McClure “Determined” To Win Wellwood, Peaceful Way Finals

If things go well for driver Bob McClure on Saturday night at Woodbine Mohawk Park, he will leave the race-track with wins in the $535,000 William Wellwood Memorial for 2-year-old male trotters and the $335,000 Peaceful Way for 2-year-old filly trotters.

Driving a pair of unbeaten freshmen, McClure’s chances for a big night appear pretty good. In the Wellwood Memorial, McClure will drive the seven-for-seven Macho Martini—who won his elim in wire-to-wire fashion in 1:56—while in the Peaceful Way he will be behind Donna Soprano, who is four-for-four in her brief career after a 1:55.1 elimination score.

“Macho Martini is the best 2 year old I’ve ever driven. And Donna Soprano is in a league of her own in Canada right now,” said McClure. “Not much splits the two of them. So far, fingers crossed they are healthy, sound and happy, and hopefully they’ll stay that way and keep the train rolling.”

If the train keeps rolling, the next stop is the Mohawk Million on Sept. 26 at Mohawk Park. Both first-year trotters are trained by Luc Blais and owned by Serge Godin’s Determination, which was one of nine entities that purchased a slot in the Mohawk Million last winter for $110,000.

With the Wellwood winner receiving a free invite to the seven-digit race, if Macho Martini wins that would open the door for Blais and Determination to use their purchased slot for Donna Soprano, or even possibly Dicentra, who won the second Peaceful Way elim and is four-for-seven on the year.

“Macho Martini is the best 2 year old I’ve ever driven. And Donna Soprano is in a league of her own in Canada right now.”

–Bob McClure

$335,000 William Wellwood Memorial 2CT

Woodbine Mohawk Park, Saturday, Sept. 12, Race 9, Post Time: 10:20 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—Locatelli (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>A. McCarthy/N. Takter</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>Hanover Shoe Farms/$170,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—On A Streak (Cantab Hall)</td>
<td>S. Young/L. Blais</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>Fredericka Caldwell/$155,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Southwind Tyrion (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/A. Svansted</td>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>Southwind Farms/$145,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Full Of Muscles (Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>T. Henry/B. Maxwell</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>William Loyens &amp; Archie Leach/$140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Logan Park (Archangel)</td>
<td>L. Roy/R.D. Fellows</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Reg &amp; Donna Higgs/$57,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—Macho Martini (Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>B. McClure/L. Blais</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>Concord Stud/$37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Warrawee Whisper (Trixton)</td>
<td>J. Drury/S. Steacy</td>
<td>16-1</td>
<td>Warrawee Farm/$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Tokyo Seelster (Kadabra)</td>
<td>S. Fillion/R. Moreau</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Seelster Farms/$52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—Muscle Dynasty (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>P. MacDonell/M. Keeling</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Steiner Stock Farm/$55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10—Magial Muscle Man (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>D. McNair/M. Melander</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>GL Racing &amp; Double Spring Farm/$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE—Jula Muscle Pack (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>L Roy/P. Engblom</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Bluestone Farms &amp; F. Caldwell/$150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Both Macho Martini and Donna Soprano won their respective eliminations, but interestingly McClure selected outside posts for the finals. McClure chose post 6 for Macho Martini, while he went one spot farther out with Donna Soprano in post 7.

“I’d rather be on the outside pushing forward than on the inside getting people out of the way,” explained McClure. McClure selected Macho Martini’s post first, followed by driver Yannick Gingras choosing post 3 for the Ake Svanstedt-trained Southwind Tyrion, who is unbeaten in four starts after his 1:54.4 elimination victory.

“I picked first and when Yannick picked the three hole I was pretty happy with the spot I had because I am quite a bit farther out,” said McClure. “I think that will make him have to do some navigating and hopefully we’ll be ahead of all that.

“Post 6 is the winningest post at Mohawk. And with a 2-year-old trotter the inside goes pretty slow around the turn (heading toward the start).”

Macho Martini’s unblemished record includes a trio of Ontario Sires Stakes and a sweep of the Millard Farms Series. In the Millard final, Macho Martini trotted a career-best 1:54.4. The seasonal best for the son of Muscle Mass out of the $587,000-winning mare Peach Martini ranks outside the top 15 for fastest miles by a 2-year-old trotter this year, but McClure downplays any significance.

“All I can say is that Mohawk is a lot slower than the Meadowlands, slower than Pocono, and he’s going the same speed as them and he’s wrapped up,” he said. “How fast can he go? I don’t know. Maybe the day he gets stretched out and the plugs get pulled he doesn’t have it, but everything he’s done so far has led me to believe he’s got more in the tank.

“He’s a very willing colt. He’s strong, he’s fast, he’s great gaited. He has everything to be the best colt in North America now. But you can say the same about four of them now, but until they race against each other you don’t know.”

As for Donna Soprano, she is a daughter of Donato Hanover out of the $1.2-million winner Windsong Soprano, who captured the 2008 Peaceful Way for trainer Bob McIntosh. McClure said whether or not Donna Soprano finds a spot against the boys in the Mohawk Million, he expects the filly to be at Harrah’s Hoosier Park for the Breeders Crown in late October.

“Luc (Blais) is always careful about 2 year olds taking them to the Breeders Crown,” said McClure. “He tries to take it easy on them and he’s very good to them and manages them very well. But I think Donna Suprano is going to kind of force his hand because she is so good up here that I think she deserves a shot at the American horses.” — By Gordon Waterstone

S335,000 Peaceful Way 2FT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woodbine Mohawk Park, Saturday, Sept. 12, Race 5, Post Time: 8:40 pm</th>
<th>Driver/Trainer</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Breeder/Yearling Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Lady Chaos (Cantab Hall)</td>
<td>J. Jamieson/L. Toscano</td>
<td>9-2</td>
<td>Lindy Farm &amp; A. Victor &amp; Son/$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Fox Valley Liza (Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>S. Filion/B. Baillargeon</td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>Fox Valley Standardbreds/$27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Amazon Duharas (Muscle Hill)</td>
<td>L. Roy/D. Gueriel</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Haras De L Estrie/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Dincentra (Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>S. Young/L. Blais</td>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>Luc Blais/Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—You Will Be Queen (Royalty For Life)</td>
<td>C. Christoforou/D. Jones</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Dustin Jones Stable &amp; 8720 Quebec/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6—Up And Ready (Kadabra)</td>
<td>D. McNair/J. Bax</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>D. Ingham &amp; H. Rutherford/$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Donna Soprano (Donato Hanover)</td>
<td>B. McClure/L. Blais</td>
<td>7-5</td>
<td>White Birch Farm/$190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8—Dream Chapter (Chapter Seven)</td>
<td>Y. Gingras/D. Cecere</td>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>Monti Market Breeders/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—Midnight Miracle (Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>J. Macdonald/M. Ettsell</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Mark Ettsell, Robert Martin, Chuan Tan/Homebred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10—Imextraspecial (Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>T. Henry/P. Walker</td>
<td>15-1</td>
<td>Roger &amp; Jesse Gebhardt/$95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE—Rubys Are Nice (Muscle Mass)</td>
<td>S. Filion/R. D. Fellows</td>
<td>20-1</td>
<td>Blair &amp; Erna Corbeil/Homebred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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FIRST POST 6:30PM

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Ramona Hill Looks To Continue Streak In Simcoe

While the Saturday night card at Woodbine Mohawk Park is stacked with major stakes, Friday night will also see plenty of action at the Ontario racetrack. Three-year-old trotters will be on the track in a trio of Simcoe divisions with the colts vying in a single $167,511 heat and the fillies divided into a pair of $88,894 divisions.

The big star on Friday night is Ramona Hill, the top-ranked Standardbred in the weekly Hambletonian Society poll. She is listed as the overwhelming 1-5 favorite in the second Simcoe split for fillies. The daughter of Muscle Hill is riding a four-race win streak, which includes her stellar 1:50.1 victory against the boys in the $1 million Hambletonian on Aug. 8 at the Meadowlands.

Ramona Hill followed up her historic win 13 days later with a victory in the Zweig Filly Trot at Vernon Downs. So as not to get too rusty with three weeks until the Simcoe, trainer Tony Alagna entered Ramona Hill in a Sept. 5 qualifier at the Meadowlands, which she won in 1:53.1.

“The qualifier was just a little bit of a tightener for her, and it was absolutely perfect because she was able to follow her stablemate around there,” said driver Andy McCarthy. “We just wanted to get the cobwebs out a little bit.”

McCarthy and Ramona Hill will line up in post 6 in the seven-filly split (Race 8) as she aims for her fifth straight win. McCarthy is listed to drive Ramona Hill, and other horses on the card, because he drove to the Canadian border earlier this week to file the required paperwork to request an exemption so he can compete at Mohawk. As of Thursday afternoon, he was still waiting to hear if the exemption had been granted.

Owned by Brad Grant, Robert Leblanc, In The Gym Partners and breeder Crawford Farms, Ramona Hill has earned $731,535 this year, bringing her career total to $1,136,935. The first Simcoe filly division goes as Race 3 and the 5-2 morning-line favorite from post 1 is Whose Blues, who will be driven by Bob McClure for trainer Luc Blais. The daughter of Cantab Hall won at first asking this year in a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes on July 13 at Harrah’s Philadelphia, but has come up short four straight times since. In her last two starts she chased Hambletonian Oaks champ Sorella, including in an Oaks elimination.

The 3-1 second choice is McKees Angel, who starts from post 5 with Sylvain Filion driving for trainer Ben Bailargeon. The daughter of Archangel has had some gait issues of late, but finally got her first win—in her seventh attempt—last time out on Aug. 28 when she won a Casual Breeze division in 1:54.1.

McCure will also drive the Blais-trained Threefiftytwo in the Simcoe colt division. Listed as the 5-2 morning-line favorite, Threefiftytwo will start from post 6. The son of Royalty For Life has a 1:52.1 win to his credit in July at Mohawk Park. The trotter received some strong looks in the Hambletonian, where he finished second in his elim and then sixth in the final. He comes into Friday’s race off a sixth-place finish in a Goodtimes elim, failing to advance to the final.

“He was so good in the Hambo elim and so awful in the final,” said McClure. “When he came back here, I really thought he’d win the Goodtimes elim. I really did, especially with the trip he got. I thought it was working out just perfect, but he just faded. But it was a significant improvement from the (Hambletonian final).

“He trained great (Tuesday) morning so hopefully he’ll be back to himself and do some damage.” — By Gordon Waterstone

---

Winning American

Multiple stakes placed at 2 and 3 while earning over $131,000. He took his lifetime record in 2020 going away at Philadelphia in 1:55.4.

He is by leading trotting sire Kadabra and out of multiple stakes winner (including World Record win in KY Futurity) Win Missy B 3,1:52 ($1,599,436), the fastest & richest mare by Conway Hall and a half-sister to World Champion Winning Mister 1:51.3 ($1,116,484).

For more information call 724-295-5111 or email winningkeyfarms@gmail.com

3,1:57.1; 4,1:58f; 1:55.4f-20 ($169,036)

By Kadabra - Win Missy B, by Conway Hall
Selling 96 Yearlings at Lexington
NY, OH & PA-Sired Yearling Highlights for 10/5-10/9
including 13 Dual-Eligible to Kentucky!

New York Pacers
AMERICAN IDEAL (9)
#507, JOINT ACCOUNT, C
American Ideal-Art Account-Arquesplace
Full-brother to Bigtown Hero,
p, 1:47.3f ($486,142). Dam is a full-sister to Artscape,
p, 3, 1:49.3z ($1,469,461)

#622, SIXINSIX, C,
Agent
American Ideal-Inanotherworld-Arquesplace
Dam is a full-sister to Worldby Beauty,
p, 1:49.3 ($1,900,255). Family of Captaintreacherous,
p, 3, 1:47.1 ($3,147,545)

HESTON BLUE CHIP (9)
#703, IMA BLAST, F
Heston Blue Chip-Siobhan-Beach Towel
1/2-sister to Spring Break,
p, 1, 50.3z ($787,057)

#796, BLUEBEARD, F
Heston Blue Chip-Chatina-Lea
1/2-sister to Groovy Joe,
p, 3, 1:48.4s ($315,073)

HUNTSVILLE (1)
#217, HOUSE HUNT, F
Huntsville-Wishforda Fullhouse-Cam's Card Shark
1/2-sister to the dam of Sintra,
p, 1:47.2 ($1,043,450). Dam is a full-sister to Bettor's Delight,
p, 3, 1:49.4 ($2,581,461)

ROLL WITH JOE (2)
#541, BEST DIVA, F, First Foal
Roll With Joe-Purrfect Diva-Badlands Hanover
Dam is a 1/2-sister to Winbak Speed,
p, 1:49 ($397,682)

New York Trotters
CHAPTER SEVEN (2)
#342, SHY STELLA, F
Chapter Seven-Mia Stellina-CR Commando
Dam is a 1/2-sister to CR Kay Suzie,
p, 1:52.3 ($1,511,131)

CREDIT WINNER (2)
#519, FLAUNT IT TO WINIT, F
Credit Winner-Love To Flaunt-Angus Hall
2nd dam is Lookout Victory,
p, 1:54.3s ($1,921,604)

DEVIOUS MAN (2)
#634, DEVIOUS MAID, F
Devious Man-Maiden Knight-Conway Hall
Dam is a 1/2-sister to Oh Sweet Baby,
p, 1:54.4s ($655,330)

New York Trotters (cont.)
E L TITAN (1)
#406, GRAND SPA, C
E L Titan-Day At The Spa-Andover Hall
1/2-brother to Hell Patrol,
p, 1:54.4f ($120,061)

Ohio Pacers
DOWNBYTHESEASIDE (1)
#730, COASTAL FRONT, C
Downbytheseside-She's Poison-Western Ideal
1/2-brother to Poisonous,
p, 1:49.4f ($269,605). 2nd dam is She's A Great Lady,
p, 1:50.4 ($973,382)

FEAR THE DRAGON (3)
#753, HOPE N FEAR, F
Fear The Dragon-Odds On The Hat-Life Sign
1/2-sister to Ourea Nourrir,
p, 1:50.4 ($256,220)

#845, FEAR NO MORE, C
Fear The Dragon-Wisdom-Arquesplace
1/2-brother to Wisdom Tree,
p, 1:49.1s - 19 ($614,136)

Ohio Trotter
MY MVP (1)
#741, QUEEN'S FUTURE, F
My MVP-Herculotte Hanover-Andover Hall
Full-sister to Herculisa,
2, 1:55.1f - 20 ($81,812)

Pennsylvania Pacers
AROCKNROLL DANCE (2)
#517, KEEPIN FIT, C
A Rocknroll Dance-Kutakretie-Real Art
Dam is a full-sister to Kikikatie,
p, 3, 1:50.3 ($1,268,463)

ALWAYS B MIKI (2)
#300, WISH FOR VODKA, C
Always B Miki-Regal Wish-Cam's Card Shark
Dam is a full-sister to Bettor's Delight,
p, 3, 1:49.4 ($2,581,461)

BETTING LINE (7)
#189, BET A BUNDLE, C, First Foal
Betting Line-Amazing Control-Shadow Play
Dam is a 1/2-sister to Believe In Me,
p, 3, 1:51.2f - 18 ($218,489)

#227, JAZZED, F
Betting Line-Sportsfancy-Sportsmaster
Dam is Sportsfancy, p, 1:49.4 ($1,001,957)

#285, EMPOWERMENT, F, First Foal
Betting Line-Logan's Girl-Roddy's Bags Again
Dam is Logan's Girl, p, 3, 1:53.1f ($277,440)

Pennsylvania Pacers (cont.)
CAPTAIN TREACHEROUS (1)
#122, WAR OF WILL, C
Captaintreacherous-Wishfor Rockroll-Rocknroll Hanover
Family of Bettor's Delight,
p, 3, 1:49.4 ($2,581,461)

SWEET LOU (5)
#50, BRING THE BLING, C
Sweet Lou-Hollie Gallie-Village Jolt
2nd dam is Galleria, p, 1:49.1 ($1,814,453)

#377, RAINBOW QUEEN, F
Sweet Lou-Red Carpet Queen-Western Hanover
1/2-sister to Lucky King,
p, 1:51.1h -18 ($347,523)

WESTERN IDEAL (3)
#776, IDEAL INFUN, F
Western Ideal-Funny Card-Cam's Card Shark
Family of Handsome Fly COOKIE,
p, 1:51.3s ($1,408,440)

Pennsylvania Trotters
BAR HOPPING (3)
#360, HOPES N WISHES, F
Bar Hopping-Hall Of Wishes-Broadway Hall
1/2-sister to New Jersey Viking,
p, 1:52.4 -18 ($220,048)

CANTAB HALL (5)
#99, INN AT RODANTHE, C
Cantab Hall-Met's Ingenuity
Full-brother to Met's Hall,
3, 1:51.2 -18 ($1,295,306)

#469, TURN THE TAB, F, First Foal
Cantab Hall-New Leaf-Muscle Yankee
Family of Vivid Photo,
p, 1:50.2z ($3,275,631)

DONATO HANOVER (1)
#260, DONNA'S DANCE, F
Donato Hanover-U Wanna Lindy-S J's Photo
1/2-sister to Wild Honey,
p, 3, 1:50.4 ($1,585,741)

EXPLOSIVE MATTER (3)
#590, BRONTE'S HERO, C
Explosive Matter-Bronte-1 Balanced Image
1/2-brother to Utopia, 1:52.2s ($273,790)

#811, I'M DA BOMB, F
Explosive Matter-Supreme Dish-Malabar Man
1/2-sister to Market Rally,
p, 3, 1:54.4f ($704,445)

Visit www.winbakfarm.com for complete lineup (including Ontario yearlings).
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Hypnotic AM, Love A Good Story
To Square Off In NYSS Final

There’s a purse of $225,000 on the line in each of the eight New York Sires Stakes finals, set for Saturday night at Yonkers Raceway. Incredibly, only seven horses were entered in the 3-Year-Old Filly Trot. The same thing happened in Ohio last week when only seven were entered in the Ohio Sires Stakes for 3-year-old colt and gelding pacers, with nine slots available.

But the 3-Year-Old Filly Trot has two of the most consistent sophomore trotting fillies in North America in the field: Hypnotic AM and Love A Good Story. Hypnotic AM has three wins, three seconds—one in the Hambletonian Oaks—and a third in seven starts this season. Love A Good Story is a winner of five of seven starts.

Four of the seven fillies in the final have already earned more than $100,000 this season. Hypnotic AM, who captured last year’s Sires Stakes final at Batavia Downs, is the richest with $346,254 while Love A Good Story has earned $281,197.

In the Sires Stakes final, Hypnotic AM has the advantage of an inside post (3) over Love A Good Story (post 5).

“My filly only raced in one Sires Stakes, so I took a chance to get her in,” said trainer Marcus Melander. “My filly is very good right now, but of course Andy and Julie’s (Miller) filly (Love A Good Story) is good too. And it’s a half-mile track, so you’ve got to get the right trip.”

Melander will also be starting two horses in the 2-Year-Old Filly Trot: Iteration (post 6) and Insured AM S (post 7). The heavy favorite in the race is the John Butenschoen-trained Destined To Dance, a Chapter Seven filly who Crawford Farms sold as a yearling for $100,000 and still co-owns.

A winner of five of six starts, Destined To Dance will start from post 3. Melander is realistic but hopeful about his own chances, mostly with Iteration.

“I think she’s one that could win,” he said of Iteration, also by Chapter Seven and a full sister to Melander’s stable star Gimpanzee. “She’s just a little bit immature. She doesn’t really know what to do yet. She’ll be better off the pace and following horses.”

Also on Saturday night, Melander is keen to see how his colt Magical Muscle Man does in the William Wellwood Memorial final at Woodbine Mohawk. The colt drew post 10, meaning he will start from the second tier.

The winner of the Wellwood Memorial will earn a starting berth in the upcoming Mohawk Million. Melander’s client Courant AB also bought an advance slot in the race.

So does Melander expect to have anything racing in the Mohawk Million?

“We’re not sure yet,” he said. “We have a couple of horses that could go. It won’t be In Range, who finished second in the PA Sires Stakes final (and is not owned by Courant). I just don’t know yet.”

The fastest colt in Melander’s stable at the present time also won’t be starting in the Mohawk Million. That horse is Dancinginthedark M, who won at the Red Mile in 1:52.3. Dancinginthedark M is a finalist for the Kentucky Sires Stakes final on Sept. 20 at the Red Mile. The colt is by the Swedish sire Readly Express—a notable European winner by Ready Cash—but was foaled at Stoner Creek Farm in Kentucky, the farm of his breeder, Margareta Wallenius-Kleberg (Menhammar Stud).

Dancinginthedark M also finished second to Cuatro de Julio in 1:51.4 on Sunday, Sept. 6, in a Sires Stakes leg, trotting his own mile in 1:52.1. “He went as fast as he could,” said Melander of finishing second. “I was very pleased. My horse has been pretty safe but he made a break (on Aug. 24) when (Dave Palone) was going to move him in the turn and he hit a knee. It really wasn’t the horse’s fault. He’s a very good horse.” —By Kathy Parker
DON’T LEAVE LEXINGTON WITHOUT ONE...OR TWO

HIP #172 STAGE WHISPER b.f.
*Father Patrick-Stage Presence*
Brilliant moving Father Patrick filly from 2,1:54.2 sister to Broadway Bruiser 1:55.3-'20 ($110,262).
Don’t miss that paddock video.
Pennsylvania eligible.

HIP #376 U BAKE THE CAKE b.c.
*Cantab Hall-U Take The Cake*
First foal and first Cantab from one of the most powerful families on record. He is a 3/4 brother-in-blood to Father Patrick 3,1:50.2f ($2,558,133) and from a sister to Chocolatier 3,1:53 ($1,324,800) and Sugar Trader 3,1:53.4 ($730,898). Don’t miss that video.
Outstanding! Pennsylvania eligible.

HIP #446 FIRE FLOWER b.f.
*Chapter Seven-Lindy’s Fireworks*
Much larger full sister to NYSS stakes filly Me Three BT1:55-’20 ($10,777) and from the looks of that video, she’ll have her sister’s brilliant gait. From grand, but very potent Lindy Farms family. New York eligible.

HIP #623 ON CLOUD SEVEN br.c.
*Chapter Seven-Dream Baby Dream*
First foal of 3,1:52.3 ($228,656) sister to Sonnet Grace 2,Q1:54.2f ($460,736), a major stakes filly last year. By the sire of Walner 3,1:50.2 ($567,652) and Gimpanzee 4,1:50-’20 ($2,312,503). Handsome colt. New York sired.

HIP #652 ALPHA K b.c.
*Kadabra-Ilya’s Girl*
First colt and Kadabra brother to the dam of Whoopdee Goo 2,1:55.1f ($86,220). From a sister to mega winner Promising Catch Q1:55.3 ($334,615) and to the dam of Scarlet Knight 3,1:53.4 ($1,951,740). Ontario eligible.

This offering from Wiesman Farms has been raised at Kentuckiana Farms in the heart of the Bluegrass and will be sold at Lexington Selected in October as part of the Kentuckiana Farms consignment. Please call Kentuckiana at (502) 863-3070 for personal inspection availability.

Wiesman Farms, LLC
Fastest Trotting Colt In NA Will Not Be In Canada

The fastest 2-year-old trotting colt will not be competing in the Mohawk Million, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The fastest 2-year-old trotting colt in North America thus far is Cuatro de Julio, who won in 1:51.4 on Monday at the Red Mile, missing Walner’s world record by just one-fifth of a second.

Cuatro de Julio is a colt by Trixton out of the mare Clarabelle, a French-bred by the acclaimed speedster Ready Cash. Clarabelle is owned by renowned French breeder Jean-Pierre Dubois. Dubois has successfully mixed French and American trotting blood, resulting in several international stars, among them Coktail Jet. He tried it again with Clarabelle, a fast mare prone to breaking stride, and it appears to have paid off very well.

Kentucky horseman Al Eferstein, 61, is a veteran of the Kentucky fair racing circuit and he and his wife, Lee, are friends with Marie Ortolan Bar, who manages Dubois’ Kentucky breeding farm about 45 miles south of Lexington. Bar raised the colt named Cuatro de Julio—Fourth of July in Spanish—and the French horsewoman decided to drive the colt in his first start, at the Mayfield, Ky., county fair. It was not a good experience for either of the parties, so Bar turned to her friend Al.

“He was quite a handful,” recalled Al, “but he’s developed quickly.”

Eferstein, who won a Kentucky Sires Stakes Fair Final and the Sires Stakes final with V Power, directed Cuatro de Julio to four straight wins on half-mile Kentucky fair circuit tracks in June and July. In one of the races he got a glimpse of the colt’s speed.

“At the fair in Lebanon, he had a meltdown at the gate and he ran about a quarter of a mile and got 25 to 30 lengths behind everyone. He was settled when I asked him for some speed, and the next thing I knew, he won by eight!” recalled Eferstein.

That race was Cuatro de Julio’s last on the Kentucky half-mile ovals. At the Red Mile, the colt began to show serious speed after winning the Kentucky Fair Stakes final. In his first start in the Sires Stakes, he won by a comfortable length in 1:54 with a last quarter in :27.2. After another behind-the-gate meltdown on Aug. 24 that resulted in a break and up-the-track finish, Cuatro de Julio redeemed himself with his 1:51.4 performance on Sept. 6.

Although the colt had his act together on Sept. 6, Eferstein says Cuatro de Julio is a youngster with so much spunk he must be carefully managed on race day.

“He has a tendency to jump up in the air if the (starting) gate isn’t rolling enough for him,” shared Eferstein. “He’s very racy. Nothing happens fast enough for him.”

“I try to follow a horse up the lane (to start) until we have to get in position on the gate,” Eferstein added. “Marie does things the old-fashioned way and so we take him out three different times, jogging once and a couple of light warm-up trips, to try to take the edge off a little, if we can.”

Although he’s the fastest 2-year-old colt trotter in North America as of Sept. 10, Cuatro de Julio will be staying in Kentucky to compete in the Kentucky Sires Stakes final on Sunday, Sept. 20. After that, if all goes well, the colt is eligible to Grand Circuit stakes and the Breeders Crown.—By Kathy Parker
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Lexington Selected Sale  October 5-9, 2020
Fasig Tipton Pavilion in Lexington, KY

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Alexander Confident In American Courage In NYSS Final

Travis Alexander is not letting a recent setback stop American Courage from vying for the title of top 2-year-old pacing colt on the $1.8 million New York Night of Champions on Saturday night at Yonkers Raceway. The trainer calls an equine virus that ran through his barn in mid-August a blessing in disguise as it may give his colt an edge in his $225,000 final.

The virus caused Alexander to scratch American Courage from the fifth preliminary leg for freshman pacing colts at Vernon Downs on Aug. 28.

“We could have raced and pressed for points as he was clean on race day, but we weren’t taking any chances,” said Alexander. “We let him tell us how he was feeling, and we decided to scratch.”

Still, American Courage remains unbeaten in his career with a perfect seven-for-seven and with $180,000 in total earnings accumulated already this year. This includes starts in the New York Sires Stakes and the Springfield (formerly the Sheppard) at Yonkers.

“You never know how they are going to be, he's been a surprise," said Alexander. “I always knew he had a large amount of ability, but things just have to go your way. All of these horses are fast and bred so well; they’re getting more Thoroughbred-like.”

Despite easing up on the colt’s training as he recovered, the Alexander is still confident pointing the colt into the largest purse start of his young career. Listed as the 6-5 morning-line favorite, American Courage will leave from post 5 in the fifth race on Saturday with driver Matt Kakaley.

“I haven’t even trained him a mile in August, “ said Alexander. “I haven’t even tightened the screws. I just started him back up (Sept. 2), but he’ll be ready to go.”

Alexander isn’t just referring to the Night of Champions, but to three major stakes races ahead, including the Metro Stakes in Canada on Sept. 26. The scheduling proximity between the NYSS finals and the Metro poses a challenge to trainers and any connections looking to cross the border. Back-to-back races across the border means Alaina, Alexander’s wife, is already in Canada for the Metro while Travis focuses on the Night of Champions.

“Alaina is somewhat upset about not being here for the finals in person. She takes care of him and runs his barn. She's basically the boss,” said Alexander. “She knows every wrinkle of American Courage so, being here alone, it puts a lot of pressure on me for sure.”

A lot of pressure, but also a belief that he has the right team in place to realize the pacer’s brimming potential.

“Matt (Kakaley) has done an amazing job. It makes my job easier,” said Alexander. “I have full confidence in American Courage.”

(with files from NYSS)
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**Delaware Pacer**
**DREAM AWAY**
**W07, SPRINGTIME SEEDS, C**
Dream Away-Florist-Rustler Hanover
1/2-brother to Art Season, p, 3, 1:54.1h ($85,653), & Rule The Air, p, 1:54.2h ($82,519). Dam is a 1/2-sister to Uncle Pat, p, 1:52.2f ($136,983)

**Delaware Trotters**
**CR COMMANDO**
**W12, SUNSET SAIL, C**
CR Commando-Overnight Rail-Donerall
Full-brother to Overnight Command, 3, 1:59h ($226,625), the dam of Third Shift, 3, 1:52.4s ’20 ($325,421).
Full-brother to Overnight Shipper, 1:54.4f ($183,676). 1/2-brother to Overnight Hit, 1:57f ($182,415), & Distracting Beauty, 1:56.1f ($119,028). Family of Wind Of The North, 1:51f ($1,138,238)

**POLITICAL BRIEFING**
**W08, ARBITRATION, F**
Political Briefing-Giant Smash-Giant Hit
Full-sister to Epic Smash, 3, 1:56.4f ($210,564). Dam is a full-sister to Hang Time, 1:56.3f ($318,206), & a 1/2-sister to Fitness Girl, 2, 1:56s ($246,302). Family of Like A Prayer, 3, 1:52.2 ($1,118,504)

**Indiana Pacer**
**REAL DESIRE**
**W14, SLICK FELLA, C**
Real Desire-Rafaela Seelster-Camluck
Dam is Rafaela Seelster, p, 1:51.3f ($348,539). Family of Sportsfancy, p, 1:49.4 ($1,001,957), & Music Director, p, 1:51.1 ($925,996)

**Maryland Pacer**
**QUIK PULSE MINDALE**
**W13, RAPID PULSE, C**
Quik Pulse Mindale-Powerful Dorothy-Powerful Toy
Full-brother to Powerful Pulse, p, 1:54.1f ($257,925). Dam is a 1/2-sister to Royal Flush Shark, p, 3, 1:50 ($404,389), & Blackjack Princess, p, 3, 1:51.1f ($327,386). Family of Tidewaterdragonly, p, 1:49.4 ($1,055,252)

**New York Pacers**
**BOLT THE DUER**
**W03, BLUE COLLAR MAN, C**
Bolt The Duer-Celebrate America-America Native
1/2-brother to 2020 NY Excelsior Winner, Cheers For Chips, p, 2, 1:55.1f ’20 ($20,782). Dam is a 1/2-sister to American Village, p, 1:53.3f ($344,235)

**ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN**
**W04, TEXAS TUXEDO, C**
Rock N Roll Heaven-Datefortheball-Presidential Ball
1/2-brother to Allamerican Daddy, p, 1:49.4s ($489,528). Dam is a 1/2-sister to Historic, p, 3, 1:51f ($1,334,661), & Seven O Clock, p, 1:53.3 ($559,080). The dam of Dongtimmyway, p, 1:50.2 ($1,413,550)

**W05, STRIKE THE GAVEL, F**
Rock N Roll Heaven-Eternal Justice-Jate Lobell
1/2-sister to Custard The Dragon, p, 3, 1:48.1f ($778,057). Epic Union, p, 3, 1:52.2f ($138,802), Eternal River, p, 1:53.4h ($102,368), & Native Justice, p, 3, 1:53f ($39,634). Dam is a 1/2-sister to Sagebrush, p, 1:49 ($464,967), & Allamerican Apache, p, 1:51.3f ($479,805)

**W06, GO WITH THE ROLL, C**
Rock N Roll Heaven-Fashion-Guru-Rustler Hanover
Second foal. Dam, Fashion Guru, p, 3, 1:54.2f ($110,395), is a full-sister to Natural Habitat, p, 1:51s ($244,249)

**W10, MUSICAL ROW, C**
Rock N Roll Heaven-Luck Runs Over-Badlands Hanover
Dam is a 1/2-sister to Samadhi Girl, p, 3, 1:54.2f ($219,845), the dam of Real Samart, p, 1:51.1f ($336,038). Family of Camluck, p, T1:48.4 ($1,003,260)

**W15, I LIKE ROSE, F**
Rock N Roll Heaven-Red Zinfandel-America Native
Dam is a 1/2-sister to Anderlecht, p, 1:48f ($978,216). Family of Stienam, p, 3, 1:53 ($1,355,474), & Stienam's Place, p, 3, 1:50.4 ($1,402,301)

**W16, BURNING FLAME, C**
Rock N Roll Heaven-Spark Out-Badlands Nitro
Dam is a 1/2-sister to Better Single, p, 3, 1:51.5s -19 ($234,420). Family of Dontelleagain, p, 1:47.2 -18 ($815,074)

**Pennsylvania Pacers**
**A ROCKNROLL DANCE**
**W02, NANCY'S DANCING, F**
A Rocknroll Dance-Bunkhouse Play-Shadow Play
Second foal. Dam is a 1/2-sister to Vintage Babe, p, 1:52.2f ($285,320). Family of Dalhousie Dave, p, 3, 1:49.4s ($892,016)

**W17, ROCKAWAY BAY, C**
A Rocknroll Dance-St Mattrickx Way-Matt's Scooter
1/2-brother to Doonbeg, p, 3, 1:49.3s ($724,498). Rosapenna, p, 3, 1:52.2s ($127,802), & Glashedy, p, 1:53.3f ($86,528). Dam is a 1/2-sister to Sablevision, p, 3, 1:53.1 ($379,777). Family of Royal Matjessy, p, 1:48.4 ($1,653,367)

**Pennsylvania Trotters**
**ANDOVER HALL**
**W11, NONEEDFORDVDVS, F**
Andover Hall-New Dvd-Like A Prayer
1/2-sister to Box Of Luck, 1:55.3f -19 ($115,425). Dam is a 1/2-sister to Ashlake, 1:53.3f ($213,064)

**W18, SUMMER BLING, F**
Andover Hall-Summer Hit-Giant Hit
1/2-sister to Summer Scent, 1:55.4f ($154,105). Family of Winbak Charles M, 1:54.2f ($235,067)

**EXPLOSIVE MATTER**
**W01, EXESLIVEIN TEXAS, C**
Explosive Matter-Bobbi Jo's Ex-Oh Excalibur
Darn is a 1/2-sister to Bobbi Jo's Lindy, 1:54.1f ($210,090). Family of Snow White, 2, 1:52.4 ($1,433,551)

**W19, EXPLOSIVE LIZ, F**
Explosive Matter-Video Queen-Classic Photo
2nd dam is Oolong, 3, 1:54.4 ($744,086). Family of Opulent Yankee, 1:51.4f ($487,914), & Pekoe Fashion, 1:53.3f ($354,445)

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Tall Dark Stranger Making KYSS Start Sunday At Red Mile

The Kentucky Sires Stakes (KYSS) preliminaries wrap up Sunday afternoon at The Red Mile, with a pair of races for 3-year-old pacer on the 10-race card. Seven 3-year-old filly pacers will go behind the gate in the $40,000 KYSS division slated as Race 4, while seven sophomore male pacers will vie for $40,000 in Race 2.

Six of the seven males going behind the starting car have made appearances in the first two KYSS legs, with the lone newcomer being Tall Dark Stranger. The Meadowlands Pace, North America Cup and Cane Pace champ will start from post 5 as he guns for his fourth straight victory.

There is one major change for Tall Dark Stranger and that is the son of Bettor's Delight will have a new driver for the first time ever. With regular reinsman Yannick Gingras up in Canada for major stakes events, trainer Nancy Takter has turned to Dexter Dunn.

"Dexter Dunn is more than qualified to drive him, I don’t have any worries about that,” laughed Takter when asked if Tall Dark Stranger would notice the change after 16 career starts with Gingras in the sulky. "If I’m not able to have Yannick I have no problem having Dexter drive him. He’s an accomplished driver and knows what he’s doing.”

Dunn knowing what he’s doing is an understatement. He was voted the 2019 Driver of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. He also just recently supplanted Tim Tetrick as the leading money-winning driver this year. As of Thursday morning (Sept. 10), Dunn has purse earnings of $5,533,654, just ahead of Tetrick, who has compiled $5,521,668 in earnings. Dunn’s 235 victories this year place him ninth on that list.

Takter said Tall Dark Stranger has already arrived at The Red Mile in anticipation of Sunday’s KYSS contest as well as the $250,000 final on Sunday, Sept. 20, two races that if he sweeps would send his seasonal earnings past the $1-million mark. Takter already said with the KYSS final being just four days before the Little Brown Jug, she would not enter the colt, so his next two starts would come in Grand Circuit action at The Red Mile. Then it’ll be on to Harrah’s Hoosier Park for the Breeders Crown at the end of October.

“He’s then pretty much retired unless we decide to race him in the TVG,” said Takter. – By Gordon Waterstone

Splash Brother’s Comeback Leads To Favorite Role In NYSS Final

Splash Brother is making quite a comeback this year, having earned his place behind the gate on the $1.8 million New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) Night of Champions at Yonkers on Saturday. According to co-owner and trainer Ray Schnittker, the 3-year-old gelded pacer looked solid last year until a fateful day last year at Saratoga.

“He looked really good that day until Mark McDonald fell off and Splash Brother got loose,” said Schnittker of the incident while scoring down for a leg of the NYSS on July 20, 2019, at the half-mile track. The driver sustained a broken shoulder, which was later repaired by surgery, and was forced to sit out the rest of the year on the sidelines.

Schnittker said the horse was also impacted, despite performing well in NYSS events the rest of the season and finishing fourth in the Final at Batavia Downs to close out his 2-year-old year.

“We believe he hurt his shoulder because something was just bothering him, but we still to this day don’t really know,” said Schnittker. “We just knew that he wasn’t the same.”

The son of So Surreal trained back well in 2020, winning the $240,600 Empire Breeders Classic and two legs of NYSS while being driven by Tyler Buter. His last start on Sept. 1 was a return to Saratoga where he dug in for a 1:51 victory, just a fifth of a second off the track record.

“It’s funny when he came back this year, it was no problem,” said Schnittker. “It is like he is a 5-year-old child with that type of energy behind him.”

–Ray Schnittker

Schnittker is trying to capture some of the same magic he had in last year’s NYSS season. He picked up two Night of Champions wins at Batavia last year with Cigars And Port and USTA District 8 Horse of the Year Hickfromfrenchlick.

For now, Schnittker is concentrating on the $225,000 NYSS final, where his horse starts from the rail as the 9-5 morning line favorite in the eighth race on Saturday. Following that, Splash Brother is heading to Indiana for five races. (with files from NYSS)
DANCIN LOU p,4,1:47.2-'20 ($942,316)
Selling his full brother, 247 Dancin Sancho at Lexington Selected

DUNE HILL 3,1:52.4f-'20 ($151,886)
Selling her 3/4 brother, 522 Unleash The Titan at Lexington Selected

SOUTHWIND TYRION 2,1:54-'20 ($133,900)
Selling his full brother, 183 Eden Onthehill at Lexington Selected

*Hip 77 TABBYHILL, bt What The Hill-Tabby Talks Alot
*Hip 113 HS WILLY MCCOY, brc What The Hill-After Midnight
Hip 151 GRAPPA GIRL, grf Fear The Dragon-Calvados Hall

*Hip 176 KENTUKYLADY, bf Big Bad John-Four Starzzzz Hope
*Hip 189 WHAT IN SAM HILL, bc What The Hill-Dress For Success
*Hip 198 BAMBOO, bc Long Tom-Love To Win

*Hip 220 CREATINE STAR, brc Creatine-My Shooting Star
*Hip 227 WISHING ITSME, brc Wishing Stone-It'snot U It'sme
*Hip 247 GO TO GAL, bc Long Tom-Expressive Victor

*Hip 117 HEIST, bc Father Patrick-Miss Paris
Hip 155 JUSTICE, bc Chapter Seven-Religious
*Hip 183 EDEN ONTHEHILL, bc Muscle Hill-Taylor Jean
Hip 247 DANCIN SANCHO, bc Sweet Lou-Dancewiththebest
*Hip 282 TWENTY GRAND, bf Huntsville-Up Front Kellie Jo
*Hip 327 STAR PLAYER, bfr Betting Line-One Last Bono

*Hip 378 PULLING STRINGS, bfr American Ideal-V String
Hip 415 ANVIL HANDS, bc Always B Miki-Cams Macharena
Hip 459 RECEPTION, bfr Father Patrick-Grand Canyon
*Hip 514 WHISKEY GIRL, bfr Bar Hopping-Phabaj Hanover
*Hip 522 UNLEASH THE TITAN, bc E L Titan-Quite Possible
*Hip 554 HS PATRICK, bcf Father Patrick-Tellyalittlesecret
*Hip 619 DAY TO PARTY, bfr Sportswriter-Day To Ponder
*Hip 625 HS MAGGIE MAY, bfr Donato Hanover-Easy Money

*Hip 629 RED LIGHT LADY, bfr Donato Hanover-Enbeeceee
*Hip 651 THAT OLE BAR STOOL, bcr Bar Hopping-Iotta Feelin
*Hip 658 ACRIMONY, bfr A Rocknroll Dance-Kryptos
Hip 668 OOHOOH SHES MAGIC, bfr Sportswriter-Magical Bestern
*Hip 680 ACOUSTIC, bc A Rocknroll Dance-Music City
*Hip 699 LEAVIN D LEGEND, bc What The Hill-Pompen Hapenstance
*Hip 701 FIREINSIDEMYVEINS, bcf Muscle Mass-Prize Angie
*Hip 745 TEN BAY BEACH, bfr Sunshine Beach-Vanitty

*Hip 748 TOP HONORS, bfr Always A Virgin-Walstan's Lady
*Hip 754 VANDERPUMP, bfr DownbytheseasidelySee LA
*Hip 778 AWESOME GIRL, bfr Creatine-Broadway Photo
Hip 792 CRUZINBYTHESEASIDE, bfr Downbytheseaside-Cruzin Tothe Dance
Hip 812 DIVIDE, bfr A Rocknroll Dance-Geometry
*Hip 825 BELLA BLUE, bfr Downbytheseaside-Isabella Blue Chip
*Hip 831 NO EDGE LINES, bfr Long Tom-Lady Glider
*Hip 843 DYNAMITE LOVER, bfr Explosive Matter-Luv Buttons

*Selling as Agent
NY Ag Commissioner: $10.2 Million Distributed In 2020

The following has been submitted by Richard Ball, New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets:

It has been a difficult year for all of us, with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting our personal lives and presenting unprecedented challenges for industries and businesses across the nation. The state’s equine industry, including our Standardbred breeding industry, is no exception. It also faced uncertainties and disruption amid the pandemic earlier this spring as the racing season was delayed and additional measures were put in place to ensure the safety and protection of all New Yorkers. Yet, more than ever, we celebrate the championship events this coming weekend and our success in offering a strong stakes season, within a shorter window of time, that continued to provide New York’s high-quality Standardbreds a consistent opportunity to earn robust purses.

The New York Sire Stakes program, one of the nation’s premier Standardbred programs, moved forward in 2020 with a slightly modified race program, yet still distributed $10.2 in purses and will host more than 500 separate events this year. Nine youngsters have already earned more than $100,000 in New York Sire Stakes purses and one outstanding filly, 3-year-old trotter Love A Good Story, has dominated her division to accumulate a quarter of a million in earnings from the Sire Stakes this season in advance of the finals. Her counterpart on the pacing side, Hen Party, has also eclipsed the quarter of a million-dollar earnings mark with her New York performances, including a victory in the Empire Breeders Classic.

On the other side of the spectrum, new guaranteed minimum purse levels on the statewide New York County Fair circuit helped to strengthen the value of fair racing as a training ground for young horses and attracted new participants in the industry. Fair associations and our horsemen did an outstanding job of coming together to help make this happen.

The New York Sire Stakes is the foundation for a strong Standardbred breeding industry in New York. It has a widespread impact on agriculture—from farms to training facilities and veterinarian services—and is a driver of the New York economy.

We have a lot to be proud of when it comes to our Standardbred industry in New York, and New York State is committed to its continued success. We were pleased to showcase the County Fair Champions at Goshen Historic Track last weekend and celebrate an exciting season of racing at fair sites across the state. We look forward to several major events coming up, including the Excelsior Finals at Tioga Downs Friday and the $1.8 million New York Night of Champions at Yonkers Raceway on Saturday.

I also wish much success to our breeders offering their yearlings at the upcoming Goshen Yearling Sale, the first major auction of New York-bred Standardbreds this year, and to all our breeders throughout the fall auction season.

Moving forward, we will continue to adapt to the opportunities and challenges ahead and make decisions for the direction of the program that support breeders and highlight New York’s Standardbred industry. We look forward to 2021 and continuing the 60-year tradition of offering the nation’s leading Sire Stakes program, with its three tiers of outstanding competition, to showcase the best of New York State.

Love A Good Story Poised To Finish Off Big NYSS Campaign

This year’s racing season has been hard on so many but not so much for Love A Good Story, a 3-year-old trotting filly trained by Julie Miller. She’s swept all five New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) legs in convincing fashion. Love A Good Story heads into the Night of Champions as the top overall earner in NYSS purses this season with $226,850 (this filly has total 2020 earnings of $281,197).

Andy Miller pilots Love A Good Story for his wife and owners Daniel Plouffe, Pinske Stables and Kentuckiana Racing Stable.

“She and Andy have a great connection you just dream about,” said Julie. “Real fortunate, she’s dominating that level of competition and things have really worked out for her.”

In 2019, Love A Good Story demonstrated her promise, winning six NYSS legs and finishing fifth in the NYSS final on her way to more than $230,000 in seasonal earnings. Miller’s plan for the 2-year-old at the time seemed to pay off.

“We gave her a lot of time, raced at Lexington and then we elected to put her away and give her green grass, some vacation time and then picked up training back in Florida,” said Miller. “When back in Jersey, she matured. She filled out and she knows her job and what she is supposed to do.”

With so many changes to this year’s schedule due to covid-19, Miller reflected on her preparation for this weekend’s finals.

“There was a little bit of time in between the races—a longer time frame. I was able to train her easy last week—I’ll train her up,” said Miller—By Eliza Bianco for New York Sire Stakes
USTA Issues New Statements
On Proposed Legislation

The United States Trotting Association (USTA) issued the following statement on legislation introduced in the United States Senate yesterday by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The newly introduced Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020 (HISA) is, like its predecessors, a Thoroughbred bill written by elite Thoroughbred interests in an attempt to address elite Thoroughbred problems. Indeed, Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s bill did not include Standardbreds or other breeds, and the press release that announced the bill repeatedly cited only Thoroughbred racing and its interests.

The bill has since been bastardized by an array of outside interests, and harness racing again has been pulled into the mix. A review of the revised language reveals that the bill now is a virtual clone of H.R. 1754 (Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019), and will harm, not help, Standardbred horses and the harness racing industry.

While the United States Trotting Association (USTA) strongly supports state-regulated, breed-specific, uniform medication rules for horse racing, the USTA strongly opposes the HISA for a number of reasons and sees several areas of significant concern to the Standardbred racing industry.

LASIX (FUROSEMIDE)

The legislation seeks to ban the race-day use of Lasix, a universally-accepted therapeutic medication. Veterinarians endorse Lasix as the only known treatment for Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage (EIPH), a condition that causes varying amounts of bleeding in the lungs of racehorses as well as horses in the wild. Both the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the North American Association of Racetrack Veterinarians support the use of Lasix and oppose this legislation.

Proponents of the ban on the use of Lasix have purposely disseminated misleading information on the percentage of horses that suffer EIPH when they say that only five percent of horses “bleed” during racing. That statistic is the percentage of horses that suffer epistaxis, the most severe form of EIPH involving patent hemorrhaging from the nose. In fact, about 90 percent of horses bleed into their lungs during racing, with each bout of EIPH causing irreparable damage to lung tissue.

Lasix is not performance enhancing and, due to the very sensitive capabilities of testing, it cannot be used to mask illegal medications.

UNSPECIFIED FUNDING MECHANISM WITH EXTREMELY INEQUITABLE COSTS TO HARNESS RACING

Various proponents of this legislation have indicated that a newly created, private Horse Racing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority would be funded by a surcharge to the owners and trainers of every horse in every race.

Standardbreds are a different breed with a significantly different racing performance model than Thoroughbreds. Since the average Standardbred races 19 times per year while the average Thoroughbred only six, that fee structure would result in three times the cost to Standardbreds compared to Thoroughbreds.

This newly created regulatory body will have to impose additional fees and costs on the industry with no oversight mechanism in place. Harness racing horsemen will be hit particularly hard because most of them are working-class people. It will drive many of them out of the business.

TESTING AND OVERSIGHT

The bill mandates a drug-testing authority that has no background in animal testing. The testing authority will be done by a private business – USADA – which tests certain human athletes.

Nowhere in the bill is there mandated ANY consultation requirement with the National Veterinary Service Labs for drug testing or the USDA Veterinary Services.

The bill snatches legitimate authority away from the states, forcing them to cooperate, and illegally delegates Congressional authority to a private company that is accountable to no elected official.

The USTA promotes and insists upon the humane and ethical treatment of its horses. Despite its inaccurate title indicating that it will make horses safer, this bill does the opposite. Whether it is right for Thoroughbred racing – its intended target – is not our concern. It most certainly is wrong for harness racing, will harm our industry, and put our horses and participants at risk.

USTA President Supports Statements Of Vet Lawmaker

On the same day that Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) introduced the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act in the Senate, the Energy and Commerce Committee marked up the companion legislation in the U.S. House. Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY) offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to the Horseracing Integrity Act (H.R. 1754) to mirror the bill introduced by Senator McConnell. The markup sparked fierce debate among the members of the committee.

During debate Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR), a veterinarian and co-chair of the House Veterinary Caucus, railed against the lack of any equine medical input on a bill that purports to promote the health and welfare of horses, the lack of veterinary expertise on the Authority that the bill creates, and the lack of any basis in veterinary science for banning race-day Lasix.

“Certain Thoroughbred interests have made race-day Lasix a red herring to distract the public from the fact that Thoroughbred racing itself causes many of the deplorable, catastrophic breakdowns in the Thoroughbred breed,” said USTA president Russell Williams. “Race-day Lasix is the humane therapy for horses being asked to stress their pulmonary systems to the utmost on a single day. Lasix is not performance-enhancing, it is not doping, and it does not mask illegal substances. Banning Lasix before it is scientifically studied, to echo Representative Schrader, is putting the cart before the horse. As Rep. Schrader explained, this bill is not ready for prime time.” (USTA)
Southwind Tyrion Growing Into “Real Racehorse”

Ake Svanstedt liked everything about Southwind Tyrion when he saw the yearling prior to last fall’s Lexington Selected Sale. After purchasing the trotting colt for $145,000 and getting him home, he was less enthused. At least temporarily.

“He was terrible,” Svanstedt said with a laugh. “Until around May, he was pacy and his front step was just up and down. I think he had growing pains. When he was done with the growing, he started stretching out and was good.

“Then the first time he trained at the Meadowlands he was a different horse. And when he qualified, he was amazing.”

Southwind Tyrion won his only qualifier in 1:55.2 and has kept on winning through the first four races of his career. On Saturday, the colt competes in the $335,000 William Wellwood Memorial for 2-year-old male trotters at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

He is one of two undefeated colts in the Wellwood, along with Luc Blais-trained Macho Martini. Southwind Tyrion won his Wellwood elimination last week by a nose over On A Streak in 1:54.4 while Macho Martini triumphed by 1 3/4 lengths over Warrawee Whisper in 1:56 for his seventh victory of the campaign.

Southwind Tyrion, this season’s New Jersey Sires Stakes champion, is a son of Muscle Hill out of Taylor Jean. His third dam is Dan Patch Award winner Me Maggie and his extended family includes millionaires Lifetime Pursuit and Whiskey Tax, 2012 Goodtimes winner Beer Summit, and 2019 Ontario Sire Stakes champ Moon Bridge, who also was trained by Svanstedt.

“He’s a real racehorse,” Svanstedt said about Southwind Tyrion. “He has been more serious since he started racing, at the racetrack and at home. He’s not like a kid anymore. He was like a baby before, but now he is like an old horse. He likes racing. He really likes it.

“Everything is good with him. He is a nice horse to handle. He can leave fast and he has never made a break. He can do everything.”

Svanstedt originally owned Southwind Tyrion with Lennart Agren’s SRF Stable. The ownership group has since grown to include Knutsson Trotting Inc. and Brittany Farms & Riverview.

Agren and Svanstedt teamed to win the 2017 Hambletonian with Perfect Spirit. Agren is enjoying the ride now with Southwind Tyrion.

“He is a very talented and intelligent horse and he has tremendous speed,” Agren said. “He is strong, powerful, and knows how to finish.”

Agren said he is “absolutely” hoping for a victory Saturday so Southwind Tyrion can grab the final spot in the 10-horse Mohawk Million. Nine starting slots were purchased earlier this year for $110,000 and those slots can be sold, traded, or leased by their owners. Slot owners do not have to declare a horse for the Mohawk Million until Sept. 22.

“We’ll see what happens,” Svanstedt said. (Ken Weingartner/USTA)
Yonkers Raceway to continue racing; casino opens Sept. 21

Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New York (SOA of NY) president Joe Faraldo has announced that Yonkers Raceway, which had been scheduled to close on Sept. 12, will remain open. In a Facebook posting, Faraldo said an agreement has been reached with MGM Resorts to keep Yonkers open through Dec. 22.

Meadowlands is back in the swing

With Labor Day now in the rear-view mirror, sweaters and jackets will begin to make their way out of closets everywhere, which means the Meadowlands’ Fall meeting shifts into high gear this weekend with racing being conducted on both Friday (Sept. 11) and Saturday (Sept. 12) at the mile oval for the first time since the first week of August.

USTA to hold virtual Zoom district meetings

For the first time ever, the U.S. Trotting Association District Meetings will be held virtually, online rather than in person on site. As usual, all district members are welcome to attend. For members to participate, the free Zoom app will need to be downloaded to their computer or device in advance of the meeting. The meetings will be conducted on the Zoom Webinar platform.

McConnell legislation introduced in Senate

On Wednesday (Sept. 9), Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell (R) introduced the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act. Also on Wednesday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted 46-5 to mark up the Horseracing Integrity Act with a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Paul Tonko, D-N.Y., with bipartisan support from Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky, to bring it in line with the McConnell bill.

Breeders Crown Charity Challenge begins Sept. 7

Harrah’s Hoosier Park Racing & Casino and 2020 Breeders Crown Presenting Sponsor The Libfeld-Katz Breeding Partnership will officially kick off the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge the week of Sept. 7, benefiting four non-profit organizations represented by local Indiana celebrities including Indianapolis Colt alum Jeff Saturday, Indiana Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch, Indianapolis sports radio personality Dan Dakich, and Emmy award-winning WTHR Indianapolis news anchor Julia Moffitt.

Siegelman Stable Sportswear supports equine therapy programs

It is not uncommon to see an athlete wearing a cap during a postgame press conference. It is uncommon for the hat to feature a harness racing logo.

Garden State Trot for 3FT Friday at Freehold

A small but select field has lined up for the Garden State Trot for 3-year-old fillies at Freehold Raceway this Friday (Sept. 11). Four fillies will contest the $40,000 race. Because of field size, the race will be run as a non-betting affair at 12:15 p.m.

“Solid” Illini Classic Yearling Sale results in Springfield

Business was brisk at the 22nd annual Illini Classic Yearling Sale on Monday (Sept. 7) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, producing healthy results amidst a competitive market for quality individuals. A total of 165 horses sold for a gross of $1,695,700, compared to 115 sold at last year’s session for $1,196,100.

Musically talented? Help celebrate 75th Brown Jug

Want to be a part of the 75th Little Brown Jug? The Delaware County Fair is looking for musically talented fans to submit their version of the national anthem of the United States or Canada.

Brittany Farms offers virtual inspections

This year, for the first time, Brittany Farms has added complete, “virtual inspections” of its yearlings to its video-only website, available now at https://brittanyfarms.smugmug.com.

Register now for online bidding for Goshen Sale

The 2020 Goshen Yearling Sale will be held on Monday, Sept. 14 at noon and it promises to be deep in quality. And with the recent news that all New York casinos and racinos can reopen this week, it’s a good time to buy and be ready for the 2020 New York Sires Stakes season.

How to bid, buy online at Ohio Selected Jug Sale

With yearling season upon the harness racing industry, and many states still implementing covid-19 protocols and restrictions, many horse owners and trainers will look to the world wide web for solutions to quarantine issues and alternatives to “being there.

Mae Jean Allen, widow of Carl Allen, dies

It is with great sadness that the family of Mae Jean (Davis) Allen announces her passing on Sunday (Sept. 6).

Delaware horseman Pleasant Batson Jr. dies

Pleasant Batson Jr., 84, of Greenwood, Del., passed away on Sept. 1 with family by his side. He was born in Wilmington, N.C. on June 17, 1936, and after graduating from high school began a 65-year career owning, training, and driving Standardbred harness horses and running Batson’s Harness Shop which he opened in 1958.
## Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through Sept. 8, 2020 (week difference Sept. 2-8).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tall Dark Stranger</td>
<td>3pc</td>
<td>7-6-0</td>
<td>$731,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramona Hill</td>
<td>3tf</td>
<td>5-4-0</td>
<td>151,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimpanzee</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>5-7-1</td>
<td>643,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party Girl Hill</td>
<td>3pc</td>
<td>5-0-0</td>
<td>482,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shartin L</td>
<td>7pc</td>
<td>5-6-1</td>
<td>202,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ready For Moni</td>
<td>3tc</td>
<td>5-6-1</td>
<td>575,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>5tm</td>
<td>5-7-2</td>
<td>414,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorella</td>
<td>3tf</td>
<td>5-7-0</td>
<td>407,004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflect With Me</td>
<td>3pc</td>
<td>5-5-0</td>
<td>213,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manchego</td>
<td>5tm</td>
<td>8-4-2</td>
<td>276,201</td>
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### Leading Money-Winning Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>Starts</th>
<th>W-P-S</th>
<th>UDR</th>
<th>Earnings (wk. diff)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dexter Dunn</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>234-174-156</td>
<td>.342</td>
<td>$5,525,022 ($700,789)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Trettic</td>
<td>1,398</td>
<td>293-236-166</td>
<td>.343</td>
<td>5,495,032 (418,775)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yannick Gingras</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>163-110-98</td>
<td>.320</td>
<td>4,949,263 (471,387)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Page</td>
<td>1,717</td>
<td>277-220-199</td>
<td>.271</td>
<td>3,867,243 (621,920)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew McCarthy</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>126-121-104</td>
<td>.263</td>
<td>3,858,353 (381,841)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Merriman</td>
<td>2,278</td>
<td>457-375-326</td>
<td>.340</td>
<td>3,659,446 (139,851)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Miller</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>114-132-123</td>
<td>.285</td>
<td>3,587,338 (712,731)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Bartlett</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>226-194-156</td>
<td>.336</td>
<td>3,527,221 (194,630)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Kakaley</td>
<td>1,253</td>
<td>169-159-187</td>
<td>.255</td>
<td>3,388,420 (219,160)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brett Miller</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>246-184-212</td>
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<td>3,207,242 (590,350)</td>
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### Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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<tr>
<th>Trainer</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Ron Burke</td>
<td>2,489</td>
<td>556-369-290</td>
<td>.345</td>
<td>$10,234,567 ($1,976,328)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Takter</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>78-36-29</td>
<td>.485</td>
<td>3,908,335 (365,594)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ake Svanstedt</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>51-47-43</td>
<td>.307</td>
<td>2,974,070 (434,092)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Alagna</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>93-67-42</td>
<td>.358</td>
<td>2,864,693 (146,346)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Melander</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>37-35-32</td>
<td>.351</td>
<td>2,286,262 (172,154)</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Nifty Norman</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>58-57-41</td>
<td>.326</td>
<td>1,803,007 (386,032)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgil Morgan Jr</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>151-81-87</td>
<td>.348</td>
<td>1,774,567 (267,429)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim King Jr.</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>80-74-49</td>
<td>.353</td>
<td>1,752,380 (73,078)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Auciello</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>115-116-111</td>
<td>.225</td>
<td>1,739,131 (100,392)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moreau</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>141-141-135</td>
<td>.267</td>
<td>1,687,256 (54,258)</td>
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### Leading Money-Winning Sires

#### 3YO Pacers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire Name</th>
<th>Foals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAPEINTREACHEROUS</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>$3,195,186</td>
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<tr>
<td>BETTOR'S DELIGHT</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>2,070,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOMEBEACHESOMEWHERE</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>1,941,587</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWEET LOU</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>1,355,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPORTSWRITER</td>
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<td>115</td>
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<td>ART MAJOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROLL WITH JOE</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>882,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMERICAN IDEAL</td>
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<td>PET ROCK</td>
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<td>ROCKIN IMAGE</td>
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<td>HE'S WATCHING</td>
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<td>WESTERN IDEAL</td>
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<td>SO SURREAL</td>
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<td>SUNSHINE BEACH</td>
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<td>ALWAYS A VIRGIN</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>603,852</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIG BAD JOHN</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>561,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROCKIN AMADEUS</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>WELL SAID</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>559,511</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN</td>
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<td>537,719</td>
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<tr>
<td>YANKIE CRUISER</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>508,197</td>
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#### 3YO Trotters

<table>
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<tr>
<td>MUSCLE HILL</td>
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<td>FATHER PATRICHER</td>
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<td>CHAPTER SEVEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCLE PETER</td>
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<td>TRIXTON</td>
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<td>READY CASH</td>
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<td>MUSCLE MASS</td>
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<td>KADABRA</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWAN FOR ALL</td>
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<td>DONATO HANOVER</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROYALTY FOR LIFE</td>
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<td>579,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPLOSIVE MALER</td>
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<td>566,855</td>
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<td>CREDIT WINNER</td>
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<td>TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR</td>
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<td>CASH HALL</td>
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<td>68</td>
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<td>CONWAY HALL</td>
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<td>378,506</td>
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<td>E L TITAN</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>356,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>CANTAB HALL</td>
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<td>351,708</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEELING N DEALIN</td>
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<td>345,508</td>
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