Star Trotter Obrigado Returns Saturday At Yonkers

Seven trotters will line up behind the gate in Saturday night’s $42,000 Open at Yonkers Raceway, with the race marking the return of the 2016 Older Male Trotter of the Year Obrigado. Just a month before he turns 10, Obrigado will make his first start since finishing fourth in the $200,000 Centaur Trot at Hoosier Park on Sept. 21, 2018.

Obrigado, whose 2016 campaign saw victories in several major stakes, including the TVG, Maxie Lee Memorial, Charlie Hill Memorial, John Cashman Memorial and Dayton Derby, will start from post 1 with Daniel Dube driving for trainer Paul Kelley.

“He raced really well in the Centaur, but Peter (driver Peter Wrenn) got blocked and couldn’t get through, or I thought he had a great chance to win or be second,” said Kelley. “When he jogged back he was a little off in his right hind. We found out that he had a suspensory tear.”

The injury curtailed Obrigado’s season after just seven starts. Kelley was realistic and looking at retiring the star trotter whose 45 career wins helped amass more than $1.8 million in earnings for himself, SRF Stable and Linwood Higgins.

“We ultrasounded it and it wasn’t looking good,” said Kelley about Obrigado, whose 2017 season was limited to just six starts as a result of a cyst in his right stifle. “We treated it with a lot of laser therapy and re-ultrasounded it in November, and again it still wasn’t looking good.

“What’s Inside . . .
Princess Deo back in form with Daley—pg. 4
Drivers off to exotic locations—pg. 5
Meadows card has $78,784 carryover—pg. 5
Anderlect retires at 14—pg. 6
Hoosier 2020 meet extended—pg. 6
A story 50 years in the making—pg. 8
McWicked to stand at Winbak of Ontario—pg. 8
First Over with Gordon Waterstone—pg. 9
Pine Chip dies at 29—pg. 10

“I turned him out for the winter and at the time I was looking for a permanent home for him. Not too many people are looking to take on a horse at that time of year. Fortunately, Chris Coyle had room for him at his farm in North Carolina, so I dropped him off there on my way to Florida.”

Kelley said he picked up Obrigado in April on his way back to his base at Congress Hill Farm. But he was still looking for a retirement home for the trotter.

Continues on page 2 . . .
“He really liked being back in the barn with the other horses; he likes that as he is very social,” said Kelley. “I think he was thinking that he was going to start training and doing stuff. He was pretty happy being in the barn. Around May 1 we ultrasounded him again and then jogged and exercised him to give him something to do because he wasn’t thrilled just hanging in the paddock all day.”

Kelley said his vet told him to start jogging and swimming Obrigado, and the trotter was also ridden through nearby woods.

“It was fun for us to have him doing something and being part of the program,” said Kelley. “I kept scanning the leg and it looked like it was improving. I was doing a lot of laser therapy and we took our time and it got to around the middle of August when I decided to train him a little bit.

“He kept getting better and was really enjoying it, and we pressed on to the point where here we are. He’s an amazing horse and his record speaks for itself. He’s an amazing horse to be around as he never really has a bad day. He is always happy and loves going to the track. You could tell in May and June he wasn’t happy being in the paddock all day long, he wanted something more to do.

“It’s amazing that he’s come back to race, and right now it all seems pretty good with him.”

Kelley has qualified Obrigado three times at Freehold upon his return, with a second on Nov. 1 and then 2:00 and 1:59.2 wins on Nov. 8 and Nov. 22. Dube was behind the son of Boy Band in his last qualifier for the very first time in the trotter’s 92-start career.

Kelley said when races didn’t fill at Freehold, and he wanted to avoid the speed at the Meadowlands he decided on a start at Yonkers. Although he is in the Open Trot, taking on morning-line favorite Will Take Charge and five others, Obrigado was assigned the inside post.

“He knows Yonkers good and it was fortunate that he got consideration from the race office and he was given the inside this week,” said Kelley. “I’m not going to race him every week. I figure I’ll race him a couple of weeks and then give him a week off and see how it goes.” — By Gordon Waterstone
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Reunited With Daley, 
Princess Deo Back In Form

The biggest purse event of the first weekend in December is Friday night’s $65,000 Standardbred Breeders and Owners (SBOA) final for 3-year-old trotters at the Meadowlands. Six will line up behind the gate, with the field consisting of three fillies and three geldings.

Listed as the 3-5 morning-line favorite is Evident Beauty, whose nine wins this year include the New Jersey Sires Stakes final, the Moni Maker, the Elegantimage and the Delvin Miller Memorial, where she trotted a career-best 1:52.3. Despite her success, trainer Nifty Norman added trotting hobbles three starts back, of which she has two wins and a second. In her last start in the SBOA preliminary on Nov. 29 at the Meadowlands, the daughter of Trixton won in 1:52.4, just a tick off her lifetime mark.

David Miller will drive Evident Beauty from post 3 in a race that if she wins will bring her career earnings past the $800,000 level ($560,000 in 2019).

Finishing a half-length back in that last SBOA prelim was Princess Deo, who has been installed the 4-1 second choice from post 5 with driver Andy McCarthy. Princess Deo is now back in the barn of trainer Noel Daley, who left the U.S. at the end of 2018 to return to his home country of New Zealand, but recently returned.

While in Daley’s care in 2018 as a 2 year old, Princess Deo made 13 starts, with three wins and seven seconds, one of which came in the $490,000 Goldsmith Maid final at the Big M. That was Daley’s last start in the U.S. until he and his son Max recently returned.

Princess Deo began 2019 in the barn of Norman and then was moved to trainer Lucas Wallin. Overall, Princess Deo has just one win in 17 starts this year (with $92,178 in earnings), and after the daughter of Trixton made breaks in two starts in early November, she was moved to Daley’s barn at Magical Acres in New Jersey.

“She made nearly $300,000 for me last year, but she was always a little bit hard,” said Daley, who has already built his stable back up to 16. “Nifty said he had no problems training her down this year and then she goes to the qualifiers and she went backwards there. He had enough of her after a few tries, so they tried Lucas Wallin. She was definitely better there for a while and then she fell apart again. But to be fair, it was at Freehold (a half-mile track)

“These races were coming up at the Meadowlands and I was back, so I got her back. And she’s been good; she’s been what she always was. I thought she was a very good filly.”

Daley said he went back to square one with Princess Deo before he sent her out to a winning 1:54.1 qualifier at the Meadowlands on Nov. 23. In the SBOA prelim, Princess Deo was parked past the quarter after leaving from post 9, and then led the rest of the way before being caught late by Evident Beauty.

“I shod her up like I had her before and I rigged her up the way I had her, which was pretty basic,” said Daley. “She trained fine and she qualified good and then raced even better. She seems to be in a good zone right now.”

Daley said that owners Deo Volente Farms, Tom Pontone and John Fodera had planned on retiring Princess Deo at the end of the year but are now reconsidering.

“We might bring her back next year now,” said Daley.— By Gordon Waterstone
Drivers Off To Exotic Locations

After getting married in late September, driver Chris Page is taking the month of December off for a honeymoon with his bride, Brianna. The newlywed’s travel itinerary includes a week in the Bahamas, snow skiing in Traverse City, Mich., and then visiting Yellowstone National Park.

Page isn’t the only leading driver with upcoming plans for exotic trips. Yannick Gingras and his wife, Vicki, along with their children Jaiden, Addison and Averi, are going on a two-week excursion to Hawaii, spending their time on the island of Maui. The Gingras road trip begins Dec. 22 and ends Jan. 5.

“It’s something we’ve wanted to do for a while,” said Gingras. “It’s one of those big trips. It had to be the right time and it felt good with the Christmas break this year for the kids. We wanted to go for at least a couple of weeks and make it work so the kids didn’t miss much school. We come back on Jan. 5 and they’ll go back to school the next day.”

While the Gingras family will be in Hawaii for two weeks, they will remain only on Maui. “We want to see things but we want to relax too,” said Gingras.

“It had to be the right time and it felt good with the Christmas break this year for the kids.”

—Yannick Gingras about his upcoming Hawaiian vacation

“For us, it’s the first time going there.”

Tim Tetrick is traveling even farther, and it’s a working vacation. And while Gingras will be basking on the beach during his trip, Tetrick will be bundled up. Tetrick and his wife Ashley are headed to Finland on Dec. 9, where the week-long trip will include competing in the inaugural Arctic Horse Race event in Rovaniemi on Dec. 14. Rovaniemi is located on the Arctic Circle and is known as the “Home of Santa Claus.”

While the Tetricks are not bringing their 7-year-old daughter Trysta, Tetrick said being so close to the North Pole so close to Christmas he might make a stop to see Santa Claus and bring back some presents.

“We didn’t want Trysta to miss a whole week of school,” he explained. “But we could bring back those gifts.”

Tetrick said the invitation came during a hot period last spring so he thought the change of pace would be nice. The average high temperature in December in Finland is 24 degrees. And because of its location, there is only about three hours of daylight during the month.

As for the Arctic Horse Race event, it is a three-race driving challenge that includes two with trotters and one with coldbloods. More than a dozen drivers will compete in the races, including Finland’s Mika Forss and Jorma Kontio.

Tetrick said contest organizers told him he could also drive a reindeer, but he asked instead about driving snow dogs on a sled, of which they agreed.—By Gordon Waterstone

Meadows Friday Afternoon Card Has $78,784 Carryover

Although the 3 year olds Bettor’s Wish, Warrawee Ubeaut and Gimpanzee raced admirably against older foes in last month’s TVG Open events, it’s well known that it’s tough for sophomores to step up and compete versus veterans in top-level events.

Another 3 year old who is poised to take a shot at stepping up is Ohio Sires Stakes and Ohio Breeders Championship winner Rock Candy. He was entered in the $18,000 Open Handicap Pace at The Meadows on Friday and drew post 4 in the five-horse field. The morning-line favorite in the race is K Ryan Bluechip, an eight-time winner this year.

Rock Candy was trained by Brian Brown before being purchased for $105,000 at the recent Harrisburg mixed sale by Ohio owner Kenneth Ashba. Paul Corey now trains the colt.

“He’s like a second father to me. He’s a great guy,” said Corey of Ashba. “The group of horses he owns now are the best he’s ever had.”

Corey and Ashba will also be racing three other horses on the Friday card at The Meadows: the 4-year-old Somebeachsomewhere gelding Macadoodledoo in Race 6 and the 3-year-old Captaintreacherous-sired Captain Hill (5-2 choice in Race 7) and Butter Bay Hanover (Race 9).

The Open Handicap Pace kicks off a card at The Meadows that will include a Super Hi-5 carryover that stands at $78,784.94. The Meadows offers the wager on the final race of each live card, which on Friday will be Race 12, with an estimated post time of 4:45 p.m.

$18,000 OPEN HANDICAP PACE

The Meadows, Friday, Dec. 6, Race 1, Post Time: 1:05 pm

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<tr>
<th>Post—Horse</th>
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<tr>
<td>1—Statham N</td>
<td>T. Hall</td>
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<td>2—Do Work Son</td>
<td>J. Pantaleano</td>
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<td>3—Bettor Than Spring</td>
<td>M. Wilder</td>
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<td>4—Rock Candy</td>
<td>J. Merriman</td>
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<tr>
<td>5—K Ryan Bluechip</td>
<td>D. Palone</td>
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Storied Career Of Anderlecht
Coming To End

He’s raced against some of the best horses in history, including Hall of Fame legends Somebeachsomewhere and Foiled Again, and is still going strong at the age of 14.

Anderlecht, who got his first win at Woodbine in 2007, has 18 victories this season, which is tied for third most in North America, only two fewer than leader Rusty’s Flying. And the gelding is still capable of producing memorable moments, like in June when he gave driver Bruce Ranger the 9,000th victory of his career.

For his own career, Anderlecht has won 82 races (with 32 different drivers) in 367 starts and earned $978,027. He captured the 2010 Des Smith Classic at Rideau Carleton and a year earlier won the Cam Fella Pacing Series championship at Woodbine. His career-best time of 1:48 came at the age of 9, when he beat triple-millionaire All Bets Off in a conditioned race at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

Anderlecht will be pointed toward several more starts before mandatory retirement on Jan. 1, first at Scarborough Downs and then possibly at Monticello Raceway.

“The old horse just feels good about himself,” said Dennis Whittemore, who bought Anderlecht in May 2018 to race for his wife Diane. “He likes what he does, he loves his job, and when you put him on the racetrack, he knows what he’s doing. If you put him in a position where he’s got a shot at winning, he’s going to come out on top most of the time.”

Whittemore, from Maine, was a fan of Anderlecht before buying him. He watched the horse race at Pompano Park, where Whittemore spent the winters, and thought the horse could be competitive in Maine.

“I watched him race in Pompano and when he was good, he was super good,” Whittemore said. “Just knowing I like to go to Maine in the summertime, if you take good old back class home, usually you do pretty good with it. He’s just a class horse.”

First, though, Whittemore needed to help Anderlecht recover from a tendon shear infection. Whittemore and his brother, Dana, who has trained the horse for most of his time in Maine, nursed the horse to health with eyes toward a healthy 2019.

“Slowly but surely, he came around,” Whittemore said. “My brother did a very good job with him. He took great care of him. He came back this year as a monster.”

Anderlecht has won 18 of 37 races this year and $37,878. It has raced at Scarborough and Bangor Raceway as well as the Maine fairs.

“He’s just a pleasure to have around,” Whittemore said. “He plays little games with you, but he does everything to please you.”

Whittemore is working with a retirement group to find a forever home for Anderlecht following his career on the racetrack. “He raced some good ones over the years,” Whittemore said. “I watched him race in Pompano and when he was good, he was super good;” Whittemore said. “Just knowing I like to go to Maine in the summertime, if you take good old back class home, usually you do pretty good with it. He’s just a class horse.”

Yonz Celebrates McWicked, And Round Barn

With the retirement of McWicked, Doug Yontz of Anvil and Lace Farm in Georgetown, Ky., has become a bit better known on social media as a super fan of the horse, who has enjoyed turn-out time at the farm Yontz operates with his wife, Beth.

Yontz is such a big McWicked fan that he had the horse’s image tattooed on his own calf. The Round Barn adjacent to the Red Mile is also beloved by Yontz, so he found two photos to take to a tattoo artist to have the specialized artwork.

“He’s always been wanting to incorporate the Round Barn in a tattoo, and with Casie’s blue and yellow hood on McWicked, having it in front of the barn seemed like a good idea,” explained Beth Yontz of how the concept developed.

“The Round Barn was pretty important to Doug,” added Beth. “He wanted to make sure the barn was distinctive, not just a white barn. The windows of the Round Barn were very important in the image.”

The tattoo artist is from Wisconsin and attends a tattoo convention in Louisville, Ky., and Doug had the work done there. It took 10 hours for the tattoo to be completed.

Beth also has several tattoos, including one of $2 million winner Dancin Yankee, who she bred.
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STALLION NOMINATION FEE: Due and payable January 15, 2020, in the amount of the advertised stud fee for the 2020 breeding season ($500 U.S. funds minimum) — plus an additional surcharge as indicated below — provided, however, that for first-year stallions placed in commercial service (which would not include test breedings) after January 15, the nomination must be paid within 60 days after the stallion first breeds a mare. In no event will any first-year stallion nomination fee be accepted after December 31, 2020. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to determine the stallion nomination fee of these stallions, whose 2020 service is advertised as private treaty, or if the amount of the fee is not advertised. This payment covers 2020 matings (foals of 2021).

In addition to the 2020 service fee, the amount of the stallion nomination fee must include:
a) For stallions that stand for a fee from US$3,000 to $5,999 (or $3,951 CAD), an additional amount equal to 40% of 2020 service fee must be paid,
b) For stallions that stand for a fee from US$6,000 to $9,999 (or $7,950 CAD) to $13,196 CAD, an additional amount equal to 75% of 2020 service fee must be paid,
c) For stallions that stand for a fee of US$10,000 ($13,170 CAD), or more, an additional amount equal to 200% of 2020 service fee must be paid.

For stallions that stand for a service fee of less than US$3,000 (or $3,951 CAD), no additional surcharge is necessary for nomination.

Note: For the purpose of determining the surcharge in other than U.S. funds, the November 1, 2019 exchange rate is used; a rate of $1.317 CAD per US$1.

Stallion nominations for other than first-year stallions that are postmarked after January 15, 2020, but on or before December 31, 2020, will be accepted upon payment of an additional penalty amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (excluding the above surcharge). Likewise, stallion nominations for first-year stallions that are postmarked after the above sixty-day deadline, but on or before December 31, 2020, will be accepted upon payment of an additional amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (excluding the above surcharge). Any payment on a stallion that does not commercially conceive a foal or breed a mare by any means during the entire 2020 breeding season may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for refund by December 31, 2020.

Moreover, if a nominated stallion does not breed more than twenty (20) mares in 2020 or produce more than fifteen (15) registered foals in 2021, up to 50% of the stallion nomination fee may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for adjustment by December 31, 2020 (mares bred) or by December 31, 2021 (registered foals). No stallion nomination fee will be reduced to less than $500.00 U.S. funds.

For more information contact: The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown at (609) 371-2211 or www.hambletonian.com

Breeders Crown Stallion No. 37 Nomination Blank

Name of Stallion ____________________________ Age/Foal of _________ 2020 Service Fee _________

Sire ____________________________ Dam ____________________________ Sire of Dam ____________________________

FARM ____________________________ State/Province ____________________________

Owner(s) ____________________________

Please check [ ]: [ ] In-production stallion (by Jan. 15, 2020)
[ ] First-season stallion (within 60 days of 1st cover)
[ ] First-season with penalty (additional 50% after Jan. 15, 2020)

Stallion Nomination Fee is the amount of the 2020 Service Fee plus the above surcharge for fees $3,000 US ($3,951 CAD) or over

2020 Service Fee ____________ + Surcharge ( %) ____________ = Nomination Fee enclosed: ____________

Make Checks Payable to ____________________________

Nominator ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City, State, Zip ____________________________

Phone ____________________________ Fax: ____________________________ e-mail ____________________________
A Story 50 Years In The Making

Every racetrack has them, folks whose names don’t appear in the program, but without whom the program doesn’t come close to getting off the ground.

Arthur Webb Jr. is one such person. To friends, of which he counts many, he’s just “Zeke,” and Zeke the caretaker is retiring after 50 years when Yonkers Raceway’s 2019 season ends Tuesday night, Dec. 17.

“It’s time,” Zeke said. “At least that’s what my wife (Mary) told me.”

It seems Zeke, a 67-year-old native North Carolinian (Running Rapids, near the Virginia line), had no choice but to hang around with horses. His grandparents worked with them, while his two sisters and seven brothers—all older—were part of the Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceways circuit.

Zeke’s half-century of keeping the trotters and pacers healthy and racing began with Frank Popfinger.

After Popfinger ("I took care of his first 2:00 pacer, Good-nuff"), it was John Paton ("26-27 years"), then Mike Sorentino Jr. and, eventually, Don Sider.

Ask Zeke what’s changed in the industry since 1969 and he mentions the sort of horses now filling the entry box.

“It’s a lot of claimers now,” he said. “When I first started, there were the (letter-classified) horses. Trainers had them longer. Now, so many more claimers and we don’t have a bonding with them the way we used to. It’s lost some of the sport.”

Then, there’s the equipment.

“That was so much heavier then,” he said. “The hobbles, the bike, everything. Now, with the quick hitch and the other improvements, it’s so much easier for the horse, especially young ones.

It’s the affection that Zeke made a point of reinforcing to his inquisitor.

“You have to love the animal,” he said. “I didn’t choose to do this for the money. For me, happiness is more important than money.”

For his part, Zeke, along with late brother, Van (Sylvanious), enjoyed modest ownership success with the pacer Redd Fox during the last half of the pacer’s decade-long (1997-2007) career.

“He even won a (Yonkers) race on my 50th birthday, Sept. 16, 2002.”

Ask Zeke what he’s going to miss and “It’s just being here. We’re going to the Carolinas to be with our daughter, Yolanda, but when the weather warms up, I’m going to come back.”

Ask Zeke if he’d choose this work all over again, he politely offers a correction.

McWicked To Stand At Winbak Farm Of Ontario

Winbak Farm of Ontario has been busy and has acquired several new stallions for the 2020 breeding season. The farm’s latest acquisitions are 2018 Horse of the Year McWicked p, 1:46.2 ($4,930,967), Stag Party and The Bank.

In 2014, McWicked was both the USHWA and O’Brien Award Winner for 3-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year. McWicked was voted the 2018 USHWA Dan Patch Horse of the Year and 2018 O’Brien Horse of the Year and 2018 Aged Pacer of the Year. At seven, he was the oldest horse to ever win Horse of the Year honors from USHWA.

He retires as the richest pacing stallion ever and is second behind Foiled Again on the all-time earnings list for pacers.

“McWicked gave it 110 percent every time he got behind the gate,” said trainer Casie Coleman. “He was first-over more than any horse I have ever seen and raced strong up until the end of his career at 8 years old.”

In 2018, he was the oldest horse in 43 years to top the leading money earners list in North America. In 2019, McWicked achieved his third season of earning a million dollars or more.

McWicked will stand his first season for $6,500 (Canadian).

“We would like to thank Mr. James (owner Ed James) for allowing us to stand McWicked. McWicked is the kind of horse you dream about adding to a stallion lineup,” said Winbak Farm of Ontario manager Pat Woods. “There is no doubt in my mind that McWicked will have a huge impact on the Ontario breeding and racing programs.”

Stag Party p, 2, 1:50.4 ($746,280) was the 2018 O’Brien award winner for 2-year-old pacing colts.

At two, Stag Party won the Metro Pace elimination and final. He won the elimination in 1:51 and the final in his lifetime best of 1:50.4.

Stag Party will stand for $4,000 (Canadian).

The Bank moves to Winbak of Ontario from Sweden.

His oldest crop, of 88 foals, is now two.

The Bank 3, 1:50.4 ($1,110,300) captured the 2015 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot. He’s a son of Donato Hanover and the 2008 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year Lantern Kronos.

The Bank will be standing for a fee of $5,000 (Canadian).

“I haven’t been working,” Arthur Webb Jr. said. “I’ve been enjoying myself.”

One last question before we go…”Zeke?”

“I was growing up and there was an older guy, Zeke Butler, who ran a tobacco tractor. He didn’t move too fast and everyone said I was as slow as old Zeke Butler.

“I didn’t much care for the nickname at first, but since everyone started calling me Zeke, I sort of went along with it.”

Alrighty then. (Frank Drucker)
Let’s Hear It From The Losers

One of the hardest things pertaining to my job is talking to a driver after a loss, especially losses with big favorites in the biggest of races. Early on I had to learn which drivers I could approach immediately and which I had to let have a cooling off period.

Winners usually sing the same tune. I’ve lost count as to how many times after a race I asked the winning driver about the race and was simply told, “He raced great. He paced right through the wire.”

But inquiring minds want to know: Why did the betting favorite break? Why didn’t the driver pull and not get locked in? Why did the driver not leave and get so far back? And in today’s rapid-fire media world, those are what the fans and bettors want to know. After all, doesn’t a good explanation bode well for a wager the next time?

It’s no secret that racetrack staffing is kept to a minimum, so having somebody in the paddock to interview losing drivers would be difficult. Probably only the Meadowlands and Woodbine Mohawk Park have enough staffing to send a microphone to the paddock.

But at the other tracks, why not some “Monday morning quarterbacking,” with drivers commenting by phone or text and then those comments made available?

“I think it would be a benefit for the fans, they like that,” answered driver Yannick Gingras when I asked him earlier this week about getting loser comments.

I told Yannick that I tried to read drivers’ faces to decide if I should approach now or wait. Yannick told me, “I’m sure I have those facial expressions too, but I’ll answer questions anytime. If I mess up, I’ll admit it. Ask the trainers I drive for as I’ll say it was a bad drive, sorry. But I try to keep those at a minimum.”

All the major sports have rules that allows the media access to everybody—winners and losers. An athlete can get fined if he leaves the locker room before the media enters. What the leagues do is keep the locker room door closed for a set period of time, and that gives players a chance to gather their thoughts.

I still miss the front paddock at the Meadowlands, especially since it gave everybody easy access to horsemen and horses. And when a race finished, while the winners were celebrating, the losers had no choice but to walk past me. Some hurried down the stairs and directly into the drivers’ room after a bad drive, and that made it impossible to have a quick conversation.

One driver who I learned to let briskly walk past me in defeat was John Campbell. I’ve known John since his early days at Windsor Raceway and Hazel Park, and I realized early he was one who needed a few minutes to decompress after a tough loss.

“Yes, five minutes,” John told me this week. “I wasn’t good at that, and I’ll be the first to admit that. But I think it’s a fair practice, especially if things don’t go well. If things go well, go right at them because you’re going to get good stuff. But if things don’t go well, I think five minutes of a cooling-off period, and then you should be obligated.

“There were plenty of times I would have liked to have explained to the public why a horse didn’t win when it was favored, or even sometimes if they won and paid good prices.

“This should have been done years ago, at the beginning of night-time harness racing. Not explaining to the public has been a huge mistake that’s never been rectified.”

I also spoke to Tim Tetrick and he agreed with Campbell about a short cooling off period before granting interviews.

“‘I’m better off if you just give me a second,’” said Tetrick.

“In the big races, it hurts when you get beat or you make mistakes or horses make breaks and things don’t work out the way you wanted it to.

“I think it’s important and we should do more of it than we do. We keep a lot of things hush hush. We should tell the public more.”

John relayed a funny story to me, and it essentially was one drive years ago at the Meadowlands when a trotter made a break when he pulled the earplugs in the last turn. John said when he came onto the track for the post parade for the next race there was a guy on the fence screaming at him that he had kicked the horse and made him break. So what did John do?

“I drove right past the guy and said, ‘I didn’t kick him, I pulled the plugs.’ The guy looked at me and went, ‘Oh,’ and walked away. He went from being seriously irate and maybe still pissed off, but he calmed right down with the explanation.”

A simple explanation. Wouldn’t we all like to see that done?
Pine Chip Dies At 29

Pine Chip 1:51 ($1,710,858), a world champion on the racetrack and an influential stallion, particularly as a broodmare sire, has died at Broline Stud in Sweden. The son of Arndon-Pine Speed (by Speedy Somolli) was 29.

Pine Chip will be buried in the stallion depot area at Broline which has been his home for the past 20 years.

“Of course, it is a sad day, but we are extremely proud and happy to have had this amazing individual at the stud, for almost two decades,” Broline’s Tommy Norén told Sweden’s SulkySport magazine.

“Pine Chip was not only an amazing trotting horse and breeding stallion, he was also an incredible individual,” added Norén. “He was without a doubt the King of Broline.”

Pine Chip was trained by Chuck Sylvester and regularly driven by John Campbell. As a 3 year old he went from being a green 3 year old to a co-favorite in the Hambletonian. Although he finished second to American Winner in the Hambo, in the fall he set a world record at the Delaware County Fair and then trotted the fastest miles in the history of the Kentucky Futurity, and also captured the Breeders Crown. Those exploits earned him Trotter of the Year at age three.

“I’ve trained a lot of great trotters—pure and simple, Pine Chip is the best ever,” said Sylvester.

Although he was denied a victory in the Hambletonian by his rival American Winner, Pine Chip sired two Hambo winners, Scarlet Knight and Chip Chip Hooray. When they won the 2001 and ’02 editions of the classic, they made Pine Chip the first horse to sire back-to-back winners since Star’s Pride in the 1960s.

As a broodmare sire Pine Chip’s daughters have produced the world champion Snow White, Hambletonian champion Muscle Massive and Cedar Dove, the dam of 2019 Hambletonian Oaks winner When Dovescry.

Following are excerpts from a 2009 story by Dean Hoffman in The Horseman And Fair World magazine about Pine Chip’s ascent to becoming an influential sire.

Pine Chip’s Richest Offspring

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN NORTH AMERICA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet Knight*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Action*</td>
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<td>Enjoy Lavec</td>
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* raced in NA & Europe
Unexpected Influence:
Pine Chip’s Fertility Almost Doomed His Stallion Career

Pine Chip was long gone, exported to Sweden, by the time his sons and daughters achieved such influence as he was sold for $2 million and exported to Sweden late in late 2000.

Pine Chip’s success as a sire is amazing in part because his stud career almost died before it even got started.

When Pine Chip ended his sensational sophomore racing season in 1993, he flunked his fertility test miserably at Hanover Shoe Farms. So he was put back in training and in 1994 became the fastest trotter ever on both a mile and half-mile track, time trialing in 1:51 at The Red Mile and winning in 1:54 over the Delaware, Ohio, oval.

Castleton Farm took a chance on Pine Chip starting with the 1995 breeding season, and luckily the stallion’s fertility problems quickly dissipated. He was bred to 129 mares in his first season at stud and achieved a 69 percent conception rate.

Pine Chip’s first crop included the top stakes colts Enjoy Lavac and Starchip Entprise, who finished first and second, just a neck apart, in the 1998 Peter Haughton Memorial. Then came Dream Vacation and Scarlet Knight and Chip Chip Hooray and Civil Action.

Pine Chip is evidence that you never know where a champion racehorse, or a champion sire, might come from. He was handsome but overlooked as a yearling, bringing just $17,000, perhaps because he was by Arndon, once the sport’s fastest trotter by virtue of a 1:54 time trial in 1982, but a stallion dismissed by most horsemen by 1991.

Placed in training by trainer Chuck Sylvester, Pine Chip showed so much ability that his trainer staked him to the hilt. But first there was a setback. Pine Chip tossed his head at times, so Sylvester put a tie-down on him.

“One morning when Pine Chip was walking to the track, he reared, struck at his tie-down, and landed hard on his right front foot,” says Sylvester.

He’d pulled a ligament under his right knee and was lame. The only cure was stall rest. Lots of it. Pine Chip spent the summer of ’92—his 2-year-old season—in a stall in New Jersey.

One of Sylvester’s concerns with Pine Chip was that while both his sire Arndon and his grandsire Speedy Somolli had high speed, each could be unmanageable at times. Pine Chip never showed any signs of such fire in his system, but it was never far from Sylvester’s mind.

Breeding Decision Easy:
Speed To Speed

Editor’s Note: Earlier this year Pennsylvania breeder and owner Sig Wolkomir died. Below were his recollections, published in The Horserman And Fair World in 2009, about breeding the mare Pine Speed to Arndon, which produced Pine Chip.

When Sig Wolkomir and his partners in the KMW Stables decided to give up on racing Pine Speed and breed the mare, his stallion choice was Arndon.

“Pine Speed was by Speedy Somolli, so we had speed there. Arndon was fast and he was fractious, but only because he was hurting. I knew Delvin (Miller, who trained and drove Arndon) had problems with his soundness,” Wolkomir explained.

The Speedy Somolli line had become known for producing horses that were considered a little too spirited, but Wolkomir said he was confident that Arndon “wasn’t a crazy horse.”

Although Pine Speed only took a mark of 2:08.1, Wolkomir said she showed speed for trainer John Curran.

“She stood really, really well, and she showed speed but she got hurt,” he remembered.

Pine Chip was born at the farm of Dr. Nelson Wirt in Carlisle, Pa., and he narrowly missed an outbreak of salmonella, which hit one of Wirt’s two farms.

Pine Speed also produced King Pine 3, 1:54 ($489,142) and Silver Pine 3, 1:54.1 ($373,663), sons by Nearly Perfect and Sierra Kosmos, respectively, before she died at age 15 in 1997.

Pine Chip’s sophomore season was remarkable because he went from a green colt to Hambletonian co-favorite in a few months.

He won his first stake for driver Chris Boring at The Meadows on April 23, defeating American Winner and initiating a rivalry that would continue all season. American Winner beat Pine Chip in the Hambletonian and repeated in a remarkable race at Syracuse, but thereafter American Winner battled soreness and wasn’t the same. Pine Chip, on the other hand, seemed to get even better and won the Futurity and Breeders Crown.

Then Pine Chip embarked on a mission to win the Orsi Mangelli in Italy.

“That whole trip was pretty much a disaster,” remembered Sylvester.

Pine Chip was trucked from Florida to New York, flown to Germany, and then spent 19 hours on a van getting to Italy.
He looked terrible when he got there, got trapped in traffic in the race itself, and was disappointing.

He then returned to the United States and went to Hanover Shoe Farms. Eight months of racing and constant travel was a formula for a disastrous fertility test.

In the summer of the following year, John Cashman, president of Castleton Farm, expressed interest in Pine Chip as a stallion and sent Dr. Steve Conboy to test the horse at Sylvester’s base in New Jersey.

Cashman knew Pine Chip’s history but Dr. Conboy’s report was encouraging. “He can handle 60-80 mares,” he told Cashman. “And he’ll get better.”

So Cashman worked out an option to purchase Pine Chip and bring him to Castleton. The stallion was syndicated for $3 million, and his stud fee for his first season was set at $10,000. (Pine Chip’s last season at stud before he was exported, his stud fee was $20,000 and his book was full and closed in December.)

As he began breeding in 1995, Pine Chip’s fertility improved rapidly. Former yearling manager Richard Stone said that Pine Chip’s testicles dramatically increased in size during the breeding season.

At the end of his first season Pine Chip had bred 129 mares, not a mere 80. But he was just getting warmed up. In his second year he serviced 168 mares, and he bred 199 mares in his third season. In 1998, when Pine Chip’s first crop went trotting off to the races, his book numbered 254 mares.

Pine Chip’s sons got his career started brilliantly. What horsemen noticed is that while the Pine Chip colts stood out, he had far fewer first-class fillies.

Without notice, however, daughters of Pine Chip were joining the breeding ranks and it wasn’t long before they made an impact.

Certainly a factor for Pine Chip’s success as a broodmare sire is that he’s accessible to stallions from the Valley Victory and Garland Lobell male lines.

The time-honored formula of speed on speed manifested itself in the world champion filly Snow White, who became the first female trotter to break 1:53 at age two. Another successful example is Hambletonian champion Muscle Massive, by Muscles Yankee, a son of Valley Victory.

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**PINE CHIP’S BROODMARE CREDITS**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Broadway Schooner*</td>
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*Cedar Dove, dam of When Dovescry ($935,090); Lantern Kronos, dam of The Bank ($1,110,300); Creamy Mimi, dam of French Laundry ($652,823); Broadway Schooner, dam of Broadway Donna ($1,434,735)
Zidek named new announcer at Meadows
The Meadows Racetrack and Casino is happy to announce Jeff Zidek as the new announcer replacing Roger Huston, who resigned in November. Zidek, a native of North Apollo, Pa., has been calling races for 32 years as the backup announcer for Huston since 1987 as well as county fairs in Pennsylvania and Ohio. more

Emoticon Hanover closes out career with win
World champion Emoticon Hanover capped off her legendary career with a coast-to-coast 1:53.3 victory Monday night at Woodbine Mohawk Park. more

Evident Beauty NJSS Horse of Year
Evident Beauty has been selected as the New Jersey Sire Stakes’ Horse of the Year for 2019. The award, which is voted annually by the New Jersey Sire Stakes Board of Trustees, is based solely on performances in races for New Jersey-sired horses, including NJSS-sponsored races and other major stakes for NJ-sired or bred horses. more

Strong prices at Indiana weekend sales
Black Friday Harness Racing edition took place on Friday, Nov. 29, in the form of the Midwest Mixed Sale, followed by the Michiana Classic Yearling Sale on Saturday, Nov. 30, both held at the Michiana Event Center in Shipshe-wana, Ind. The third edition of each sale gave breeders and trainers an opportunity to bolster their breeding roster, reload with proven racehorses or buy into promising young yearlings heading into the next year garnered strong results over both days. more

Brower to receive Phil Pines Award
When the Monticello-Goshen Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association holds its 61st annual awards banquet on Sunday, Dec. 15, Dave Brower will receive the Phil Pines Award for his outstanding media coverage of the sport of harness racing. more

Special match of donations for Retirement Foundation
There are 377 trotters and pacers in need of homes under the expense and care of the Standardbred Retirement Foundation, (SRF). These horses have earnings of over $10,000,000. But not for them. more

Miami Valley getting ready for Jan. 3 opening
Miami Valley Raceway management and racing officials are busy preparing for the kickoff of their seventh season on Jan. 3, 2020. Condition sheets for the first week of racing have already been posted to the USTA website; and Late Closing Series nomination forms are available at the website: www.miamivalleygaming.com, then clicking on Racing in the scroll down menu followed by clicks on Horsemens Info and scrolling down to “Forms.” more

Ohio’s Virginia Buxton dies at 91
Virginia Ruth Buxton, 91, the widow of well-known Ohio horseman Richard “Dick” Buxton and mother of horseman Brad Buxton, died on Saturday, Nov. 30, at Hearth and Home Nursing Home in Urbana, Ohio. more
Final Standardbred Poll

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Others receiving votes: Atlanta 48; McWicked 41; Six Pack 39; Lather Up 38; Emoticon Hanover 10; When Doovesey 9; Captain Crunch, Forbidden Trade, Senorita Rita 8; Southwind Ozzzi 6; Lyons Sentinel 5; Amigo Volo 4; Blue Ivy, Sister Sledge 3; Easy Lover Hanover, Elver Hanover, JK First Lady 2; Always A Prince, Bold Eagle, Shake That House, Winndevie 1.

Harness Racing Leaders
Compiled by the USTA—through December 3, 2019 (week difference Nov. 26-Dec. 3).

Leading North American-Bred Money-Winning Horses

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Leading Money-Winning Trainers

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Leading Breeders

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Leading Money-Winning Sires

USTA statistics through December 3, 2019.

2YO Pacers

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2YO Trotters

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<th>Sire Name</th>
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2020 Blooded Horse Sale Dates:

**WINTER SPEED SALE**
February 11 & 12, 2020

**SPEED SALE COMPANY**
“Theres No Substitute for Experience”

**SPRING MIXED SALE**
May 12, 2020

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Phone (859) 858-4415, Fax (859) 858-8498
jhaws@bloodedhorse.com
www.bloodedhorse.com

**FALL SPEED SALE**
November 17-19, 2020