Another Strong Yearling Sale; Harrisburg Finishes Up 14.5 Percent

The strength of the Standardbred marketplace was reaffirmed in Harrisburg, Pa., this week as the Standardbred Horse Sales Company held its annual yearling auction and sold 833 yearlings for an average price of $48,903. That figure is up 14.5 percent from last year’s average of $42,675.

The annual Standardbred Horse Sale yearling auction was conducted Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 4-6, at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Complex. Shoppers were on the grounds examining yearlings over the weekend and then showed up early on Monday for additional inspections. For the second year in a row, Concord Stud Farm served brunch in its consignment area outside the back ring, so when the sale began at noon, consignors and buyers were ready to roll for the beginning of the sale at noon.

This year’s sale gross of $40.73 million was nearly 15 percent better than last year’s $35.42 million. The only other time the gross exceeded $40 million came in 2007, when 1,048 horses sold for $42.78 million.

A total of 88 yearlings were sold for prices of $100,000 or more; last year 78 fell into that category at Harrisburg.

Just as importantly for breeders and consignors, the median price—the point where half the horses sold for more and half for less—was $28,000, up $3,000, or 12 percent, from 2018.

A testament to the strength of the market—and depth of the catalog—could be seen in the results of the third yearling session on Wednesday. Three horses were sold for $100,000 or more each. The average price for the third session was $22,148, up 6.5 percent from 2018’s third session. The median price for the third session was $17,000.

The sport’s most bullish buyers were all represented at the opening session, although unlike this fall in Lexington, prominent Swedes Lennart Agren (SRF Stable) and Bengt Agerup (Brixton Medical) were not personally in attendance. Their representatives were actively bidding, however, with Agren deputizing horseman Ake Svanstedt to bid...
whatever was necessary to buy Hip 45, a Muscle Hill full sister to Svanstedt’s 2019 stakes winner Marseille 3, 1:51.4f, with the family also including the former world champion Cash Hall.

It took a bid of $550,000 for Svanstedt to get the filly named Gangsta Rat, after a piece of art by well-known street artist Banksy. Svanstedt was pushed to that price by Jimmy Takter and Marvin Katz, who were huddled on the other side of the arena. Takter was doing their bidding and both shook their heads “no” when Takter was asked to raise the bid when it hit $550,000.

Gangsta Rat was bred by Stefan Balazsi’s Order By Stable and raised and consigned by Concord Stud Farm, which last year sold the Harrisburg sale topper for Balazsi.

Concord and Balazsi teamed up to sell nine yearlings in this year’s opening session, with the group generating an average price of $271,111.

Concord and Balazsi also sold Hip 88 for $475,000 and Hip 113 for $460,000. Hip 88, a Muscle Hill brother to Basquiat 2, 1:52.4; 3, 1:51.2, was purchased by Diamond Creek Racing. Hip 113, another Muscle Hill colt, is a full brother to 2019 stakes winner King Alphonso and hails from the family of Trixton.— By Kathy Parker

### Leading Harrisburg Sires — By Average Price

#### TROTTING SIRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sire</th>
<th>No. Sold</th>
<th>Average (avg. at Lex. Selected)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muscle Hill</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>$153,323 ($130,073/55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Patrick</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>109,667 (111,667/48)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Seven</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>83,714 (87,895/38)</td>
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<tr>
<td>E L Titan</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>85,667 (32,857/7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwind Frank</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>73,643 (48,227/22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadabra</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>61,450 (58,085/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantab Hall</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>54,771 (66,244/41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar Hopping</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>47,571 (48,381/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conway Hall</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45,400 (45,500/4)</td>
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#### PACING SIRES

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<tr>
<td>Somebeachsomewhere</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>$97,860 ($112,763/38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captaintreachurous</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>54,295 (73,776/49)</td>
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<td>Betting Line</td>
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<td>52,561 (59,148/27)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Always B Miki</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>48,387 (71,321/56)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better’s Delight</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>44,744 (49,000/17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweet Lou</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>42,769 (40,560/25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Ideal</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40,571 (48,464/26)</td>
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**To Be Published December 4**

Email lmyers@harnessracing.com

SPECIAL HOLIDAY RATES AVAILABLE FOR ALL AD SIZES!
Holiday Claiming Series 2019

Event #1 F&M $10,000 Claiming Pace
1st Leg            Monday, December 9th, 2019                  $9,000
2nd Leg            Monday, December 16th, 2019                $9,500
Final Leg        Monday, December 30th, 2019                $15,000A

Event #3 $10,000 Claiming Trot
1st Leg            Wednesday, December 11th, 2019          $9,000
2nd Leg            Wednesday, December 18th, 2019          $9,500
Final Leg         Monday, December 30th, 2019               $15,000A

Event #5 H&G $10,000 Claiming Pace
1st Leg            Tuesday, December 10th, 2019               $9,000
2nd Leg            Tuesday, December 17th, 2019              $9,500
Final Leg          Monday, December 30th, 2019               $15,000A

Nomination fee for Events 1, 3 and 5: $200.00 U.S. funds
Nominations close for all Events November 22nd, 2019.

Event #2 F&M $20,000 Claiming Pace
1st Leg             Monday, December 9th, 2019                   $12,000
2nd Leg            Monday, December 16th, 2019                 $12,500
Final Leg        Monday, December 30th, 2019                 $20,000A

Event #4 $20,000 Claiming Trot
1st Leg             Wednesday, December 11th, 2019         $12,000
2nd Leg            Wednesday, December 18th, 2019         $12,500
Final Leg          Monday, December 30th, 2019                $20,000A

Event #6 H&G $20,000 Claiming Pace
1st Leg             Tuesday, December 10th, 2019                $12,000
2nd Leg            Tuesday, December 17th, 2019               $12,500
Final Leg          Monday, December 30th, 2019                $20,000

Nomination fee for Events 2, 4 and 6: $250.00 U.S. funds
Nominations close for all Events November 22nd, 2019.

Conditions Available Upon Request

Send nominations to: The Meadows Racetrack & Casino
c/o Race Office, 210 Racetrack Rd., Washington, PA 15301 • (724) 225-9897

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<th>EVENT NO.</th>
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<th>OWNER &amp; ADDRESS</th>
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Entered By: ____________________________  Phone No: ____________________________
Trained By: ____________________________
Potomac Pace Attracts Star-Studded Field

The fourth annual $100,000 Potomac Invitational Pace is set for Sunday night at Rosecroft Raceway, with director of racing Pete Hanley able to attract a star-studded field of eight. The cast includes the 2018 Horse of the Year McWicked, who is less than $100,000 from reaching the $5-million mark in career earnings, and recent Breeders Crown one-two finishers American History and Dorsoduro Hanover.

While McWicked will start from post 7 with Brian Sears driving, American History and Dorsoduro Hanover landed on the left side of the gate in posts 2 and 3, respectively. Joe Bongiorno will drive the Tony Alagna-trained American History, who became a millionaire with his 1:48.3 score in the $500,000 Breeders Crown final on Oct. 26 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

“We came out of the race very good,” said Alagna about American History, who in September won the $150,000 Quillen Memorial at nearby Harrington Raceway. “I’m very happy with the draw and he’s trained good, so we’ll see what happens.”

Alagna said there is one more possible start for American History before his 4-year-old season comes to a conclusion. That’s the TVG final on Nov. 23 at the Meadowlands. American History is sixth on the final standings (McWicked is the point leader), but because he’s only raced twice in the series (his Breeders Crown win and fourth in the Allerage at The Red Mile), he’s one start short of meeting the 50-percent criteria.

However, a check of the standings shows that only nine of the 16 horses—including the recently-retired Lather Up—that have made at least one start in the six-race TVG Series—the William Haughton Memorial, Sam McKee Memorial, Roll With Joe, Canadian Pacing Derby, Allerage and Breeders Crown—meet the three-start minimum, and since American History is the highest-ranked of all others, he is guaranteed a spot in the final.

Seventh on the TVG list and also guaranteed a spot in the rich final is Courtly Choice. The 2018 Little Brown Jug champ comes into the race off a trio of off-the-board finishes, including a seventh in the Breeders Crown final. He has not won in six starts since capturing the $393,750 Canadian Pacing Derby on Aug. 31 at Mohawk Park.

In his most recent effort in the Crown final, Courtly Choice left from post 5 but was 13 lengths behind in 10th at the half, and was simply unable to make up any substantial ground in the stretch. With a final quarter of :26, Courtly Choice gained six lengths, but was still seven lengths behind American History under the wire.

“We’re just hopeful we don’t get away by 20 lengths behind and have to come home in :25 to win,” said Blake MacIntosh, who trains the 4-year-old son of Art Major. “I’m just hopeful we’re in the race better than we have been the last couple. We just haven’t had the trips we needed, but hopefully this week we will.”

In addition to a $50,000 purse check to the winner, there is also a $10,000 bonus if the new champ lowers the Rosecroft track record, which was established by Keystone Velocity when he won the 2017 Potomac Pace in 1:47.3.

Also, no matter the finish, there is a 20-percent bonus if a Rosecroft driver is used. That clause fits only one: Russell Foster, who will drive the locally-based Slick Tony, who starts from the outside post 8 while riding a four-race win streak.—By Gordon Waterstone
Shuldahadahunemoon Won’t Be A Bridesmaid Anymore

After four consecutive second-place finishes to open up his career, the 2-year-old gelding trotter Shuldahadahunemoon appears virtually certain to get his first victory on Sunday.

Shuldahadahunemoon has chased peer Hurrikanekingjames in all four races in Sunshine State competition at Pompano Park. They were match races as they were the only two starters, but with the four-time New York-sired (by So Surreal) winner not eligible to the Florida-restricted $24,175 Stallion Stake on Sunday, he is guaranteed a victory.

As long as he shows up. That will mean his current $7,875 in earnings will balloon to $32,050.

Shuldahadahunemoon finished 82 ½ lengths behind Hurrikanekingjames last time out in a race timed in 2:04.3 over a “sloppy” track. In the two prior matchups between the first-year trotters, the margin of victory was “only” 15 1/2 lengths, 9 3/4 lengths and 10 3/4 lengths.

Shuldahadahunemoon is trained by George Coblentz and owned by Nicholas Coblentz, who has been in the driver’s seat for all four races. Dustin Ingraham will drive the freshman in Sunday’s walkover.

The race will be held prior to the regular betting program that gets underway at 7:20 p.m. Three other Sunshine State finals will be raced that evening at Pompano. The trio all have five-horse fields and will also be raced as early non-betting affairs.

New Millionaire Medusa Sells Friday At Harrisburg

The 8-year-old mare Medusa became the sport’s newest millionaire on Tuesday, Nov. 5, when she finished second in the $20,000 Open Pace for fillies and mares at The Meadows. Medusa’s $5,000 check brought her career earnings to $1,004,178.

Owned by Tom Pollack’s Pollack Racing and trainer Randy Bendis, Medusa has 40 wins in 160 career starts. Medusa won’t have long to rest on her laurels in the Bendis Stable though, as she is cataloged as Hip 1432 at the mixed sale in Harrisburg on Friday.

Horse Pays Surprise Visit To Friend

Stephen “Stevie” Smiel couldn’t go see his family’s horse race this fall so the horse, Calvin B, came to him.

When Calvin B’s trainers, Jimmy and Heidi Nickerson, found out Stevie couldn’t get to the races, they put Calvin B in his trailer, and with their 2-year-old daughter, Emmy, came to the Pines at Rutland Center for Health and Rehabilitation so Stevie could have a visit without leaving the grounds.

Read the full story about Stevie Smiel and Calvin B in the Rutland Herald of Vermont, please click here.
2020 Ohio Stallion Registration Deadline
November 30, 2019
New Stallions $100 ~ Returning Stallions $25
Checks payable to the Ohio State Racing Commission

www.racingohio.net

Ohio Standardbred Development Fund
Ohio State Racing Commission
77 South High Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Kimberly Rinker, OSDF Administrator  kim.rinker@racing.ohio.gov  614-779-0269
No Fall 2020 Meet At Meadowlands

When requests for racing dates were submitted to the New Jersey Racing Commission in October, Monmouth Park applied for live racing on the main track at the Meadows from Oct. 2 through Dec. 5, 2020.

The New Jersey legislation regarding live racing at the Meadows grants the Thoroughbreds the right to race live in the fall, should they choose to do so. The past several years they have confined their live racing to short, turf only meets that allowed us to race a fall Standardbred meet, but their plan for next year is to convert the main track and race a longer Thoroughbred meet.

As a result, The Meadows is currently working out the details for the 2020 live racing season without a fall live meet.

Live Standardbred dates applied for in 2020 will number the same (90) as in 2019, will begin Thursday, Jan. 2 racing on Friday and Saturday (with a few Thursdays added along the way) ending on Sept. 19.

The absence of live racing in the fall will affect the stakes schedule. That situation is currently being addressed with the focus on continuing all existing stakes with minimal conflict.

At present there are no plans to offer late-closers during the 2020 racing season.

The Meadows will continue to offer updated details on the 2020 live racing and stakes season as they develop.

Stars To Stand Stud In 2020

The list of stallions standing at stud in 2020 has grown substantially the past week with the announcement of the retirement of several stars.

**Jimmy Freight**, who was voted the 2018 O’Brien Award as Canada’s 3-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year, will stand stud in Ontario at Winbak Farm. With a mark of 1:48.1 and earnings of $1,457,405(C), Jimmy Freight retires as the fastest and richest son of Sportswriter. His career best came this year at age four when he captured the Mohawk Gold Cup at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

**Six Pack**, whose 1:49.1 win in the 2018 Kentucky Futurity and 1:49.2 victory in this year’s Allerage Open Trot both set new world records, will stand stud at Deo Volente Farms in New Jersey. The son of Muscle Mass, who was the 2018 Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year, will make his final start in the TVG final on Nov. 23 at the Meadowlands. Six Pack currently has earnings of $1,768,104.

Indiana-based star **Freaky Feet Pete** will remain in his home state to stand stud at Ivy Lane Farm. The 7-year-old son of Rockin Image, who captured the 2015 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace at Woodbine, retires with a mark of 1:47.1 and earnings of $1,617,056.

The $2.5 million-winning **Bit Of A Legend N** will stand studs at Midland Acres in Ohio. The winner of the 2016 George Morton Levy Series final at Yonkers Raceway, Bit Of A Legend N also captured the 2018 Battle of Lake Erie at Northfield Park, where the now 10-year-old son of Bettor’s Delight took his lifetime mark of 1:49.4.

Last month it was announced that two-time world champion **Lather Up** has been retired and will stand stud duty at Diamond Creek Farm’s new facility in New York. Now four, Lather Up equaled Always B Miki’s all-age world record of 1:46 when he won the Graduate final at the Meadowlands earlier this year.

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Bettor’s Wish To Return To Races In 2020

Chris Ryder, trainer of Bettor’s Wish, announced Wednesday that the top 3-year-old colt would return to racing for the 2020 season.

“We are all disappointed, but he failed to be certified to cover a full book of mares and we think this is the right path to travel. Actually, he will be racing next week in the Matron and possibly try the older horses in the TVG. We had been approached by all of the major breeding farms and their enthusiasm for the horse certainly was greatly appreciated,” Ryder said.

The enthusiasm is warranted. Bettor’s Wish is not only the year’s richest overall Standardbred ($1,436,445) but also the top-ranked male pacer in the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown weekly poll. He has won eliminations or finals of 11 stakes races that include the Breeders Crown, Meadowlands Pace, North America Cup and Messenger.

When asked about the news, Art Zubrod, who shares ownership of Fair Island Farm with wife Leah Cheverie and are part of the Bettor’s Wish ownership group, says he was not surprised.

“Bettor’s Wish is a ridgling and I am not surprised. It’s rare that a ridgling be able to stand to a full book. I believe Matt’s Scooter did but Cam Fella struggled when breeding over 100 mares. My recommendation is to collect him in the spring when he has a break in his racing schedule so we can get a good reading on what we can expect for the 2021 season,” Zubrod said.

“Diamond Creek had a very generous and interesting offer for their New York farm. It was tempting, but after much discussion it was decided to return to the track for one more year.”

Bettor’s Wish has had a remarkable 3-year-old campaign, amassing $1,436,445 in earnings so far this year and career earnings of $1,708,501. He has a speed mark of 1:47.4 taken in a Kentucky Sires Stakes win and a remarkable 12 wins and five seconds in 17 starts. (Bettor’s Wish ownership group)
Cherokee Elder, Horse Owner
Barbara Crandell Dies At 90

After decades of fighting for the preservation of ancient mounds, Cherokee elder Barbara Crandell died Monday, Nov. 4. She was 90 and died of natural causes, her family said.

Born on May 15, 1929, in Davy, West Virginia, Crandell re-located to Thornville, Ohio, in search of a better life following the Great Depression.

In addition to taking care of her family with late husband Frank Elden Crandell, she raised, trained and raced Standardbreds.

But she was most known for advocating for sacred sites, co-founding the Native American Alliance of Ohio and pushing for the passage of the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act in 1990.

“She has opened the eyes of many people to the plight of Native Americans, and especially the grave robbing,” said her daughter, Doris Crandell.

In 2002, Barbara Crandell was arrested for praying at the Octagon Earthworks mound at Moundbuilders Country Club in Newark. The Ohio History Connection owns the site but leases it to the club, which currently is the subject of a legal dispute. Though the land holds historical, cultural and religious significance for some, others consider it private property.

“If the golf course can’t coexist with people who go there to pray, then maybe they better give up the golf,” Crandell told The Columbus Dispatch at the time.

Barbara Crandell worked to keep the love for, and knowledge of, the family’s Native American heritage alive through multiple generations, her family said.

“I think that one thing that mother wanted to let everyone know is that we were still alive, that we hadn’t disappeared,” daughter Karen Crandell said.

Barbara Crandell is survived by daughters Doris, Karen and Lynn Crandell and Nola (James) Freeman; daughter-in-law, Virginia Crandell, as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial plans have not been determined, but contributions may be made to Hospice of Central Ohio in Newark.

(Columbus Dispatch)