Red Mile Should Benefit New York Shippers In Bluegrass 2CT

The two-week Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile gets underway Thursday, with all eight race cards (Thursday-Sunday) starting at 1 p.m. Getting things rolling on Thursday’s nine-race card are three divisions of the $315,500 Bluegrass for 2-year-old male trotters.

A pair of freshmen coming off the New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) circuit for the Bluegrass could be in for a bit of a shock when they see the 850-foot homestretch at The Red Mile. Both Berkery J and Hobbs, coming off a fourth and fifth, respectively, in the NYSS final on Sept. 14 at Batavia Downs, have raced all but once on the smaller ovals in the Empire State.

Berkery J has three wins this year, all in NYSS contests over the half-mile tracks at Yonkers and Monticello. His latest victory on Sept. 3 at Yonkers was a career-best 1:57.3 effort. The son of Chapter Seven will start from post 5 in the second $105,500 Bluegrass division (Race 8) with David Miller driving.

“We’ll see how he is on the big track,” trainer George Ducharme said about Berkery J. “He raced OK at Vernon (third in a July 25 NYSS division), which was the only time he’s been on a big track. Getting stretched out on the big track is going to help him.

“He should trot 1:54, but I’m not sure that will be enough. It’s not going to be easy. But it’s a place to start, anyways.”

Berkery J shows a pair of breaks at the start of two races on the program, but Ducharme said to toss those efforts.

“A couple times he made mistakes but it was more human error than the horse’s fault, so I’m not over concerned about that,” said Ducharme. “It was the gate and then we were fighting him a little in the turns trying to baby him a little bit.”

Ducharme will also send out Rays The Limits from post 2 with driver Scott Zeron in the third $105,500 Bluegrass division (Race 9). The son of Father Patrick comes into the race off a third-place finish in the Kentucky Sires Stakes final Sept. 15 at The Red Mile. Ducharme said experience over the track should help Rays The Limits.

“I think it will be an advantage,” said Ducharme. “He raced good every race we raced him here. I really have no complaints. It’s a little better bunch of horses than he raced against in the Kentucky final though. He was more than competitive and has been trotting pretty consistent, so I’m looking forward to him racing and being OK.”

Ducharme added the KYSS final line is deceiving.

“Last week he was really good,” he said. “He didn’t shake loose until late and he was going forward, so I was happy for that.”

As for Hobbs, he will start from post 1 in the first $104,500 Bluegrass division (Race 4) with Tim Tetrick driving. The son of Credit Winner has won just once 10 starts this year, that being a 1:57 effort in a NYSS division Aug. 27 over the half-mile track at Saratoga.

“I expect him to step up a little bit,” said trainer Jim Campbell. “The big track should help him some.”

Continues on page 2 ››››
While Hobbs will race on Lasix for the first time in the Bluegrass, Campbell hoped to take the hobbles off for the race. However, Kentucky rules don’t allow the change without the horse qualifying first.

“My intention was to take the hobbles off him but Kentucky rules say you have to qualify. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania you’re allowed to make a change one time,” said Campbell. “He’s been a very consistent horse. Maybe he didn’t race as good in his last start as he had been, but he’s acting good coming into it.”

Campbell will also send out Beyond Kronos from post 9 in the third Bluegrass division with Tetrick driving. The son of Muscle Hill finished sixth last time out in the William Wellwood Memorial after being parked early and leading for driver Dexter Dunn.

“Dexter said he felt good going around the last turn and when he got into the lane he kind of let up on him,” said Campbell about Beyond Kronos, whose three wins have all come in Pennsylvania Stallion events. “He has been fighting some allergies and stuff like that, and shipping around may have taken a toll on him. He’s a colt with a lot of ability. He didn’t work out for him in his last start. But he has a bright future ahead of him.” — By Gordon Waterstone
**2019 Yearlings**

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**COLTS**

**Hip 105 DAMIEN**, b.c.  NJ/KY

_Progress Hill-Donahue-Andover Hall_

Half-brother to multiple International stakes winner **PROPEL** 1:49.3 ($3,200,000+) and **DREAM TOGETHER** 4:1:51.3 ($776,182); half-brother to World Champion **D’ORSAY** 4:1.51.4 ($445,732-dam of 2YO stakes winner **MISTER WALKER** 2:1.57.1f-19-$22,344). From Hambletonian Oaks winner **DANAE** 3:1.54.2 ($529,099), half-sister to **TASTY CHIPS** 3:1.55.1 ($153,080-dam of **GURF** 1:54.3f-$494,877). **GERARD FONNI PHOTO**

**Selling as Agent**

Half-brother to multiple stakes winner **BRIGHT BABY BLUES** 3:1.54.2 ($492,203) and to the dam of **HABIT** 1:53.2 ($103,784). Third foal from a half-sister to **SLIDING HOME** 3:1.55f ($270,000) and **BAD NEW KEY** 3:1.55.4f ($60,653). Second dam is Dan Patch 3YOFT of the Year **BROADWAY SCHOONER** 3:1.53.4 ($885,933).

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**Hip 132 ON A STREAK**, b.c.  **PA/KY**

_Donato Hanover-Habit’s Best-Muscle Hill_

Half-brother to millionaire racehorse and Yonkers Trot winner **HABIT** 1:53.2 ($232,490) and to the dams of World Champion **DREAM VACATION** 1:58.1h ($77,939). Second dam is **SLIDING HOME** 3:1.55f ($270,000) and **BAD NEW KEY** 3:1.55.4f ($60,653). Second dam is Dan Patch 3YOFT of the Year **MARION MARAUDER** 4:1.53.2 ($3,149,505).

**Selling as Agent**

Half-brother to **WHOSE BLUES** 2:1.56-19 ($54,168). Second foal and first colt from multiple stakes winner **BRIGHT BABY BLUES** 3:1.54.2 ($492,203), half-sister to **SLIDING HOME** 3:1.55f ($270,000) and **BAD NEW KEY** 3:1.55.4f ($60,653). Second dam is Dan Patch 3YOFT of the Year **BROADWAY SCHOONER** 3:1.53.4 ($885,933). **GERARD FONNI PHOTO**

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**Hip 795 FIFTY WAYS**, b.c.  **PA/KY**

_Donato Hanover-Fortunes Of Fables-Muscle Hill_

Half-brother to multiple stakes winner **FADE INTO YOU** 1:53.4f-19 ($191,268). Third foal and first colt from a full or half-sister to **FEED YOUR HEAD** 1:53.2 ($245,662), **FALCOR BLUESTONE** 1:53.4l ($204,130) and **FERRISWHEEL JUNKIE** 1:53.4 ($112,119). Second dam is **FLAWLESS BLUESTONE** 3:01.53.4 ($589,935), half-sister to the dam of Dan Patch Award winner **BROADWAY SCHOONER** 3:1.53.3 ($885,933).

**Selling as Agent**

Half-brother to **WHOSE BLUES** 2:1.56-19 ($54,168). Second foal and first colt from multiple stakes winner **BRIGHT BABY BLUES** 3:1.54.2 ($492,203), half-sister to **SLIDING HOME** 3:1.55f ($270,000) and **BAD NEW KEY** 3:1.55.4f ($60,653). Second dam is Dan Patch 3YOFT of the Year **BROADWAY SCHOONER** 3:1.53.4 ($885,933).

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**Hip 398 STOLEN KISSES**, b.f.  **PA/KY**

_Albany B Mik-Soulmate Hanover-Well Said_

First foal from **SOULMATE HANOVER** p,3:1.52.3f ($43,464), half-sister to World Champion **SASSA HANOVER** p,3:1.49.4 ($1,227,824). Second dam is half-sister to **SHADYSHARK HANOVER** p,3:1.47.4 ($765,666), **SHARKY OSBORNE** p,1:49.4f ($913,555) and **SHADOW CAT** p,1:48.4f-19 ($200,235).

**Selling as Agent**

First foal from Credit Winner from multiple stakes winner **ALL STAR HANOVER** 3:1.55.3f ($333,328), half-sister to **ABATON HANOVER** 1:57.4f ($122,896) and **ALMIROLA HANOVER** 4:1:55.4f ($84,931). Second dam is multiple stakes winner **ASTRAEA HANOVER** 3:1.54 ($217,655).

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**Hip 546 PAINT BY NUMBERS**, b.f.  **PA/KY**

_Habitation Hanover-Sagebrush Hanover-Andover Hall_

Half-sister to **PRACTICAL CAT** 3:1.55.2f-19 ($20,500). From **POWELL BLUE CHIP** 3:1.55.2f ($50,085), half-sister to **ACDC BLUE CHIP** 1:58h ($106,094). Second dam a half-sister to **ECO HANOVER** 3:1.56 ($304,538) and the dam of **PIZZA DOLCE** 3:1.52.4 ($868,824).

**Selling as Agent**

First foal from winners **LOVE THIS PLACE** p,1:50.2 ($406,798), half-sister to **RESTLESS YANKEE** p,1:50.3 ($303,809) and **CRUZIN COCO** p,1:52.3h ($233,669).

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**FILLIES**

**Hip 575 ANOTHER STORY**, b.f.  **NY/KY**

_Credit Winner-Star Hanover-Canter Hall_

First by Credit Winner from multiple stakes winner **ALL STAR HANOVER** 3:1.55.3f ($333,328), half-sister to **ABATON HANOVER** 1:57.4f ($122,896) and **ALMIROLA HANOVER** 4:1:55.4f ($84,931). Second dam is multiple stakes winner **ASTRAEA HANOVER** 3:1.54 ($217,655).

**Selling as Agent**

First foal from winners **LOVE THIS PLACE** p,1:50.2 ($406,798), half-sister to **RESTLESS YANKEE** p,1:50.3 ($303,809) and **CRUZIN COCO** p,1:52.3h ($233,669).

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**Hip 682 DANDY’S LOVE**, b.f.  **INKY**

_Always A Virgin-Love This Place-To Be_**

First foal from stakes winner **LOVE THIS PLACE** p,1:50.2 ($406,798), half-sister to **RESTLESS YANKEE** p,1:50.3 ($303,809) and **CRUZIN COCO** p,1:52.3h ($233,669).

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Carter Pinske Sending Out Two In Bluegrass Action

After finally getting to spend an entire winter in Florida working with his family’s racehorses, Carter Pinske knew it was what he wanted to do full time. So, when the season was ready to begin, Pinske followed a group of those horses to trainer Richard “Nifty” Norman’s stable, where he worked as an assistant for Norman in New Jersey, Canada, and now Kentucky.

And on Thursday (Sept. 26), the 24-year-old Pinske will step out for his Grand Circuit training debut in the third division of the Bluegrass Stakes for 2-year-old male trotters with Amigo Volo at Lexington’s Red Mile. The gelding, who heads to the race off a second-place finish behind Real Cool Sam in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final, is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line behind Kentucky Sire Stakes champ Ready For Moni.

Amigo Volo is owned by Pinks Stables, headed by Pinske’s father Karl and grandmother Marlys, and Florida’s David J. Miller. With Pinske already in Kentucky with the horse, Norman decided it was time for him to take the reins.

“He’s been real generous to let me do that,” Pinkse said. Prior to this past winter, Pinske helped prepare the family’s horses for racing by assisting as much as time permitted around his school schedule. Pinske graduated from college in May 2018 and was happy to get a full winter with the horses in Florida before sending them to Norman as well as trainer Julie Miller, as he had done in previous years.

“I went to Florida wanting to train horses, but I didn’t know it would blossom like this,” Pinske said. “This year, I sent 14 horses to Nifty and I went with them. He’s just an awesome guy to learn from. He puts full trust in you and lets you take off.”

Amigo Volo, by Father Patrick out of Margarita Momma, was purchased for $42,000 at last fall’s Lexington Selected Sale. He is a full brother to Reign Of Honor, who won last year’s Kindergarten Classic Series championship for Norman’s stable. In August, Amigo Volo won a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes in 1:54.4 at Harrah’s Philadelphia, setting the world record for a 2-year-old gelding trotter on a five-eighths-mile track. Real Cool Sam, who is undefeated in eight races this year, lowered the record to 1:53.4 when he won the PASS champion at the same track.

“Real Cool Sam, who is undefeated in eight races this year, lowered the record to 1:53.4 when he won the PASS championship at the same track.

“He went a really big mile,” Pinske said about Amigo Volo’s runner-up effort in the sire stakes final. “He had to do a lot of the grunt work and Real Cool Sam got a great trip. I thought we might have him there, but (Real Cool Sam) is just a game horse, a tough one to beat."

For the year, Amigo Volo has won two of six races and earned $115,896.

“He’s an awesome horse to be around. He’s a little horse, a little spitfire of a horse."

—Carter Pinske about Amigo Volo

USTA’s Lane Named Judge At Red Mile GC Meet

The Red Mile opens its two-week Grand Circuit meet on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 26, and a new face will be in the judges’ booth as the U.S. Trotting Association’s (USTA) chief operating officer T.C. Lane will serve as associate judge. Lane will join associate judge Jim Grow and presiding judge Tim Schmitz for the eight afternoons of racing that concludes on the Kentucky Futurity day program on Sunday, Oct. 6.

“I am looking forward to being in Kentucky,” said Lane, who also serves as a judge at some Ohio fair tracks. “The Grand Circuit meet is always an industry acknowledged pearl, and to participate at that level is quite an honor. It’s a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to be in the stand at this historic racetrack.”

Lane currently sits on the board of directors for the Racing Officials Accreditation Program and is a past director of officials for the USTA. Kentucky Horse Racing Commission executive director Marc Guilfoil said he couldn’t be happier with the resume he brings to the booth.

“I am thrilled T.C. will be with us for the Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile,” said Guilfoil. “He has the highest credentials, and he also brings a wealth of experience and professionalism that is hard to find.”
Gingras Hoping To Sweep Dayton’s Friday Derbies

Yannick Gingras will head to Hollywood Dayton Raceway looking to sweep Friday’s Grand Circuit stakes at the Ohio oval. He will be driving morning-line favorite Mission Accepted in the Dayton Trotting Derby and second choice This Is The Plan in the Dayton Pacing Derby.

It will be Gingras’ first time behind Mission Accepted since the duo lost the Crawford Farms Open Trot by a nose on Aug. 11 at Tioga Downs. The 4-year-old stallion has not won since the Vincennes on Aug. 3, Hambletonian Day, at the Meadowlands, but Gingras has been impressed with the horse’s efforts in his recent starts. Mission Accepted enters the Dayton Trotting Derby off a second-place finish to Lindy The Great in last week’s Caesars Trotting Classic at Hoosier Park. Mission Accepted was eighth in the outer flow for the first three-quarters of a mile before fanning four-wide off the final turn and rallying for the place spot.

Trained by Ron Burke, Mission Accepted is 2-1 on the morning line in the $171,250 Dayton Trotting Derby.

“He’s been super sharp,” Gingras said. “Last time, he was loaded with trot finishing. I was really impressed with how much trot he had. And the race before, he was loaded that day too. He couldn’t be coming into the race in better form. I think he’s coming into the race in the right way.”

For the season, Mission Accepted has won four of 17 races, hit the board a total of 11 times, and earned $244,345. He is owned by Burke Racing Stable, breeder Knox Services Inc., David Wills, and the Weaver Bruscemi partnership.

“He’s very versatile and sweet to drive,” Gingras said. “He’s not the biggest horse, he’s not the most powerful horse, but you know he’s going to go on the track and give you everything he’s got.”

This Is The Plan, also trained by Burke, enters the $151,750 Dayton Pacing Derby off a win in last week’s Hoosier Park Pacing Derby. After racing from the front in most of his starts this season, Gingras decided to race This Is The Plan from off the pace at Hoosier and got a second-over trip behind favorite McWicked en route to victory.

“I did go into the race wanting to change tactics,” Gingras said. “He had several tough starts in a row, and I figured it would be nice to try to get him covered up. You always have to respect McWicked and I thought that maybe if I could get McWicked in front of me, that might work out. Usually it doesn’t work out that way, but for one time the plan worked out to perfection.”

McWicked, the 2018 Horse of the Year, is the 5-2 favorite from post one in the Dayton Pacing Derby. This Is The Plan is 3-1 from post five.—By Ken Weingartner/USTA
Harder Looks For Good Efforts From Fillies In Friday’s Bluegrass

Friday afternoon’s nine-race card at The Red Mile is highlighted by four divisions of the $330,000 Bluegrass for 2-year-old filly trotters and a pair of splits of the $280,500 Bluegrass for 2-year-old filly pacers.

Trainer Mark Harder will send out one rookie filly on each gait. Harder will start Violet Stride from post 4 in the first $83,000 Bluegrass division for freshman trotters (Race 2) and Wingding Hanover from post 4 in the second $140,750 Bluegrass division for freshman pacers (Race 6). Brian Sears will drive Violet Stride while Andy McCarthy will be up behind Wingding Hanover.

Violet Stride began her career with three off-the-board finishes in New Jersey Sires Stakes events and a fifth in the James Doherty Memorial eliminations. The daughter of Trian-tin was then sent to Lexington for the Kentucky Sires Stakes and she found her stride as she scored a pair of victories (1:56 and 1:55.2) in the preliminaries. Violet Stride then finished fourth in the $250,000 final on Sept. 15.

“They came a big last quarter in the final so it was hard for her to make up ground, but she raced well,” said Harder. “She’s a big, talented filly. And a good-going filly. It’s taken her a little while to come into herself.”

Violet Stride, a $280,000 yearling purchase by Australians Emilio and Maria Rosati, is a half-sister to Lily Stride, who finished second in a pair of Grand Circuit events and the Kentucky Sires Stakes final in 2017 at The Red Mile, and last year won a heat of the Kentucky Filly Futurity. Violet Stride’s second dam is 2004 Hambletonian Oaks champ Silver Springs.

“They’re both all trot and they’re both talented,” answered Harder when asked to compare Violet Stride and Lily Stride, who he also trained. “This is a bigger filly but maybe not quite as strong. But I think she will get stronger.”

Harder shares ownership of Wingding Hanover with Noblock Racing Stable. The daughter of Somebeachsomewhere was an $80,000 yearling purchase from breeder Hanover Shoe Farms. And while Harder is a frequent customer of nearby Buffalo Wild Wings while in Lexington for the Grand Circuit meet, he said the name came with the filly.

“That was all Hanover,” he said with a laugh.

A starter on the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) circuit, Wingding Hanover has just one win in nine starts this year, that being a 1:54.4 effort when receiving some class relief in a maiden event Sept. 2 at Harrah’s Philadelphia. Harder said poor posts has been Wingding Hanover’s biggest obstacle in her young career.

“She’s a filly that’s had bad post positions so we raced her from the back,” he said. “She finished up good a couple of starts.”

Round Barn Fundraiser Set For Monday Night

If you plan to be in Lexington for the yearling sale or racing at The Red Mile, plan to attend the annual fundraiser for the historic Round Barn. Although located adjacent to The Red Mile and a part of the gateway to the track since 1880, today the Round Barn is maintained by the Stable of Memories Inc., a 501c3 corporation with its sole purpose to preserve and protect the historic barn.

The Round Barn has been home to world champion Standardbreds who once stabled there, troops gathered for war, and as a floral exhibition hall, which was its original purpose when constructed for the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association. It was also once used for gambling.

The annual Round Barn fundraiser gets underway at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30, at the barn on Red Mile Road. Tickets are $45 per person and include a barbeque dinner and two drinks. A silent auction to benefit the Stable of Memories will also be held during the event.

Please purchase tickets at https://squareup.com/store/stableofmemories, at Fennell’s near the Round Barn, or RSVP to the stableofmemories@gmail.com.

Harder admitted an Aug. 13 PASS contest at The Meadows, when Wingding Hanover was parked three wide early for driver Tyler Buter, took a bit of a toll. Things might not be easy for the filly on Friday as her competition includes Kentucky Sires Stakes one-two-three finishers Gai Waterhouse, Baby Your The Best (also second in the PASS championship) and Blood Red.

“He left with her at The Meadows and was three wide and that hurt her feelings and she hasn’t been the same since,” said Harder. “I’ve changed a couple of things to help her attitude. If she doesn’t race better this week she’ll be done for the year. It’s disappointing.” – By Gordon Waterstone

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Stewart Starts “Cool” Buxton
In Red Mile Late-Closer

The 2-year-old colt trotter may not have yet achieved anything close to the success of past trotters for Bob Stewart, but the Kentucky-based trainer said it is “cool” that he has a horse named for Ohio Hall of Famer Dick Buxton in his stable. That late Buxton trained many top trotters, among them the free-for-all mare Killbuck Mary.

Stewart will send out Buxton from post 3 in Race 3 on Friday afternoon at The Red Mile, a $12,500 late-closing event for 2-year-old male trotters that are non-winners of two pari-mutuel starts or $10,000 lifetime (through Aug. 15). Brett Miller will drive the son of Dejarmbro.

“He’s been a pleasant surprise,” Stewart said of Buxton, who has two wins and three seconds in seven starts, with his victories including a 1:57.2 effort in the $75,000 Ohio Sires Stakes consolation on Sept. 7 at Scioto Downs.

Bred by Peninsula Farm and owned by Peninsula’s Carter Duer, Buxton comes into the race off a second-place finish in the $58,550 Ohio Breeders Championship on Sept. 17 at Delaware, Ohio. That brought his earnings to $75,097.

“He’s had a very good fall,” said Stewart. “He’s made a lot of money in Ohio and raced very well his last three starts. Carter (Duer) wanted to see him race at The Red Mile so we’ll see how he does.”

Another Peninsula Farm-bred 2-year-old trotter racing this year is Holton, named for another Ohio Hall of Famer, Terry Holton. Trotters Buxton and Holton in late August finished one-two, respectively, in an Ohio Sires Stakes division at Scioto Downs. Buxton trotted his mile in a career-best 1:57.1, besting Holton by 1 1/4 lengths.

“Carter named another horse Holton, and I was much better friends with Terry Holton than I was with Dick Buxton,” said Stewart. “But it was neat when they finished one-two in a Sires Stake.”

Stewart said a pair of starts in late-closers at The Red Mile will end Buxton’s freshman campaign.

“He’s got the two late-closers and that will be it for the year,” said Stewart, who also serves as the president of the Kentucky Harness Horsemen’s Association. “We’ll then hopefully get him ready for next year’s Ohio Sires Stakes. “He’s finishing up his 2-year-old year on a high and that points very well for the next season.” — Gordon Waterstone