likelihood for George W. Sholty, who is known in the Standardbred world as “Buzzy.”

After a career that began in the early 1990s and resulted in more than 407 training wins—including the 2007 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace with Artist’s View—and $6.2 million in purse earnings, the 44-year-old Sholty is shifting his attention to primarily focus on an equine vitamin company he recently purchased.

Sholty will still train a handful of horses at Mark Ford’s training center in Middletown, N.Y., but his current number is down to just three after selling his interest in the 3-year-old colt trotter Mr. Vicktor. The son of RC Royalty has won three straight to open up his sophomore campaign, but on Monday at Vernon Downs he will face his biggest challenge when he takes on the undefeated 2018 Two-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year Gimpanzee in the $215,200 Empire Breeders Classic final.

With only nine entered there were no elims needed for the EBC final, so Mr. Vicktor comes into the race off a pair of conditioned wins at Yonkers and then a career-best 1:55.1 score in a New York Sires Stakes division May 10 at Vernon Downs.

Sholty drove Mr. Vicktor himself in the colt’s first victory of 2019, but then turned the lines over to Tyler Buter, who will be back in the bike on Monday and starting from post 6.

“I wanted to go out with a win and that was my last drive,” said Sholty, who had 143 driving victories in very limited action. “I drove him myself so I could retire and go out winning.”

Mr. Vicktor was a $21,000 yearling purchase by Sholty in partnership with New York Yankees assistant clubhouse manager Joe Lee and Joe Torre’s Diamond Pride LLC. Torre, elected to baseball’s Hall of Fame in 2014, won four World Series titles as manager of the New York Yankees and since 2011 has served as MLB’s chief baseball officer. Sholty sold his interest in Mr. Vicktor to Robert Santagata and trainer Jennifer Lappe, who will begin conditioning the colt after the EBC final.

“Sholty admitted he had second thoughts about selling his interest, which happened on Tuesday.

“(Tuesday), before training the horse I was happy I was selling him and doing right by my partners,” said Sholty, “but after we trained him, I regretted selling.”

“When I told Mr. Torre we had an offer and were taking it, he said, ‘Home run boys!’”

—Buzzy Sholty

As a freshman Mr. Vicktor won a pair of baby races and then had a first and third in NYSS Excelsior Series divisions in July before his season ended.

“He’s been a natural pleasure to be around since day one,” said Sholty. “He had a throat issue and had surgery. They told me I could put the horse back on the track in six weeks and I still had a half a season to look forward to, but I decided to shut him down and do the right thing by the animal.”

Sholty said Mr. Vicktor is a natural on the track.

“He’s been very impressive,” he said. “He doesn’t wear a head pole, he doesn’t wear boots, he wears very natural equipment. His head had been elevated trying to protect his throat, and now he’s trotting with his head down a little bit lower and he’s responding very well.”

As for Monday’s race and taking on Gimpanzee, who starts to the direct left of Mr. Vicktor in post 5, Sholty is optimistic.

“If this makes sense, I don’t even know that Gimpanzee is in the race, he said. “I just want my colt to race and hopefully he’ll do the best he can.”

“I expect my colt to be as good as he can be. He trained excellent, is on a good healthy note, and we’re going against the best horse in the country. I don’t have any expectations of beating him or him beating us, I just want to race my horse and hopefully get a good trip out of it and get as much money as we can.”

Sholty said he has purchased Multivet, an equine vitamin company that has been in business 34 years.

In addition to the New York races, Mr. Vicktor is eligible to the Hambletonian, Yonkers Trot and Breeders Crown.

“For my little group, that’s swinging for the fences,” he said with a laugh.— By Gordon Waterstone
Gingras: WDC Is “Once In A Lifetime”

The World Driving Championship (WDC) gets underway Friday in Sweden, with the weeklong competition concluding on May 31. Representing the United States for the first time is three-time Driver of the Year Yannick Gingras. Included among the 12 drivers from 11 countries participating in this year’s WDC are Canadians Doug McNair and James MacDonald, the latter the defending champion, winning on his home turf in 2017.

The WDC was introduced in 1970 and this will be the second time it has been held in Sweden. In 2001, Sweden and Finland served as hosts and Canada’s Jody Jamieson captured the title. The last U.S. rep to come out on top was Dave Magee, who won the 1995 renewal that was hosted in the U.S. The 39-year-old Gingras, eighth on the all-time list with $171,528,492 in purse earnings, left for Sweden on Monday (May 20), joined by his wife, Vicki, and children Jaiden, Addison and Averi. Gingras is currently the leading driver at the Meadowlands in wins (99) and earnings ($1,121,710), holding comfortable leads in both categories.

“It’s a long time and I’m missing a lot, but this is once in a lifetime,” said Gingras, whose missed mounts here will include the Rooney Pace final Saturday at Yonkers, the stakes-filled card Sunday at Harrah’s Philadelphia, and the Empire Breeders Classic finals Monday at Vernon Downs. “I turned it down before and at the end of the day the horses I raced, I don’t remember their names now.”

Gingras is the go-to guy for Ron Burke and he said the trainer was fully on board with his decision to accept the invitation from U.S. Trotting Association president Russell Williams to represent the U.S.

“Ronnie was on board and said to have no worries,” said Gingras.

Gingras said before the WDC begins he and his family will do some sightseeing and visiting with friends he’s made from a few prior trips to Sweden to race. He said after attending Sunday’s Elitlopp Trot at Solvalla, Vicki and the kids will return home on May 27. Gingras, with five more days of WDC competition, said his return ticket is booked for June 1.

Solvalla will host the first WDC leg on May 24 with three races, and another race on May 25. After a day off for the $171,528,492 in purse earnings, left for Sweden on Monday (May 20), joined by his wife, Vicki, and children Jaiden, Addison and Averi. Gingras is currently the leading driver at the Meadowlands in wins (99) and earnings ($1,121,710), holding comfortable leads in both categories.

Solvalla will host the first WDC leg on May 24 with three races, and another race on May 25. After a day off for the

Gimpanzee Ready For Debut In EBC

Reigning divisional champ Gimpanzee makes his first start of the season Monday in the $215,200 Empire Breeders Classic (EBC) for 3-year-old male trotters at Vernon Downs.

Gimpanzee, who was nine-for-nine last year and took home the Dan Patch Award for best 2-year-old male trotter, will start from post 5 in the EBC for trainer Marcus Melander and regular driver Brian Sears. Last year, Gimpanzee won seven times on the New York Sires Stakes circuit, including the $225,000 final, before capturing his elimination and the final of the Breeders Crown.

“He’s doing good,” Melander said of Gimpanzee. “He’s filled out nicely. He’s not the biggest horse but we’ve been very happy with him all winter. He doesn’t make any noise here at home, he just looks like a regular horse. He’s nice and calm. I can’t be more excited for his season to start.”

Gimpanzee, who earned $591,358 in purses last season for owners Courant Inc. and SRF Stable, heads to the EBC off a second-place finish by a head to 2017 Horse of the Year Hannelore Hanover in a qualifier on May 18 at the Meadowlands. The time of the mile was 1:53. The colt also qualified on May 4, winning in 1:55, and on April 27, when he was fifth in 1:58.3.

“The first qualifier we went with an open bridle and it was a windy day, so maybe that didn’t look too impressive, but the last two qualifiers have been very good,” said Melander.

Melander was uncertain of Gimpanzee’s schedule beyond Monday. He would like his horses to have four or five starts heading to the $1 million Hambletonian.

Gimpanzee’s start in the EBC is expected at approximately 3:29 p.m. (EDT) Monday. The EBC for the male trotters is Race 9 and will be preceded by the EBC for 3-year-old filly trotters. (Ken Weingartner)
No Lasix For 2YOs, 2021 Meadowlands Pace?

In light of the recent circumstances in Thoroughbred racing surrounding the welfare of the horses, all of horse racing has come under increased scrutiny. While the rate of catastrophic breakdowns in Standardbred racing is but a fraction of what it is with the Thoroughbred, the public does not make that distinction.

The health and welfare of our horses has been a top priority throughout Meadowlands’ president and CEO Jeff Gural’s tenure at the Meadowlands and a great deal of time and money has been spent in efforts to eradicate Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) from Standardbred racing.

Over the past few months in response to questions on the use of the diuretic Lasix as a PED, a consortium of Thoroughbred tracks is taking steps to reduce or eliminate the use of Lasix on race day.

It is the intention of the Meadowlands as the flagship track of the Standardbred industry to join that movement and proceed in such a way as to insure the best interests of our equine athletes.

A proposal to address the use of Lasix as a race day medication at The Meadowlands has been submitted to the New Jersey Racing Commission. The submitted proposal states that beginning in 2020, no 2-year-old Standardbred will be permitted to use Lasix when racing at the Meadowlands. Further, in 2021 the track’s signature stakes race, the Meadowlands Pace, will become Lasix free. It is noteworthy that the marquee stake in all of Standardbred racing, the Hambletonian at The Meadowlands, does not permit the use of Lasix.

In discussion with several Standardbred trainers, the consensus was that 2-year-old horses should not race with Lasix and should instead be given time away from the track to recover if they are indeed diagnosed with Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage. Over the entire 2018 season at The Meadowlands, only seven 2 year olds raced with Lasix.

At the end of the 2021 racing season we will review these changes, consider any revisions to the practice in Thoroughbred racing and adjust as necessary.

While we recognize the therapeutic benefits of Lasix, our concern is with the optics and feel it is important to show that we take the health and safety of our horses very seriously. We believe this is the best approach while we observe how even stricter measures work for the Thoroughbred industry. (Meadowlands)

New Empire of Hope To Benefit Equine Aftercare

Caesars Entertainment Corporation has announced the launch of Empire of Hope, a new program designed to help raise awareness and funding for the care of horses after their racing careers are over. Developed with support from accredited racehorse aftercare programs, Empire of Hope will directly assist efforts to relocate, rehabilitate and repurpose retired horses.

“Empire of Hope is a direct reflection of the appreciation and pride we have for the horses that participate in Caesars’ racing program,” said Rick Moore, vice president and general manager of racing at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. “Our equine athletes are the stars of our sport and we want to ensure that when they retire, they are placed in productive and loving environments to live out a long and healthy life.”

Horses that compete at Caesars’ racing properties range in age from two through 14; they retire on their 15th birthday. It is estimated that more than 15,000 horses annually are placed in existing aftercare programs after their racing careers are complete. Funding to relocate, rehabilitate and repurpose these equine athletes can cost several thousand dollars per horse.

Through Empire of Hope, Caesars will provide funding and support to accredited non-profit racehorse aftercare organizations, including Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and Standardbred Transition Alliance.

During their tenure at Caesars’ racing properties, the horses are cared for by multiple staff members on behalf of individual trainers and owners, who provide the utmost care through feeding programs, veterinary care, horseshoeing needs and other essential requirements for their overall physical condition. Individual trainers and owners make the decision on the next step for their horses after their racing careers are over, and often reach out to aftercare programs as the best option for a second career.

Empire of Hope will be launched at four of Caesars’ racing properties: Harrah’s Louisiana Downs in Bossier City, La.; Indiana Grand in Shelbyville, Ind.; Harrah’s Hoosier Park in Anderson, Ind.; and Harrah’s Philadelphia. With a goal to raise $30,000, Empire of Hope activities will range from food and drink specials to entertainment and promotional activities. Each property has designed numerous ways to accept donations and raise funds during the weekend of Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21, 2019. (Harrah’s Hoosier Park)
McCarthy Looks To “Rock” In Commodore Barry

When pacer Rodeo Rock won his seasonal debut for driver Andy McCarthy from an impossible spot, McCarthy began contemplating all that might be possible for the 6-year-old gelding.

“He kind of excited me that night,” McCarthy said after recounting Rodeo Rock’s eight-wide rally from last place in the stretch at the Meadowlands during the March 2 preferred handicap. “I finally got him out like halfway through the stretch and he paced on and got by a couple good horses. He won from a spot that he wasn’t supposed to win from, an impossible spot.

“He was a good horse last year, but I think he can mix it up with the big boys this year.”

McCarthy’s excitement for Rodeo Rock led him to drive the horse in the Levy Series at Yonkers, where he hit the board in all five starts, including two wins in preliminary rounds and a second-place finish in the final. For the season, McCarthy has driven the gelding in seven of his eight races.

On Sunday, Rodeo Rock is among eight older male pacers in the $100,000 Commodore Barry Invitational at Harrah’s Philadelphia. Rodeo Rock heads to the Commodore Barry off a 1:49 win in a Great Northeast Open Series event at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, where Eric Goodell handled the driving.

“He’s been racing great,” McCarthy said. “He did an excellent job in the Levy Series and he just dead-set jogged in (1):49 at Pocono. I think he is ready to put on a big show on Sunday.”

Rodeo Rock has won four of eight races this year and earned $264,400 for trainer Robert Cleary and owner Royal Wire Products. Lifetime, the son of Rock N Roll Heaven-Electric Fool has 24 victories in 89 races and $623,055 in purses.

“He’s a big strong horse with high speed;” McCarthy said. “He can do it any way. You can sit back, you can leave with him, he can come first over; pretty much drive him the way the race goes. Robert Cleary has done a great job with him, managed him very good. He’s kind of looking at the big picture.”

McCarthy’s workload at Philly on Sunday also includes a drive behind Caviart Ally in the $100,000 Betsy Ross Invitational for older mare pacers.

Caviart Ally, a 5-year-old mare owned by Caviart Farms, is a multiple-stakes-winner whose triumphs include the 2017 Jugette and 2018 Milton Stakes. She has earned $1.19 million during her career. She will start the Betsy Ross from post 3 while defending champ Shartin N leaves from post 7.

“We’ll want to take advantage of that good draw; it’s not often that she draws that good,” McCarthy said, laughing, as he referred to Caviart Ally’s two stakes starts from post 9, one from post 8, and one from post 12 last year. “We might as well make the most of it.” (Ken Weingartner)
Propulsion Has Foals, But Sticking To Racing So Far In 2019

It's not novel for European trotting stallions to breed while racing. French stallions are particularly well known for being able to do two jobs at once. The most typical schedule for French stallions with dual careers has been to race early in the year, during the prestigious meet at the Vincennes track in Paris, and then take a break and service mares before going back into training once breeding season has concluded.

Two of Sweden's entries in this year’s Elitlopp have foals on the ground, Readly Express and Propulsion. Readly Express's first foals were born in 2017 and with a few foals already born in 2019, he has 127 registered offspring in Sweden.

According to Johan Arneng of Stall Zet, the owner of Propulsion, the now 8-year-old stallion bred around 100 mares on fresh and frozen semen in Europe last year. He has approximately 40-50 foals on the ground with another 20-30 foals expected this year. Among the mares that have a Propulsion baby is 2012 Breeders Crown Mare Trot champion Tamla Celeber, who has a filly. Owned by AM Bloodstock, she has three previous foals, two by Muscle Hill and one by Bold Eagle.

Propulsion has not yet bred any mares this year and the possibility is uncertain.

“This year we have been focusing 100 percent on the racing and he hasn’t been breeding with fresh semen,” said Arneng, who handles the breeding operation of Bengt Agerup's Stall Zet. “We had some frozen doses left that we are using on some of our own mares. This year we have Wild Honey (Hambletonian Oaks winning daughter of Cantab Hall), Leet Hanover (Cantab Hall-Lives Like A Queen-Muscles Yankee), Bellatrix Zet (by the SJ’s Caviar son Hard Livin out of Kentucky Kemp-Diesel Don) and Trinity Zet (SJ’s Photo-Kleo Zet-Angus Hall) in foal. All good racehorses and Wild Honey a superstar. I think we are breeding 15-20 mares this year. Next year he will stand on fresh semen and we will freeze semen for Europe and maybe the U.S.”

Propulsion is 100 percent American bred, with the son of Muscle Hill out of 2007 Oaks winner Danae bred by Bluestone Farms and Fredericka Caldwell, the daughter of the late Castleton Farm owners Frances and Fred Van Lennep. Caldwell has already won the Elitlopp as a breeder thanks to Moni Maker.

This year we have been focusing 100 percent on the racing and he hasn’t been breeding with fresh semen.

—Johan Arneng about Propulsion

A Big Splash By Shamwow!

Switching gaits, Indiana breeder Jeff Fought of Cornerstone Farm has stepped up his involvement in racing horses. He presently owns at least an interest in 20 racehorses, which far exceeds his number of broodmares, which is presently 12.

While he has purchased interests in racehorses with Brian Carsey and John McGill, the winner he’s most excited about he owns solely and also bred, a 3-year-old pacer named Shamwow.

On May 15 at Hoosier Park, Shamwow certainly lived up to his name in his very first lifetime start—he won easily in 1:51.4.

Shamwow is a son of Always A Virgin and Bolero Takara, the dam of the well-known free-for-all Shamballa, who was recently retired to the New Jersey farm of co-owner Bill Vit (Cool Cat Racing).

“She (Bolero Takara) was getting toward the end of her breeding career, so I decided to keep the last few out of the mare,” said Fought of keeping the colt he named Shamwow, obviously taking a cue from the name of the mare’s most accomplished foal.

It’s not unusual for a breeder to keep a foal, of course, but what is more uncommon is giving the horse a little extra time to mature. In the case of Shamwow, Fought chose not to have the horse trained as a 2 year old.

“This family seems like they don’t mentally mature early, and I looked at this colt and thought he was the same way. Since he was a homebred, I had options,” shared Fought.

Fought turned Shamwow over to horseman Jay Garrels to break.

“I give Jay a lot of credit because he took a lot of time getting the horse gaited well,” Fought said. “Then I turned him out for awhile. Last winter, before I shipped him to Florida with Joe and Missy (Essig), I sent him to Wilbur Eash, my uncle, to have him check the horse out.”

Along the way, Shamwow was gelded, with Fought explaining, “With his personality, it was obvious he didn’t need to stay a colt.”

Fought and the Essigs plan to take it slow with Shamwow, with Fought not sure if the horse will compete in the first leg of the Indiana Sires Stakes on May 31.

Fought is also keeping BoleroTakara’s last foal, a 2-year-old filly by Rockin Image named Big Peeps, and he’s already bred her 2014 foal Takara Rose, a daughter of Always A Virgin who took a mark of 1:53.2.

“Bolero (Takara) stamps every one of her foals the same,” said Fought. “Takara Rose could be her mom’s twin.”

As for Shamwow, who obviously won’t have a breeding career, Fought says he has received phone calls, but the horse isn’t for sale.—By Kathy Parker
ELITLOPPET—SUNDAY, MAY 26

Solvalla track, Stockholm, Sweden; Distance: 1,609 meters (one mile); Post Time for Final 11:20 a.m. (EST)

FIRST ELIM HEAT—Race 6; Post Time: 8:55 am (EST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>HORSE</th>
<th>Trainer/Driver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MAKETHEMARK (6h, Maharajah-Global Naughty-Conway Hall)</td>
<td>P. Salmela/U. Ohlsson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DISCO VOLANTE (6g, Score Knight-Glorify-Super Arnie)</td>
<td>S. Melander/J. Kontio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DOUBLE EXPOSURE (6m, Donato Hanover-KD Girl-Self Possessed)</td>
<td>D. Reden/E. Adielsson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NEXT DIRECTION (6g, Orlando Vici-Be My Luxx-SJ’s Photo)</td>
<td>T. Hulkkonen/I. Nurmonen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>LOOKING SUPERB (6h, Orlando Vici-Classical Pine-Silver Pine)</td>
<td>J.M. Bazire/A. Svanstedt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UZA JOSSELYN (8m, Love You-Teza Josselyn-Ganymede)</td>
<td>R. Aebischer/G. Gelormini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>READLY EXPRESS (7h, Ready Cash-Caddle Dream-Viking Kronos)</td>
<td>T. Nurmos/B. Goop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SORBET (8h, Super Photo Kosmos-Altar Bound-Supergill)</td>
<td>D. Reden/C. Jepson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECOND ELIM HEAT—Race 7; Post Time: 9:22 am (EST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>HORSE</th>
<th>Trainer/Driver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AUBRION DU GERS (9g, Memphis du Rib-J’Arrive du Gers-Baccarat du Pont)</td>
<td>J. Bazire/J. Verbeeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MILLIGAN’S SCHOOL (6h, Yankee Glide-Tori Ann-SJ’s Photo)</td>
<td>S. Melander/U. Eriksson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BAHIA QUESNOT (8h, Scipion du Goutier-Queen Ines-Install)</td>
<td>J. Guelpa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DAY OR NIGHT IN (7h, Muscle Hill-Ellie American-Buvetier d’Aunou)</td>
<td>J. Untersteiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PROPULSION (8h, Muscle Hill-Danae-Andover Hall)</td>
<td>D. Reden/K. Haugstad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MILLIONDOLLARHYME (5g, Ready Cash-Nursery Rhyme-Credit Winner)</td>
<td>F. Larsson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HEAVY SOUND (7g, Ken Warkentin-Illustre November-Viking Kronos)</td>
<td>D. Reden/K. Haugstad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>DIJON (6h, Ganymede-Sonate d’Aunou-Cocktail Jet)</td>
<td>R. Derieux</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can watch Elitlopp coverage by clicking here.

Propulsion, Readly Express Have Last Chance To Win Elitlopp

Most of the spotlight of the 2019 Elitlopp is on Swedish horseman Daniel Redén. For the first time since the Elitlopp was first held in 1952, a trainer has managed to get four horses in the race. Redén had three starters back in 2017, but this year he has a quartet, and all are American-bred stallions.

“My horses continue to keep the shape they have today; it will be exciting on Sunday,” said Redén.

Redén’s Propulsion, bred by Bluestone Farms and Fredericka Caldwell of Cane Run Farm, will be making his fourth start in the Elitlopp after previously finishing fourth, second and second.

Propulsion has had an almost unimaginable career. He competed in the U.S. through the middle of his 4-year-old season and earned $86,738. He now has purse winnings of almost $2.6 million, and he is the type of horse that battles every horse he meets and if we talk about war, I would put him at the very front of the front line.

Propulsion was trained by Tony Alagna in the U.S. Alagna also trained Redén’s Elitlopp starter Double Exposure.

“I didn’t count on that development, and now she stands with six straight wins.”

―Daniel Redén about Double Exposure

Continues on page 11 ››››
would fit well in longer distances,” said Redén. “Double Exposure had a good season as a 2 year old in the U.S. (winning the Goldsmith Maid in 1:54 and finishing the season with $214,727 in earnings) but did not do as much as a 3 year old (just two wins in 14 starts and $95,790 in earnings). We bought her (for $65,000 at Harrisburg) to race just one year and then put her in breeding. I didn’t count on that development, and now she stands with six straight wins. After the last victory in Rättvik at 1:52.2, Örjan Kihlström (Propulsion’s regular driver) was not sure he had chosen the right horse.”

Kihlström will drive Propulsion in the Elitlopp with Erik Adielsson picking up the drive on Double Exposure.

“This will be Propulsion’s last Elitloppet, and I would love to win,” added Redén.

Redén’s two other horses, Heavy Sound and Sorbet, are also horses in top form.

“Of my four horses, Heavy Sound has the best gait and movement, and he has also shown a nice starting speed, and he has made only one start in 2019. He won at 1:52,” said the trainer.

All of Redén’s horses were invited to the Elitlopp except Sorbet, who qualified by winning the Prince Daniel’s Race at the Gävle track in 1:53.

Once the spotlight is off of Redén, the big story is that the race should end up as a battle between Propulsion and Readly Express. This will be the last career start for 2018 Prix d’Amérique winner Readly Express, who has a mark of 1:50.4 and 26 wins in 36 starts (finishing off the board in only two of his races).

Readly Express has raced over 1,609 meters (about one mile) only twice, but he won both of those races—the Grand Criterium de Vitesse at the track in Cagnes-sur-Mer, France, and the Finlandia Cup at the Vermo track in Helsinki, Finland. If he advances to the Elitlopp final, for the first time in his career he will race twice in the same day.

Although the Swedish horses appear to have the best chances to win the Elitlopp, last year a French horse won the race and there are French representatives again this year.

From France, the champion trainer Jean-Michel Bazire sends out two horses, but he will drive neither Aubrion du Gers nor Looking Superb and instead will be handing the lines to Jos Verbeeck, and Åke Svanstedt, respectively. Aubrion du Gers has 15 straight wins and Looking Superb was second in the Prix d’Amérique this year behind Belina Josselyn, so they cannot be overlooked.

While Bazire has been a top driver in France, winning four Prix d’Amériques, including the 1999 edition with Moni Maker, he has boycotted the Elitlopp as a driver for several years because he does not like the Swedish judges. Plus, this year on Elitlopp day, his home track in France will honor his father and he does not want to miss it.—By Claes Freidenvall
FRIDAY, MAY 24

Tune in to the Meadowlands early on Friday night if you want to see New Jersey Sires Stakes 3 year olds in action. Three non-betting races begin at 6 p.m. for colt and filly pacers and filly trotters. Among the pacing colts in the short Race 1 field is last year’s champion, **HURRIKANE EMPEROR**, who is eligible to the upcoming Pepsi North America Cup.

The pari-mutuel card gets underway at 7:15 p.m. and Race 2 is a Preferred for fillies and mares and the field includes **KISSIN IN THE SAND** and **BETTOR JOY N**. Race 6 is a must watch as 2017 Horse of the Year **HANNELORE HANOVER** makes her 2019 debut in the Preferred Handicap Trot. She’ll be starting from post 7 in the seven-horse field. Another notable in the field is the 4-year-old mare **PHAETOSIVE** (Post 1).

Also, the 3-year-old pacing filly **TALL DRINK HANOVER**, a winner of seven of 11 starts at age two, makes her 2019 debut in Race 9.

At Scioto Downs, **DAYSON**, who is undefeated in five starts this year, leads the contenders in the $22,000 Open Trot (Race 5, post time 7:50 p.m.).

On Friday night at The Meadowlands, the $99,430 Currier & Ives (Race 9, post time 8:10 p.m.) has attracted a nine-horse field that includes the consistent **KATE’S MASSIVE**, who won six of nine starts as a 2 year old and captured her season debut and (only start of 2019) on May 11. That win came in Pennsylvania Stallion Series action at The Meadows and she scored by a whopping six lengths in 1:55.3 for trainer Kelly Paver.

A few Indiana-sired 3-year-old pacing colts are prepping for the Indiana Sires Stakes season in a Friday night overnight at Hoosier Park. The field includes the top two colts in earnings in the division last year, **EGOMANIA** and **OUTLOUD**.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Saturday night’s Mohawk program includes two notable eligibles to the North America Cup: **STAG PARTY** and **BEST IN SHOW**. Both compete in Ontario Sires Stakes action in Race 5 with Best In Show starting from post 6 and Stag Party drawing the trailing post 11. Stag Party, winner of last year’s Metro Pace, is making his 2019 debut for trainer Casie Coleman; Best In Show, a son of Bettor’s Delight and $2 million winner Put On A Show, comes into the race off of a 1:50.3 victory (26 last quarter) at the Meadowlands for trainer Linda Toscano.

Also racing on Saturday night at Mohawk is last year’s Cup winner, **LATHER UP**, who’ll start from post 4 in Race 3, the Preferred. After winning the Preferred on May 18 in 1:49.4 in his season debut, 2018 Horse of the Year McWicked sits out this week.

The $109,234 Lismore for 3-year-old filly pacers shares the Saturday night spotlight at Yonkers Raceway and the field includes 2018 Ohio Sires Stakes champion **QUEEN OF THE PRIDE**. She’s won five of her six starts this season, including her elimination for the Lismore. She’ll start from post 3 in Race 9 (the race immediately before the Rooney Pace final).

Across the river at the Meadowlands, **CAPTAIN AHAB**, a winner of seven of nine starts last season for trainer Tony Alagna, makes his first official start after a couple of qualifers. He’ll be behind the gate in post 7 in Race 12, a conditioned pace for 6 year olds and under, non winners of six extended pari-mutuel races or $125,000 life.

If you can catch Race 2 at the Meadowlands Saturday, the field includes Indiana champion **SHINTZLEDOSOMETHIN**, who is making his first start of the year, and he’ll be taking on a field that includes **MACH N CHEESE**, who gained fame last week when he paced his last quarter in :24.3 at the Big M.

At Hoosier Park Saturday night, the field for the $20,000 Open Trot (Race 2) includes **CHURITA**, **BRIDGE TO JESSE’S** and **TWO OB WONKENOBI**, last year’s Ohio Sires Stakes 3-Year-Old Colt Trot champion.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Pennsylvania’s Harrah’s Philadelphia and The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono will be showcasing Pennsylvania-sired 3 year olds on Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon in Philly, **CAPTAIN CRUNCH** will get a tune up before he heads to Canada for the NA Cup eliminations. He drew post 3 in the six-horse field competing for $57,218 in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (Race 13, post time 4:40 p.m.). Captain Crunch, the 2018 Dan Patch 2-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year, won his first start last Sunday in PASS action at Pocono, winning comfortably by 1 ½ lengths in 1:49.1 over a sloppy track despite pressure down the backstretch by Southwind Ozz. Two other divisions are also on the card, programmed as Race 3 and Race 7.

Sunday night at Pocono, PA-sired 3-year-old trotting fillies will compete in three PASS divisions and four splits of the PA Stallion Series. The Sires Stakes competitors include 2018 Jim Doherty filly trot winner **THE ICE DUTCHESS** (post 7 in seven-horse field) in Race 10 (post time 9:42 p.m.) and the three-for-three **MILLIES POSSESSION** in Race 11. Race 12, the final PA Stallion Series division, features the six-for-seven **SPRINGTIME IN PARIS**.

MONDAY, MAY 27

Vernon Downs will present an afternoon program (first post 1:05 p.m.) that includes a pair of Empire Breeders Classics for 3-year-old trotters and New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) for 3-year-old filly pacers.

The $209,500 Empire Breeders for fillies includes **QUINCY BLUE CHIP**, a winner of two of four starts this season and a new speed badge of 1:53.4f.

Two stellar pacing fillies of the 2018 season, **PRESIENT BEAUTY** and **ZERO TOLERANCE**, will be competing in NYSS divisions. Prescient Beauty, winner of the Three Diamonds last fall, makes her first start of the season in Race 6 (estimated post time 2:35 p.m.). Trevor Henry picked up the driving assignment since the filly’s regular pilot, Doug McNair, is attending the World Driving Championship in Sweden. Zero Tolerance, the runner-up in the Breeders Crown and Three Diamonds, competes in Race 10 and will face **DD DELICIOUS**, who was unraced as a 2 year old but has won two of three starts this season for trainer Travis Alexander and breeder-owner Fiddler’s Creek Farm.
Reden trains for Stall Zet, the Swedish breeding and racing entity of Bengt Agerup, whose North American trotting interests fall under the banner of Brixton Medical. The Stall Zet Stable includes Elitlopp contender Propulsion. The Stall Zet broodmare band includes the trotting mare Delicious, a daughter of Cantab Hall who joined the stable after her 3-year-old season in the U.S. and then set European records before her retirement due to chronic stomach issues.

Who is the best horse you have ever been associated with?
Delicious—well, she’s my everything—but it’s definitely Propulsion

There was a famous TV show in America called Mr. Ed, and Mr. Ed was a horse that talked to his owner. If you could talk to a horse and the horse would talk back, which horse would you like to talk to and what would you say?
Oh, I would like to have a nice conversation with my Delicious about everything in life, although she has already taught me a lot without talking. And then I want to talk to Zephyr Kronos about his behavior and why he is like the most difficult horse I ever trained. (The 4-year-old son of Ready Cash has five wins in 21 starts.)

Which racetrack is your favorite and why?
Bollnas. It’s a small track in the middle of nowhere in Sweden. I really feel good when I’m there and the horses love the material of the track. But of course Solvalla is my home track.

How much time do you think there should be between races?
I think 20-30 minutes so we have good time to warm up our horses

What are your favorite things to do when you are not involved with the horses?
I like hockey a lot and I try to be with my 4-year-old daughter Jaqueline Delicious as much as I can

If you were not working in trotting, what would be your occupation and why?
I think I’ve been working trying to save tigers or other animals maybe work in a national park in Canada or Alaska

Are you a music lover, and if so, what music do you listen to?
I love music and have it in my ears all day long, even when I warm up my horses at the racetrack. I feel that I can communicate better with the horses when I have music in my ears. I listen to everything from Elvis to 50 Cent, so you can imagine it’s a big difference between the music I play. The mood of the day is how I choose my music.

What is your idea of a great holiday or vacation?
Travel around, fishing up in the mountains. I like the nature a lot.
More money for Ontario Sires Stakes in ’19

Ontario Racing has announced an additional boost of $2.375 million in funds to the 2019 Standardbred Horse Improvement Program (SIP) as part of the $10 million of Horse Improvement Payment (HIP) funds earmarked for the horse racing industry by the Ontario government. more

SBOANJ holds fundraiser for legislator

On Wednesday, May 15 the SBOANJ and TrotPAC sponsored a successful fundraiser for New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. The event was held at Fair Winds Farm and Hogan Equine Clinic to support his 2019 campaign. more

Judy Nason appointed NJRC executive director

Attorney general Gurbir S. Grewal announced today the appointment of Judith A. Nason as executive director of the New Jersey Racing Commission, the state agency responsible for regulating the safety and integrity of the horse racing industry in New Jersey. more

Horseman Ewell Binkley, 83, dies

Horseman Ewell Elton Binkley, well known in the Kentucky and Indiana harness racing communities, died Monday, May 20, at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Henning, Tenn. He was 83. more

Ontario trainer Mike Weller dies at 60

Standardbred Canada has reported that Ohio native and longtime southern Ontario-based Standardbred trainer Mike Weller, who had recently been battling cancer for the second time, has passed away at the age of 60. more

Ohio horseman David Ritter, 73, dies

Ohio horseman David K. Ritter, 73, died on May 18 in Palmetto, Fla. Mr. Ritter was a second generation horseman born in Piqua, Ohio. more

Microchips now accepted in Ohio

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed an Executive Order on May 23 permitting the use of microchips as a means to identify racehorses—Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Quarter Horses—who are entered to race at any of Ohio’s seven racetracks, as well as at the Buckeye State’s county fairs. more

Big M’s Breakfast With The Babies Starts June 1

The Meadowlands will kick off the 2019 edition of the popular Breakfast With The Babies program on Saturday, June 1. Jules Siegel, via his Pennsylvania nursery Fashion Farms, will again generously sponsor the pastry and refreshments provided for those who enjoy watching the freshman pacers and trotters get their early lessons on the promised path to stakes success. more

Plunge Blue Chip wins Pocono qualifier in debut

Millionaire trotting mare Plunge Blue Chip was impressive in her first official trip behind the gate in her 4-year-old season, going wire-to-wire in 1:54.2 in a qualifier Wednesday morning at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. more

Fifty still eligible to Pepsi North America Cup

Woodbine Entertainment Tuesday released the final list of eligible horses for this year’s $1 million Pepsi North America Cup. A total of 50 three-year-old pacers remain eligible to the Pepsi North America Cup following the final sustaining payment on May 15. more

Caesars handicapping tourney offering millions

Caesars Entertainment horse racing properties—Indiana Grand Racing & Casino, Harrah’s Hoosier Park, Harrah’s Philadelphia, and Harrah’s Louisiana Downs—have announced the first-ever Caesars Rewards Handicapping Challenge. more

Ohio horseman David Ritter, 73, dies

Ohio horseman David K. Ritter, 73, died on May 18 in Palmetto, Fla. Mr. Ritter was a second generation horseman born in Piqua, Ohio. more

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION: $58.00 (U.S.)*

*For Canadian and International mailing quotes (Remailing Service or U.S. Postal First Class) please email vflannery@harnessracing.com or call (859) 276-4026.

To subscribe call toll free 1-800-860-8199...or subscribe online at www.harnessracing.com

HarnessRacing HEADLINES
## Harness Racing Leaders

 Compiled by the USTA—through May 21, 2019 (week difference May 15-21).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sts.</strong></td>
<td><strong>W</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Fame (6ph)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shartin N (6pm)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodeo Rock (6ph)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideal Jimmy (6ph)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Joy N (5pm)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Bottom Jeans (6pm)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More The Better N (6ph)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feelin Red Hot (6pm)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swansea (4tg)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seawifly Joy N (6pm)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wall (5pg)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trolley (6th)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Domingo N (7pg)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lispaty (6pm)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhere In LA (8pg)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Money-Winning Sires</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sire Name</td>
<td>Foals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Haven Farm</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland Acres Inc.</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Stewart</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland Acres Inc.</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Key</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Farm</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletproof Enterprises</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Hill Farm Inc.</td>
<td>81</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>721</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>$8,416,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winbak Farm</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>6,199,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Farms LLC</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>2,758,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>1,466,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>1,334,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seelster Farms Inc.</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>1,283,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Stewart</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1,220,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Birch Farm</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>1,212,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland Acres Inc.</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1,197,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J. Key</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>1,194,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Creek Farm LLC</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1,086,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Farm</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>1,005,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Hertrich III</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>990,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletproof Enterprises</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>942,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Hill Farm Inc.</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>900,591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3YO Pacers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Foals</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOMEBEACHESOMewhere</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>$765,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPTAINREACHEROUS</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>760,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETTER'S DELIGHT</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>643,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEET LOU</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>623,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTSWRITER</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>530,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN IDEAL</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>489,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART MAJOR</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>399,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WELL SAID</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>385,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETTERTHANCHEDDAR</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>356,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAGON AGAIN</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>327,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A ROCKNROLL DANCE</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>309,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET ROCK</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>306,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCANDLE</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>289,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNSHINE BEACH</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>289,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKIN IMAGE</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>278,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN IDEAL</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>270,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHADOW PLAY</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>260,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RODDY'S BAGS AGAIN</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>226,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIG JIM</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>208,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALWAYS A VIRGIN</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>196,441</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3YO Trottors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Foals</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CANTAB HALL</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>$612,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPLOSIVE MATTER</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>590,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSCLE HILL</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCLE PETER</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>351,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDIT WINNER</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>313,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KADABRA</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>289,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONATO HANOVER</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>276,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSCLE MASSIVE</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>206,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIXTON</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>188,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONWAY HALL</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>171,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WISHING STONE</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>170,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANOFMANYMISSIONS</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>168,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSCLE MASS</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>164,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YANKEE GLIDE</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>159,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWAN FOR ALL</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>157,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER SEVEN</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>156,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHANGEL</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>143,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSSESS THE WILL</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FATHER PATRICK</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC ROYALTY</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>127,694</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>