Battle Lines Set For North America Cup Elims

Eighteen 3-year-old male pacers have been entered in this year’s Pepsi North America Cup at Woodbine Mohawk Park, with the top five finishers in each of two eliminations on Saturday night advancing to the $1 million final on June 15.

With five of nine starters in the first NA Cup elim (Race 3) undefeated thus far in 2019, that split is arguably much tougher on paper. The cast of nine includes Captain Crunch, the 2018 Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year in the U.S., who is two-for-two this year, as well as Hurrikane Emperor, who captured rich Sires Stakes finals last year in both New Jersey and Kentucky and already this year has romped to three consecutive wins in New Jersey Sires Stakes action.

The other undefeated sophomores lining up in the first elim are Art Rooney champ Bettor’s Wish and Shake That House, both three-for-three, and Century Farroh, who hasn’t lost in four attempts, including most recently a Somebeachsomewhere division at Mohawk.

Captain Crunch has returned off his Dan Patch Award-winning season with a pair of Pennsylvania Sires Stakes scores, including a career best-equaling 1:49.1 effort over a “sloppy” track at Pocono and a 1:49.2 triumph at Harrah’s Philadelphia.

“I’m happy and everybody is happy so far,” said trainer Nancy Johansson. “He finished the year very strong and it’s very nice if you can put away a 2 year old on such a strong note like we were able to do. Now add some maturity and some training to that, I think we’re in a really good spot with him.”

Johansson said being in the toughest of the two eliminations doesn’t concern her.

“I expect him to be very competitive against (Captain Crunch) or any other colt.” – John McDermott Jr. about Hurrikane Emperor

House, both three-for-three, and Century Farroh, who hasn’t lost in four attempts, including most recently a Somebeachsomewhere division at Mohawk.

Hurrikane Emperor, who starts from post 3 in the first elim with driver Daniel Dube, has made easy work of just three rivals in NJSS competition this year. His three victories have come by a total of 56 ¾ lengths—an average of nearly 19 lengths.

Trainer John McDermott Jr. isn’t concerned that Hurrikane Emperor has yet to be challenged this year, a scenario guaranteed to change in the NA Cup elim.

“I think he is capable of beating any horse that he faces,” said McDermott. “He can use a good race anyways as he’s only raced twice this year. Hopefully he’ll peak at the right time for us.”

Hurrikane Emperor, who starts from post 3 in the first elim with driver Daniel Dube, has made easy work of just three rivals in NJSS competition this year. His three victories have come by a total of 56 ¾ lengths—an average of nearly 19 lengths.

Trainer John McDermott Jr. isn’t concerned that Hurrikane Emperor has yet to be challenged this year, a scenario guaranteed to change in the NA Cup elim.

“I think he is capable of beating any horse that he faces,” said McDermott. “He’s going to have to step up...”
and have a good weekend, and I expect him to. He’s always gone with whatever the competition is. He’s a pretty intelligent colt and really does do a good job for himself. I expect him to be very competitive against (Captain Crunch) or any other colt.”

McDermott believes Hurrikane Emperor’s versatility is a big asset.

“When he was in Lexington last year, he showed he was extremely versatile,” said McDermott. “He actually does his best racing coming off the pace. The best race of his entire life was his second-place finish in the leg of the Sires Stakes when he was blocked the whole way and was pushed 12 wide.

“He’s not a normal horse. Nothing fazes him; nothing is too big for him. Whatever you put in front of him is what he does.”

Like Johansson, McDermott said being in the toughest elimination doesn’t concern him.

“Some people said it was a shame he caught the tougher division,” he said, “but they’re all going to be in the final, so what’s the difference between this week or next week?”

Hurrikane Emperor is a son of world champion Hurrikane Kingcole, a speedster who was also trained by McDermott.

“(Hurrikane Kingcole) is the single fastest horse I’ve ever trained and one of the fastest horses to ever live,” said McDermott. “On any given day, he was the fastest horse on earth. (Hurrikane Emperor) is the most even-keeled, brilliant animal I’ve ever been around. Every day is a good day. He may not have the super highs as his father, but he definitely doesn’t have the lows.”

The second NA Cup elim (Race 8) has only one undefeated (in 2019) starter in Workin Ona Mystery, who lines up in the outside post 9. Workin Ona Mystery, who was placed on Lasix this year by trainer Brian Brown after having some bleeding issues as a 2 year old despite going five-for-six, has also cruised to a pair of Pennsylvania Sires Stakes wins this year.

The elim also includes 2018 Metro champ Stag Party, the O’Brien Award winner as Canada’s 2-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year. The Casie Coleman trainee, who starts from post 5, has just a pair of thirds thus far in 2019, that coming in an Ontario Sires Stakes and a Somebeachsomewhere division.

According to David Miller, Stag Party’s regular driver, the colt was not 100 percent healthy in the Somebeachsomewhere division.

Johansson also sends out Caviart Rockland from post 4 in this elim. The son of Sportswriter has a career-best 1:50.2 win under his belt at the Meadowlands this year and comes into Saturday off a gallant second-place finish (by a neck) in a Somebeachsomewhere division.

“I really like this colt’s chances,” said Johansson. “He’s matured a lot from last year to this year. He’s obviously very quick. One more step and he would have won the Somebeach.” — By Gordon Waterstone
In the spotlight at the Meadowlands!

$200,000 NJSS 3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT FINAL WINNER
GREENSHOE
2,1:53.3; 3,1:50.2-’19 ($189,223)
Father Patrick-Designed To Be-Donato Hanover
Winner of the colt trot final in a career best 1:50.2 by six lengths, to remain undefeated in two 2019 starts! Trained by Marcus Melander and driven by Brian Sears, he is owned by Courant Inc., Hans Backe, Lars Granqvist & Morten Langli and was bred by Marvin Katz & Al Libfeld.

$200,000 NJSS 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT FINAL WINNER
EVIDENT BEAUTY
p,2,1:54.4; 3,1:52.3-’19 ($373,192)
Trixton-Struck By Lindy-Explosive Matter
Winner of the filly trot final in a lifetime best 1:52.3, her third win in as many 2019 starts! She is trained by Nifty Norman, driven by David Miller, and owned by Melvin Hartman, Little E LLC & RAW Equine, Inc. and was bred by White Birch Farm.

$120,000 NJSS 3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE FINAL WINNER
HURRIKANE EMPEROR
p,2,1:49.3 ($314,900)
Hurrikane Kingcole-Hurrikane Schmumma-Somebeachsomewhere
Now perfect in three 2019 starts, he captured this event with an open lengths victory in 1:53. Trained by John McDermott Jr. and driven by Daniel Dube, he is owned by Jonathan Klee Racing, Kuhen Racing, Pegasus Investment & William Garofalo, and was bred by Jonathan Klee Racing, Kuhen Racing, Pegasus Investment.

$160,000 NJSS 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE FINAL WINNER
HURRIKANESKY
p,2,1:57.4h; 3,1:54.4-’19 ($107,900)
Hurrikane Kingcole-Sky Artist-Art Major
Winner of this event in a new lifetime record of 1:54.4! Owned, bred and trained by Patrick Hlubik, she is driven by Scott Zeron.

Congratulations to these NJSS Final winners and their connections from

STANDBRED BREDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
64 Bus. Rt. 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726
(732) 462-2357 • Fax (732) 409-0741 • sboanj.com
Burke Shares Updates About His NA Cup Contenders

Ron Burke leads all trainers in starters for Saturday’s Pepsi North America Cup eliminations at Ontario’s Woodbine Mohawk Park, and although his three 3-year-old pacers are winless this season, the sport’s leading conditioner is anticipating improved performances from his group.

Burke, the 2018 Trainer of the Year in the U.S., sends out De Los Cielos Deo in the first of two eliminations and Captain Victorious and Semi Tough in the second. Nancy Johansson and Brian Brown are the only other trainers with multiple horses in the North America Cup elims, with two each.

The top-five finishers from each nine-horse elimination will advance to the $1 million (C) final on June 15. The connections of the elimination winners will select their post positions for the final and the remaining eight horses will be put in an open draw. The draw will be Tuesday (June 11) during a luncheon at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

De Los Cielos Deo won his first five races last season before finishing second in the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes final and his elimination of the Metro. He was no better than fourth in three remaining starts but was dealing with a foot issue. So far this season, the colt is winless in three races, but he heads to his North America Cup elimination off a 1:48.4 win in a qualifier last weekend at the Meadowlands.

“I knew he had that in him,” Burke said. “Things have just gone terrible for him the first few races. I knew he was coming in a lot better shape but he heads to his North America Cup elimination off a three-time winner last year on the Pennsylvania circuit but has hit the board three times. Captain Victorious was a three-time winner last year on the Pennsylvania circuit for trainer Julie Miller. He was purchased by the Burke-led Captain V Stable in April and finished third in his debut for his new connections but was off the board in two starts since then.

“We scoped Captain Victorious and his stomach has ulcers,” Burke said. “I think that’s led to his last couple bad performances. I’m hoping we’ll have him ready to go. Semi Tough, every start he’s gotten progressively better. He’s heading in the right direction.

“I think we’re going to be all right.” — By Ken Weingartner/USTA

Pepsi North America Cup 3CP Eliminations (top 5 finishers in each elim advance to the $1 million final on June 15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post—Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Bettor’s Wish (Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>D. Dunn/C. Ryder</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>Britanny Farms/$20,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Best In Show (Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>B. McClure/L. Toscano</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>R. &amp; J. Young/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Hurrikane Emperor (Hurrikane Kincole)</td>
<td>D. Dubel/J. McDermott</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Jonathan Klee Rcg, Kuhlen Rcg, Pegasus Inv. Grp/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Captain Crunch (Captaintreacherous)</td>
<td>S. Zeron/N. Johansson</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>Walnridge Farm/$95,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—De Los Cielos Deo (Captaintreacherous)</td>
<td>D. Miller/R. Burke</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>A. Willinger, Deo Volente Farms/$140,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—Air Force Hanover (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/B. Brown</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/$60,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Shake That House (American Ideal)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/C. Oaks</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Fair Winds Farm/$160,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Fixed Idea (Big Jim)</td>
<td>R. Waples/T. Clements</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>S. Stewart, D. Giuliano/$7,500 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—Century Farroh (Mach Three)</td>
<td>S. Filion/I. Moore</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Century Spring Farms/$17,000 (Lon)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2nd $50,000 elimination, Race 8, Post Time: 9:30 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post—Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Captain Victorious (Captaintreacherous)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/R. Burke</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>White Birch Farm/$40,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Lyons Night Hawk (Sweet Lou)</td>
<td>D. Dunn/G. Dowse</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Vieux Carre Farms/$60,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Semi Tough (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>M. Kakaley/R. Burke</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Vieux Carre Farms/$115,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Caviart Rockland (Sportswriter)</td>
<td>S. Zeron/N. Johansson</td>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>Caviart Farms/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Stag Party (Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>D. Miller/C. Coleman</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>F. Hertrich III/$125,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—Bronx Seelster (Big Jim)</td>
<td>T. Henry/W. McLean</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>Seelster Farms/$22,000 (Lon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Aflame Hanover (Russell Hanover)</td>
<td>A. McCarthy/L. Schadel</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/$6,500 (GSY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Tyga Hanover (Somebeachsomewhere)</td>
<td>S. Filion/B. Baillargeon</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/$110,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—Workin Ona Mystery (Captaintreacherous)</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/B. Brown</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>White Birch Farm/$30,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ohio Sires Stakes
June Schedule

June 8 at Northfield Park
Leg 2 for 3-Year-Old Filly Trotters

June 14 at Scioto Downs
Leg 2 for 3-Year-Old Filly Pacers

June 15 at Northfield Park
Leg 2 for 3-Year-Old Colt Trotters

June 29 at Northfield Park
Leg 2 for 3-Year-Old Colt Pacers

Ohio Sires Stakes
77 South High Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Kimberly Rinker, OSDF Administrator
kim.rinker@racing.ohio.gov 614-779-0269

Conditions & schedule at www.racingohio.net
Tygart Hanover: From Maiden To NA Cup In A Month

After going winless in six starts in 2018 at age two, Tyga Hanover broke his maiden impressively in his second start this year, romping to a 10 1/2-length win in 1:51.2 on May 16 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. After a win in a non-winners of two and a third straight victory in a Somebeachsomewhere division last Saturday night, Tyga Hanover now rides a three-race win streak heading into this Saturday’s Pepsi North America Cup eliminations.

That means that in a span of just one month Tyga Hanover could go from a maiden to a North America Cup champ.

“That would be nice, huh?” trainer Ben Baillargeon answered with a laugh when asked about that distinct possibility.

Tyga Hanover will be starting from post 8 in the second NA Cup elim, which includes last year’s Metro winner Stag Party.

Baillargeon, who trains Tyga Hanover for owners Tom, Elizabeth and Glen Rankin, said illness and immaturity were the reasons for the colt’s abbreviated freshman season.

“He showed me ability but he was always sick as he is very bad with allergies,” explained Baillargeon. “And he wasn’t mature enough and growth-wise too.”

After Tyga Hanover finished fourth in a Nassagaweya division and seventh in a Champlain split on Sept. 7, the decision was made to call it a year. Baillargeon said the decision was then made to geld the son of Somebeachsomewhere.

“We gelded him and he hasn’t done anything wrong since,” said Baillargeon. “He had a good rest and now that he’s a gelding he tries a little more. And I am very OK with him now.”

Baillargeon said looking back, having Tyga Hanover return a maiden as a sophomore was key to his early success.

“We could have kept going but I was happy that he was still a maiden when he started back this year;” said Baillargeon. “Mr. (Tom) Rankin said to quit with him and get him back as a maiden next year.”

Tyga Hanover finished a late-closing third in his 2019 debut on May 9 at Mohawk Park—still the only track he has ever competed at in 10 starts—while racing for Shane Weber, Rankin’s farm trainer. Tyga Hanover was then sent to Baillargeon and on May 16 led gate to wire to break his maiden in impressive fashion.

“I brought him home after his first start and we needed to stretch him out if we thought about going to the Somebeachsomewhere;” said Baillargeon. “We had to stretch him out to see if he had any speed.”

Tyga Hanover then won in 1:53.3, but based off his maiden score, the decision was made to enter the Somebeachsomewhere.

“Tyga Hanover broke his maiden in Woodbine Mohawk Park last May. He won two out of three going into the Somebeachsomewhere, but lost by a length,” Baillargeon noted.

While the charted line shows a “be” at the finish call, Baillargeon said that isn’t the case.

“(The judges) thought the overcheck came undone but the overcheck is so long it looks undone,” he said.

“There was no broken equipment. It’s no big deal.”—By Gordon Waterstone

“Tyga Hanover broke his maiden in Woodbine Mohawk Park last May. He won two out of three going into the Somebeachsomewhere, but lost by a length,” Baillargeon noted.
Warrawee Ubeaut Leads, But McNair Ready With “Beauty” Fillies

The two eliminations for the Fan Hanover Stakes, set for Saturday night at Mohawk, are deep in talent. In addition to the presence of world champion Warrawee Ubeaut, the fields include the Gregg McNair-trained duo of Prescient Beauty and Beautyonthebeach, who collectively earned $724,536 last year; two fillies trained by Tony Alagna who are undefeated this season, Treacherous Reign and Tall Drink Hanover; and Sunny Dee, a filly unraced at age two who is undefeated in eight starts this season for trainer Bog McIntosh.

McNair is locally based, training a stable of 45 horses, and while he doesn’t believe it will be a significant advantage, he is confident his two fillies are ready for the Fan Hanover. He does see one major obstacle to getting to the Fan Hanover winner’s circle: Warrawee Ubeaut.

Although Prescient Beauty beat Warrawee Ubeaut in the Three Diamonds, “Ubeaut” has speed no other 2-year-old pacing filly has ever displayed. Last fall Warrawee Ubeaut became the fastest for her age and sex when she won in 1:48.3 at the Red Mile.

Earlier this year, while participating in The Horserace And Fair World magazine’s Top Picks feature, McNair listed Warrawee Ubeaut number one in his rankings of this year’s 3-year-old pacers — male and female.

At the time he said, “I’m not going to say she’ll be the top money-earner, but to me, I think for speed she is the fastest horse.”

Warrawee Ubeaut is undefeated in two starts this season and McNair hasn’t had any reason to change his opinion of Warrawee Ubeaut, although he hopes that she will be the top money earner, but to me, I think for speed she is the fastest horse.

“They are sound, healthy and we’re ready.”

– Gregg McNair

“Both of my mares are about the same as last year, although Beauty might be a little heavier,” McNair continued. “They are sound, healthy and we’re ready.”

Beautyonthebeach will start from post 9 in the first Fan Hanover elim. She has made two previous starts this year but has not yet won. She finished third and second in two offerings at Mohawk, but McNair notes she “raced from off the pace and kicked home strong.”

Prescient Beauty will be facing Warrawee Ubeaut in Race 6. Prescient Beauty drew post 4 with Warrawee Ubeaut lining up on the gate to her immediate right. Warrawee Ubeaut has won both of her starts this year by comfortable margins.

The Fan Hanover elim will be the second start of the season for Prescient Beauty. She finished fourth in a New York Sires Stakes at Vernon on May 27.

“We were disappointed with Prescient, but she had a high CK (creatin kinase, a muscle enzyme that increases after exercise, with abnormally high levels indicating tying up),” shared McNair. “Both of my mares need their blood watched for tying up and they need their routine of being turned out. So we really work on managing them.”

Transference Hat Trick Prompts Recall Of One Mare’s Grand Slam

While history may have been made on June 1 at Woodbine Mohawk Park when the mare Transference produced three winners on the program, the achievement brings back memories of an occurrence 28 years ago when three full brothers won on the same card at Hazel Park, one night after a fourth brother had scored a victory.

Trainer Ben Baillargeon trains all three progeny of Transference who produced wins at Mohawk Park. The victories included 3-year-old Tyga Hanover’s effort in a Somebeachsomewhere division (the race named for Tyga’s sire), and triumphs by the 4-year-old Torrito Hanover and 7-year-old Traceur Hanover, half brothers sired by Well Said.

Transference is an unraced daughter of Camluck who Hanover Shoe Farms purchased for $15,000 (at age two) in 2006. Over the course of nine years, Hanover has sold eight yearlings out of Transference for a total of $307,000. Two of the mare’s foals, both fillies, brought just $4,000 each. Those two fillies have each earned more than $100,000.

Baillargeon said knowing the family made it easy when it came time to purchase the Hanover Shoe Farms-bred Tyga Hanover as a yearling for $110,000 at Harrisburg.

“This colt, we really liked him at the sale and I knew what the other two could do,” said Baillargeon. “This Somebeach, he really looked the part.”

Although the trio of wins from the offspring of Transference is unique, back in 1991 four full brothers won over two nights of racing at Hazel Park Raceway. The grand slam of winners were all sired by Abercrombie out of the Meadow Skipper mare Turn To Reason.

On July 12, 1991, the 9-year-old Time To Shop won a $5,800 conditioned pace in 1:57 for driver Tim Buter and Milton Caldwell, the listed trainer for the Paul Jensen Stable. The following night the Jensen Stable scored victories with the 3-year-old Bargain Hunter, who won a $6,800 conditioned pace in 1:57 for driver Don Hall, and the 6-year-old Reason To Shop, who won a $4,400 conditioned pace in 1:57.4 for driver Buter. The fourth Abercrombie-Turn To Reason victory came with the 7-year-old Be Reasonable, who captured an $8,400 Open Pace in 1:56.3 for driver John Moody and trainer David Wisniewski.— By Gordon Waterstone

As unique as the trio of wins from the mare Transference is, it still falls short of a 1991 weekend at Hazel Park when four full brothers won over two nights of racing.
Thank You
to my partners who selected these horses for purchase, all the trainers and drivers for their expertise, the caretakers who tend to the horses daily, and to everyone who contributed to a Marvelous Month of May!

Undefeated in 3 2019 starts, including the $200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes 3YOFT Final
EVIDENT BEAUTY 3,1:52.3-’19 ($373,192)
Trixton-Struck By Lindy
Owners: Melvin Hartman, Little E LLC, RAW Equine Inc.
Trainer: Nifty Norman  Driver: David Miller

3 for 3 in May, including Ontario Sire Stakes Gold & Ontario SBOA
HAVEONEFORME 3,1:54-’19 ($133,923)
Kadabra-All Filled Up
Owners: Enzed Racing Stable, Melvin Hartman, Little E LLC
Trainer: Nifty Norman  Driver: Paul MacDonell

Graduate Series 4YOT winner
SIX PACK 3,1:49.1 ($1,383,290)
Muscle Mass-Pleasing Lady

Ontario Sire Stakes Gold winner
SOUTHWIND AVENGER 2,1:55.3 ($388,761)
E L Titan-Auvergne
Owners: Melvin Hartman, David McDuffee, Little E LLC
Trainer: Nifty Norman  Driver: Trevor Henry

2-time Excelsior A Series 3YOCT winner
JASON’S CAMDEN 3,1:56.1-’19 ($89,490)
Muscle Mass-Palm Beach Chic
Owners: Andy Miller Stable, Harvey Eisman, Little E LLC
Trainer: Julie Miller  Driver: Jim Morrill Jr.

PA Stallion Series 3YOFT Winner
JEZZY’S LEGACY 2,1:55.4 ($107,376)
Donato Hanover-Jezy
Owners: Ray Schnittker, Little E LLC, Ted Gewertz, Mary Kinsey Arnold
Trainer: Ray Schmittker  Driver: Tyler Buter

PA Sire Stakes 3YOFT winner
ANTONIA 3,1:54.3f-’19 ($78,070)
Donato Hanover-Tactical Caviar
Owners: Melvin Hartman, Little E LLC, Pinske Stables
Trainer: Nifty Norman  Driver: Dexter Dunn

PA Sire Stakes 3YOFT Winner
HALLINTHECLOUDS 3,1:55.4f-’19 ($23,250)
Cantab Hall-Headintheclouds
Owners: Ake Svansstedt Inc., Little E LLC, Fayette AB, Gabriella’s LLC
Trainer/Driver Ake Svansstedt

PA Stallion Series 3YOFT Winner
EV’S GIRL 2, Q1:58.4 ($53,505)
Crazed-Lindy’s Lullaby
Owners: Andy Miller Stable, Harvey Eisman, Little E LLC
Trainer: Julie Miller  Driver: Andy Miller

LITTLE E STABLE
Jeff Gural
Faith Rewarded For Battle Of Lake Erie Starter The Wall

Two weeks ago Dave Bianconi, Northfield Park’s vice president of racing and simulcasting, made a deal with trainer Nick Surick: If Surick’s horse The Wall won either the $100,000 Commodore Barry on May 26 at Harrah’s Philadelphia or the $116,180 Camluck Classic on May 31 at Western Fair, he would be invited to the $200,000 Battle of Lake Erie on Saturday night, June 8.

After finishing a hard-fought third in the Commodore Barry for driver Jim Pantaleano, The Wall came right back with another gritty effort while capturing the Camluck Classic in 1:52 for driver Joe Bongiorno. And Bianconi kept his word as he invited The Wall to the Battle of Lake Erie, where he will start from post 3 with Brett Miller—who has won the race three times in his career—named to drive.

“The remarkable thing about The Wall is how hard he raced at Harrah’s and then bounced back in five days and raced as hard as he did again,” said Surick. “Post 3 is a really good spot for him. I think they’re going to bang heads and go at it. He can go leave and go :25.1 if we have to, but I think his biggest thing is coming off the pace. If they put up big fractions, I think it sets up perfect for him.”

Surick is the first to admit that it’s only because of the owner Joel Benson’s (JL Benson Stables) faith that The Wall has had such great success. Since Benson purchased The Wall at the 2018 January Tattersalls Mixed Sale at the Meadowlands for just $20,000, the pacer has returned a tidy $280,609 in 53 starts.

Up to that point in his first two years of racing, The Wall had earned $129,337 while in the barn of trainer Jimmy Takter, who had purchased the son of Somebeachsomewhere for $70,000 as a yearling.

“Joel told me to go to the sale and go up to $40,000 on him and I told him he was nuts,” remembered Surick. “After we bought the horse he asked me if I wanted a piece and I said, ‘Nope, he’s all yours.’ It’s tough buying horses off Jimmy Takter. If he’s getting rid of them, why is he getting rid of them?”

The Wall won seven times last year, including a career-best 1:51.2 at Harrah’s Philadelphia, with $84,299 in earnings. The 5-year-old The Wall won his second start of this year in an overnight at Yonkers as the 9-5 second choice, and he’s since posted three more victories—all at double-digit odds. In fact, The Wall has gone off at single-digit odds only five times this year and has been 12-1 or higher in his last eight starts.

“I think people respect the horse much more now than when the Levy started.”

—Nick Surick

Despite being overlooked at the windows, The Wall is the sixth richest Standardbred in 2019 with $196,310 in earnings. Surick thought it was a stretch to enter The Wall into the Levy, but Benson’s faith was rewarded when The Wall posted two wins (at odds of 19-1 and 14-1), one second (at 58-1) and one fourth in the prelims (before finishing seventh in the final).

“It’s not just the fans and the bettors,” said Surick. “When they were going out on the racetrack for the first leg of the Levy, all the drivers were laughing. Yannick Gingras and Matt Kakaley got the biggest kick out of it, they said they wished they had the $5,000 we paid to nominate the horse.

“Honestly, I was laughing a little bit. I give all the credit to Joel Benson, who had faith in him. I thought he was crazy nominating the horse too, but obviously it paid off.”

Surick added his choice of drivers has been by design.

“As we go, I think the horse is gaining more respect, and that’s why I’ve been using the drivers I’ve had,” he said. “They drive him like he belongs. For the Commodore Barry, Brian Sears and George Nap (Napolitano) were available, but I just feel those guys wouldn’t give him the same chance as the drivers I’m using.

“Joe (Bongiorno) has faith in the horse and Jim (Pantaleano) has faith in the horse. They don’t drive him for the toteboard. Jim Pantaleano was almost 70-1 (in the Commodore Barry) and he drove him like he was 1-5. That’s a big thing and really important.”

Surick said The Wall has already received an invitation to race in the Mohawk Gold Cup on North America Cup Night. He said the Great Northeast Series is also on the calendar, as are a pair of stakes engagements in the Jim Ewart Memorial at Scioto Downs and the Gerrity Memorial at Saratoga.

“Now I think the horse has opened some people’s eyes,” concluded Surick. “I think people respect the horse much more now than when the Levy started.” —By Gordon Waterstone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$200,000 BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northfield Park, Saturday, June 8, Race 12, Post Time: 10:15 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post—Horse</th>
<th>Trainer/Driver</th>
<th>Odds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Rodeo Rock</td>
<td>E. Goodell/R. Cleary</td>
<td>3-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Bully Pulpit</td>
<td>A. Merriman/B. Loney</td>
<td>12-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—The Wall</td>
<td>B. Miller/N. Surick</td>
<td>9-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Always A Prince</td>
<td>Tr. Tetrick/T. George</td>
<td>7-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Southwind Amazon</td>
<td>R. Wrenn Jr./P. Holzman</td>
<td>15-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—None Bettor A</td>
<td>Jo. Bongiorno/Je. Bongiorno</td>
<td>6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Jimmy Freight</td>
<td>J. Bartlett/A. Harris</td>
<td>4-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Filibuster Hanover</td>
<td>C. Page/R. Burke</td>
<td>10-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

HarnessRacing Weekend Preview, 9 of 17

June 7, 2019

Visit us online

harnessracing.com

By Gordon Waterstone
Pilot Discretion Aims For New Heights In Goodtimes Elims

It is often said that sometimes the moves you don’t make, or in this instance the races you don’t make, turn out the best. Such appears to be the case for 3-year-old male trotter Pilot Discretion, who brings an undefeated slate to Friday’s Goodtimes eliminations at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Pilot Discretion, from the stable of Tony Alagna, developed slowly last season at 2. When he was ready to go at Lexington’s Red Mile in late September, he proved the trainer’s patience was well invested by winning a late closer by 6 1/2 lengths in 1:56 and following up a week later with a five-length 1:55.1 score.

“For an inexperienced colt last year, he’s really come back good.”

Tony Alagna

He was soon able to return to training and looked set to compete in a preliminary round of the Kindergarten Series at the Meadowlands, which would serve as a prep for the Valley Victory Stakes, but he spiked a temperature again. Alagna decided it was best to quit with the colt rather than push on.

“It may be the best thing that ever happened to him long term because he’s come back really good,” Alagna said this week as he prepared to send Pilot Discretion to Canada for the Goodtimes. “Sometimes things work out the way they’re supposed to.”

Pilot Discretion pushed his perfect slate to four-for-four by winning two conditioned races last month at The Meadowlands. His most recent victory came by 2 1/4 lengths over 5-year-old Stenhouse Hanover in a career-best 1:52.4.

“He was an immature colt and we took our time with him,” Alagna said. “He’s really matured into himself nicely. It’s a nice time to try him against stakes company. He couldn’t be any sharper than he is right now. He trained great (Monday). For an inexperienced colt last year, he’s really come back good.”

Pilot Discretion was one of 19 horses entered in the Goodtimes. The field was divided into two eliminations, with Pilot Discretion landing in the second. He will start from post 6 with regular driver Andy McCarthy.

Pilot Discretion, whose four wins have resulted in $26,000 in purses, is a son of Muscle Hill out of Self Indulgent. He was purchased for $100,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale and is owned by Robert Leblanc, Dave Anderson and John Fodera.

“He acts like a horse that’s going to be very versatile,” Alagna said. “He acts like a horse that can leave, that can sit, he can do a lot of things. He’s not aggressive, he’s a nice horse to drive. That goes a long way. He’s really done well.”

---

### Goodtimes 3CT Eliminations (top 5 finishers in each elim advance to the $247,000 final on June 15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post—Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Smart As Hill (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>P. MacDonell/M. Keeling</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>S. Klemencic/$70,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Trix And Stones (Trixton)</td>
<td>J. Jamieson/C. Jamieson</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>S. Smith-Rothaug/$45,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Swandre The Giant (Swan For All)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/R. Burke</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>DM Stables/$17,000 (Hoos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Forbidden Trade (Kadabra)</td>
<td>B. McClure/L. Blais</td>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>S. Stewart/$110,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Cool Clifford (Kadabra)</td>
<td>L. Roy/S. McEneny</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>D. Ingham, H. Rutherford/$60,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—Manatlas (EL Titan)</td>
<td>D. Miller/S. Kerwood</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Walnut Hall Ltd, Henry Stb, D. McCann Estate/$62,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Magic Winner K (Kadabra)</td>
<td>S. Filion/R. Boyd</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>R. Key/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Blazing Trail (Father Patrick)</td>
<td>M. Bax/J. Bax</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>J. Willhite Jr./$42,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—Only For Justice (Justice Hall)</td>
<td>C. Christoforou/D. Fontaine</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Ecurie Gaetan Bono/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10—Super Schissel (Uncle Peter)</td>
<td>S. Zeron/P. Engblom</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>Coyote Wynd Farms/$115,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2nd $30,000 elimination, Race 8, Post Time: 9:30 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post—Horse (Sire)</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Knight Angel (Archangel)</td>
<td>S. Filion/S. Arsenault</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>Dr. B. Eskeland/$26,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Okeanos (EL Titan)</td>
<td>P. MacDonell/R. Mayotte</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>S. Palermo, J. Ruch/$62,000 (Lon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Scarlett Raider (Archangel)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/N. Gallucci</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>J. Clark/$25,000 (Lon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Dream Nation (Archangel)</td>
<td>D. Dubu/J. Dupont</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>Winbak Farm/$42,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Southwind Avenger (EL Titan)</td>
<td>T. Henry/N. Norman</td>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>Southwind Farms/$77,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—Pilot Discretion (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>A. McCarthy/T. Alagna</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>S. Stewart, D. Miller/$100,000 (Lex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—All Wrapped Up (Archangel)</td>
<td>L. Roy/R. Fellows</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>V. Hayter, L. Lawton/$11,000 (Lon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Jumpshot (EL Titan)</td>
<td>M. Baillargeon/J. Maguire</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>PG Van Camp Stables/—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—Kings County (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>D. Miller/D. Cecere</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Order By Stable/$210,000 (HB)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lather Up Bypasses Battle For Graduate

Although the connections of Lather Up had already RSVP’d that they would race in Saturday’s Battle of Lake Erie at Northfield Park, a last-minute decision led to canceling the trip to Ohio.

Instead, Lather Up will head to Tioga Downs on Sunday afternoon where he will start from post 1 in one of two $50,000 divisions of a leg of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old pacers. Starting from post 3 in that same division is 2018 Little Brown Jug winner Courtly Choice, with the 2018 Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year Dorsoduro Hanover lining up in post 5. Also on the card are a pair of $50,000 Graduate splits for 4-year-old trotters.

Lather Up heads to Tioga off a pair of victories at Woodbine Mohawk Park, the first of which made the son of I’m Gorgeous a millionaire. Lather Up’s second win, in a Graduate division last time out on June 1, brought his career earnings to $1,040,072 for owners Gary and Barbara Isles and trainer Clyde Francis of the George Teague Jr. Stable.

“We decided to go to Tioga instead and he drew the rail, so it wasn’t a bad choice to go there.”

–George Teague Jr.

Montrell Teague will direct Lather Up from the inside post in Sunday’s Graduate. While Teague had driven Lather Up in his first 27 pari-mutuel starts (37 overall counting qualifiers), Ontario-based Jody Jamieson took the lines for the horse’s last two starts at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Teague drove Lather Up to a 2:02.4 win in the 1 1/16-mile Graduate on May 4 in his 2019 debut and then to a 7p8 finish in a Confederation Cup elimination at Flamboro Downs, Jamieson then in the sulky for a 1:49 score in a Preferred Pace and then a 1:50.1 victory in a one-mile Graduate division.

“Montrell just decided to not make the trip and go up there,” George Teague said about the driver change.—By Gordon Waterstone

Teague Eyes 2020 Return For Wiggle It Jiggleit

George Teague Jr., who owns Wiggle It Jiggleit, told Weekend Preview Thursday morning (June 6) that while he still remains optimistic the 2015 Horse of the Year will make a return to the racetrack, it won’t happen this year.

Wiggle It Jiggleit, who has not raced since finishing second in the Breeders Crown final to Always B Miki on Oct. 28, 2016, at the Meadowlands, has had various health issues—mostly back problems—that have kept him on the sidelines.

Wiggle It Jiggleit has 38 wins in 51 career starts, with his $3,907,557 in earnings placing him sixth on the all-time list of pacers. Wiggle It Jiggleit will be 8 years old in 2020.

“I’ll start training him in a few weeks but I won’t do much with him this year,” said Teague. “It will probably be a few months of training. But right now he looks good.

“One thing about him is that he’s like no other horse you’ll train. He loves what he does and every time we train him we definitely get a different feel from any horse we’ve ever trained. I’m sure he won’t disappoint with his training, it’s just when push comes to shove and you get down to lower numbers, there’s always been a history of something popping up. So I’m hoping nothing pops up.”

Teague jogged Wiggle It Jiggleit on Thursday morning at his Delaware farm and said that everything seems fine—except for some added pounds.

“Man, he’s a heavy horse. He’s chubby, like me,” Teague said with a laugh. “He’s gained a lot of weight. That’s the main thing for the last couple of years. Keeping his weight down is nearly impossible.”

Teague concluded that while he remains optimistic Wiggle It Jiggleit can make a triumphant comeback, it won’t come unless he’s convinced it can happen.

“I don’t see him losing his talent; it’s just going to take a little while to get to the higher speed like he was.”

–George Teague Jr.
New “Urging” Policy Now In Effect At Mohawk

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) has amended the Standardbred Rules of Racing and to Policy Directive No. 5-2009: Penalty Guidelines for Inappropriate Urging of a Horse in Standardbred Racing. Amended wording will limit “urging” in Standardbred racing to acceptable “wrist action” only and there will be recommended minimum penalties for races with a purse of $100,000 or more.

The rule change became effective at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 3, and will be gradually phased in across all Standardbred racetracks in Ontario on dates to be determined.

For the first offense, the recommended penalty is a minimum fine of $200 and a three-day suspension. For the third offense within one year of the first offense, the recommended fine is $500 with a 15-day suspension.

In a race with a purse of $100,000 or more, “the penalty shall be a minimum fine of 20% of the driver’s earnings for placings 1st through 5th and shall be a minimum fine the equivalent to 20% of the driver’s earnings for 5th place for placings 6th and on.”

So how do drivers feel about the new rule, and how it could impact racing?

“Driving horses is how we make our living so we want to do the best we can to win, but I guess we’ve got to do whatever we can to do the right thing,” said Hall of Famer David Miller.

“This is just an adjustment just like when we went to keeping the lines in both hands,” Miller continued. “With most horses this (new rule) won’t make a bit of difference.”

In a press release, the AGCO stated it is “committed to identifying and moving forward on common-sense reforms to the regulatory rules that govern horse racing. These reforms are designed to preserve and enhance the integrity of the sport, the welfare of the horse, the safety of its participants and, to safeguard and protect the interests of the betting public and the public at large. This change is the next step in enhancing and providing a regulatory framework appropriate for today’s racing industry.”

Additionally, special paddock meetings and orientation sessions will be held for participants as they adjust their driving style to accommodate this change.”
A Horse Farm Is A Great Place To Make Friends And Fans

It's still breeding season and farms are just doing their thing to provide a horse supply while racing is what creates fans, right?

Definitely not true. Diamond Creek Farm held an Open House at its Wellsville, Pa., farm last Saturday (June 1) and shared its Standardbred horses and farm life with more than 700 people.

“The Open House was our response after we have received some letters, some nasty, about how we cared for our horses,” said Diamond Creek’s Adam Bowden.

“Wellsville is a small town and we’re in the center of town, and during the winter people would drive by the farm and see the horses outside, sometimes in the rain, and they didn’t think they were being properly cared for. So the open house was born out of this. We realized we need to open our doors to people, to show them the horses and how well we take care of them, and we wanted to do it when everything is green and beautiful.”

Bowden said they had 50-60 people the first year they opened their gates in 2015.

“This has grown by word of mouth, and we put flyers out at local places, and some social media,” said Bowden of how people become aware of the Open House.

The Open House is more than just an opportunity to walk through a working horse farm. This year the great Standardbred ambassador Foiled Again and the Harness Horse Youth Foundation pony Sweet Karen were in attendance to provide up-close moments that most folks outside of the horse world never have a chance to experience.

The Diamond Creek staff also brought the pacing stallion Sweet Lou into the breeding shed for him to do his thing in front of an audience of about 100 people.

“I think it took me longer to explain the breeding process than it did for him to be washed and collected,” laughed Bowden.

In the mare barn, visitors got to meet new foals and feed carrots to their moms. Other highlights included the “Rody Races,” giant inflatable blue ponies, sponsored by Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association. It’s no surprise those were popular with the kids, as was the straw maze and an ice cream truck.

Diamond Creek also teamed up with the Pacing for a Cure group, which has held fundraisers at many racetracks and harness racing events to raise awareness of the fight to cure multiple sclerosis.

“They have been at the Open House before and they always have a raffle for a Hambo Day package. It’s always won by someone who has never been to the Hambletonian, so that’s a really neat thing,” said Bowden.

Diamond Creek also provided refreshments to those who came to the farm—they counted serving 600 ice teas, 627 ice cream treats, and 750 hamburgers.

Yes, the Open House created work and cost the farm money, but Bowden believes more farms should be opening their gates.

“You never know where the next owner or fan is going to come from,” he said. “Sometimes one person can make a difference. More farms should hold these events.”

Bowden’s idea to open the farm gates isn’t anything new. Fair Winds Farm in New Jersey, in conjunction with its neighbor Hogan Equine Clinic, held open houses for three straight years, attracting hundreds of people, but has not held one for the past couple of years.

Also, in the last few years horse farms have become a commercial venture in Bluegrass horse country in Kentucky.

Taking cues from the explosion of the Kentucky bourbon trail and the tours of distilleries, Thoroughbred farms in Kentucky’s Bluegrass region have transitioned from making farm tours something that only bonafide racing fans seek to visibly marketing the visits as a part of the growing field of “tourism experiences.” Lexington area Thoroughbred farms organized to provide tours under the umbrella of Horse Country Inc. (visithorsecountry.com) and people even pay a fee to take the tours which originate at hotels. Unfortunately, there is not a single Standardbred farm in the Bluegrass that is a part of the visithorsecountry.com tour itineraries.

Farm tours are a beautiful way to show people that while our horses are not exactly living lives akin to our pet dogs or cats, in some ways they come pretty darn close.

Can a single horse farm tour temper a headline or tweet about horses have died while racing? Probably not that very second, but the images and goodwill that be generated by a horse farm tour can certainly go a long way toward creating a favorable impression.
FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Mohawk is where the Ones To Watch are at this weekend, with Friday’s program including eliminations for the Goodtimes Trot for 3-year-old colt and geldings and the Armbro Flight for trotting mares.

Although the Graduate for 4 year olds is slated for Tioga on Sunday, ATLANTA will be at Mohawk, competing in eliminations for the Armbro Flight. Atlanta comes into the race after winning a Graduate leg last Saturday night at Mohawk. She’ll be starting from post 1 in the Armbro Flight, with the sport’s co-fastest 3-year-old filly trotter of all time to her right, PLUNGE BLUE CHIP, a winner in 1:49.4 last year. Plunge Blue Chip, trained and driven by Ake Svanstedt, will be making her first start of the season after a qualifying win at Pocono.

The second elimination for the Armbro Flight (Race 6) includes other older mare trotting stars: EMOTICON HANOVER (post 1), HANNELORE HANOVER (post 2), ICE ATTRACTION (post 3) and MANCHEGO (post 8). Emoticon will be making her first start since winning a Miss Versatility leg at Mohawk on May 20; Ice Attraction is making her second 2019 start, finishing seventh in her first start (last Friday) but trotting her own mile in 1:51.3; and Manchego finished eighth to Atlanta in last week’s Graduate.

Nancy Johansson, who trains Manchego and says the mare is racing with an equipment change: “Manchego is racing in an open bridle right now and she’s a completely different horse. When I watched her post parade last Saturday night it was like watching a 2 year old on the track for the first time. But she’s nice and relaxed with the open bridle so we’ll keep it on her a little bit. When the bridle change comes she’ll be ready to roll then.”

Among the trotting colts to watch in the Goodtimes are SWANDRE THE GIANT (Race 5), who is invading from Indiana after winning his 2019 debut in 1:54 over a sloppy track at Hoosier Park; SUPER SCHISSEL (Race 5), who finished third against older horses at the Meadowlands in his first start of the season, trotting in 1:52.1; and SOUTHWIND AVENGER (Race 8), a 1:55.4 winner from post 7 at Flamboro in his second start of the season.

A competitive group of older trotters will square off in Race 7 (8:30 p.m.) at Scioto on Friday. The field includes last week’s Open winner, NO WHIP CHIP (post 6) and the horse he nosed out at the wire, JAILHOUSE SAM, along with PARTY AT THE BANKS, a winner of six of eight starts this year for trainer Ron Burke.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Before the big Mohawk card on Saturday night, Pennsylvania-sired 3-year-old filly pacers — those not at Mohawk for the Fan Hanover — will be competing in PA Stallion Series and Sires Stakes races. The card gets underway at 11:25 a.m. with three Stallion Series divisions carded as races 1-2-3 and the Sires Stakes split set for races 7-8-9, with PHILLY HANOVER, a three-time winner in four starts, entered to compete in Race 8.

In addition to the Fan Hanover and North America Cup eliminations on Saturday night at Mohawk, the sport’s top older pacing mares will be competing in a prep for the Roses Are Red (Race 10). The field includes YOUAREMycANDYGIRL, SANDBETWEENURTOES, CAVIARTALLY, SHARTIN N and KISSIN IN THE SAND.

In other Saturday night action, two divisions of Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old trotting fillies will share the spotlight with the Battle of Lake Erie. The second division, Race 7, looks especially competitive with the four-for-four WICKED SUGAR (post 2), the ultra-fast 5-2 favorite AUNT ROSE (post 4) and defending divisional champion ONLY TAKE CASH (post 6) in the seven-horse field.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

On Sunday afternoon, four divisions of the Graduate are part of the matinee card at Tioga Downs. LATHER UP competes in the first pacing split while DONE WELL headlines the second division (Race 9). Two short fields for 4-year-old trotters are Race 7 and 10 on the card. CUSTOM CANTAB is the standout in Race 7, but Race 10 appears highly competitive with CRYSTAL FASHION, PHAETOSIVE, THE VETERAN, FIFTYDALLARBILL, SIX PACK and MISSION ACCEPTED.

Pocono’s Sunday night card will feature 3-year-old filly trotters competing in the PA All Stars. In Race 7 (8:48 p.m.) THE ICE DUTCHESS, winner of last year’s Jim Doherty Memorial, makes her third start of the season. She’s already won in 1:52. The Race 10 group includes MILLIES POSSESSION, who didn’t race at two but is undefeated in four starts this season, with her wins including two Sires Stakes legs.
Illinois Gov. expected to sign bill for gaming at tracks
Illinois horse racing appears poised to receive a huge boost with the passage of Senate Bill 690 on Sunday by the Illinois Senate. The bill passed the House 87-27 on Saturday. The bill now moves to the desk of Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who has stated he will sign the legislation. The bill also calls for a new track with gaming, but ONLY for harness racing. more

Tickets now on sale for Breeders Crown

Services announced for Jerry Knappenberger
Jerry Lee Knappenberger, 76, a longtime general manager of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and former second trainer for the Terry Holton stable, died June 3, 2019, at the Inn at Chapel Grove in Heath, Ohio. more

Gingras had “a blast” at World Driving Championship
After a second-place finish in last week’s World Driving Championship, U.S. representative Yannick Gingras was left to wonder “what if.” But there was no doubt in his mind about the competition, held at five racetracks across Sweden, and the opportunity to participate. more

Grasso following 2 NYSS homebreds
John Grasso credits divine intervention for his presence at the racetrack these days. The longtime owner and trainer was ready to call it a career after his wife, Janine, passed away on Christmas Eve last year. The two had been high school sweethearts and spent 48 years of life together. Before her passing, Grasso recalls telling Janine that he thought he had a couple of good horses that would be ready to race in 2019. By the time January arrived, Grasso wasn’t sure his heart was in racing anymore. more

Illinois horse racing appears poised to receive a huge boost with the passage of Senate Bill 690 on Sunday by the Illinois Senate. The bill passed the House 87-27 on Saturday. The bill now moves to the desk of Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who has stated he will sign the legislation. The bill also calls for a new track with gaming, but ONLY for harness racing. more

Tickets now on sale for Breeders Crown

Services announced for Jerry Knappenberger
Jerry Lee Knappenberger, 76, a longtime general manager of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association and former second trainer for the Terry Holton stable, died June 3, 2019, at the Inn at Chapel Grove in Heath, Ohio. more

Gingras had “a blast” at World Driving Championship
After a second-place finish in last week’s World Driving Championship, U.S. representative Yannick Gingras was left to wonder “what if.” But there was no doubt in his mind about the competition, held at five racetracks across Sweden, and the opportunity to participate. more

Grasso following 2 NYSS homebreds
John Grasso credits divine intervention for his presence at the racetrack these days. The longtime owner and trainer was ready to call it a career after his wife, Janine, passed away on Christmas Eve last year. The two had been high school sweethearts and spent 48 years of life together. Before her passing, Grasso recalls telling Janine that he thought he had a couple of good horses that would be ready to race in 2019. By the time January arrived, Grasso wasn’t sure his heart was in racing anymore. more
Leading Money-Winning Sires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Foals</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOMEBEACHESOMEWHERE</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>$1,210,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPTAINREACHEROUS</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1,070,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETTOR'S DELIGHT</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1,016,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEET LOU</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>820,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN IDEAL</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>803,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTSWRITE</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>701,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART MAJOR</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>583,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETTERTHANCHEDDAR</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>489,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WELL SAID</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>463,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCKIN IMAGE</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>447,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET ROCK</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>399,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNSHINE BEACH</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>382,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A ROCKNROLL DANCE</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>377,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAGON AGAIN</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>371,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN IDEAL</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>341,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHADOW PLAY</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>333,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIG JIM</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>324,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELLITLIKEITIS</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>323,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCARDEL</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>322,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALWAYS A VIRGIN</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>296,448</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Fame (6ph)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$448,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shartin N (6pm)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>359,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodeo Rock (6pg)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>289,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideal Jimmy (6pg)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>224,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettor’s Wish (5pm)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>208,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wall (5pg)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>196,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Bottom Jeans (6pm)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>187,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettor's Wish (3pm)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More The Better N (6ph)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>153,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swansea (4tg)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>148,345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim Tetrick</td>
<td>1,348</td>
<td>316-238-154</td>
<td>.371</td>
<td>$4,571,122 ($287,409)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>183-184-150</td>
<td>.324</td>
<td>3,700,190 (83,794)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brennan</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>167-144-115</td>
<td>.314</td>
<td>3,170,487 (45,937)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Stratton</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>149-134-156</td>
<td>.282</td>
<td>3,078,556 (19,407)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>1,801</td>
<td>391-286-231</td>
<td>.348</td>
<td>2,905,295 (188,239)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Kakaely</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>132-139-155</td>
<td>.264</td>
<td>2,859,331 (130,018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexter Dunn</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>189-146-134</td>
<td>.271</td>
<td>2,786,259 (160,905)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>185-134-125</td>
<td>.322</td>
<td>2,598,500 (55,903)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Page</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>222-171-159</td>
<td>.295</td>
<td>2,504,160 (121,050)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey Callahan</td>
<td>1,287</td>
<td>148-175-184</td>
<td>.238</td>
<td>2,325,407 (162,727)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sts.</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>1,657</td>
<td>381-254-205</td>
<td>.356</td>
<td>$5,485,140 ($287,156)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rene Allard</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>141-109-80</td>
<td>.325</td>
<td>2,443,983 (32,145)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Surick</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>176-137-97</td>
<td>.349</td>
<td>1,640,443 (120,191)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Di Domenico</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>111-80-73</td>
<td>.325</td>
<td>1,619,000 (22,525)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>123-116-105</td>
<td>.298</td>
<td>1,386,870 (61,797)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim King Jr.</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>62-33-32</td>
<td>.386</td>
<td>1,283,976 (43,885)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Banca</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>54-61-54</td>
<td>.269</td>
<td>1,222,525 (1,320)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>76-95-95</td>
<td>.235</td>
<td>1,170,720 (48,445)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Harris</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>60-47-37</td>
<td>.348</td>
<td>1,059,462 (56,134)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>