Manchego Headlines Race 1
Friday As Meadowlands Reopens

It was near midnight on Saturday, March 7, when Jumping Jake sprung a 27-1 upset in Race 13 at the Meadowlands. Little did we know at the time that when Pat Berry directed the Bucky Angle Jr. trainee to the 1:53.2 victory, it would be the last time we’d see a race at the Big M for three months due to the covid-19 pandemic that literally shut down the world.

On Friday night, racing returns to the Meadowlands, and race secretary Scott Warren wasted no time in bringing out the big guns. Race 1 on the card (first post 7:15 p.m.) is a $22,500 Preferred Trot, with the race including a trio of millionaires, including the $2-million winner Manchego. And it will be Manchego who will get the honors of being the first horse on the track as the 5-year-old mare will lead the post parade having drawn post 1 in the 10-horse field.

“She’s going to be the first one on the track after the lockdown and it’s going to be great to finally send one out,” said trainer Nancy Takter.

Manchego got off to a slow start in 2019, hampered by the fact she started from the right side of the starting gate in her first four attempts. It wasn’t until her sixth start that she finally found the winner’s circle, but then she finished the year strong as she won seven of her final 11 starts, including a 1:49 effort at the Red Mile, the fastest mile ever by a female trotter.

“Post 1 is better than the 8, 9 and 10, like she started off last year,” noted Takter.

Listed as the 2-1 morning-line favorite, Manchego comes into the race off an impressive 1:53 win in a May 30 qualifier at the Meadowlands. Leading at every call for driver Dexter Dunn, Manchego trotted a final quarter of :27.3 to draw clear over nine rivals by 6 3/4 lengths.

Takter said earlier this year that she had hoped Manchego could have raced in the famed Elitlopp in Sweden on May 31.

“The way she handled herself at the Red Mile makes me think she’s ready to go,” Takter said about Elitlopp.

“I try not to think about it because it frustrates me,” Takter said about missing the chance to win the prestigious race her father, Jimmy, captured in 1998 with Moni Maker. “As a trainer, to have a horse good enough to go there and possibly leave the winner, the chances that it comes up crossing your career doesn’t happen very many times. And to have a virus mess it up, it’s a little frustrating.”

But what about Elitlopp 2021?
“I think it’s too early to think about it,” answered Takter. “For me, I’d love to race her at six and take her there. Just how much she matured physically from four to five, and she will mature even more from five to six. But I know the owners want to breed her at some point.”

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Takter said Manchego will next race in the Miss Versatility scheduled for June 19 at the Meadowlands.

Overall, Takter will send out eight starters this weekend at the Meadowlands.

**Takter Talks About Kissin In The Sand**

Another star making her season debut Friday is Kissin In The Sand, the 2018 Three-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year, who had her work cut out for her last year as she chased Shartin N and Caviart Ally in 12 of her 19 starts. As a result, after winning 17 of her first 29 starts and $1,076,670 her first two years of racing, the daughter of Somebeachsomewhere added only $172,440 in 2019 as she won just twice, both in top-class overnights at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Kissin In The Sand won her May 30 qualifier in wire-to-wire fashion in 1:50.4 for driver Yannick Gingras. She closed out the mile with a final quarter of :26.1 as she was finally able to fend off Caviart Ally by three-quarters of a length.

On Friday, Gingras will start from post 5 with Kissin In The Sand (second choice 7-2) in the $22,500 Preferred Pace for fillies and mares (Race 9), with Caviart Ally (3-1) starting from post 9 with driver Andy McCarthy.

“She was really good (in the qualifier) and I was happy with her,” said Takter. “I hope she can get off the gate a little better this year and get herself into a little bit better position. She starts right in the middle (on Friday) so hopefully she can sit a little closer. Last year, when you have the 10 hole and you have Caviart Ally and Shartin on the front, it’s hard to make up ground on those two because they’re not coming back to you.”

**Takter Has 4YO Pacing Mare JK American Beauty**

Takter will also send out 2-1 morning-line favorite JK American Beauty in Race 3 on Friday night. The 4-year-old daughter of American Ideal will start from post 8 with driver Gingras in the $15,750 Preferred Pace for fillies and mares (Race 9), with Caviart Ally (3-1) starting from post 9 with driver Andy McCarthy.

“She was really good (in the qualifier) and I was happy with her,” said Takter. “I hope she can get off the gate a little better this year and get herself into a little bit better position. She starts right in the middle (on Friday) so hopefully she can sit a little closer. Last year, when you have the 10 hole and you have Caviart Ally and Shartin on the front, it’s hard to make up ground on those two because they’re not coming back to you.”

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**FREE Program Pages**

**THIS WEEKEND’S FEATURED RACES**

**Friday, June 5**

- 7:15p M1 Preferred Trot
- 7:50p ScD5 Open Trot
- 8:50p ScD8 F&M Open Pace
- 10:10p M9 F&M Preferred Pace
- 10:20p Wbsb9 F&M Preferred Pace

**Saturday, June 6**

- 9:55p Wbsb8 Preferred Pace
- 10:10p M9 Preferred Pace
- 10:33p M10 Open Pace
- 10:45p Wbsb10Jackpot Hi-5 Pace

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**IT’S POST TIME!** *(all times local)*

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

- Scarborough Downs 1:00 pm
- Scioto Downs 6:30 pm
- Grand River 6:30 pm
- Truro 6:30 pm
- Mohawk Park 7:00 pm
- Meadowlands 7:15 pm

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

- Hanover 2:00 pm
- Buffalo 6:00 pm
- Northfield Park 6:00 pm
- Charlottetown 6:00 pm
- Georgien Downs 6:15 pm
- Hiawatha Horse Park 6:30 pm
- Mohawk Park 7:00 pm
- Hawthorne 7:10 pm
- Meadowlands 7:15 pm

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

- Tioga Downs 4:00 pm
- Rideau Carleton 6:30 pm
- Scioto Downs 6:30 pm
- Hawthorne 7:10 pm
CONGRATULATES 2020 ELITLOPP WINNER

PROPULSION
1:49.3 ($3,640,000+ - International)
Muscle Hill-Danae-Andover Hall

Propulsion won the 2020 Elitlopp in dazzling fashion, going away in 1:53. He picked up his 38th victory in 78 career starts and pushed his lifetime earnings well over $3-million.

Bred by Cane Run Farm in partnership with Bluestone Farms, Propulsion is owned by the Zet Stable, trained by Daniel Redén and was driven by Orjan Kihlstrom. Congratulations to all!

CANE RUN FARM
yearlings will sell this fall at the Lexington Selected Sale October 6-10.

Yearling pedigrees available at www.canerunfarm.com

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Cell (859) 509-0087

Adam Strom-StallTZ photos
Tips On Handicapping At Meadowlands, Mohawk Park

The Meadowlands and Woodbine Mohawk Park, respectively the sport’s flagstaff racetracks in the U.S. and Canada, return to racing this weekend after a shutdown of nearly three months due to the covid-19 global pandemic.

What’s a bettor to do in trying to handicap a race and find a horse to bet? It’s a task made even harder as the Meadowlands and Mohawk Park had different policies in regard to returning horses. While the Meadowlands required all horses to have a qualifying start, any horse that had a clean, charted line after Feb. 1 was able to bypass qualifying and drop right into the box at Mohawk.

At the Meadowlands, 115 of 260 entries (44.2 percent) this weekend will be making their 2020 pari-mutuel debut. Two races on Friday consist of all first-time starters. As a result of the extended layoff, track oddsmaker Dave Brower said making a morning-line post-covid-19 was a different task than pre-covid-19.

“Doing the morning line now was much tougher because I was not able to watch all the qualifiers; I could only watch the Meadowlands qualifiers from home because we were not allowed to go to Gateway or Magical Acres,” said Brower. “I like to see it with my own eyes, and when I can’t, I’m guessing.

“Thankfully, a lot of the horses that qualified at the Meadowlands are the ones that are in the box this weekend, with some exceptions. But I found it extremely difficult and I’m just trying to go with a trend where if a barn’s horses qualified well then I expect them to be ready, and if a barn’s horses looked a little short, then I’m expecting them to be short.”

Brower Likes Import The Bettormack N

Brower recommends watching the replays of the qualifiers, either by going to the Meadowlands’ website or Youtube page. He noted that while it is easy to gauge a horse who races at or near the lead and is prominent in the qualifier, the replays could be beneficial in finding horses that raced off the pace.

Brower gave one example in Race 8 on Saturday night, where he has listed The Bettormack N as the 3-1 morning-line choice from post 7. Trained by Katricia Adams and driven by Corey Callahan, the 9-year-old gelding will be making his first-ever start in the U.S. after a 77-start career Down Under.

“This horse was very, very good in the qualifier,” said Brower. “They obviously specifically wanted to race the horse from off the pace in his first start in North America. It’s not an easy spot, but it’s a better spot than some others are in. If this horse is as good as I thought he was, he will be tough to beat.

“He’s also first-time Lasix. I don’t know if (Callahan) is going to take him off the gate again or take a shot and send him. If he was my horse I’d leave, but it’s not my horse. I made him the 3-1 favorite because I know he’s going to get bet.”

Virtually all of the morning-lines appear more than reasonable on the opening two cards. The first race on Friday is the $22,500 Preferred Trot, and Brower has listed world champion Manchego as the 2-1 favorite from post 1.

“I tried to be extremely conservative with my morning lines this weekend,” said Brower, who will be proving on-air commentary for the simulcast coverage with Dave Little.

“I’ve also been reaching out to more trainers than usual for comments in the program, so they will be available in my race reviews in the program and you can download the reviews on our website. I’m trying to give out as much information as I can.”

Brower listed So Rude as the 3-1 favorite in Race 1 on Saturday, but he admits the 3-year-old filly pacer could be vulnerable starting from the outside post 10. Brower said his

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top choice in that $11,000 race is his 9-2 third choice Golden Quest N, another Down Under-bred who is making her first-ever start on this continent.

“I don’t know what to make of So Rude, because I didn’t see her 1:52.1 qualifying win on May 29 at Gaitway Farm,” said Brower. “The qualifier looks impressive and everything from (the Jenn Bongiorno Stable) seems up on the bit and ready to go.

“I can see that the filly has some talent and (driver Joe Bongiorno) blasted her in the qualifier and she finished up strong, and he’s going to try and do the same thing. If you look at the race there is not a whole lot of speed and he’s probably going to get there.

“But I just love the team of Mark Harder and Brian Sears. Mark can have one ready off a layoff as good as anybody. I’m not saying she’s a million percent good from post 8, but you are going to get value.”

McKelvie: Regular Customers Might Have Advantage

At Mohawk Park, 61 of 188 entries (32.4 percent) will be making their season debut this weekend.

“I think a lot of people are going to have to go off knowledge in the past and what they know about our racing product and the trainers that consistently race at our track,” said Mohawk’s communications manager Mark McKelvie. “It will definitely be better for the serious handicapper who is aware of trainers who perform well off layoffs or have success with first-time starters.

“Nobody has been in this spot before, and the rules were amended in order to get back to racing quickly, but to also not be overflooded with entries for qualifiers and not be able to get everybody back to be able to race for money as quickly as possible.

“This is definitely unprecedented, but if you are somebody who follows our racing product in that we race year-round 52 weeks a year, you do have some familiarity with the horses and trainers. Especially the older horses. Maybe the angle there is that some of the older horses that go out 30-40 times a year, having the time off, might have done them some good having the time off.”

Brower concluded by saying that because of the situation, oddsmakers will likely misfire a few times.

“We are all using our experience to guide us, but there will be some cases where we are going to be wrong. And everybody will just have to deal with that.—By Gordon Waterstone
Gingras Likes Chances With Pacing Mares At Meadowlands

When last seen on March 7, drivers Dexter Dunn and Yannick Gingras were locked in a two-way battle for dash-winning honors at the Meadowlands. Heading into Friday’s reopening of the Big M, Dunn holds a one-win lead over Gingras, 44-43, with Corey Callahan third with 35 victories.

Gingras, who captured both the dash and earnings titles at the Meadowlands in 2019, has 11 drives on Friday and seven on Saturday.

“It’s been a long time coming and everybody is happy to be back in business,” said Gingras.

Gingras’s Friday mounts include Kissin In The Sand, who starts from post 5 in the $22,500 Preferred Pace for fillies and mares (Race 9). On May 30, Gingras drove the 5-year-old mare to a 1:50.4 victory, holding off a late-closing Caviart Ally by three-quarters of a length. In that race, Kissin In The Sand chased Caviart Ally and Shartin N—

“She’s a filly that is coming along really good and getting better and better. She is going to surprise some people.”

—Yannick Gingras about JK American Beauty

Kissin In The Sand chased Caviart Ally and Shartin N—voted not only the 2019 divisional champion but also Horse of the Year—a dozen times last year, and Gingras is hoping things will be different in 2020.

“Those two are so tremendously quick and handy it makes it difficult for the others,” he said. “They would get away one-two every time and they are so good it was hard to out-sprint them.

“But it’s going to be a little deeper group this year, and hopefully it will make for better racing. I’m not knocking Shartin or Caviart Ally in any way shape or form, but it definitely made for boring racing.

“I like boring racing, but when I’m the best,” laughed Gingras. “Hopefully this will be a little bit more of an evenly-matched group and the racing will be a little more exciting.”

As for JK American Beauty, Gingras said, “She’s in a really good spot. She was really good before the break and she’s been training back pretty good, and she qualified really, really good the other day. She’s a filly that is coming along really good and getting better and better. She is going to surprise some people. She’s got some work to do before she is compared to Caviart Ally, Kissin In The Sand and Shartin, but she’s getting better.”

Gingras said he believes qualifiers could have been avoided, but knows bettors prefer to see a charted line.

Vernon, Horsemen Reach Agreement On Contract Extension

A dispute between the Harness Horse Association of Central New York (HHACNY) and Vernon Downs track operator Jeff Gural was resolved over a 24-hour period last week, paving the way for qualifiers and live racing at Vernon.

On Sunday, May 31, The HHACNY, the Gaming Commission-recognized representative horsemen’s association at Vernon Downs, announced that it has secured a two-year extension of its horsemen’s agreement with Vernon Downs’ management and agreed to a waiver of the 10-percent cap on the two important 2020 Vernon stakes in this difficult year. The contract now runs through Dec. 31, 2023. The two parties had an reached an impasse on the percent of money from the purse account that would used to fund the Empire Breeders Classic and ZweigTrot at Vernon.

HHACNY president Rick Papa stated, “As we both have worked towards the restoration of harness racing to central New York in the aftermath of the most destructive period of the viral pandemic, it was important to make sure that our owners, trainers and drivers could rely on long-term continued operations of the racetrack. The financial devastation that has impacted our members cannot be recouped by us or Management without some give and take on each side. That’s why it was so important to obtain this extension from management. While the horsemen were concerned about the uncertainty of whether or when the current season would commence, the HHACNY membership has again reached a successful resolution of this issue working with Management to obtain a clear and concise deal removing any ambiguity.”

Vernon Downs president Jeff Gural stated, “I am glad we were able to resolve this and credit Rick for coming up with a compromise that makes sense for all concerned. As a horseman, I recognize how important it is to get racing up and running and come up with a plan for the sire stakes as well.” (HHACNY/Vernon Downs)

“I personally think qualifying is overrated, but it depends what the bettors want because they are the most important people,” he said. “If you ask drivers, trainers and owners they will all tell you they don’t want qualifiers, but I don’t think it should be our decision. Go to the bettors and see what they want. Maybe they want qualifiers. Maybe they’d rather have a truthful official workout, maybe that would be enough for them, like the Thoroughbreds.

“At the end of the day, the bettors are the ones who put money in the purses, and I think we need to cater to them. I don’t think this should be a question for horsemen, it should be a question for bettors.” —By Gordon Waterstone
HOY Shartin N Wins
Magical Acres Qualifier

Driver Tim Tetrick won seven of 13 qualifiers at Magical Acres in Chesterfield, N.J., on Wednesday morning, including one with 2019 Horse of the Year Shartin N. The 7-year-old pacing mare was last in the five-horse field, 6 ¼ lengths behind at the half in :59.2, before rallying with a back half of :53 flat to win by two lengths in 1:53.3.

Also appearing on the qualifying card was the 3-year-old pacing colt Papi Rob Hanover, who finished first in last fall’s Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace but was disqualified. With David Miller driving, the 2019 Governor’s Cup victor won his qualifier at Magical in 1:53.2, cutting the mile with fractions of :28.1, :58.3 (:30.2 second quarter) and 1:26.3 (:28 third quarter) before brushing home in :26.4.

Miller also drove the 3-year-old pacing colt Allywag Hanover to a 1:53.2 qualifying score. Both colts are trained by Brett Pelling.

As for Shartin N, Tetrick said the strategy this year is to try and race the mare from behind. She held the lead at the half in all by three of her 19 races last year.

“Shartin was awesome,” Tetrick said afterward. “Nice and relaxed and calm. I told Jimmy (trainer Jim King Jr.) after last year that we had to make a plan to work on her and make her sit behind. We had to make her change her game plan and not be just one way. They did a great job with her over the winter, and with this break we’ve had, she’s just come back great.”

Shartin N had one start under her belt in 2020 as she won a $50,000 Invitational Pace on March 4 at Dover Downs in 1:50. She was scheduled to then head to Yonkers Raceway for the multi-week Blue Chip Matchmaker Series, which was canceled due to the covid-19 pandemic shutdown.

Tetrick, who shares ownership of the $2.1 million-winning Shartin N with Richard Poillucci and King’s wife, Jo Ann, said he was unsure of the mare’s next start.

“We’ll find a race somewhere; we’ll have to find her a spot,” Tetrick said about the mare whose 1:46.4 win last August in the Lady Liberty at the Meadowlands is the fastest race mile ever by a mare. “We’ll figure out a plan.”

While Tetrick was ecstatic about Shartin N’s winning effort, he was also plenty excited about his score with Crimson And Chrome in the finale. Tetrick bred and owns Crimson And Chrome, a 4-year-old gelded son of Sweet Lou with $228,806 in earnings, who rallied from behind to win in 1:54.

Trained by Jim King Jr., Crimson And Chrome had also won a qualifier on March 11 at Dover. — By Gordon Waterstone

Papi Rob Hanover
Carryover Of $236K Into Saturday’s Mandatory Hi-5 At Mohawk

A mandatory payout for the Standardbred Jackpot Hi-5 will be held Saturday at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The race-track reopens Friday night after being closed due to the covid-19 pandemic.

The Jackpot Hi-5 carryover has been sitting at $236,338.67 since live racing was last held. Jackpot Hi-5 wagering will be suspended for Friday’s opening card of racing in preparation for Saturday’s mandatory payout.

The Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory payout will be Race 10 on Saturday’s program and as is tradition, the race will feature an overflow field of 11 overnight pacers competing for a boosted purse of $30,000.

The most recent Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory payouts at Mohawk Park were offered on Feb. 15, 2020 and Dec. 21, 2019. Each payout saw the “new money” wagered more than double the carryover amount.

This Saturday’s carryover of $236,338.67 is the highest carryover entering a mandatory payout at Mohawk Park in over a year. The record for highest handle on a Standardbred Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory payout is $2.8 million, which was wagered on the March 30, 2019 payout. The carryover for that payout was $525,140.

Post time for Saturday’s Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory payout race is 10:45 p.m. (Race 10). The program page is available in the Weekend Featured Races box on page 2 of Weekend Preview.
Horsemanship Jen Entry Box For Qualifiers As Racing Resumes

Horsemanship have been sitting on proverbial pins and needles, and holding their breath and keeping their fingers and toes crossed as they awaited governors to announce when racing could resume in their areas. The announcements were rarely known in advance, some as shocking as New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo making horse racing the first item in a daily update press conference, announcing that horse racing could resume June 1.

As soon as a race date has been announced, the matter of qualifiers have become an urgent matter. The U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) rules, which most state racing regulators adopt, specifies, “Within 60 days of being entered a horse that has not raced previously at the gait chosen must go a qualifying race under the supervision of a judge holding a presiding or associate judge license for extended pari-mutuel meetings and acquire at least one charted line by a licensed charter. In order to provide complete and accurate chart information on time and beaten lengths a standard photo-finish shall be in use.”

According to the USTA, between May 13 and June 2, a total of 5,010 individual horses raced in at least one qualifier in North America.

But the USTA rule specifying 60 days previously stated that a horse needed a qualifier if it hadn’t raced in 30 days, and that rule remains in place in some jurisdictions. With the covid-19 pandemic keeping racing shut down for more than 60 days, whether the rule is 30 or 60 is a moot point.

Qualifiers have been held at racetracks, training centers and fair tracks. In New Jersey within the last week, qualifiers were held at the Gaitway Farm and Magical Acres training centers and the Meadowlands. In Ohio, qualifiers have taken place at Scioto Downs, Northfield Park, and county fairgrounds. In Illinois, qualifiers were held at Hawthorne Race Course and at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. In New York, outside of the pari-mutuel tracks of Vernon and Tioga, qualifiers were held at Goshen’s Historic Track.

Trainer Ray Schnittker, a USTA director and director of the Standardbred Owners Association of New York, is stabled at Historic Track and organized the qualifiers there, starting with a Schnittker Stable-only program and then opening the races up to others. A total of 152 horses were entered for the June 5 and 6 qualifiers at Goshen.

Although Schnittker got the ball rolling, he is a longtime critic of horses required to qualify before racing.

“I’m going to put it in a rule change proposal that you don’t have to qualify, and I’ll probably be dead before they change it,” he quipped. “Seriously, you look at the number of horses that we’re qualifying and you can see how insane this is, and costly.”

Schnittker said it is costing approximately $2,000 to put on a qualifying card, plus the expense when horsemen need to ship to a location. They are charging $50 to qualify a horse at Goshen to cover expenses, which include a USTA charted line and a timer operator. In addition, social distancing protocols are being enforced.

Schnittker noted that New York has approved a change to the qualifying rule, from 30 days to 45 days. The rule change is sitting on the governor’s desk waiting to be signed, and it also only applies to overnight horses.

“The New York Sires Stakes rules say you have to have a good line in 30 days, and they keep changing the dates of the races, so some of my horses might qualify three times before they race,” he said.

One other creative approach to qualifiers has been adopted Woodbine Mohawk Park and the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission’s Standardbred Bureau. They changed their qualifying requirement so that any horse that had a clean, charted line after Feb. 1 was able to bypass qualifying and drop right into the box. In Pennsylvania, this applies only to horses that are entered during the first two weeks of the tracks reopening.—By Kathy Parker

Qualifiers have been held at three locations in New Jersey during the past week, including over the five-eighths mile Magical Acres oval.
Propulsion Wins Elitlopp,
Overcomes Parked-Out Trips

On his fifth and perhaps final attempt, the 9-year-old American-bred Propulsion won the Elitlopp on Sunday night (May 31) at the Solvalla track in Stockholm, Sweden. It was the first Elitlopp held without spectators due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Previously, Propulsion had finished second twice and fourth twice in the Elitlopp.

Propulsion is a son of Muscle Hill and the Hall of Fame broodmare Danae, who also won the Hambletonian Oaks. He was bred by Rikki Caldwell and her daughter Elizabeth and son Danny at Cane Run Farm near Lexington, Ky., in partnership with Bluestone Farms of Pennsylvania. At last fall’s Lexington Selected Yearling Sale, the breeders sold Propulsion’s full brother for $1 million to the owner of Propulsion, Bengt Agerup (Stall Zet).

An Elitlopp victory did not appear to be in the cards for the Daniel Reden-trained Propulsion at the time of the draw for post positions, or in his elimination. He drew post 8 and then was stuck racing three wide the entire race. He had more luck for the final, drawing post 6. Still, victory was questionable until late in the race.

Driven by Swedish driving ace Orjan Kihlstrom, Propulsion was shuffled to fourth-over in the Elitlopp final, but when Kihlstrom tipped wide coming off the final turn, the trotter shifted into high gear and won going away in 1:53.

In the final, there were several inside speedsters leaving the gate, with the Reden-trained Missle Hill taking the early lead for Johan Untersteiner, as he did in his elimination. He drew post 8 and then was stuck racing three wide the entire race. He had more luck for the final, drawing post 6. Still, victory was questionable until late in the race.

Propulsion, who also stands at stud in Sweden, picked up his 38th career win in 78 starts and pushed his career earnings to $3.6 million.
Propulsion In Swedish Scandal

Elitlopp champion Propulsion has become engulfed in controversy less than 48 hours after his victory on Sunday at the Solvalla racetrack in Stockholm. Propulsion’s two front feet were nerved in the United States before he was exported to Sweden and Swedish trotting rules strictly prohibit a horse that has nerved feet from racing or breeding.

On Thursday, June 4, Swedish trotting’s breed registry, Swedish Travelsport (ST), announced that it would allow all of his foals on the ground, and any born in 2021, to be registered and to race, but they are continuing the investigation about Propulsion’s nerved condition and the records that were sent to Sweden. Propulsion has been prohibited from racing during the investigation.

Today, Propulsion’s profile in the US Trotting Association’s (USTA) Pathway database states: “Markings: SMALL STAR. - LOW NERVED LEFT FRONT - LOW NERVED RIGHT FRONT LOW NERVED ON BOTH FRONT FEET.”

Despite the fact that Propulsion was exported to Sweden in 2015—almost five years ago—the information about the nerving was just now brought to the attention of Swedish officials. The horse was then examined by a veterinarian, who reported that the horse had feeling in both feet. It is common for a horse to have regrowth of the nerves, usually within two to four years of nerving.

Daniel Reden, who trains Propulsion for owner Bengt Agerup’s Stall Zet, told Swedish media he did not know the horse had been nerved. “I am in shock,” he said.

Following Propulsion’s purchase by Agerup at the 2015 Tattersalls Mixed Sale Aug. 2 at the Meadowlands for $210,000, the horse was required to be examined for his export certificate to be issued by the USTA. USTA chief operating officer and Registrar T.C. Lane said it appears it received a report around Aug. 18 from Dr. Patty Hogan, which stated that on April 27, 2015, Dr. Hogan performed a “bixial neurectomy at level of proximal pastern” on Propulsion’s left and right front feet because of “chronic foot lameness.”

Propulsion returned to the races, qualifying in 1:52.3 on June 13, 2015, for trainer Tony Alagna and owners Brittany Farms, Little E LLC (Jeff Gural), Joe Sbrocco and Marvin Katz, Al Libfeld and Sam Goldband. Propulsion subsequently won three of his next four starts at the Meadowlands, taking a mark of 1:52.1, before he was sold on Aug. 2 at Tattersalls.

The USTA shows no record of updating Propulsion’s Certificate of Registration until Aug. 18, 2015, when after receiving Dr. Hogan’s paperwork that she had performed the nerve surgery, it sent a letter to Brittany Farms asking them to return the horse’s original Certificate of Registration so it could be updated. Lane said such letters are “our standard practice.”

Propulsion’s export examination was conducted by New Jersey veterinarian Dr. Ted Mazzarisi on Aug. 7. On Sept. 10, that examination record was provided to the USTA by Global Transport, which had shipped Propulsion to Sweden on Aug. 20, 2015. No mention of the nerving is on Dr. Mazzarisi’s report. The USTA then issued a Horse Export Certificate on Sept. 14, 2015, and mailed it to ST (the Swedish trotting association) via Federal Express. The Horse Export Certificate states, “Low Nerved Left Front-Low Nerved Right Front.”

In addition, on Sept. 14, 2015, Propulsion’s updated USTA Certificate of Registration was issued and a printed copy was sent to the new ownership group of Brixton Medical AB in Sweden. The Certificate of Registration states, “Low Nerved On Both Front Feet.”

Propulsion made his first start in Sweden on Oct. 7. He has made 58 starts in Europe since he was imported from the US and with his Elitlopp victory has earned $3.6 million for Stall Zet.—By Kathy Parker
Preferred Equine Marketing
To Add Online Sales

Preferred Equine Marketing announced on Thursday that it will soon be offering online sales through a new division of the company, to be called “Preferred Equine Online.”

The sales platform, nearing completion, will be available at preferredequineonline.com.

“Preferred Equine Online is the latest product in our business model,” said Preferred owner David Reid.

“I’ve toyed with the idea of an online auction for years, and we’re not the first on the block to have one. But our experience, along with our strong base of customers, gives us the resources and the quality of horses that no other online sale has at its disposal,” he said.

In addition to running Preferred Equine Marketing—the world’s largest Standardbred sales agency—Reid is manager of the Tattersalls Mixed Sales at the Meadowlands and co-manager of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

With that in mind, he says there will be no live “in person” sale conflicts, as Preferred’s online sales will be integrated with the traditional sales calendar. Their first online sale date will be in the near future.

The Preferred Equine Online auctions will include the full spectrum of the marketplace—racehorses, broodmares, stallion shares, yearlings and weanlings. The listings will include “live” pedigrees and past performances, photos and walking videos.

Preferred Equine Online will also have a marketplace featuring horses for sale. “This will maximize our client’s ability to strike while the iron is hot… a racehorse coming off a lifetime best win or a mare whose pedigree got ramped up with an important stakes winner.”

Reid said there should be further opportunities with Preferred Equine Online as new technology and applications are developed. “First off, we’ll weave these sales into our existing social media platforms for expanded reach and promotion that will result in an increase in bloodstock trade across the industry.

“In-person mixed sales like Tattersalls at the Meadowlands aren’t going to be displaced. As a sales agency, we’re just trying to look ahead and make it easy to move horses and create commerce throughout the year. Preferred Equine Online will accomplish that.” (Preferred Equine Marketing)

Text Message Causes Some Confusion About NYSS

A mass text message that went out on Wednesday night (June 3) caused confusion among some horsemen and owners who have New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) eligibles. The text said that because “NY protocol continues to evolve,” and “out of caution/concern,” NYSS horses would not be permitted to ship in to race at Vernon Downs and Tioga Downs.

M. Kelly Young, executive director of Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund, which manages the New York Sires Stakes program, said she was told that the text only applied to NYSS-eligibles attempting to start in an overnight race at Vernon or Tioga. The two tracks are trying to make sure their local horsemen get raced in overnights.

Buffalo Raceway, which will not be playing host to NYSS this season due to its shortened season because of covid-19, has limited limiting ship-ins to horses stabled within 75 miles of the track.

Young said horses will be permitted to ship in from anywhere for all NYSS events. The NYSS calendar is in the process of being finalized and will be announced soon, she added.

SUNY Morrisville Horses Qualify,
But Future Uncertain

Tuesday, June 2, was a good day for those involved with the SUNY Morrisville equine program. Five horses under their care qualified at Vernon Downs: Famous Dilemma (1:59)—a mare donated to the program, Kolin (1:57 .3)—a horse rehabbed at Morrisville not knowing if he would ever race again, plus Roll With Joy (1:58.1), Rosiemunn (1:57 .1) and Pearlameri (1:57 .4).

Because of the covid-19 pandemic, SUNY Morrisville closed its doors to students and in-person learning in March. Plans for the fall semester, as well as the opportunity to race the abovementioned horses on the New York county fair circuit or other amateur driving events, are still uncertain.

“How do you teach racing or rehab online?” said Kerin Warner, instructional support associate for the Standardbred program at SUNY Morrisville, after the good day of qualifying.

Around 80 incoming students have enrolled in SUNY Morrisville’s equine program this fall, 12 of which are interested in racing. Warner worries what the future may hold without the opportunity to meet in person or without the participation in fair racing.—By Hannah Reynolds
Musical Rhythm trots to qualifier win at Mohawk

Woodbine Mohawk Park hosted a 12-race qualifying session on Thursday morning under gorgeous conditions and over a “fast” track. The session featured a cross section of local trotting and pacing stars that are continuing to prep for their return to live pari-mutuel racing. more

Special taps ceremony Friday at Meadowlands

While there is excitement at the Meadowlands Racetrack for the return of live harness racing this Friday, June 5, there is also a sense of loss due to the passing of a number of horsemen and women from covid-19. more

Hawthorne set to begin racing on June 6

In close coordination with industry stakeholders and government regulators, Hawthorne Race Course will implement stringent new protocols for the return of live horse racing without on-site fans, also known as “studio racing.” Races will be hosted two nights per week on Saturdays and Sundays beginning June 6. more

Scioto changes schedule to race on Sunday, June 7

Eldorado Scioto Downs has switched up the live racing dates for this weekend (June 6-7). Scioto will now be racing on Sunday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m., instead of the usual Saturday evening spot. more

Tioga names Demsky new race announcer

When racing begins on Sunday, June 7, there will be a new voice behind the mic at Tioga Downs. Andrew “Shades” Demsky, 32, a native of Bellmore, N.Y., will be taking over the duties. Demsky, a graduate of Hofstra University will be taking over for last year’s announcer, Rich Mattei. more

Big M draws 26 qualifiers, but 2YO races don’t fill

The Meadowlands took entries for qualifiers and baby races Wednesday morning and when race secretary Scott Warren peered into the online entries he was not surprised to see 351 entries but shocked that only four were 2 year olds. So no babies this week. more

Pocono Sun Stakes 2020 canceled

While it is the Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen’s Association (PHHA) and The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono’s sincerest hope that the 2020 racing season in Pennsylvania will be forthcoming, the uncertainty of the season’s calendar makes already scheduled events impossible to predict. more

Date changes for stakes at Meadowlands, Tioga, Vernon

The Meadowlands, Tioga and Vernon Downs are announcing several date changes for the 2020 stakes schedule. The recent cancellation of the Sun Stakes at Pocono removed a few potential conflicts and left two prime Saturdays without any stakes which led to several of the following adjustments. more

Meadows casino to reopen; no news of race date

The Meadows casino in Washington, Pa., which is connected to The Meadows racetrack, has announced it will re-open Tuesday, June 9, at 12:00 p.m. The casino said it will be following proper guidelines set by local and state officials. No news has been announced regarding the resumption of harness racing. more

Mohawk races to be part of live TSN coverage

TSN and Woodbine Entertainment announced Wednesday they are expanding their successful broadcast partnership to bring Canadians live horse racing every Thursday night throughout the summer with ‘Racing Night Live.’ more

NYSS working with tracks to finalize schedule

The New York Sire Stakes administration is monitoring the reopening plans of the state’s racetracks and is tentatively planning to begin Sire Stakes and Excelsior Series events the week of June 21 at Tioga and Vernon Downs. more

Maryland stakes date changes at Ocean Downs

All Maryland stakes dates have been changed due to the new live racing calendar put out by Ocean Downs and also due to COVID-19 shutdowns. more

Update on Hanover Shoe Farms’ $250,000 matching fund grant

On April 16, 2020, Hanover Shoe Farms’ executive vice president Bridgette Jablonsky, V.M.D., announced the establishment of a $250,000 matching fund grant to support the work of restoring full integrity to the harness racing industry. more

Jason Roth named to USTA board of directors

District 1 of the U.S. Trotting Association (USTA) board of directors announced that Jason Roth has been selected to replace Stacy Cahill as a director for the organization. His term will begin immediately and will run through 2022. more
### Harness Racing Leaders

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

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<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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#### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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### Leading Breeders

#### Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.
- Breeders: 635 starts, 214 winners, $3,480,000 earnings
- Winbak Farm: 564 starts, 209 winners, $2,685,827 earnings

#### Additional Breeders
- Brittany Farms LLC: 128 starts, 50 winners, $966,621 earnings
- Seelister Farms Inc.: 139 starts, 59 winners, $951,399 earnings
- Steve Stewart: 128 starts, 52 winners, $752,829 earnings
- Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.: 127 starts, 58 winners, $681,009 earnings
- Midland Acres Inc.: 109 starts, 38 winners, $627,107 earnings
- Diamond Creek Farm LLC: 84 starts, 27 winners, $509,343 earnings
- Frederick Herbert III: 73 starts, 49 winners, $498,473 earnings
- Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.: 91 starts, 34 winners, $473,482 earnings
- Robert J. Key: 98 starts, 27 winners, $455,070 earnings
- White Birch Farm: 89 starts, 38 winners, $424,915 earnings
- Spring Haven Farm: 74 starts, 44 winners, $413,902 earnings
- Victory Hill Farm Inc.: 70 starts, 39 winners, $393,781 earnings
- Vieux Carre Farms: 67 starts, 24 winners, $392,188 earnings

### Money-Winning Sires

#### All Age Pacers
- Bettor's Delight: 167 foals, 53 starters, $3,514,295 earnings
- Somebeachsomewhere: 105 foals, 33 starters, $2,621,185 earnings
- Mach Three: 124 foals, 34 starters, $2,522,437 earnings
- Art Major: 135 foals, 29 starters, $1,980,165 earnings
- Rock N Roll Heaven: 513 foals, 165 starters, $1,223,383 earnings
- Shadow Play: 699 foals, 171 starters, $1,164,142 earnings
- Always a Virgin: 793 foals, 199 starters, $1,147,164 earnings
- Well Said: 754 foals, 198 starters, $1,126,793 earnings
- Sportswriter: 853 foals, 266 starters, $1,089,951 earnings
- Dragon Again: 1143 foals, 193 starters, $1,083,987 earnings
- Western Terror: 1075 foals, 140 starters, $942,154 earnings
- Rockin Image: 573 foals, 184 starters, $889,883 earnings
- Western Ideal: 919 foals, 147 starters, $852,475 earnings
- Big Jim: 340 foals, 125 starters, $843,023 earnings
- Rocknroll Hanover: 1047 foals, 101 starters, $819,479 earnings
- Mcardle: 775 foals, 157 starters, $808,224 earnings
- Pet Rock: 350 foals, 121 starters, $786,868 earnings
- Jereme's Jet: 572 foals, 98 starters, $720,364 earnings
- Big Bad John: 406 foals, 120 starters, $692,530 earnings

#### All Age Trotters
- Kadabra: 1099 foals, 143 starters, $941,059 earnings
- Cantab Hall: 1178 foals, 128 starters, $798,804 earnings
- Explosive Matter: 620 foals, 127 starters, $662,213 earnings
- Muscle Mass: 732 foals, 142 starters, $589,378 earnings
- Muscle Hill: 775 foals, 90 starters, $567,079 earnings
- Donato Hanover: 951 foals, 112 starters, $525,020 earnings
- Swan for All: 636 foals, 115 starters, $514,016 earnings
- Chapter Seven: 365 foals, 95 starters, $509,068 earnings
- Creditor Winner: 984 foals, 98 starters, $487,793 earnings
- Crazed: 524 foals, 65 starters, $443,064 earnings
- Yankee Glide: 919 foals, 80 starters, $437,474 earnings
- Muscle Massive: 462 foals, 77 starters, $437,275 earnings
- Angus Hall: 1099 foals, 71 starters, $385,741 earnings
- Conway Hall: 933 foals, 70 starters, $325,260 earnings
- Andrew Hall: 951 foals, 89 starters, $322,939 earnings
- Manofmanymissions: 281 foals, 75 starters, $300,861 earnings
- Majestic Son: 292 foals, 32 starters, $261,928 earnings
- Cash Hall: 481 foals, 51 starters, $259,585 earnings
- Uncle Peter: 269 foals, 82 starters, $234,017 earnings
- Royalty for Life: 179 foals, 53 starters, $230,732 earnings