Mulinix Has Longshot Starter In Meadowlands Pace Elim

It’s been eight years since Jim Mulinix won the 2012 Meadowlands Pace with A Rocknroll Dance, and the Ohio-based trainer admits it’s a long shot that he can capture this year’s renewal with Mocha On The Rocks.

A son of A Rocknroll Dance, the lightly-raced Mocha On The Rocks, who is listed at morning-line odds of 20-1 in Saturday night’s single elimination of the Meadowlands Pace at the Meadowlands, needs to finish in the top eight to advance to the $631,650 final on July 18.

The top eight will join Chief Mate and Allywag Hanover, whose trainers accepted byes directly into the final. Chief Mate is one of four Tony Alagna-trained entries in the elim, joining Captain Barbossa, Captain Kirk and Capt Midnight. Allywag Hanover is trained by Brett Pelling, who will be sending out Papi Rob Hanover in the elim.

Starting from post 3 is the morning-line favorite, the reigning Dan Patch divisional champ Tall Dark Stranger, who comes into the race off a career-best 1:47.4 score against older horses in his season debut on June 27. Second-choice Papi Rob Hanover, who finished a late-closing second in his 2020 debut on July 4 after starting from post 10, is again saddled with the outside post.

Mulinix’s Mocha On The Rocks, who will be driven by Scott Zeron, will start from post 7.

“‘This might be my last shot to play with the big boys, so we’ll see what happens.’”

—Jim Mulinix

Mocha On The Rocks is making his sophomore debut after a trio of qualifying efforts. In the most recent qualifier on June 17 at Hoosier Park, Mocha On The Rocks was sent to the front out of the gate by driver Brandon Bates. Mocha On The Rocks left fast and set swift fractions of :26.4, :56.1 and 1:23.3. Although he had enough left in the tank to pace a final quarter of :26.4, he had to settle for third, race-timed in 1:52.3.

Continues on page 2
“I told Brandon to test the horse a little,” explained Mulinix of the change to the front-end strategy. “Don’t beat him up but test him out of the gate. He went out of there in :26 and a piece and got home in :26 and a piece.”

Mulinix said the third qualifier came about only because he was unable to find a spot for the pacer to race following a June 3 qualifier.

“I put him in five or six times in Indiana and Ohio and they never used him,” said Mulinix who, along with his wife Ellen, brought Mocha On The Rocks to Magical Acres in New Jersey on Thursday. “He’s Pennsylvania-bred so the Indiana-bred and Ohio-bred horses got preference. We put him in every week at Hoosier Park and Scioto Downs and he never got in.”

Mulinix said he also had the option of racing Mocha On The Rocks on Friday in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at Harrah’s Philadelphia, but opted for the Pace elims. He believes the horse is ready to go.

“I’m old-fashioned; I still train them to get ready to race. I don’t race them to get them ready to race,” he said. “When I take them to the races, they are pretty well ready. He’s such a good-mannered little guy. He’s perfect on the gate. He sits in a hole good. But he’s not big and he’s no monster, but we’ll see if we can be competitive. This might be my last shot to play with the big boys, so we’ll see what happens.” — By Gordon Waterstone

**FREE Program Pages**

**This Weekend’s Featured Races**

All times listed are local.

**Friday, July 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Trackmaster PPs</th>
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<tr>
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<td>PASS 3CP div.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Phil10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45p</td>
<td>M5</td>
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Click here to download all Friday PPs

**Saturday, July 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>7:42p</td>
<td>M2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45p</td>
<td>M5</td>
<td>Reynolds 3FT</td>
<td>Trackmaster PPs</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:28p</td>
<td>M7</td>
<td>Reynolds 3CT div.</td>
<td>Trackmaster PPs</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:50p</td>
<td>M8</td>
<td>Meadowlands Pace elim</td>
<td>Trackmaster PPs</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:12p</td>
<td>M9</td>
<td>Graduate 4YOP final</td>
<td>Trackmaster PPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:33p</td>
<td>M10</td>
<td>Graduate 4YOT final</td>
<td>Trackmaster PPs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click here to download all Saturday PPs

Visit [www.trackmaster.com](http://www.trackmaster.com) and subscribe to download full cards from your favorite tracks!
MAJOR BETTS (post 1)  
**DRIVER DEXTER DUNN**— “It was a hard decision to make and I went with Major Betts (over Captain Kirk). (Major Betts) is much more relaxed this year than last year. He’s really fast out of the gate so we can punch him out of there pretty hard.”

**TRAINER MARK HARDER**— “I could have taken the bye. He was so good at Tioga (a 1:49.4 win on June 28 in a New York Sires Stakes) we decided to miss the next week so we had to race this week. If I had thought about it, I could have put him in the New York Sires Stakes at Vernon on Thursday and if there were eliminations I could have scratched him out of there. Dexter (Dunn) has driven the colt from day one and he’s liked him from day one.”

CAPTAIN BARBOSSA (post 2)  
**TRAINER TONY ALAGNA**— “The horse has been racing tremendous. As good as he was the other day (finishing second by a half-length in 1:48 with last quarter of :25.3 after starting from post 10), he could be a player in the race.”

TALL DARK STRANGER (post 3)  
**DRIVER YANNICK GINGRAS**— “He couldn’t be any better. He was really relaxed and I could do anything I wanted in the race with him. Obviously, everybody saw how much pace he had and how loaded he was (in a 1:47.4 win on June 27). He exploded home from a tough spot. I think he’s ready. The post doesn’t hurt, that’s for sure. I hope to get away somewhere in the middle or toward the inside, for sure. We avoided an outside post and I will try to take advantage of that.”

MANTICORE (post 4)  
**DRIVER JORDAN STRATTON**— “I’ve got no complaints with him. We sat on Allywag Hanover’s back two weeks ago and finished second to him, he kind of outpaced us a little bit. There are a lot of good horses in there, but they are racing for a reason.”

CAPTAIN KIRK (post 5)  
**TRAINER TONY ALAGNA**— “He’s coming in off a big qualifier (a six-length winner in 1:49.3, last quarter :26.1) and the week before he raced huge. I wanted to get another start in him but the race didn’t fill so we were forced to qualify him. It was a great tightener for him.”

ROLL WITH JR (post 6)  
**TRAINER JEFF CULLIPHER**— “I hope he can put his big-boy pants on. He kind of grew into himself over the winter; he’s developed and is kind of a nice-sized colt. He’s still the kind of colt that’s only going to do what he’s made to do. I know I don’t have a (1):48 mile in him yet, I don’t even know if he could do it. I’d like to think he could step it up with the better horses.”

CATCH THE FIRE (post 8)  
**DRIVER MIKE WILDER**— “He raced good last week and I was very happy with him. He never quit pacing to the wire and came home in :26.2. He went 1:48.1 and that was a big jump from (1):52.1. I look for him to be a little better this week, wherever that takes him, I don’t know. But I look for him to be sharper. I look for good things, it depends what kind of journey works out. I look for him to be very competitive. He got the eight hole and there are a lot of good colts in there. The main idea is to definitely get him into the big dance. You have to be top eight, but obviously I don’t want to be eighth.”

CAPT MIDNIGHT (post 9)  
**DRIVER ANDY MCCARTHY**— “He was terrific in his last start (a 1:49.4 win at the Meadowlands with a last quarter of :25.4). He probably didn’t qualify as good as I thought the horse was, but he definitely showed me that he is back to his best form. Full credit to Tony (Alagna), he got him ready for the race. Bad draw and I don’t want to kill him in the elimination, but I definitely think with the form off Saturday night he will be able to mix things up in the final.”

PAPI ROB HANOVER (post 10)  
**DRIVER DAVID MILLER**— “We need to advance but winning the Meadowlands Pace final is the goal. He’s so versatile and easy to drive. The horse is way bigger and thicker this year. He’s a strong horse. Last week my cover didn’t take me anywhere and we came home in :25.1.” (Last week in his first start of the season, Papi Rob started from post 10 and finished second to Capt Midnight, beaten one-half length in 1:49.3.)

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**$50,000 MEADOWLANDS PACE ELIM.**

Meadowlands, Saturday, July 11, Race 8, Post Time: 9:50 pm  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PP</th>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Major Betts</td>
<td>D. Dunn/M. Harder</td>
<td>9-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Captain Barbossa</td>
<td>B. Sears/T. Alagna</td>
<td>8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tall Dark Stranger</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/N. Takter</td>
<td>3-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Manticore</td>
<td>J. Stratton/B. Saunders</td>
<td>15-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Captain Kirk</td>
<td>J. Bongiorno/T. Alagna</td>
<td>10-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Roll With JR</td>
<td>T. Tetrick/J. Cullipher</td>
<td>10-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mocha On The Rocks</td>
<td>S. Zeron/J. Mullinix</td>
<td>20-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Catch The Fire</td>
<td>M. Wilder/J. Ackley</td>
<td>15-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Capt Midnight</td>
<td>A. McCarthy/T. Alagna</td>
<td>5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Papi Rob Hanover</td>
<td>D. Miller/B. Pelling</td>
<td>7-2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Chief Mates and Allywag Hanover accepted byes to final  
Top eight finishers in elim advance to $631,250 final on July 18
SATURDAY, JULY 18

$50,000 G
Pick 5
RACES 1-5

$100,000 G
Early Pick 4
RACES 6-9

Pick 6
RACES 8-13

Late Pick 4
RACES 10-13

Jackpot Super
High 5
MANDATORY
PAYOUT RACE 11

STAKES FILLED CARD INCLUDING:
Meadowlands Pace Final
Stanley Dancer for 3YO Trotters
Del Miller Memorial for 3YO Filly Trotters
William Haughton Memorial
$400,000 Hambletonian Maturity
$40,000 Miss Versatility
Dorothy Haughton Memorial
(formerly Golden Girls)
Mistletoe Shalee

POST TIME 6:30 PM

meadowlandspace.com | #Pace20 18+ to wager; 21+ to sports wager. Gambling problem? 1-800-Gambler.
Tetrick’s Take On Graduate Pace: “At Least Seven Horses That Could Win”

How much do you think will be wagered on the $250,000 Graduate Pace Final for 4 year olds at the Meadowlands on Saturday night? Driver Tim Tetrick thinks at least seven horses could win the race, which should make it one of the most attractive betting races on the card.

“Bettor’s Wish is the best horse, but he drew post 10; I could make a case for at least seven horses that could win,” said Tetrick. “But I’ve got so much respect for Bettor’s Wish because he’s so handy that it’s tough for him to get in a bad spot. He also doesn’t seem to mind being parked the mile.”

Tetrick will have a shot at winning the Graduate with Workin Ona Mystery, who will start from post 3. The horse had a hard-luck 3-year-old season plagued by health issues, but he has raced super in his last two starts this year, winning a Graduate leg at Tioga in 1:50 and then finishing second to Bettor’s Wish in last week’s final Graduate leg at the Meadowlands.

“Right now, we’re in pretty good shape,” Brian Brown, who trains Workin Ona Mystery, told Ken Weingartner of the U.S. Trotting Association. “He seems pretty healthy, very alert. He seems full of himself. Every day, he’s out there playing and jumping around. I think he’s coming into the race pretty good, a lot better than a lot of times last year. He has thickened up quite a bit, so he’s got more strength to him.”

Workin Ona Mystery has won 10 of 20 career races and $469,641. The son of Captaintreacherous-Dragon’s Tale is owned by Diamond Creek Racing, Stambaugh Leeman Stable, Alan Keith, and Wingfield Brothers. Last year he finished third in the Meadowlands Pace and third in the Pepsi North America Cup, but missed other big races such as the Adios and Breeders Crown.

Tetrick had two options for drives in the Graduate final—Workin Ona Mystery or Billack Hole, who he drove to an impressive 1:48 victory in a Graduate leg last Saturday.

“I was super impressed with Billack Hole,” said Tetrick. “If he had drawn inside instead of the other horse, I would have taken him.”

Tetrick offered the following observation about what he expects in the Graduate.

“Last week at the Meadowlands the track played pretty fair, you could come from behind, but usually the first quarter means a lot,” he noted. “You can be a victim of the trip pretty easy.” — By Kathy Parker

Brittany Farms To Offer Virtual Inspections

With the travel uncertainties caused by the worldwide covid-19 pandemic this year, Brittany Farms has announced that it will offer complete, virtual inspections of its yearlings via its website this fall.

The farm stated the online inspections are meant to be used as an evaluation tool for all, and especially as a means for looking at yearlings by those unable to travel. But it stressed that the usual in-person inspections at the farm by owners, trainers or their representatives would be welcomed, as always.

“With the situation involving covid-19 restrictions being so fluid, we’re making an extra effort to offer buyers a complete online inspection of the yearlings,” said farm manager Art Zubrod. “But I hope they can avail themselves to visiting the farm this summer or fall, as nothing beats a personal inspection.

“Every state has restrictions that seem to change on a daily basis, and foreign travel is also a big question mark at this point in time,” Zubrod said. “With that being the case, maybe an online inspection is the only option for some people...so we’ll be offering that the very best we can.”

The roster and pedigrees of the Brittany Farms yearlings selling at the Lexington Selected Sale this October are now available on its website, britfarms.com.

In addition to traditional high-definition yearling action videos, the farm will post “walking videos” that will include conformation close-ups at several different angles for each horse. All of the videos, produced by Larry Cohen, will be available in early fall.

The consignment of 20 yearlings from the 2019 “Breeder of the Year” features four from the highly-anticipated first crop of Chapter Seven’s great son Walner—a world champion, Breeders Crown champion and Dan Patch champion as a 2 year old.

Also selling are six outstanding first foals, plus siblings or close relatives to such standouts as American Jewel, Bettor’s Wish, Wolfgang, Captain Ahab, Ontopofthehill (Muscle Hill full brother), Starita and Special Honor.

“We’ve proven year-in and year-out that champions are bred here and that our ‘new’ farm is absolutely ideal for raising great racehorses,” Zubrod said. “You’ll see that continue with our fall sale yearlings.” (Brittany Farms)
Gimpanzee Will Try For Graduate Series Sweep

Gimpanzee was in the shadow of stablemate Greenshoe much of last season, with the latter being named the sport's best 3-year-old male trotter as well as Trotter of the Year, but is basking in the spotlight now as he aims for a win in Saturday's $250,000 Graduate Series final for 4-year-old trotters.

A 4-year-old stallion, Gimpanzee heads to his Graduate test off victories in the two preliminary rounds of the series. He won his first start in gate-to-wire fashion by 1 1/4 lengths in 1:51.2 at Tioga Downs. Two weeks later, on June 27, he rallied from sixth at three-quarters to win by a half-length in 1:50.2 at the Meadowlands. That time is tied for fourth fastest of the season by a trotter.

For his career, Gimpanzee has won 19 of 25 races and earned $1.77 million.

“He was a great horse last year and he’s filled out and put on a lot more muscle this year. You can really see that he's a year older.”

–Marcus Melander about Gimpanzee

Gimpanzee, owned by Courant Inc. and SRF Stable, was undefeated in nine races at age 2 and received the Dan Patch Award for best 2-year-old male trotter. Last year, he won eight of 14 races and earned $1.12 million but saw Dan Patch honors go to now-retired Greenshoe. Gimpanzee's Grand Circuit victories in 2019 included the Breeders Crown (he also won the event in 2018), Yonkers Trot, and Matron Stakes.

“At three, everyone was talking about Greenshoe because he was so extremely fast,” Melander said. “Gimpanzee didn’t have the speed or acceleration that Greenshoe had, but he still showed a lot of speed. It was just Greenshoe was so much faster than all the other horses. There are not too many like Greenshoe.”

Not too many like Gimpanzee, either.

“He’s the nicest horse to train,” Melander said. “At home, he’s perfect. He does exactly what I want him to do. He’s just the horse you’re looking for. If everyone was like him it would be very easy.”

Following the Graduate, Gimpanzee will have one more opportunity to face trotters in his age group when the Hambletonian Maturity is contested July 18 at the Meadowlands. Then, it will be into open stakes action, where the likes of Atlanta, Manchego, and Guardian Angel As await.

“Obviously, Atlanta and Manchego and those horses are really, really good,” Melander said, “but I have a pretty good horse too.”

Gimpanzee is one of three Graduate finalists for Melander, joined by mare Grand Swan and gelding Reign Of Honor. Grand Swan, who arrived in Melander’s stable in mid-April after two successful seasons in Indiana, won her opening race in the Graduate and finished sixth in her second, which was won by Gimpanzee.

“She’s nice,” Melander said. “I was very happy with her (in her first start) at Tioga, she was very good. I was maybe a little disappointed last time, but it was a fast race. She’s never been that fast, really. I think it was good for her to open up a bit and I expect her to be better Saturday.

“She really likes the training. When you train her, you can see she works with her whole body. She’s a very big horse but she has a good gait and could go around any size track. I think she will get better and better.”

Reign Of Honor, another newcomer to the Melander stable, started this year with a victory in a conditioned race and finished third in each of his Graduate races.

“We had all winter training with him and we were super happy with him,” Melander said. “He’s a little like Gimpanzee; he’s very easy on himself out on the track, not grabby. He’s got a lot of speed too. I’ve been very happy with his performances and I think he will step up with more races and when he gets older. I think he will go with the open horses in the highest division. He feels like that kind of horse.”

Other finalists in the Graduate include Southwind Avenger, who made his only preliminary-round start a winner on June 27, and Chin Chin Hall, who finished second to Gimpanzee in his two prelims and was fifth in the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial last week.—(Ken Weingartner)
NY-BREDS START STRONG WITH EMPIRE BREEDERS CLASSIC VICTORIES

HOBBYS
$97,750
3-YEAR OLD COLT TROT
CREDIT WINNER: CRUella DE VILLE
OWNER: RUNTHETABLE STABLES
BREEDER: RUNTHETABLE STABLES

THIRD SHIFT
$97,750
3-YEAR OLD COLT TROT
CHAPTER SEVEN-OVERNIGHT COMMAND
OWNER: MELBY GARD INC & AKE SVANSTEDT
BREEDER: WIBAK FARM

HYPNOTIC AM
$207,250
3-YEAR OLD FILLY TROT
CHAPTER SEVEN-DAYDREAM AM S
OWNER: COURANT INC
BREEDER: COURANT A B

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Faraldo: “When Will This Stop?”

If Rene Allard’s mom owned her own horses for years, she should be allowed to race her horses if her only involvement in any of the allegations against Rene, is her being Rene’s mom. A similar argument could be made for Simon Allard, i.e. that guilt, by association, is similarly wrong. As far as the new trainers, they are free to choose who they train for and guilt by association should not be the standard by which the industry further tarnishes otherwise innocent trainers who are not acting as beards.

The presumption that relatives are as guilty as those charged, whose guilt is not yet proven is a favorite pastime of our industry and is why the industry suffers in the eyes of the outside world, because it comes from inside.

The justice system is competent in ferreting out the guilty from the innocent and those who are guilty should and must be penalized. Those who are complicit with anyone directly involved in breaking regulations whether they rise to the level of crimes or not, including other trainers, bearers, grooms and even owners, should be punished. Penalizing any of the owners, a trainer or a myriad of others who would aid criminal activity should have some modicum of proof, not be applied by mere association.

As far as Yonkers, the HRU ( Harness Racing Update) headline was disgraceful in and of itself but endemic of the mob mentality that is prevalent in this business. Yonkers rightfully accepted her entry and that was appropriate until the firestorm created by Harness Racing Update article. At that point Yonkers then succumbed to the mob mentality giving the impression that the entry was accepted incorrectly and then decided to follow up by sacrificing up this owner to satiate the presumably false narrative that was promulgated by HRU.

It was interesting to hear a new version for the Yonkers action and that was that Rene’s mom made a lot of money from the prior relationship with her son. One has to wonder if all the owners, some of the biggest to the smallest in the game, should be barred by some or all the tracks in the country or at their own tracks who used any specific trainer or driver who subsequently violates any rule. The question is which trainer with a valid license may be the next to get accused of some wrongdoing or trouble. Some very good owners have quit the business because some tracks have taken this just a bit too far, Yonkers included. You can’t make this up.

Think of the hypocrisy inherent in this mob mentality. So many others who had horses with those indicted or those charged in an information are allowed to still race their horses even though they may have indirectly profited from trainer activities which are alleged to be criminal in nature, but whose activities were unknown to them. Where is the outcry for similar punishment to that meted out to this one owner and driver or is that too logical for the industry to ask? Or is it simply that the industry does not wish to apply the same rationale to others it gives a pass too?

It is because all of this, that this current industry sanctioned approach is wrong and hypocritical for so many reasons. Many presumed guilty owners have sold their horses because they are now wearing their “scarlet letter” and have quit the game altogether.

Every, let it be repeated that every successful trainer starting in my memory with George “Buddy” Regan is suspect of wrongdoing by this wrongheaded mentality. George was so disheartened he basically quit the game. Let’s acknowledge then that every successful trainer and all their owners in our game are guilty regardless of the necessity of proof. We all know better than to need proof and we can all just keep demeaning the game instead of better policing it.

When speculation becomes the substitute for proof, and rumor mongering and innuendo become the basis for action, driven mainly from within the game, the game is shooting itself in the foot. The failure to make more serious efforts to regulate the sport by those vested with such responsibility has in part led us to precipice. Hopefully, an independent, repeat independent and hard-working organization like Dr. Jablonsky has recommended, and USTA President Russell Williams and the USTA Executive Committee, has embraced will do its work successfully and the industry will enjoy a reawakening.

Joe Faraldo
Chairman, U.S. Trotting Association
President, Standardbred Owners Association of New York
USTA Announces New Racing Investigative Fund

As part of the initiative that commenced with Hanover Shoe Farms’ Executive Vice President Bridgette Jablonsky’s announcement in April of a $250,000 matching fund grant to promote integrity in harness racing, on Monday (July 6), U.S. Trotting Association President Russell Williams announced the establishment of the Standardbred Racing Investigative Fund (SRIF).

The SRIF will exist as a division of the USTA but with independent, third-party oversight.

“After announcing the $250,000 challenge grant, we heard from several industry stakeholders who were concerned about industry participants having the ability to exert influence on or make decisions regarding investigations into possible regulatory or criminal abuses,” said Williams, who is president and CEO of Hanover Shoe Farms.

“These concerns are valid, so we have worked diligently with a leading Pennsylvania law firm to design a structure that would remove funding and investigative decision-making from the USTA and allow for total confidentiality. This difficult task has taken time, but it is almost complete,” added Williams.

The plan for the SRIF will be presented at an upcoming USTA Board of Directors Executive Committee meeting to be held within the next few weeks in order to gain Board approval.

If approved, complete details including who will serve on the SRIF Oversight Board, the way that money from donations will be allocated, how investigations will be conducted, and details of the plan for cooperative efforts with state racing commissions and local, state and federal authorities will be announced.

To read Dr. Jablonsky’s original announcement of the $250,000 matching funds grant from Hanover Shoe Farms, click here. (USTA)
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FRIDAY, JULY 10

Stakes action gets underway early in the day with Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) 3-year-old pacing colts at Harrah's Philadelphia. There are four divisions—Races 7, 8, 10 and 11—each carrying a purse of $39,432. The field in Race 8 includes ALLYWAG HANOVER, whose connections accepted a bye for the Meadowlands Pace so they could race in the PASS. Tim Tetrick has picked up the drive. CHIEF MATE, another Meadowlands Pace entry who was able to take a bye (bys were based on 2020 earnings), starts in Race 10 with George Napolitano Jr. scheduled to drive. Also of note, in Race 12, is the two-for-two CAPTAIN GROOVY.

On Friday night at Northfield Park, 3-year-old filly trotters will be in two Ohio Sires Stakes divisions. Race 2 (post time 6:20 p.m.) features the two-for-two GUINEVERE HALL, with Peter Wrenn up, starting from post 1. The second division appears to be a stage for a battle between UNCLE PETERS LOVE (post 1, Brett Miller) and KIKIMORA (post 7, Aaron Merriman).

Trotters will be showcased at the Meadowlands Friday night with New Jersey Sires Stakes for 2-year-old trotters and a leg of the Miss Versatility. Among the juvenile trotters (both colts and fillies) set to compete are MEDIA MOGUL (Race 3), a son of Muscle Hill and Kathy Parker. In an overnight (Race 9), the $600,000 yearling filly INEFFABLE (Cantab Hall-Jolene Jolene) will start from post 9. In addition, world champion ATLANTA heads the field in the Miss Versatility (Race 5) and 2019 Hambletonian winner FORBID-DENTRADE makes his 2020 Meadowlands debut in Race 10.

A pair of New Jersey Sires Stakes for pacers will be contested prior to the start of the pari-mutuel card. There's a walkover in the $20,000 event for filly pacers as only ANNA JEANS will go behind the gate. Only NEYREIT and FIKA TIME will vie in the race for male pacers.

At Mohawk Friday night, four divisions were needed for the Ontario Sires Stakes Grassroots division for 2-year-old filly pacers (Races 4, 6, 9 and 10).

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Baby races and qualifiers at the Meadowlands, which were moved to Saturday due to expected poor weather on Friday, get underway at 8:30 a.m. In Race 6, for 2-year-old trotters, the $1.1-million yearling purchase MAVERICK makes his second career start. Maverick, who starts from post 1 with Andy McCarthy driving for trainer Tony Alagna, finished third in his first baby-race test on June 29. Alagna said afterward the colt trotter suffered from “severe dehydration” afterward.

The four qualifiers and nine baby races Saturday morning at the Big M can be seen at www.playmeadowlands.com.

Stakes action takes place during the afternoon at The Meadows and Mohegan Sun Pocono. At The Meadows (first post 12:45 p.m.), 2- and 3-year-old filly pacers compete in PASS and Stallion Series divisions. LYONS SENTINEL, the 2019 Dan Patch 2-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year, makes her season debut in Race 6.

At Pocono, Hambletonian eligibles will try to step up their games in the PA All Stars (Races 6, 8 and 10). The Race 8 field (post time 2:15 p.m.) includes Breeders Crown champion AMIGO VOLO, who will be driven by George Napolitano Jr. Ohio Sires Stakes comprise almost the entire card at Scioto Downs on Saturday night (2-year-old colt and filly pacers and 3-year-old colt trotters). There are four divisions for freshman colt pacers and freshman filly pacers. First post at Scioto is 6:30 p.m., with 2-year-old colt pacers kicking off the card.

In addition to the elimination for its signature race, the Meadowlands Pace, the Saturday night card at the Meadowlands features Hambletonian and Oaks eligible in divisions of the Reynolds Memorial. Among the notables to watch are EL IDEAL (Race 2) and 2019 Breeders Crown 2-year-old filly trotting champ RAMONA HILL (Race 5, post 9). In Race 6, AMERICAN HISTORY, last year’s Breeders Crown Older Horse Pace winner, competes in the $20,000 Open, against a tough field that includes SINTRA (second last week to Open winner Geez Joe), BACKSTREET SHADOW (winner of the Roll With Joe), and GEEZ JOE, who comes into the race off his 1:48.2 win over Sintra.
Former World Champion Sierra Kosmos Dies At 31

Sierra Kosmos, one of the fastest trotters of the 1990s, died July 3 at the farm of Rick and Gina Beinhauer in Pennsylvania, his owners since the horse was a yearling.

Sierra Kosmos took a 1:53.4 mark at The Red Mile in 1992 with Rick Beinhauer in the bike, shortly after setting a 1:56.3 world record over the half-mile at Delaware in winning the Old Oaken Bucket.

The son of Nearly Perfect went to stud at Hanover Shoe Farms and sired the Breeders Crown winner and Hambletonian Oaks runner-up No Nonsense Woman 3,1:54 ($1,261,909) in his first crop. From his second crop came another top filly in Fern 4,1:52.3 ($1,245,502), who won the 1998 Hambletonian Oaks.

He was pensioned after breeding mares in 2014 and became virtually a member of the Beinhauer family.

A striking brown colt with a star, strip, and four white ankles, Sierra Kosmos was purchased by Rick Beinhauer and developed by his friend Dan Altmeyer. Beinhauer was an avid amateur driver and he handled the reins during the colt’s career.

Rick and his wife Regina, along with Rick’s father Fritz and his wife Dotty, traveled the Grand Circuit with Sierra Kosmos, with Fritz also sharing ownership of the horse. Given the nickname of Sierra, the horse became a beloved part of the Beinhauer family and perhaps appropriately passed away on Fritz’ birthday.

As a freshman in 1991, Sierra Kosmos won eight of 14 starts and took a mark of 1:56.4 at Indianapolis winning the Hoosier Futurity. He banked $117,460 as a 2 year old.

Although he was not kept eligible to the Hambletonian, Sierra Kosmos beat the Hambletonian hopefuls one week before the big race in the $454,500 Beacon Course Trot at the Meadowlands. His time was 1:54.4.

Hall of Fame horseman Howard Beissinger raced against Sierra Kosmos that season and said that he was “the fastest trotter in North America.”

In the Old Oaken Bucket at Delaware in 1992, Sierra Kosmos triumphed by a huge margin and his clocking of 1:56.3 was the fastest sophomore race trotting mile ever on a half-mile track.

From there the colt went to Lexington and won in 1:53.4 against the best Grand Circuit sophomores.

Sierra Kosmos was an attractive stallion prospect because his pedigree combined the blood of Florican and Victory Song, making him a perfect outcross for the flood of mares by Speedy Crown and Super Bowl then in the breeding ranks. He went to stud at Hanover and served 1,147 mares in his first seven seasons there.

Among his many top trotters, in addition to No Nonsense Woman and Fern, were Springtop, Kick Tail, Donnegal, Bettis, Silver Pine and Kosmo Girl. He sired the dams of the millionaire trotters Lucky Jim, Calchips Brute, and Anders Bluestone.--By Dean Hoffman

Cam’s Rocket, Sire Of Googoo Gaagaa, Dies

Cam’s Rocket, a pacer who sired the blazing-fast trotter Googoo Gaagaa, has died in Maryland at age 24. He was owned by Maryland breeders Tom Cooke and Roger Hans.

Bred by Dunroven Stud in Kentucky, Cam’s Rocket was pacing bred but had trotting blood far back in his family that surprisingly carried forward into the 21st century. In 2012, Cam’s Rocket’s son Googoo Gaagaa won the Colonial Trot in a stakes record 1:52.1.

Although a son of Cam’s Card Shark out of a Meadow Skipper mare, Cam’s Rocket’s trotting blood came from Steady Star on his sire line and via Bye Bye Byrd (by Popular Byrd, by Volomite) on his dam’s side. In addition, Cam’s Rocket carried a 4x5x3 cross to Meadow Skipper and four doses of the blood of Countess Vivian, the dam of the great Meadow Skipper.

Cam’s Rocket sired 110 foals, with his 76 starters earning $5,920,660, with his offspring winning Maryland stakes for both trotters and pacers. His fastest and richest pacing winner was Mr Ham Sandwich p,4, 1:50.1f.

Cam’s Rocket’s prowess in siring highly successful trotters and pacers is unusual for the Standardbred breed.

Norman Woolworth, who bred horses as the owner of Stoner Creek Stud and also under his own Clearview Stables banner, tried mixing trotting and pacing blood and got Zoot Suit, a top trotter by Nevele Pride out of Glad Rags, a daughter by the pacer Greentree Adios, as well as French Chef, a son of Meadow Skipper out of La Pomme Souffle, a daughter of Nevele Pride. In more recent times, Nihilator sired the double-gaited Six Day War, who took a mark of 1:54.2 on the pace and 1:56.4h on the trot.
Fireworks for Fourth of July handle at Big M
After nearby storms ended a long Meadowlands’ handle streak, wagering surged past the $3-million mark the very next night. more

Plainridge Park to kick off delayed meet on 7/13
After a three-month delay due to the covid-19 pandemic, Plainridge Park will kick off its 2020 live harness racing season on Monday, July 13 with a 4 p.m. post time for the first race. more

Scarborough Downs shuts down racing due to covid-19
In the midst of the 70th season of racing at Scarborough Downs, the summer harness racing meet will be suspended following the card on Friday, due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, which currently do not allow the track to entertain patrons. more

Golden Girls OMP renamed Dorothy Haughton Memorial
The Meadowlands is pleased to announce that the Golden Girls stake for older pacing mares has been retitled to memorialize Mrs. Dorothy Haughton, widow of the late W.R. Haughton. more

Antonacci, Reid’s Fauci wins $70K race at Keeneland
The 2-year-old Thoroughbred Fauci, owned by the Frank Antonacci family’s Lindy Farms and David Reid’s Ice Wine Stable, won Thursday afternoon’s opening race at Keeneland Racetrack in Lexington, Ky. more

Bellefontaine, Ohio, fair races moved to Urbana
The two days of harness racing that were scheduled to be part of the Logan County Fair in Bellefontaine, Ohio, have been moved to the Champaign County Fairgrounds in Urbana, Ohio. The races were originally scheduled to take place July 13 and 14. They have been rescheduled for July 15 and 16. more

Shenandoah Downs opens Sept. 18 with no wagering
The fifth annual harness racing season at Shenandoah Downs will kick off Sept. 18 and continue through Oct. 17 with racing scheduled every Friday at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. Parking and admission are free and the races are family friendly. more

2020 Harness Hero trading cards now available
The Harness Horse Youth Foundation’s 2020 set of Harness Heroes trading cards is now available. The front of each card features a full-color photograph, while the back includes statistics and biographical information; both sides are laminated. more