Can Burke’s Quintet Topple Bettor’s Wish In Dan Patch?

Friday night’s card at Harrah’s Hoosier Park is highlighted by the $225,000 Dan Patch for older pacers. While he doesn’t have the morning-line choice—that role goes to the recent Sam McKee Memorial winner Bettor’s Wish—trainer Ron Burke will send out half of the 10-horse field.

This is the second time Burke has sent out a quintet in the Dan Patch since the race conditions changed in 2015 from an invitational event to the 10 highest lifetime earners. In 2015, one year after he captured the Dan Patch Invitational with Sweet Lou, Burke’s five horses finished second, third, fifth, sixth and eighth.

Burke sent out one Dan Patch starter in 2016 and then in 2017 he won with Check Six, one of three entries. The last two years he has sent out a pair of entries. With Burke’s father, Mickey, winning the 2005 and ’08 renewals respectively with Maltese Artist and Won The West, the barn is looking for a fifth title from this year’s fivesome.

Bettor’s Wish won the $229,600 McKee in 1:47.3, pushing the 4-year-old son of Bettor’s Delight’s career earnings past the $2-million mark. Dexter Dunn will drive the Chris Ryder trainee from post 3. The Burke-trained Backstreet Shadow, who finished second, just a neck behind Bettor’s Wish in the McKee, will line up in post 6 with driver Tim Tetrick.

While Bettor’s Wish is listed as the 2-1, Backstreet Shadow is second choice at 3-1. Burke’s other four starters—This Is The Plan, Dorsoduro Hanover, De Los Cielos Deo and Filibuster Hanover—are all listed at longshot odds of 15-1.

With $243,666 in earnings this year, Backstreet Shadow is the third-richest pacer in North America in 2020. A March 5 win at Dover Downs in 1:48.1 is his career best, while his 1:49 score in the $164,000 Roll With Joe on June 21 at Tioga Downs is his biggest.

In the recent McKee Memorial, Dorsoduro Hanover finished sixth and This Is The Plan, who started from the trailing 11 post, finished eighth.

“Backstreet Shadow was good, Dorsoduro was good, and not being on the gate was not ideal for This Is The Plan. Those three I’m looking at pretty aggressively,” said Burke.

Filibuster Hanover won the McKee consolation last Saturday in 1:49.1 at odds of 28-1, with De Los Cielos Deo ninth, beaten just 4 ½ lengths. Burke points to De Los Cielos’ 1:49.1 victory last November in the $225,000 Monument Circle in his only prior start at Hoosier Park as a promising omen.

“Those other two, I hope that if it gets wild they can get there,” he said. “De Los Cielos was really good the last time he raced there and Filibuster was really good last start. He seems to be rounding back into form.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Adios Champ Catch The Fire Aims For Milstein Memorial

With a win average of 15.6 percent (229 of 1,466 starters), post 1 is the most successful this year at MGM Northfield Park. Favorites have won at a high rate of 48.6 percent this year over Northfield's half-mile oval.

In Saturday night's $250,000 Carl Milstein Memorial for 3-year-old colt pacers, Catch The Fire, starting from post 1 and as the 2-1 morning-line selection and likely bettors’ choice, could be a tough combination to beat.

Catch The Fire comes into the Milstein off a 1:49.3 victory in the $375,000 Adios Pace over a “sloppy” track on Aug. 1 at The Meadows. The mile for the John Ackley-trained son of Captaintreacherous equaled his career best set the week prior in an Adios elim over a “fast” track.

Catch The Fire will be driven by Mike Wilder, who has never started in the race since the name changed in 2014 to honor Milstein, who owned Northfield Park from 1984 until his death in 1999, but he won a division of the Cleveland Classic back in 2002 with the 18-1 longshot Michael’s Western.

“Catch The Fire is making his 18th career start in the Milstein. It’s the first time he will ever start on a half-mile track, and the first time he’s lined up in post 1 since his second career start on July 6, 2019, when he finished second for Wilder in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at The Meadows.

“I say post 1 is good at that racetrack; the rail is a huge advantage and a great starting spot on a half-mile track,” said Wilder. “He trains on a half at the fairgrounds in Washington Court House, Ohio. We’ve never raced him on a half yet, but I would have to say he’ll handle it just fine.”

Wilder expects the early action to be fast and furious.

“My head will be forward at first trying to aim for that turn and the first time he’s lined up in post 1 since his second career start on July 6, 2019, when he finished second for Wilder in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at The Meadows.

“I say post 1 is good at that racetrack; the rail is a huge advantage and a great starting spot on a half-mile track,” said Wilder. “He trains on a half at the fairgrounds in Washington Court House, Ohio. We’ve never raced him on a half yet, but I would have to say he’ll handle it just fine.”

Wilder expects the early action to be fast and furious. “My head will be forward at first trying to aim for that turn because we’re going to be hustling out of there, but I’m sure I’ll look right and there’ll be a lot of heads out there,” he said. “I’d say there will be a ton of them springing out there to try and lobby for position.” — Mike Wilder

“There are tons of speed horses in there. I think Danny Noble’s horse, the eight horse (Ocean Rock), will take a big shot. I know he has the eight hole, which isn’t good on a half, but he’s not getting away last, I can tell you that. He’ll take a big shot.”

Trainer Ron Burke, who sends out reigning Ohio Sires Stakes champion Elver Hanover from post 3 with Chris Page driving, agrees with Wilder that Ocean Rock could be a big factor despite the outside post. Ocean Rock’s 1:48.4 win in an Ohio Sires Stakes on July 18 at Scioto Downs set a new track record, and last August he set a world record for 2-year-old geldings on a half-mile track when he won at Northfield in 1:51.1.

“To me, Ocean Rock is one-two the best colt in the country behind (Tall Dark Stranger), but he can go with him,” said Burke. “But the eight hole, that’s a big thing.”

As for Elver Hanover, the son of Yankee Cruiser has won once in four starts this year after a nine-for-nine season in 2019 that included a world-record 1:48.3 effort at The Red Mile.

Elver Hanover was first and second in his first two starts of the year in Ohio Sires Stakes at Northfield Park, and then after finishing third in the Adios elimination he was fifth by just a length in a blanket finish in the final behind Catch The Fire.

Burke said issues with bleeding are now in the past with Elver Hanover, who races on Lasix.

“I’m very happy and he drew a good spot,” said Burke. “It seems like we’ve got him all turned around.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Congratulations to the 2020 Hambletonian Winner

RAMONA HILL
2,1:52.2, 3,1:50.1 ($1,152,549)
Muscle Hill-Lock Down Lindy
Owned by Brad Grant, Crawford Farms Racing, Robert Leblanc, In The Gym Partners
Trained by Tony Alagna
Driven by Andrew McCarthy
Bred by Crawford Farms LLC

Fall Racing Kicks off Sept 5
Fridays & Saturdays 7:15 p.m.
Nov 7 - Kindergarten Finals
Nov 21 - TVG Finals and Fall Final Four
McCarthy Reflects On Hambletonian Triumph

The moments following Ramona Hill’s win in the Hambletonian were unlike any Andy McCarthy ever experienced as a driver.

“The feeling I got when I crossed the wire, I’ve never had that before, that amount of joy and emotion,” McCarthy said. “I don’t want to compare it to my kids being born, because that’s a completely different thing, but it was definitely emotional. Heading back to the winner’s circle, I’ve never felt anything like it in my life on the racetrack. Embracing the moment, just the feeling of joy, it’s unbelievable.”

McCarthy and Ramona Hill captured the 95th edition of the Hambletonian this past Saturday at the Meadowlands. The duo won the $1 million event by one length over Ready For Moni in a stakes-record-equaling 1:50.1 for trainer Tony Alagna and owners Brad Grant, Crawford Farms Racing, Robert LeBlanc, and InThe Gym Partners.

Ramona Hill, a daughter of Muscle Hill out of Lock Down Lindy bred by Crawford Farms, became the 15th filly to win harness racing’s top race for 3-year-old trotters.

The Hambletonian was McCarthy’s fifth win of the day on the stakes-filled Big M card. He won four of the afternoon’s first six races, including the Shady Daisy with Reflect With Me and the Jim Doherty Memorial with Darlene Hanover, and the fast start was beneficial.

“It’s good to get some good vibes going for the day,” McCarthy said. “Confidence has such a main role in how you drive, I think. When the ball’s rolling and things are going good, you feel like you can do nothing wrong. For me, anyway, confidence is definitely a major player in how I do.”

McCarthy’s biggest challenge was finding a way to enjoy the wins without getting too pumped up along the way.

“You want to celebrate, and you want to feel that emotion, but you also don’t want to carry that over to the next drive,” he said. “You want to stay focused and you’ve still got work to do. I like to be confident but calm at the same time. I don’t want to be carrying too much emotion with me, just really stay focused on the job at hand. There are a million things that can go wrong in a race and you have to be super focused and aware of these things.”

A native of Australia, the 34-year-old McCarthy has raced regularly in North America since 2007. He has seen his purse earnings increase annually since the start of 2013, reaching a career-best $7.67 million last year, when he ranked ninth among drivers in North America.

In 2019, McCarthy became the eighth driver in history to win at least four Breeders Crown finals in a year. He became the first to accomplish the feat without driving a favorite.

“Heading back to the winner’s circle, I’ve never felt anything like it in my life on the racetrack.”

–Andy McCarthy

Yearling Supplements for foals of 2019 are due August 15: they must be postmarked by August 18!

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Last year, he also made his first appearance in a Hambletonian final, finishing seventh with Pilot Discretion. This year with Ramona Hill, he was fourth after a quarter mile, moved to the front on the backstretch, and cruised to victory. Her time equaled the stakes mark set by her sire Muscle Hill in 2009.

“In my mind, I had the best horse in the race,” McCarthy said. “I just wanted to be safe through the first turn. Once I got through the first turn, I thought I could win the race however it went down.”

McCarthy followed the Hambletonian while growing up in Australia but became more focused on the race after arriving in the U.S. to compete. He is the 28th different driver to win the Hambletonian in the 40 years it has called The Meadowlands home.

“When I was a teenager, I started following the American racing more,” McCarthy said. “Back then, it was kind of pre-social media days, so it was kind of hard to keep up with it. I always liked American racing and I loved the Hambo. As far as thinking I could win it one day, that was a different story.

“Once I got over here and went to the Hambo every year and watched it, it’s become the race. It’s the race you want to win, for sure. I’m just very lucky and privileged to be able to do that.” (Ken Weingartner/USTA)
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Maryland Fairgrounds New Site For Harrisburg Sale

When the Standardbred Horse Sales Company announced earlier this month that its 2020 annual auction would not be held at its usual location, in Harrisburg, Pa., at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, consignors, prospective buyers, and tire-kickers opined via social media about what the announcement meant for the sale.

The sales company’s press release noted due to uncertainties with the covid-19 pandemic, it was exploring other facilities and hoped to have a plan soon. On Monday (Aug. 10), Standardbred announced that it will hold its annual yearling and mixed auctions at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Lutherville–Timonium, Md. The facility is routinely used for Fasig-Tipton Thoroughbred sales.

The dates for the sale will remain the same, with yearlings-only sessions Tuesday, Nov. 3, to Thursday, Nov. 5, and mixed sessions on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7.

The Maryland facility turned out to be an obvious choice after thorough research by Dale Welk, director of operations for the Standardbred Horse Sales Company. Welk said he scouted several locations personally and even made layout charts, noting potential placement of consignments, arena and other details, for four different scenarios.

“I’ve received very positive feedback,” said Welk of the Maryland Fairgrounds choice. “This facility will really work out well. They had a Thoroughbred sale in June and they’ll have one in October just before our sale.”

Welk said the main sale arena is very similar to the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky indoor arena, just a bit smaller. There are two back walking rings and bid-spotters will be stationed in an auxiliary tent.

The facility has 530 permanent stalls in shedrow barns and Welk plans to have four tents erected in the infield of the racing oval to create an additional 350-400 stalls.

While some have speculated that exceptionally cold or inclement weather could make selling in Maryland more unpleasant than the Farm Show Arena, Welk said the outdoor element is preferred in this time of covid-19 restrictions.

“Anywhere we sold, we had to take into consideration the pandemic restrictions,” said Welk. “We’ve all been told that outdoors is better, and it’s also better for the horses.”

Protocols will be in place to address covid-19 concerns. “The facility has an on-site security staff that works the Fasig-Tipton sales and we will be using them. They are familiar with the protocols,” Welk added. “Masks and social distancing will be required. When you drive onto the grounds, your temperature will be taken, and basic contact information will be collected.

“Another thing that’s great, as of today (Aug. 11), Maryland has a very low coronavirus positive rate,” he added.

Welk said the layout of the grounds will require more walking from barns to the sale arena than at the Farm Show Arena and golf carts will be available.

The State Fairgrounds has a track kitchen that will be open and a restaurant in the grandstand. There are many hotels in the area and Standardbred Horse Sales Company plans to have a block or rooms for those attending the sale.

The Fairgrounds is located 26 miles from the Baltimore-Washington International Airport via I-695.

For yearling shoppers who prefer to remain at home, online bidding and extensive telephone bidding opportunities will be offered. Standardbred will be using the Proxi-Bid online bidding system, which head auctioneer Joseph Mast has worked with as an auctioneer for Fasig-Tipton.—By Kathy Parker
$225,000 EST.

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Ramona Hill Captures 95th Hambletonian

The sensational filly Ramona Hill took a well-deservedgulp from the Hambletonian trophy after beating the boys on Saturday in the $1 million trotting classic at the Meadowlands Racetrack.

It was the latest chapter in the developing saga of harness racing’s newest superstar.

The victory, the 15th by a filly in the race’s illustrious history, was hardly a surprise. She was the 2-5 favorite following the previous week’s jaw-dropping win from an impossible spot, kicking home with a :25.4 final quarter in the previous week’s jaw-dropping win from an impossible spot, kicking home with a :25.4 final quarter in the Hambletonian eliminations.

She was just as good in the final. Andy McCarthy turned Ramona Hill loose down the backside and she easily surged past Threefiftytwo to take command for good.

“When I came out early there, I sensed I could find the front,” McCarthy said. “I went for it, and she knows her job.”

As Ramona Hill made the lead, main rivals Ready For Moni—the other elimination winner—and Back Of The Neck took up the chase.

Through the lane, Ramona Hill remained solidly in command, beating Ready For Moni by a length with Back Of The Neck third.

“She was starting to work a little bit towards the wire, but she finished it off,” McCarthy said.

The time for the mile only confirmed what observers already knew: Ramona Hill is the real deal. The 1:50.1 clocking equaled the stakes mark set by her sire Muscle Hill in 2009.

It was the first Hambletonian victory for McCarthy and trainer Tony Alagna, who took a very patient approach with his talented filly. The race was only her fourth of the year and 11th of her career.

“People talked earlier about how covid affected this filly’s schedule,” Alagna said. “Honestly, this was our schedule from the beginning, with or without covid. She’s very much like a Thoroughbred. She doesn’t need the starts to be at her best.”

Of course, the Hambletonian Oaks for fillies earlier in the day was a possible target. But after Ramona Hill cruised to a convincing win in the Del Miller on July 18, Alagna set his sights on the bigger goal.

“We always had it (the Hambletonian) in the back of our minds, but nobody wanted to be the first one to say it,” Alagna said. “After the Del Miller, it became a reality.”

With the victory, Ramona Hill improved her record to 9-0-2 in 11 starts for Bradley Grant, Crawford Farms Racing, Robert LeBlanc and InTheGym Partners. The 2019 Breeders Crown and Dan Patch Award winner is the second filly to capture the Hambletonian in the last three renewals, joining Atlanta (2018). (Mike Farrell/Meadowlands)
Thank You

We would like to sincerely thank Tony for all of his patience and diligence in developing this amazing filly that has matured into a Hambletonian Champion.

Thank you Brad, Robert, John and Steve, our partners on this fabulous filly.

We also would like to acknowledge the Hambletonian Society and the Meadowlands Racetrack for their wonderful efforts in putting on Harness Racing’s greatest day in a very difficult time in the world!

We all needed a day like this that will be remembered for a long time.

--- Michelle & Albert Crawford

CrawfordFarms.com
Gingras Going Into Quarantine
To Drive Mohawk Stakes

Driver Yannick Gingras told harnessracing.com Monday morning that he will be heading to Canada on Saturday (Aug. 15) in preparation for driving the major stakes events coming up over the next few weeks at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Gingras will first have to go into a 14-day quarantine period as per covid-19 protocols put in place by the Canadian government, and he expects to remain north of the border until late September.

Gingras said he has to be in Canada by 6 p.m. on Saturday, so his 14-day quarantine period would end at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29, allowing him to drive likely favorite Tall Dark Stranger on the Pepsi North America Cup card that night. Over the following few weeks at Mohawk are other major stakes such as the Goodtimes, the Canadian Pacing Derby, the Maple Leaf Trot, Canadian Trotting Classic, Metro Pace, She's A Great Lady and Mohawk Million.

“
I have “to do what I have to do, and that’s do the 14 days (in quarantine).”
– Yannick Gingras

Takter would need to use another driver for Tall Dark Stranger if eliminations are required. Takter told harnessracing.com last week that her plans are to have her horses stabled in Buffalo and then shipped across the border for the races to assistant Josert Fonseca, who is also going into a quarantine period.

“
I hope to get an exemption at the border but I’m not banking on that, so I have to do what I have to do, and that’s do the 14 days (in quarantine),” said Gingras, whose family will be accompanying him. “I’ll be there six weeks total, which means I’ll miss the Kentucky Sires Stakes and Pennsylvania Sires Stakes.

“I could change my mind, but on Sept. 26 at Mohawk are all the 2-year-old races, like the Metro and She’s A Great Lady. I think I have some nice 2 year olds, but if things don’t pan out the way I hope, I could come back and race in the Jug.

“If Tall Dark Stranger goes into the Little Brown Jug, then I’m coming back as I would race him in the Jug. But I’ll take it one week at a time and see what happens.”

Just as professional golfer Collin Morikawa rallied from behind the last two days to win the PGA Championship, Gingras’s seven wins over the last two cards at the Meadows propelled him to the dash title on Saturday. Gingras entered the final two programs three wins behind Dexter Dunn, but his seven victories led him to edging Dunn 86-85. With $2,539,384 in purses, Gingras easily won the money title, with Dunn second with $1,866,382.— By Gordon Waterstone
Thank You

Crawford Farms would like to thank Nancy Takter for a job well done campaigning Sorella and Tall Dark Stranger this year! Thank you Yannick for the amazing care and handling of Sorella! You have driven her impeccably and it’s a great team! We are also grateful for your savvy expertise with TDS.

We also wish to say thank you to Jimmy Takter, Anette Zackrisson and Katie Remmerswaal; we appreciate everyone’s efforts as a team, and for helping create such a memorable day! Congratulations to all of our partners on both these fantastic individuals.

--- Michelle and Albert Crawford
Virgo Wins Fox Stakes With Final Quarter Rally

Virgo won the $57,235 Fox Stakes for 2-year-old male pacers and Swingforthefences captured the $33,530 Ralph Wilfong Memorial for 2-year-old male trotters Wednesday at the Indiana State Fair.

With Trace Tetrick in the sulky, Virgo was sixth through the first three-quarters of the 11-horse Fox Stakes before unleashing a :28.1 final quarter to win by five lengths over JK Going West in 1:52. TJ's Indy Pacer finished third.

"I was very happy with him," trainer Dylan Davis said. "He went a big trip, came from a long way back."

Virgo is by Always A Virgin out of Star Of The Show. He was purchased for $13,000 at the Hoosier Sale and is a three-quarter brother to stakes-winner American Passport. He is owned by Davis, Howard Taylor, and Jeff Billings. He was bred by Dustin Miller.

"Just looking at his videos, he's not a real big, flashy-looking colt, but he looked very athletic, very light on his feet," Davis said. "I'm really impressed how smart he is. I was a little worried about him getting hot most of the winter but the more he does it the more he's relaxing. He's got a lot of ability and he's fast."

Virgo has three wins and a second in four races. He has earned $52,742.

Swingforthefences won the Wilfong Memorial by 2 3/4 lengths over Breckenridge in 1:57.2. Jessie's Swan was third. Peter Wrenn drove Swingforthefences for trainer Melanie Wrenn and owners David McDuffee and L&L Devisser. The son of Swan For All out of Sunday Yankee was bred by Concord Stud Farm. He was purchased for $100,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale. Swingforthefences has won three consecutive races after a second-place finish in his debut. He has earned $57,890.

Virgo and Swingforthefences are both eligible to the Breeders Crown, which will be held at Harrah's Hoosier Park in October.

Two 2019 Indiana Sires Stakes champions went down to defeat in stakes action on Wednesday. TJ's Top Pick, winner of last year's championship for 2-year-old colt and gelding trotters, broke stride in the Horseman Stakes. The race was won by Emma Town Bud. Also, the 3-year-old filly pacer Priceless was leading the field in her Horseman Stakes when she suffered broken equipment. She managed to finish fourth while Mystical Carrie won in 1:51.3 for trainer Erv Miller. (Ken Weingartner/USTA)
Fear The Dragon

p,2,1:50.3f; 3,1:48.4 ($1,578,5547) Dragon Again-Armbro Cinnamon-Western Ideal

He won the elimination and final of the North America Cup, taking his lifetime record of 1:48.4 while defeating Downbytheseaside, Huntsville and Filibuster Hanover.

His other Grand Circuit wins included the $500,000 Hempt Memorial (elim & Final), $400,000 Adios (elim & Final), $500,000 Little Brown Jug (first heat), $206,000 Tattersalls Pace (division), $140,000 Elevation, Arden Downs and six Pennsylvania Sires Stakes legs.

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“Queen Bea” Farber Dies At 79

Beatrice “Bea” Farber, whose 1,801 wins is the most ever by a female driver, died Tuesday morning, Aug. 11. She was 79.

A member of the harness racing Hall of Fames in Michigan, Illinois and Florida, Ms. Farber’s exploits were so extraordinary that in 1980 in conjunction with the U.S. Trotting Association, a short film was made about her titled Queen Bea. In a book later written titled Girls Can Be Anything They Want To Be, an entire chapter was devoted to “Queen Bea.”

Born on a farm in Emmett, Mich., Ms. Farber rode horses growing up, and when she was 23 she purchased a second riding horse, which was a Standardbred. It was then that she met harness horseman Chuck Farber, who she would later marry, when she leased him the horse to put back into training.

At age 29 while working as a secretary in an attorney’s office, Ms. Farber decided to leave her job and join her husband and start racing horses.

“I wasn’t that good at school. I couldn’t spell, but for some reason I could understand what made a horse tired and what it meant to be a good driver,” she told a reporter for the Naples Daily News several years ago.

Ms. Farber had immediate success, winning her first pari-mutuel race on May 1, 1971, at Jackson Raceway. Two years later she earned the distinction of being the first female to ever capture a driving title when she posted a .536 Universal Driver Rating in 1973 at Northville Downs. She later went on to win numerous more titles at other Michigan racetracks as well as in California, New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Canada.

Ms. Farber competed in several Battle of the Sexes competitions, and in 1978, despite battling pneumonia, she won the Women’s World Championship against drivers from eight countries. The following year she became the first female to ever compete in the World Driving Championship.

Arguably the best horse ever raced by the Farbers was Easy Irv, who Ms. Farber drove to the first-ever 2:00 victory at Northville Downs. Other top horses driven by Ms. Farber over the years include Quick Command, Quick Harry, Quick Candy, Emerald Scar and Proudfoot Laurie.

Ms. Farber last drove on July 29, 1995, retiring with purse earnings of $9,094,683.

After retiring, she opened her own restaurant in Naples, Fla., and then later helped at a restaurant owned by her sister’s husband. Until health issues slowed her down, Ms. Farber remained physically active, riding more than 150,000 miles on her bicycle.

Ms. Farber was the youngest of eight siblings, with only sister Marion Weaver surviving. Other survivors include her niece, Lynette Buter, the wife of trainer Todd and mother of driver Tyler.

Upon her wishes, Ms. Farber was cremated.
Long Tom
2,1:55.2; 3,1:52.1 ($410,513) Muscle Hill-Ilia-Windsong’s Legacy

At 2, he took his freshman mark of 1:55.2 at The Red Mile, winning his Bluegrass division. At 3, he won the NJSS 3YO Colt Trot Championship, and his elim of the Beal Memorial by open lengths (finishing a close second in the $500,000 final). He also won his $161,500 Stanley Dancer Memorial division (defeating What The Hill) with a last quarter in :27.

He is the second foal of Ilia, her first the $300,000-plus winner Tight Lines. Ilia is from the maternal family of Yankee Duchess, the third dam of Muscle Hill, thus Long Tom carries three doses of this modern foundation mare, with a 4x5x5 cross.

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John Mossbarger, D.V.M. • Robert Schwartz, D.V.M. • • Jay Mossbarger • Jake Mossbarger

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# 2YO Leaders By Earnings

## Trotters (USTA data through Aug. 12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse (Sex, Sire)</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darlene Hanover (f, Chapter Seven)</td>
<td>$179,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zenith Stride (c, Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>151,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Girl (f, Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>143,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Range (c, Bar Hopping)</td>
<td>127,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwind Tyrion (c, Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>122,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar (f, Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>97,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonstone S (c, Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>86,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Corey (c, Googoo Gaagaa)</td>
<td>86,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flawless Country (f, Southwind Frank)</td>
<td>85,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Hanover (c, Chapter Seven)</td>
<td>79,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pub Crawl (f, Bar Hopping)</td>
<td>78,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arnold N Dicky (c, Bar Hopping)</td>
<td>77,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macho Matron (c, Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>75,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merry Ann (f, Southwind Spirit)</td>
<td>75,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Seelster (c, Kadabra)</td>
<td>73,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destined To Dance (f, Chapter Seven)</td>
<td>69,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locatelli (c, Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>67,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly Light (c, Father Patrick)</td>
<td>66,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herculisa (f, My MVP)</td>
<td>61,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anoka Hanover (f, Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>61,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrate With Me (f, Full Count)</td>
<td>58,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SwingfortheFences (c, Swan For All)</td>
<td>57,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ineffable (f, Cantab Hall)</td>
<td>57,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presto (f, Triton)</td>
<td>51,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swizzle Hanover (f, Uncle Peter)</td>
<td>51,575</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Pacers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse (Sex, Sire)</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Courage (c, American Ideal)</td>
<td>$145,108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie May (g, McArdle)</td>
<td>127,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Hill (f, Always B Miki)</td>
<td>124,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Of Faith (f, Art Major)</td>
<td>110,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winella Hanover (f, Racing Hill)</td>
<td>100,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Jeans (f, Great Vintage)</td>
<td>95,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonebridge Duel (g, Big Jim)</td>
<td>92,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuallou (f, Sweet Lou)</td>
<td>91,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsala Hanover (f, Captaintreacherous)</td>
<td>89,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fika Time (g, Sunfire Blue Chip)</td>
<td>88,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bettor Sun (c, Sunshine Beach)</td>
<td>87,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Gossip (g, American Ideal)</td>
<td>81,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odds On Pick Six (c, Racing Hill)</td>
<td>80,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Touch (f, Well Said)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lou’s Pearlman (c, Sweet Lou)</td>
<td>79,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desperate Man (c, Shadow Play)</td>
<td>77,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albergita Hanover (f, Roll With Joe)</td>
<td>77,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlett Hanover (f, Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>76,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bet On Becky (f, Bettor’s Delight)</td>
<td>72,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andra Day (f, Shadow Play)</td>
<td>71,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rightfully Mine (f, American Ideal)</td>
<td>71,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let ‘Er Buck (f, Betting Line)</td>
<td>66,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avion Seelster (g, Sportswriter)</td>
<td>65,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardt At Work (g, Manhardt)</td>
<td>65,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Harness Racing Weekend Preview, 17 of 18
August 14, 2020
www.harnessracing.com

Bettor’s Wish back on track heading to Dan Patch

When Bettor’s Wish finished eighth in the Graduate Series championship last month, it snapped a streak of 24 consecutive top-three finishes for the Chris Ryder-trained pacer. When he was third in his following start, it marked only the second time in his career that he went back-to-back races without either a win or second-place finish. more

Shnitzledosomethin back home for Dan Patch

Howard Taylor has owned a winner of almost every major stakes contest on the continent, but Shnitzledosomethin owns his heart despite not being a world champion or capturing a Breeders Crown. That could all change in the $225,000 Dan Patch Stakes at Harrah’s Hoosier Park on Friday. more

Sophomore fillies vie in final leg of Ohio Sires Stakes

Two $50,000 Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old trotting fillies are set to be held on Friday at Scioto Downs, which will determine the field for the $300,000 championships, set to be held at this same five-eighths mile venue on Sept. 5. more

Action Uncle back in action in OSS at Northfield

A quartet of $50,000 fourth leg Ohio Sires Stakes (OSS) divisions on Saturday at Northfield Park will determine the Championship fields for Super Night, set for Sept. 5 at Scioto Downs. Thirteen sophomore trotting colts will line up behind the Northfield Park starting gate while two six-horse fields of 3-year-old pacing fillies vie in the fourth round of the OSS series more

Vinny Aurigemma dies

Former trainer Vincent Aurigemma, 72, of Silver Springs, Md., died Aug. 8 after a long battle with diabetes. more

Shenandoah to give aspiring race callers a chance

Even though the upcoming harness race meet at Shenandoah Downs will be run without spectators and wagering this year due to covid-related precautions, track officials have come up with a unique way to create a “once in a lifetime” experience for ten lucky fans. more

Gingras edges Dunn for driving title

Yannick Gingras came from “off the pace” to best Dexter Dunn in the hotly contested battle for top driver at the Meadowlands meeting that came down to Saturday’s Hambletonian Day card. more

USTA launches improved chip ID app

The U.S. Trotting Association announced the relaunch of a new, significantly improved USTA Chip ID app that is available for both iOS and Android devices on Wednesday (Aug. 12). The upgraded app will be offered for a free six-month trial to all registered users. more

KY Harness advises of proposed medication changes

The new Kentucky Harness Association is advising horsemen of proposed medication regulations that are in the final stages of the legislative process and, if enacted, will become effective as of Aug. 25, thus affecting horses racing at the Red Mile. more

Online bid registration open for Ohio Jug Sale

Those planning to bid online for yearlings selling at the Ohio Selected Jug Yearling Sale may now register to do so by clicking here. Online buyers must sign up and receive approval from sale management before placing bids when the sale commences. more
## Standardbred Poll

Hambeltonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by Harness Racing Communications for the week of August 11, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>AGS</th>
<th>St-1-2-3</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>Pys</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virgil Morgan Jr.</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>$539,592</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramona Hill (8)</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>3tf</td>
<td>651,465</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tall Dark Stranger</td>
<td>3pc</td>
<td>5-4-0-0</td>
<td>480,131</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shartin N</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>5-4-1-0</td>
<td>219,309</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manchego</td>
<td>5tm</td>
<td>6-4-1-1</td>
<td>238,961</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorella</td>
<td>3tf</td>
<td>5-4-0-0</td>
<td>368,063</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>5tm</td>
<td>5-2-2-0</td>
<td>200,092</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflect With Me</td>
<td>3pf</td>
<td>4-4-0-0</td>
<td>193,630</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bettor's Wish</td>
<td>4ph</td>
<td>5-2-0-2</td>
<td>156,482</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ready For Moni</td>
<td>3tc</td>
<td>3-2-1-0</td>
<td>317,570</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Others receiving votes: Party Girl Hill 40; Dancin Lou 32; Hurrikan Emperor 21; Papi Rob Hanover 18; When Doey sco 17; Darlene Hanover 15; Action Uncle 8; Back Of The Neck, Tattoo Artist 6; Backstreet Shadow 5; American Courage, Hypnotic AM, Ocean Rock 4; Southwind Tyrion 3; Bet On Becky, Captain Corey 1.

## Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through August 11, 2020 (week difference Aug. 5-11).

### Leading Money-Winning Sires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Fools</th>
<th>Starters</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<tr>
<td>YANKEE GLIDE</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>2,504,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANDOVER HALL</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>2,503,502</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRAZED</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>833</td>
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<td>TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>878</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSCLE MASSIVE</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>2,501,111</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONWAY HALL</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>885</td>
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<tr>
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<td>97</td>
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<td>1,492,734</td>
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<td>SWAN FOR ALL</td>
<td>636</td>
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<td>1,542,015</td>
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<td>FATHER PATRICK</td>
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<td>ALL STAR TROTTERS</td>
<td>754</td>
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<td>ART MAJOR</td>
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<td>WELL SAID</td>
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<td>SPORTSWRITER</td>
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<td>ALWAYS A VIRGIN</td>
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<td>SHADOW PLAY</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>258</td>
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<td>ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>SWEET LOU</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROCKIN IMAGE</td>
<td>673</td>
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<td>MCAIRDLE</td>
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<td>DRAGON AGAIN</td>
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<td>PET ROCK</td>
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<td>ROLL WITH JOE</td>
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<td>BIG JIM</td>
<td>342</td>
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<td>169</td>
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<td>WESTERN TERROR</td>
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<td>191</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>1,568,801</td>
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</tbody>
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## All Age Pacers

### Sire Name Foals Starters Earnings

**BETTER’S DELIGHT** 6-04 $7,411,277 **SOMEBEACHESOMWHERE** 1059 849 $6,252,415 **AMERICAN IDEAL** 1146 433 2,494,102 **MACH THREE** 1228 413 3,850,066 **CAPTAINREACHEROUS** 343 229 3,730,799 **ART MAJOR** 1360 361 3,483,768 **WELL SAID** 754 284 2,615,178 **SPORTSWRITER** 853 400 2,615,178 **ALWAYS A VIRGIN** 793 297 2,496,413 **SHADOW PLAY** 701 258 2,469,261 **ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN** 514 200 2,380,655 **SWEET LOU** 275 180 2,218,619

## All Age Trotters

### Sire Name Foals Starters Earnings

**MUSCLE HILL** 777 202 $4,315,850 **CHAPTER SEVEN** 365 187 3,643,271 **KADABRA** 1099 193 2,208,470 **MUSCLE MASS** 732 243 2,041,696 **CANTAB HALL** 1178 209 1,899,028 **FATHER PATRICK** 219 138 1,719,713 **SWAN FOR ALL** 636 184 1,579,017 **UNCLE PETER** 269 146 1,472,619 **EXPLOSIVE MATTER** 620 182 1,495,999 **CREDIT WINNER** 984 157 1,492,734 **DONATO HANOVER** 997 176 1,324,246 **TRIONTO** 246 107 1,196,936 **CONWAY HALL** 993 124 1,685,484 **MUSCLE MASSIVE** 462 121 1,879,611 **TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR** 226 77 878,507 **CRAZED** 524 89 833,766 **ANDOVER HALL** 951 116 830,502 **YANKIE GLIDE** 919 112 825,613 **ROYALTY FOR LIFE** 759 98 790,556 **CASH HALL** 481 71 786,618