

Miller Looks For Another Trolley Ride To Winner's Circle

When Trolley finished fourth in a Nov. 9 overnight at the Meadowlands, it was the first pari-mutuel race for the 5-year-old trotter since he finished fifth on Sept. 23, 2017, in the Open at Hoosier Park.

Although Trolley stepped up a notch in class two weeks later for his second start back, the son of Donato Hanover received a perfect steer from Marcus Miller to win by two lengths in 1:52.2, trotting home in :27 to secure the decision. Trolley will now look to repeat in Race 6 Friday night at the Big M, starting from post 5 in a similar-class \$17,500 conditioned event.

So where had Trolley been parked for his 13 months away from the racetrack?

"We stood him in Indiana a year to see if he could be a sire since he's such a big, good-looking horse."

—Erv Miller

After breaking a coffin bone he was retired to stud duty at Schwartz Boarding Farm in Indiana. But after breeding just six mares, the decision was made to bring him back to the races.

"We stood him in Indiana a

year to see if he could be a sire since he's such a big, good-looking horse," said trainer Erv Miller. "It was basically a free ride to try and stand him as a sire because he was going to have to have the time off for the broken bone anyhow.

"That didn't work out...and he didn't get very many mares. So we brought him back to the track. And we just took our time getting him back to the races."

A \$30,000 yearling purchase by Paymaq Racing, Leland Mathias, Greg Gillis and Andy Willinger, Trolley is out of the Duke Of York mare Lakeside Bride, a half-sister to Breeders Crown champion King Conch and European sireing champion Viking Kronos.

Trolley made just two starts at two, winning once in a PA All Stars division at Pocono Downs. At three he made five starts, winning a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes leg and finishing second to Southwind Frank in the \$500,000 Earl Beal Jr. Memorial. In 2017 he had six wins in 13 starts, including a Graduate



Trolley

Fred Brown Photo

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WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

- Obrigado retired, at Olive Branch Farm—pg. 2**
- Tactical Landing's future still undecided—pg. 3**
- Millionaire Dapper Dude keeps rolling—pg. 4**
- Driving Championship at Miami Valley—pg. 4**
- Mitchell: Racing is a team effort—pg. 5**

division at Tioga Downs in a track record 1:52.1. His career mark of 1:51.4 came a year ago June at the Meadowlands.

"He's a really nice horse," Miller said about the trotter who despite just 22 career starts has been able to amass \$271,309 in earnings. "Now it seems he's more mature, smarter and stronger. It seems the Donatos maybe get better, especially the colts."

Trolley's win last time out came as a first-time Lasix start.

"He was a little flat that first night and bled a little so we put him on Lasix and he responded good to that," said Miller, whose son Marcus will be in the driver's seat again. "We'll see what happens, but hopefully he keeps coming back good and getting better." —By Gordon Waterstone

Star Trotter Obrigado Is Retired

Obrigado, the 2016 Dan Patch Older Trotter of the Year, has been retired. Trainer and co-owner Paul Kelley confirmed that the millionaire will not return to the races after making seven starts this past season and a total of 13 over the past two campaigns.

"After a bit of time and some consultation with my vet, Dr. Rodney Stewart, it was decided that he has earned his retirement," Kelley told Standardbred Canada's Trot Insider.

One year ago Obrigado had arthroscopic surgery performed on his right stifle after going winless in six starts. He returned to the track this past summer and picked up three wins and six checks in seven outings, last competing in the 2018 Centaur Trotting Classic at Hoosier Park and finishing fourth to Marion Marauder while trotting his mile in 1:51.3. The plan was to race next in the Allerage Trot at The Red Mile and hit some of the late season stakes but the horse suffered a suspensory injury while prepping in Lexington.

"Our plan was to start him back in June and just let him get stronger as the year went on. I really felt like it was coming together nicely," said Kelley. "Unfortunately, like any sport, you can't always foresee or prevent injuries from occurring. Stuff happens when athletes compete hard.

At two and three, Obrigado won 21 straight races in Maine when trained by Ivan Davies and owned by longtime top Maine breeder Mike Andrew. After winning back-to-back Maine-bred championships, the son of Boy Band-Malimony was entered in the 2013 Harrisburg Mixed Sale. Kelley jumped in to purchase Obrigado for \$53,000. And while he couldn't keep that unbeaten streak intact for co-owners Linwood Higgins, S R F Stable and Stable 45, Kelley developed Obrigado into one of North America's top older trotters.

Sporting a summary of 45-16-11 from 92 lifetime starts, Obrigado posted major wins in the Dayton Trotting Derby, Crawford Farms Trot, John Cashman Jr. Memorial, Cleveland Classic, Charlie Hill Memorial, Maxie Lee Memorial, and the TVG Open Trot Championship. He retires with \$1,801,624 in career earnings.

Obrigado is presently spending the winter in North Carolina at Chris Coyle's Olive Branch Farm. Kelley confirmed that the charismatic trotter will definitely be getting a lifetime home at a location yet to be determined. (SC)

"Unfortunately, like any sport, you can't always foresee or prevent injuries from occurring. Stuff happens when athletes compete hard."

—Paul Kelley



Obrigado

Vicki Wright Photo

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THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

Friday, November 30

All times listed are local.

8:30p YR6 **F&M Open Pace**

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9:00p M6 **Cond. Trot**

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Saturday, December 1

8:30p YR6 **Open Pace**

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Sunday, December 2

2:25p YR9 **Open Trot**

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Rosecroft Raceway, Sunday, Dec. 2, Race 10, Post Time: 7:25 pm

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2—Duplicated N	Ti. Tetrick/J. King Jr.
3—Geez Joe	M. Miller/E. Miller
4—Filibuster Hanover	M. Kakaley/R. Burke
5—Rock N' Roll Jet	K. Vincent/W. Bright
6—Western Fame	C. Callahan/J. Takter
7—Endeavor	Tr. Tetrick/J. Cullipher
8—Rockin Ron	Y. Gingras/R. Burke

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Tactical Landing's Future To Be Decided Soon

Tactical Landing closed out his sophomore campaign with a 1:51.4 victory over older horses in the \$350,000TVG Open Trot over a "sloppy" track at the Meadowlands last Saturday night, but was the race the career finale for the son of Muscle Hill?

While there were some foreign tweets made on Wednesday (Nov. 28) that stated a meeting of the ownership group would take place that night, co-owner Kevin Greenfield told Weekend Preview that no meeting was scheduled and the tweets were incorrect.

"He's done racing this year and there has been a lot of talk whether we want to stand him at stud," said Greenfield. "There are people interested in him. We'll make a decision within the

"I think the sport deserves a horse like this. The sport needs a horse like this."

—Kevin Greenfield

next couple of weeks. We want to have a medical evaluation just to make sure we know what we have. As you know, he's just getting good. It's a good problem to have.

"I think the sport deserves a horse like this," he said. "The sport needs a horse like this. He's

not just a good horse, he's beyond that."

As a much-hyped freshman last year as a result of his \$800,000 yearling sale price, Tactical Landing fell short of expectations as he made breaks in his only two starts for trainer Bob Stewart and returned just \$1,500. It was Stewart—who has an ownership interest in the colt—who recommended a trainer switch to Jimmy Takter, which has paid off handsomely this year.

"To Bobby's credit, it was his decision to stop with him last year and he probably saved the horse doing it," said Greenfield. "So we owe him a great debt of gratitude for that. Bob always did what was in the best interest of the horse and I have a lot of respect for him.

"We always had faith in the horse. All of us involved with the horse knew down deep that he had that kind of ability. It was just a matter of pushing the right buttons to get him to where he needed to get to. You could see it on the racetrack even at two at The Red Mile. When he strided out you could tell there was something about him that was different than most horses."

Tactical Landing'sTVG victory was his ninth in 14 starts this year and followed his impressive score in the \$500,000 Breeders Crown final. The win also brought Tactical Landing's seasonal earnings to \$810,800, slightly more than his yearling price.

"I've been in this since 1988 and he's the first decent horse I've had," said Greenfield. "I bred Datsyuk and Pink Ribbons, who were in the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks, but they had nowhere near the ability of this one. I've never been involved with a horse like this. It's quite a thrill for me.

"From my standpoint, it's the breeding. You have Muscle Hill with the gait, the speed and the engine, and you have Varenne (sire of the dam) with the stamina and speed. What a combination! It's a freakish combination!"



Tactical Landing

Greenfield said the ownership group will get together by conference call to decide Tactical Landing's future, and not only regarding breeding and racing. If the trotter returns to the track in 2019 he could have a new trainer as Takter has announced he's retiring at the end of the year.

Speculation about a new trainer includes longtime Takter assistant Per Engblom and Takter's daughter Nancy Johansson, both of whom are based at the Hall of Famer's New Jersey Farm. Takter could then easily serve as consultant. Or, Takter could decide to continue as trainer himself of the 4-year-old Tactical Landing. Takter's wife, Christina, shares ownership of the horse as a member of the Tactical Landing Stable.— *By Gordon Waterstone*

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Millionaire Dapper Dude Keeps Rolling

Harness racing produces its share of equine millionaires, but wealthy stallions and mares frequently enter the breeding phase of their careers early while geldings often are retired as age and declining ability take their toll. Thus, there aren't many seven-figure stars still racing.

Then there's Dapper Dude. The 9-year-old son of The Panderosa-Dress To Suggest already has banked \$1,280,130, and with a win or place in Saturday afternoon's Preferred Handicap Pace at The Meadows, he'll vault over \$100,000 in seasonal earnings.

"The Dude" leaves from post 4 in race 8 with Aaron Merri-man at the helm.

Dapper Dude was a successful stakes performer in his youth. At 3, he was Pennsylvania's Sires Stakes champion, defeating Sweet Lou in the final, and he also captured the consolation of the Delvin Miller Adios Pace for the Orchids. Richard Poillucci purchased him from Bob McIntosh's ownership group and in 2016 sold him to the Bercurys—Renee as owner, her husband Bill as trainer—for \$100,000.

That's consistent with the Bercury approach—buy proven commodities, give fair prices for them and watch their earnings soar. Dapper Dude rewarded them by crashing past \$1 million on Oct. 29, 2016.

"The horse was racing basically at Yonkers, and he's not really a half-mile horse," said Bill Bercury. "He's a big, gangly guy with some flaws in his gait that would make it difficult for him on a smaller track. When they called and asked if we wanted him, we didn't even have him vetted."

"When he gets off the trailer at The Meadows, he starts strutting and bellowing. 'I'm here, and I'm ready to race you.'"

—Bill Bercury

His gait may be imperfect, but his heart is huge. In many of his victories at The Meadows, he's emerged from the

final turn appearing gassed, strides shortening, challengers looming inside and out. Yet he almost always finds more.

"He's full of energy and enthusiasm," said Bercury. "When he gets off the trailer at The Meadows, he starts strutting and bellowing. Everybody laughs, but he's making a statement: 'I'm here, and I'm ready to race you.'"

Saturday's race will be something of a test for Dapper Dude, who's been off more than a month for palate surgery—at least the second of his career.

"Anytime you have to take him back in a race, he flips his palate. He's been doing it for the past year. We have absolutely no problem laying him off and spending the money on surgery. These horses take care of us, so we should take care of them. I told the doctor, 'If there's any chance the surgery won't work, don't do it.' Did it work? Ask me after his second start back."

The Bercurys have room for only six horses—remarkably, the current group includes another millionaire,

North America Drivers Championship Jan. 6-8 at Miami Valley

Miami Valley Raceway is busy readying for its sixth season of live harness racing when the calendar turns to 2019. The 87-day meet will begin on Friday, Jan. 4, and end on Monday, May 6, with an initial qualifying session slated for Wednesday, Jan. 2, to kick the season off. The normal racing schedule throughout the meet will be 2:05 (EST) matinees on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays and 6:05 p.m. programs on Fridays and Saturdays.

Among the many highlights will be the third annual North America Drivers Championship which will pit 30 of the continent's finest drivers in a head-to-head three-day competition Jan. 6-8. All top drivers throughout the United States and Canada are welcome to apply to participate by filling out the application that can be found at: www.miamivalleygaming.com, using the "Racing" and then "Horsemen's Info" tabs. If more than 30 apply, the field will be limited to those with the most career victories, including a minimum of 100 wins in 2018.

Inaugural winner Doug McNair and last year's winner Trace Tetrick are both expected to return and chase a share of the \$25,000 in prize money.

Entry blanks are also available on the MVG website for most of the late-closing series offered during the meet, as well as ship-in applications and other pertinent information regarding the rapidly approaching 2019 season. Trainers interested in racing must first submit a ship-in application and a waiver of liability form before entering. The popular January "Claim To Fame" late closers commence the second week of the 2019 season and nominations must be received by Saturday, Jan. 5.

Condition sheets for the first week of racing at Miami Valley have also been posted on the USTA website, including information on the preferences granted to Ohio-sired and Ohio-owned horses. A double draw will take place on New Year's Day for both the Friday and Saturday programs on opening weekend.

Prior to Jan. 1, inquiries or questions can be directed to the race secretary at: greggkeidel@yahoo.com.

(Miami Valley)

Wind Of The North, who's still racing—so they lack the space to retain their beloved old campaigners. When the top trotter Tamarind needed to be retired, the Bercurys placed him with Midwest horseman Nick Roland, who has bred Tamarind successfully. They have similar plans for Dapper Dude.

"There's a home for him when we get done racing him," Bill Bercury says. "We haven't told him that, by the way." (Evan Pattak)

Ontario's Hugh Mitchell: Racing Is A Team Effort

Hugh Mitchell earned widespread respect as a hockey player who stood up for his teammates and what he believed was right. He's done the very same throughout his time in horse racing.

Whether it was during his days in the Ontario Hockey Association with the Windsor Spitfires or suiting up with the University of Guelph men's hockey team (he had tenures as captain with both clubs) the feisty forward, small in stature, big on grit, never backed down from an opponent.

Skating circles around the competition wasn't his forte. For the tough-as-nails kid from southwestern Ontario, it was about doing whatever it took, in his mind, to take on whatever challenges that came his way.

It's a mindset that Mitchell carried with him to a horse racing career that dates back to the 1960s.

"That's an interesting observation between my hockey life and horse racing life," Mitchell mused. "I've never really looked at it that way. To be honest, I wasn't the most highly skilled hockey player. But I believe we are all a product of our upbringing. I was always taught that the only thing to fear was not doing the right thing. You always endeavor to do what you believe is right, no matter what the personal risks or consequences are."

For the past 13 years at the Western Fair District in London, Ont., Mitchell has guided the racetrack's operations through a myriad of highs and lows, including the cancellation of the Slots at Racetracks program.

He's also held prominent roles within the horse racing industry, namely, as the chairman of the board of Harness Tracks of America (HTA), and current member on the board of directors for Ontario Racing, where he was also past chair.

"WEG's commitment and willingness to support the industry is yet another reason for me to be optimistic."

-Hugh Mitchell

Earlier in his career, Mitchell worked for Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) as senior vice president of racing, from 1998 to 2005.

"I like to think I'm a strong team player because if I wasn't I wouldn't have made too many hockey teams," he said with a laugh. "And if I wasn't someone who would step up and set a standard of how we treat each other, then I probably wouldn't have played much hockey and I probably wouldn't have had the career opportunities I've had in this great sport of racing."

From mucking stalls nearly 50 years ago to his current role as president of Western Fair, there has been one constant for Mitchell.

"I love the game," he said. "And I've learned a lot from it. I'll never be able to give back to racing what it has given to my family and I, and what I've been able to learn along the way. I owe that all to racing. It's the truth. I could have gone a lot of different directions, but would have failed miserably. And I'm only as good as the people that I'm working with, whether it's here at Western Fair, Woodbine or Ontario Racing."

Mitchell has given up his Western Fair CEO role, but maintained his standing as president for another year.

"Change is so important to our industry and being able to embrace it," he started. "Not just embrace it, but champion it. No matter what the business, there's an element of crisis going on in the marketplace. That's been going on for years, that's what going on now and that's the way it will be in the future. But I find that exciting. Sure, it's stressful, but I'm an optimist. If we can work together, I think there is a way forward."

It's a point of view he acquired from his university days, most notably, in the form of two words that have stayed with Mitchell, a mantra of sorts he reminds himself of often.

"When I was at the University of Guelph, in my first year, I took a business management course," he recalled. "The first day, the professor walked in—back then there were blackboards, believe it or not—and there are 300 kids in this theatre-style seating. There was a class textbook we had to buy and he was telling us over the course of the next 16 or so weeks, he was going to teach us as much as he could about the fundamentals of business."

Continues on page 6 >>>>

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"The most important lesson we were going to learn, he said, is in two words, and it will be worth all the tuition you paid for this course. He went to the blackboard and wrote, 'Confront Reality.' He told us that to be successful in business, be brave enough to do that. I never forgot it. It's helped me in good stead in both my personal life and my business life. I've always been of the view to confront reality, deal with it and make the best of it. When you do, you'll sleep better."

For a former player who delivered and dodged his equal share of right hooks and uppercuts, taking the odd one on the chin, be it on the ice or at the racetrack, comes with the territory.

"You have to be rather unselfish to be successful," he offered. "Racing, for example...it's not about any one racetrack or about any one sector. It's about us all benefitting and hopefully, thriving. You can't look at the industry as a whole and try and preserve what you have. It works against each other. We can't have a successful industry unless we work together. I've never been shy about stating my views. Hopefully, I haven't been unfair in my critique of situations. I don't have many regrets."

Instead, Mitchell maintains a genuine belief in and steadfast hope for horse racing in Ontario.

When talk turns to the sport's future, there's an unmistakable change in his tone, akin to a hockey player rousing his teammates before they take to the ice.

"I look at our industry, the way we've evolved over the decades," began Mitchell. "This is a very resilient industry across all sectors—racetracks, breeders and horsepeople. There are some extraordinary, committed people who are passionate about the business. That is our greatest strength, our resiliency and passion for this great sport. It's bit like hockey in that way. This industry is full of people who have a great work ethic, are committed and have a love for the business. One of the big reasons I have such an affinity for this sport is because it is made up of survivors."

"We also have a lot of support from government, more than people want to admit or give credit for. For a lot of reasons, we have legitimate support from government. That in itself is another big plus and it's a huge reason to be optimistic."

Mitchell also points to WEG as a major player in seeing horse racing thrive, not merely survive.

"Honestly—and this is where I get a little controversial—I believe WEG is another reason for the industry to be optimistic. WEG is fundamentally a horse racing organization and they have proven it, in my experience, time and time again. They are unyielding in their commitment to racing. I've witnessed that first-hand, and I believe it to be one of our biggest assets going forward...WEG's commitment and willingness to support the industry is yet another reason for me to be optimistic about horse racing's future."

Until it's time to retire, Mitchell, as always, will continue to roll with the punches.

"I guess that's the way I've always done things," he said. "In hockey, horse racing and life." (*Ontario Racing*)



Francene Nash, at left, with her brother, Cotton, and sister-in-law, Julie.

Standardbred Owner Francene Nash Dies

Well-known Standardbred owner and breeder Francene Marie Nash, 72, of Lexington, Ky., died Nov. 25 after a long illness.

Along with her brother, Charles "Cotton" Nash and his wife, Julie, Ms. Nash campaigned numerous pacing colts and fillies over a span of 25 years including Fresh Start, Miss Scarlett, Fresh Heir and 2010 Pacing Broodmare of the Year Artistic Vision. All were developed by trainer and family friend, Bret Shultz.

The Nashes have also had success with their breeding operation which early on produced Tajma Hall and Alexie Matosie. Then, around 2000 they began their current association with Steve and Cindy Stewart's Hunterton Farm and together they have bred 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven plus the stakes winners Genuwine, Roll Em Up, Clear Vision and Dance Blue.

Ms. Nash had great enthusiasm for harness racing and faithfully followed her horses' careers, often traveling distances to see them race. She had an astute eye for details of conformation and gait and actively participated in the selection of purchases by the partnership. Her love of animals and charitable generosity extended to several causes concerning horses as well as other animal welfare needs.

Ms. Nash was born in Jersey City, N.J., on March 12, 1946, the daughter of the late Nell and Frank Nash, who spent his career with du Pont and moved his family as his job required. "Cene's" early life was spent in New Jersey and Jeffersonville, Ind. Later, the family lived in Lake Charles, La., and Leominster, Mass., where she graduated from high school. She attended Boston University and the University of Kentucky, where she worked first in the Department of Agriculture and then in the Appalachian Center until her retirement.

She is survived by her brother, Cotton and his wife Julie; her nephews, Patrick (Christy) Nash and Richey (fiancée Ashley Teague) Nash; niece Audrey (Jason) Lowrey; and eight great-nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Nov. 29, at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Lexington with burial in Calvary Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy suggested to be made to New Vocations Standardbred Racehorse Adaption Program, 3293 Wright Rd., Laura, Ohio 45337; or the Standardbred Retirement Foundation, 42 Arneytown-Hornerstown Rd., Cream Ridge, N.J., 08514

David Reid Elected President Of Standardbred Transition Alliance

David Reid, who heads up Preferred Equine Sales Agency, was elected president of the Standardbred Transition Alliance (STA) at the first meeting of that group, held Tuesday (Nov. 27) at the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

Reid, though his work with Preferred, has sold tens of thousands of Standardbreds at public and private auction, both as a consignment agency and sales manager of Tattersalls and Lexington Selected Yearling Sales Company in Lexington, Ky. and at The Meadowlands. He also breeds and races Standardbreds.

"This is a long overdue initiative that will take cooperation of the entire industry and I'm optimistic that, over time, it will make a big difference for our horses and the groups that serve them. It will also give donors confidence that they're supporting groups with solid operational practices," said Reid. "I am honored by the confidence of my fellow board members and look forward to working with all of them."

Committees were formed to advance fundraising for and accreditation of groups helping horses in transition

from traditional uses. The STA will provide grants to cover partial funding of 501(c)(3) groups serving Standardbreds and ensure they utilize best practices for equine care and financial management through an accreditation process.

The STA will adapt the established model used to accredit and partially fund 70 groups serving Thoroughbreds, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. The STA is a self-standing organization that has applied for 501(C)(3) status and is a registered charity with the Ohio Secretary of State and Attorney General.

Moira Fanning, chief operations officer at The Hambletonian Society, was elected vice president, Mitchel Skolnick of Bluestone Farm will serve as treasurer and Elizabeth Caldwell of Cane Run Farm will be secretary.

The board members are Rick Moore of Hoosier Park, Kelly Young of the New York Sire Stakes, Kevin Greenfield of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and Hickory Lane Farm, Michelle Crawford of Crawford Farm, Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky of Hanover Shoe Farm, Bill Abdelnour of the New England Amateur Harness Drivers Club, Dr. Donna Franchetti, Standardbred owner and veterinarian, and Dr. Patty Hogan of Hogan Equine Clinic. (*Standardbred Transition Alliance*)

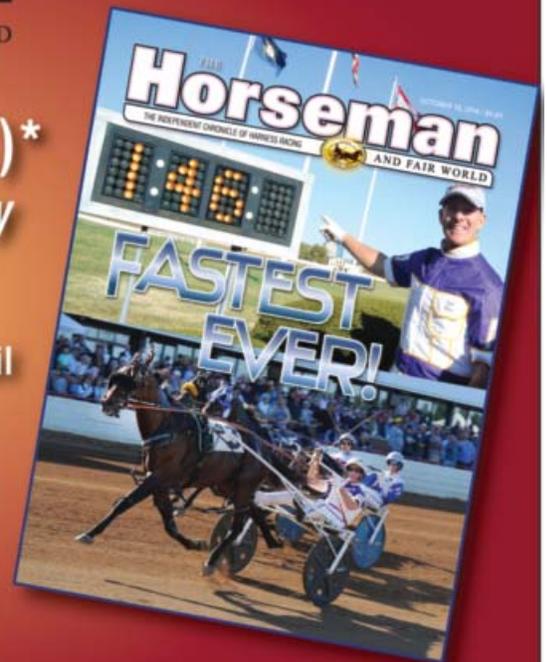
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Hanover-breds top \$30 million again

For the second consecutive year and third time in its history, horses bred by Hanover Shoe Farms have earned over \$30 million. Last year Hanover Shoe Farms set an all-equine breed record with earnings of \$31,451,117. [more](#)

Take A Wish named 2018 NJSS Horse of Year

Take A Wish has been selected as the New Jersey Sire Stakes' (NJSS) Horse of the Year for 2018. [more](#)

Merriman goes back to back with 1,000 wins

Aaron Merriman became the first driver in the history of harness racing to achieve multiple 1,000-win seasons when he scored in the 12th race on Saturday at Northfield Park. The triumph was a gate-to-wire victory aboard Zumba in 1:57.3 over a sloppy surface. [more](#)

Merriman sets monthly win record

Aaron Merriman is not finished with the harness racing record book. After on Saturday becoming the first driver in history to win at least 1,000 races in multiple years, Merriman on Tuesday set the record for most victories in a single month. [more](#)

Burke stable tops \$20 million for 6th time

Trainer Ron Burke saw his stable surpass \$20 million in purses for the sixth consecutive year when Sonnet Grace won the Goldsmith Maid Stakes for 2-year-old female trotters over the weekend at The Meadowlands. [more](#)

NY court upholds Pena sanctions

The New York State Gaming Commission today announced that the New York Court of Appeals has upheld the 2015 sanctions levied against harness trainer Lou Pena, who was found responsible for 1,719 equine drug violations in 675 races. [more](#)

\$77,000 top price of Indiana sale daily double

The big Indiana daily double of sales, the Midwest Mixed Sale and the Michiana Yearling Sale, took place Friday, Nov. 23, and Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Michiana Event Center in Shipshewana. In its second year, the Midwest Mixed Sale saw an increase in both gross sales and average compared to the inaugural sale held a year ago, with 142 horses cataloged. [more](#)

Oldford captures Billings Series Gold Cup

Harness racing's granddaddy of all amateur events, the CKG Billings Harness Driving Series, presented its 37th annual Gold and Silver Cup finals at Yonkers Raceway on Sunday, and they resulted in near storybook fashion when coincidentally the \$25,000 Gold Cup was won by the series vice president Steve "You're Never Too" Oldford, and the

\$15,000 Silver Cup went to the series president Tony "the Capo" Verruso, making it the first time that the event's top officers were victorious in the finales. [more](#)

Books full for Diamond Creek stallions

Diamond Creek and Sugar Valley Farm announced today that Dan Patch winner, Downbytheseaside is fully booked and closed for the 2019 season. [more](#)

All Bets Off retired to stud at Seelster

Seelster Farms is excited to announce that All Bets Off p, 2, 1:50f, 3, 1:48.3f, 1:48, BT1:46.2 (\$3,186,658) will stand his first season in 2019. [more](#)

Arrangements set for Mary Lou Dondarski

Mary Lou Dondarski, 74, of Jackson, N.J., passed away after a brief illness, Thursday, Nov. 8 at CentraState Hospital in Freehold, N.J. A native of New Jersey, Ms. Dondarski was an accomplished artist, a skilled racing operations manager, and a creative force dedicated to preserving and enhancing harness racing history. Her friends and family are invited to join in a memorial celebration of her life on Dec. 8, from 1-4 p.m. at the American Hotel, 18 E Main St, Freehold, N.J. 07728. [more](#)

Michigan horseman John Schuberg dies at 80

John Schuberg, 80, died after a long battle with dementia on Saturday, Nov. 24. Schuberg, a resident of Perrysburg, Ohio, earned \$1.9 million as a trainer and \$406,564 as a driver. [more](#)

Steve Beck, formerly with Hempt Farms, dies

Steven C. Beck, former superintendent of Hempt Farms, the "Home of the Keystones" of the late Hall of Famer Max C. Hempt, passed away on Oct. 30 at the age of 74. [more](#)

Horseman Harald Lunde, trained Rotation, dies

Harald Lunde, 72, has died in Norway. He was regarded as one of the top Norwegian horsemen and he enjoyed success in his native country as well as North America, where he trained the stakes winners Rotation and Banker Hall. [more](#)

NY horseman Robert Cottrell dies at 84

Western New York horseman Robert B. Cottrell, 84, died Nov. 22. He was blessed to spend recent days and Thanksgiving with those who meant the most to him, family. [more](#)

Kim Sholty, daughter of late Hall of Famer, dies

Kimberly Sholty, 57, of Westport, Conn., a daughter of the late Hall of Famer George Sholty and the late Myrna Sholty, devoted and much loved wife of Joseph Martens and mother of two sons, Jack and Finn, died on Friday, Nov. 23, following a brief illness. [more](#)

RACE LINES

Standardbred Poll

Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
 Harness Racing Communications for the week of November 27, 2018

	AGS	St-1-2-3	Earnings	Pts	Pvs
1. McWicked (27)	7ph	19-12-3-2	\$1,575,364	341	1
2. Shartin N (8)	5pm	24-19-1-0	1,053,236	321	2
3. Atlanta	3tf	14-8-5-1	1,017,278	236	3
4. Woodside Charm	2tf	7-7-0-0	521,658	221	4
5. Kissin In The Sand	3pf	15-10-5-0	845,495	178	5
6. Gimpanzee	2tc	9-9-0-0	591,358	145	6
7. Tactical Landing	3tc	14-9-2-2	810,800	131	10
8. Six Pack	3tc	15-11-2-1	1,159,648	86	8
9. Dorsoduro Hanover	3pg	21-10-6-1	1,253,362	69	7
10. Courtly Choice	3pc	16-10-1-0	910,603	63	9

Others receiving votes: Captain Crunch 30, Homicide Hunter 27, Jimmy Freight 22, Emotion Hanover 14, Manchego, Warrawee Ubeaut 11, Marion Marauder 5, Crystal Fashion, Met's Hall 4, Plunge Blue Chip, Prescient Beauty 2, Lather Up, Pure Country 1.

Harness Racing Leaders

Compiled by the USTA—through November 27, 2018 (week difference Nov. 21-27).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
McWicked (7ph)	19	12	3	2	\$1,575,364
Dorsoduro Hanover (3pg)	21	10	6	1	1,253,362
Six Pack (3tc)	15	11	2	1	1,159,648
Crystal Fashion (3tg)	17	9	4	2	1,086,317
Shartin N (5pm)	24	19	1	0	1,053,236
Met's Hall (3tc)	15	5	4	4	1,028,171
Atlanta (3tf)	14	8	5	1	1,017,278
Courtly Choice (3pc)	16	10	1	0	910,603
Lather Up (3pc)	18	11	1	2	893,512
Kissin In The Sand (3pf)	15	10	5	0	845,495

Leading Money-Winning Drivers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Tim Tetrack	2,592	532-418-360	.341	\$12,792,329 (\$295,030)
Yannick Gingras	1,501	292-228-186	.320	11,273,544 (422,512)
David Miller	1,678	264-270-258	.298	9,679,751 (493,102)
Aaron Merriman	4,279	1020-749-613	.383	9,561,360 (241,808)
Jason Bartlett	2,384	493-386-344	.345	9,180,225 (159,442)
Jordan Stratton	2,157	371-339-288	.304	7,961,909 (111,858)
Scott Zeron	1,368	204-174-166	.260	7,792,715 (380,087)
Matt Kakaley	1,815	256-289-245	.275	7,433,701 (168,649)
George Brennan	2,097	371-301-258	.298	6,860,129 (175,830)
George Napolitano Jr.	2,734	629-462-319	.363	6,808,731 (66,355)

Leading Money-Winning Trainers

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	4,302	922-679-583	.347	\$20,317,367 (\$688,453)
Jimmy Takter	650	144-126-84	.372	8,565,975 (334,911)
Rene Allard	1,629	347-253-203	.341	6,016,982 (154,350)
Julie Miller	629	148-117-74	.378	4,536,480 (4,359)
Tony Alagna	578	125-80-80	.339	4,265,755 (12,886)
Scott Di Domenico	1,531	258-216-189	.288	4,123,990 (70,141)
Ake Svanstedt	532	83-67-76	.274	3,720,598 (98,780)
Erv Miller	976	162-166-134	.306	3,642,264 (51,162)
Richard Moreau	1,549	289-234-191	.312	3,367,297 (74,247)
Brian Brown	492	109-89-62	.364	3,279,227 (0)

Leading Breeders

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	972	682	2,246	\$30,116,567
Winbak Farm	935	640	2,015	20,812,202
Brittany Farms LLC	227	162	613	11,030,957
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	201	150	519	7,186,086
Steve Stewart	198	132	410	5,710,368
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	161	114	331	5,494,427
White Birch Farm	171	125	378	4,908,000
Seelster Farms Inc.	198	138	460	4,353,718
Midland Acres Inc.	173	118	427	3,601,262
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	142	104	382	3,520,599

Leading Money-Winning Sires

USTA statistics through 11/28/18

2YO Pacers

Sire Name	Foals	Starters	Earnings
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	113	83	\$3,307,294
SWEET LOU	97	79	3,031,389
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	113	90	2,724,829
BETTOR'S DELIGHT	122	90	2,180,160
ART MAJOR	97	67	1,774,143
AMERICAN IDEAL	89	71	1,544,961
SPORTSWRITER	166	116	1,396,054
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	81	48	1,275,026
PET ROCK	104	75	1,019,430
TELLITLIKEITIS	76	47	926,402
A ROCKNROLL DANCE	79	44	900,905
ROCKIN IMAGE	93	65	861,932
WELL SAID	71	53	844,077
SO SURREAL	55	38	772,499
BETTERTHANCHEDDAR	85	57	745,517
MCARDLE	58	36	716,200
HESTON BLUE CHIP	27	18	637,852
BIG JIM	61	32	583,240
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	47	29	558,670
BIG BAD JOHN	48	37	557,970

2YO Trotters

Sire Name	Foals	Starters	Earnings
MUSCLE HILL	102	68	\$3,619,464
CHAPTER SEVEN	49	33	1,900,383
TRIXTON	82	54	1,818,337
CANTAB HALL	96	72	1,809,641
SWAN FOR ALL	87	48	1,645,509
FATHER PATRICK	47	31	1,470,701
MUSCLE MASSIVE	96	59	1,450,343
CREDIT WINNER	76	51	1,025,445
UNCLE PETER	85	61	932,420
KADABRA	63	43	906,530
CONWAY HALL	76	47	884,744
E L TITAN	33	24	845,315
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	79	58	833,736
MANOFMANYMISSIONS	50	32	730,657
DONATO HANOVER	78	49	711,676
MUSCLE MASS	45	32	643,385
ARCHANGEL	65	27	567,314
CRAZED	48	34	560,208
WISHING STONE	31	23	555,213
CASH HALL	29	14	543,701

2018 DECEMBER



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
				DSBF 2YO finals (DD) Progress 3CP final (DD)		
2	3	4	5 The Horseman	6	7	8
Chanukah Potomac OHP (RcR)						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Valedictory 3CP (Wbsb)			Valedictory 3FP (Wbsb)		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Valedictory 3CP (Wbsb)			Valedictory 3FP (Wbsb)	First day of Winter	
23	24	25	26 The Horseman	27	28	29
			Boxing Day (Can.) Kwanzaa Valedictory 3CP final (Wbsb) Valedictory 3FP final (Wbsb)			
30	31					
	New Year's Eve					

2019 Blooded Horse Sale Dates:

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