Can Southwind Chrome Polish Off Preferred From Post 10?

Can you recall a horse being assigned post 10? It’s obviously a rare occurrence, but Southwind Chrome now can claim the distinction. Following two straight wins at the Meadowlands, but neither by any crushing margins, he was assigned post 10 for Friday’s $30,000 Preferred Trot at the Meadowlands. Dexter Dunn will drive.

“It is what it is,” said Southwind Chrome’s trainer, Jeff Cullipher. “I don’t like it, of course, but he’s been on the front the last two starts and it really wouldn’t hurt my feelings if he races off the pace this time.

“…he’s been on the front the last two starts and it really wouldn’t hurt my feelings if he races off the pace this time.”

—Jeff Cullipher

Cullipher is racing 12 horses at the Meadowlands this weekend from his 30-horse New Jersey operation at Gaitway Farm. He recently moved to Gaitway from White Birch.

Cullipher and Tom Pollack took the Meadowlands leading owner title for the January-August Meadowlands meet and with Southwind Chrome and others in their stable, they are poised for another strong showing.

“Having that meet went above and beyond what we expected,” said Cullipher, a 48-year-old native of Kentucky. “We never thought we’d have that much success. We took 10 up there this time last year and now we’ve got 30 there.”

Cullipher stays in Indiana, where he has 30 in training at Pacesetter Farm. He makes a trip or two to New Jersey each month and veteran horseman Enrico Robinson handles the day-to-day of Cullipher’s New Jersey stable.
Canada’s O’Brien Award Finalists Announced

The ballots have been tabulated and on Wednesday, Dec. 18, Standardbred Canada announced the finalists for the 2019 O’Brien Awards, which honor Canada’s best in harness racing over the past season.

There are two finalists in each of the categories which includes 12 divisional horse categories and five people awards. Horse of the Year will be one of the divisional champions.

The winners will be announced at the annual O’Brien Awards Black Tie Gala on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, at the Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale hotel in Mississauga, Ont.

This will mark the 31st edition of the O’Brien Awards, named in honor of the late Joe O’Brien, an outstanding horseman and member of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

2019 O’Brien Award Finalists

2FP  .  Alicorn/Reflect With Me
2CP  .  Capt Midnight/Tall Dark Stranger
3FP  .  Boadicea/Sunny Dee
3CP  .  Captain Crunch/Century Farroh
OMP  .  Caviart Ally/Double A Mint
OHP  .  Lather Up/McWicked
2FT  .  Dip Me Hanover/Wine Rack Hanover
2CT  .  HP Royal Theo/Port Perry
3FT  .  Evident Beauty/Only Take Cash
3CT  .  Forbidden Trade/Pilot Discretion
OMT  .  Atlanta/Emoticon Hanover
OHT  .  Lindy The Great/Musical Rhythm
Future Star  .  Dave Kelly/Austin Sorrie
Horsemanship  .  Mario Baillargeon/Gilles Barrieau
Breeder  .  Al Libfeld, Marvin Katz/Robert McIntosh Stables
Driver  .  Bob McClure/Louis-Philippe Roy
Trainer  .  Luc Blais/Richard Moreau

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Season’s Greetings To All

Thanks to everyone who participated in another great year of racing in 2019!

We look forward to serving our friends in the industry again in the year ahead.

The Breeders Crown returns to Harrah’s Hoosier Park in 2020 with all 12 Championship Events to be held October 30 and 31!

The Hambletonian at The Meadowlands August 8, 2020
Manverick: The Horse Is One Tough Trooper

There are tough horses and then there is Manverick. After starting his career on a high note as a 2 year old in 2017 with five wins in eight starts, Manverick raced only once last year as he underwent three surgeries for three different ailments.

In the barn of trainer Jessica Okusko and her husband, Howie, Manverick returned as a 4 year old in 2019 as if nothing had ever happened. In 15 starts this year, Manverick has posted nine wins, three seconds and a third, with $47,883 in earnings.

On Saturday night, Manverick will make his first-ever start at the Meadowlands, lining up in post 4 with driver Dexter Dunn in a $20,000 conditioned pace (Race 7).

Manverick's health problems began early last year when he suffered a bout of sand colic while wintering at the Okusko's winter base at Spring Garden Ranch in Florida. After recovering from colic surgery, Manverick finished fifth in a New York Sires Stakes event at Tioga Downs in early June, but then a twisted testicle led to a second operation and another layoff.

While he was turned out to recover, Manverick was kicked in the hock. The kick caused a chip the size of a quarter, and after consulting with Dr. Patty Hogan, Manverick underwent a third surgery.

“He is just a sweetheart to be around,” said Okusko. “I can’t say enough good things about him. He’s a special boy. I feel bad for him because he’s been through so much, but he handled it like a trooper. He’s really shown that he still wants to do it.”

Manverick was a $15,000 yearling purchase by Doug and Rosalind Paul’s M And L of Delaware, James Giannuzzi and David Smith. A son of American Ideal, Manverick’s dam is Desirable Cindy, a half-sister to the 2008 Horse of the Year Jenna’s Beach Boy. The Pauls recently bought out both partners and they are now he sole owners of the career winner of $85,488.

“He had a really good 2-year-old year and showed a lot of potential for us,” remembered Okusko.

Okusko said they brought Manverick back to their New York base in May, and after a qualifier the twisted testicle was discovered.

“We just couldn’t figure out what was wrong with him, but we knew he was sore,” said Okusko. “He had the testicle that was twisted and causing a lot of pain so we sent him to Cornell. So he had the surgery and we had to geld him.”

Okusko said it wasn’t until Manverick arrived at Spring Garden Ranch and x-rays were sent to Dr. Hogan for her opinion that it was decided to have a third surgery performed, removing the chip that was also attached to a ligament.

“(Dr. Hogan) was very optimistic that horses could recover from this and still be fine racehorses,” said Okusko. “We talked to Doug (Paul) and he said to give it a shot. He said the horse had a rough enough go as it is, so let’s try to make him sound and comfortable.

“He was such a good patient and took care of himself. We brought him back up home and didn’t qualify him until July.”

Manverick won that qualifier at Vernon Downs in 1:57.4, and then after finishing second in his pari-mutuel debut, won on July 19 at Saratoga in 1:52.4. His first eight starts led to five wins and three seconds, with his victories including a career-best 1:51.4 at Tioga Downs.

With the Okuskos in Florida, Manverick is now in the barn of trainer Bruce Saunders. He comes into Saturday night’s race off a fourth at Harrah's Philadelphia on Dec. 15. Jessica Okusko said Manverick, who was renamed for their dog, Maverick, has a forever home with her.

“He’s not with me now and it’s heartbreaking,” she said. “He’s been with me every start of his life.

“He would have been my pet forever so it wouldn’t matter (if he had not returned to racing), but he wanted to be a racehorse. He still has a lot of fight left in him. He loves to be a racehorse.” —By Gordon Waterstone
Tetrick On His “Cool” Trip Driving In Finland

One might expect a trip to the Arctic Circle to be nothing less than really cool. And that’s how Tim Tetrick described his journey to Finland for the first Arctic Horse Race competition at Mantyvaara racetrack in Rovaniemi.

Tetrick returned home to New Jersey on Tuesday night following a weeklong stay in Finland. He finished third in the Arctic Horse Race event, highlighted by a win with a cold-blood trotter in one of the three legs of the driving competition, but that was far from the only memorable moments he enjoyed.

Rovaniemi, situated on the Arctic Circle, is the capital of Lapland and known for being “the official hometown of Santa Claus.” Tetrick met Santa and accepted an invitation to visit his workshop in the days following the Arctic Horse Race, which was held this past Saturday and saw more than 2,600 people attend the event.

Among other highlights for Tetrick were driving a reindeer and snow dogs as well as snowmobiling.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Tetrick, who was joined by his wife Ashley on the trip. “We enjoyed it and had a great time. They definitely rolled out the red carpet for us.

“It’s something I would have never done if I wasn’t given this opportunity. It was a great trip, just a really cool adventure. I’m grateful for the chance to go and thank everyone that put together such a great event. It’s something I’ll never forget.”

Tetrick finished third in the Arctic Horse Race behind winner Antti Teivainen and runner-up Jorma Kontio, both from Finland. Other drivers in the competition were Finland’s Santtu Raitala, Jukka Torvinen, Olli Koivunen, Iikka Nurmonen, Petteri Joki, Mauri Jaara, and Hannu Torvinen as well as Sweden’s Jens Eriksson and Norway’s Hans Christian Holm.
SIX PACK


“Six Pack is an incredibly powerful horse to sit behind. He has everything you can ask for: speed, power, and intelligence” – Ake Svanstedt

Some of Six Pack’s notable victories as he accumulated close to $2 million in career earnings include:

• The Stanley Dancer (1:50.0) World Record,
• The Kentucky Futurity (1:49.1) World Record,
• The Allerage Open Trot as a 4-year-old (1:49.2) World Record
• The TVG Open Trot as a 4-year-old (1:50) Track Record
• The Yonkers Trot,
• The Empire Breeders Classic,
• The Matron, and
• Several Divisions of the New York Sire Stakes as a 2-year-old and 3-year-old.

Six Pack was named the Dan Patch 3-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year in 2018.

2020 Stud Fee: $10,000

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New 2YO “Buy In” Stakes
At Scioto For 2020

The sport’s racing secretaries and stakes administrators met in Florida in early December to set the 2020 stakes calendar and the schedule has a few surprises.

First, in addition to the Mohawk Million for 2-year-old trotters, the stakes schedule will include two new $150,000 events for Ohio-sired 2-year-old pacers at Scioto Downs. Like the Mohawk Million, however, the new Ohio races are events for Ohio-sired 2-year-old pacers at Scioto Downs.

“A horseman came to us with this idea,” said Jason Roth, race secretary at Scioto Downs. “At first we thought big and tried to get the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association involved and thought there could be $250,000 races, but they had just agreed to add a leg to the Buckeye Stallion Series. So Stacy Cahill (Scioto’s general manager) thought we should still try it, but on a smaller scale.”

Roth said that parties can buy one spot at a cost of $10,000, with the spot required to be purchased by the March 16 stakes payment deadline. Nine spots will be sold. The additional purse money will come from the Scioto Downs purse pool account.

If more than nine slots are sold, a lottery drawing will be held at Scioto Downs on the opening night of its 2020 meet, May 9. Only one entry per trainer or per party will be permitted.

“You can sell, trade or give away your spot, and the horse doesn’t need to be named until time of entry,” said Roth.

The two new races, called the Next Generation, are scheduled for Saturday, July 4—before a single leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes.

“Everybody thinks they have the best horse at the end of June, and nobody knows yet,” added Roth.

Roth said if the two pacing races are popular, events for trotters could be added in 2021.

The 2020 calendar will cause the racing action to shift slightly from traditional dates, most notably for the Hambletonian and Little Brown Jug. For the first time since 2011 (when Broad Bahn won the race), eliminations for the Hambletonian will be held one week before the final.

Hambletonian Day will be Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Meadowlands. The regular package of Hambo Day stakes will be on that date as well. With Labor Day the first Monday of September, and thus not until Sept. 7, the Little Brown Jug—which is held the third Thursday in September AFTER Labor Day—will be contested Sept. 24.

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2020 Stakes Calendar

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Among other changes on the calendar, the Art Rooney Pace has been discontinued at Yonkers Raceway. The Rooney family sold Yonkers to MGM last year. Other stakes at Yonkers will have new names this year, as follows: the MGM Yonkers Trot and MGM Grand Messenger, both set for Saturday, Sept. 5, and on Saturday, Sept. 12, the MGM Yonkers International Trot will be held in conjunction with the New York Sires Stakes championships, with a 1 p.m. post time for the program.

Also, the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series, named for the founder of Roosevelt Raceway, will now be called the MGM Borgota Pacing Series. The names of Dan Rooney and Harry Harvey have also been dropped from the invitational events held on the same card as the Yonkers International Trot.

One unexpected change to the calendar is the late appearance of the New Jersey Sires Stakes for 2 year olds. Normally held in July, they have been moved to August and September, where they conflict with the Kentucky Sires Stakes. That means horses with dual New Jersey-Kentucky eligibility cannot compete in both programs.

— By Kathy Parker

Changes Made To Red Mile 2020 Schedule

The 2020 Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile will be held Oct. 2-11, with racing Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Thursday racing has been dropped.

“I don’t like having seven or eight races in a day; we were struggling to fill a card,” explained Red Mile co-owner George Segal. “The races have been great, the competition has been great, but we just don’t have as many divisions of the Bluegrass or International.

“I want to have 12 races a day. So we will have the same number of races what we raced (in 2019) in four days. And if I have to go 13 races in one day, then I’ll go 13 races.”

Segal pointed out changes in the New Jersey stakes schedule will also likely affect the horse population at The Red Mile. The changes include moving the New Jersey Sires Stakes races for 2 year olds from early July to late August/early September.

“As it turns out, with the Meadowlands releasing their schedule, they are going to race the Kindergarten and 2-year-old (New Jersey) Sires Stakes in the August/September period, and that will make it even harder for us,” said Segal. “I’m concerned with what the (Red Mile) meet will look like on non-Sires Stakes days with the Meadowlands racing all those races in the fall, and those horses not coming to The Red Mile to race in overnights.

“This is for one year; I don’t know what the following year will bring. New Jersey isn’t the only state we have dual eligibility. Why would we change our entire Sires Stakes program for one? I feel bad, but our program is doing well.”

The early meet at The Red Mile will also have a three-day schedule, with a 1 p.m. post on Sundays and 7 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays.

“The reason for that is that we had a lot of trouble getting drivers for horses to the Sires Stakes on Saturdays, and even on Thursdays,” said Segal. “Horsemen can now come for three days if they have the horses. Plus, there is the least amount of competition on those days to simulcast.” — By Gordon Waterstone
Happy Holidays

Wishing you all the best in 2020.

“Thank You” to everyone that’s been a part of the Burke Brigade, and helped us hit 10,000 career wins!

And special thanks to Hannelore Hanover - enjoy your retirement!

Burke Racing
Hawthorne’s Tom Carey Dies At 87

Hawthorne Race Course patriarch Thomas F. Carey passed away Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the age of 87 in Florida.

Mr. Carey was a key figure in enabling Arlington Park to complete its 1985 live meeting after a catastrophic fire. In an interview with Jim O’Donnell, writer for the suburban Chicago Daily Herald, Arlington chairman emeritus Dick Duchossis said of Mr. Carey, “He was the first person on our doorstep offering to help the day of the fire. “He offered us his track to complete our 1985 season and except for the day of The Miracle Million, we took him up on it.”

More than 40 Arlington Park programs were run at Hawthorne before the conclusion of the pockmarked season on Sept. 30.

“He was a good man who was a gentleman to negotiate with and greatly understood the value of every nickel,” Duchossis added of Mr. Carey.

A Chicago native, Mr. Carey turned heads in the sporting world as an All-State quarterback at Mt. Carmel High School. Mr. Carey then went on to play football for four years at Notre Dame under legendary coaches Frank Leahy and Terry Brennan.

Mr. Carey earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Notre Dame in 1955. He graduated again three years later, this time with a degree from Northwestern University Law School.

From 1956 to 1960 Mr. Carey coached the Mt. Carmel football team to four sectional titles, as well as one City Championship and one Co-Championship.

In 1969 he began assisting his father, Robert F. Carey, at Hawthorne and assumed control of the racing operations after his father’s passing in 1980.

After an early morning fire destroyed the Hawthorne grandstand on Nov. 19, 1978, Mr. Carey was instrumental in the rebuild of Hawthorne, with the facility reopening in the fall of 1980.

During the 1980s, Mr. Carey was an active manager of the winter Suburban Downs harness meets at Hawthorne. With doubleheaders on Saturday, the track drew huge crowds and wagering on the two cards combined routinely topped $2.5 million.

Mr. Carey was inducted into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and served as president and general manager of Hawthorne for nearly 30 years. Additionally, he was instrumental in the formation of the Racing Industry Charitable Foundation, serving as that organization’s president and was active in many community programs.

Mr. Carey is survived by his wife Susan and six children.

(Hawthorne)
To our many harness racing friends, and a special thank you to all the owners and trainers who helped make 2019 another great year!
Sorella To Sponsor Jimmy Freight
2YO $100K Race

Woodbine Entertainment on Tuesday announced a partnership with owner Adriano Sorella to launch the Jimmy Freight Stakes in 2023, an event restricted to 2 year olds sired by Jimmy Freight.

The new event will have a purse of $100,000, posted by Sorella, and be held at Woodbine Mohawk Park in 2023 on a date to be determined. Foals from mares bred to Jimmy Freight, who stands at Winbak Farm of Ontario, during the upcoming 2020 breeding season will be eligible.

Along with founding this new race for offspring of his stallion, Sorella will be a sponsor of World Class Standardbred racing at Woodbine Mohawk Park during the 2020 season.

“I am very pleased to be working with Woodbine Entertainment in regards to this new stake race named after Jimmy Freight,” said Sorella. “Working with Jessica Buckley and her team at Woodbine Mohawk Park, and seeing their excitement, it made this decision an easy one.”

The Jimmy Freight Stakes will have no staking payments. Only 2-year-old sons or daughters of Jimmy Freight that have made a minimum of two starts at Woodbine Mohawk Park will be eligible to enter. The field shall be limited to 10 starters. Should more than 10 enter, the 10 horses with the highest earnings will be selected to race.

“This is unique thinking by Mr. Sorella, and we commend his enthusiasm in supporting his stallion and the Standardbred industry with this type of investment,” said Jessica Buckley, president of Woodbine Mohawk Park. “With Winbak Farm as an existing partner, we are pleased to add Jimmy Freight to our sponsorship group.”

Jimmy Freight, an O’Brien Award winner with 21 wins, $1.4 million (C) in earnings and a mark of 1:48.1, is heading into his first season of stallion duty at Winbak Farm of Ontario. His first crop will sell at the 2022 yearling sales prior to debuting on the racetrack in 2023.

“I have been buying horses for years, and I understand that there is a big commitment when buying a yearling,” said Sorella. “I wanted to add an incentive for not only the buyers, but also the breeders who are breeding to Jimmy Freight. With this race for $100,000 it gives a breeder and a buyer just another edge as there is no risk to either. No stakes payments, no entry fees.”

Jimmy Freight was one of the most consistent performers in recent memory, posting 21 wins and 43 top-three finishes in 52 career starts. The richest and fastest son of Sportswriter finished outside the top five only twice during his outstanding racing career.

The list of accomplishments for Jimmy Freight includes multiple OSS Gold wins at age two, victories in the Somebeachsomewhere and OSS Super Final at age three and triumphs over harness racing’s heavyweights in the Mohawk Gold Cup and Dayton Pacing Derby at age four.

“I truly believe this is something that is needed,” said Sorella. “Taking the initiative to move forward with a race like this shows my commitment to the sport. I really do believe we have some forward thinkers within the industry, I’m just trying to support my stallion, my partners, and Winbak Farm who have been great to work with.”

Jimmy Freight stands at Winbak Farm of Ontario for $5,000 (C). (WEG)
We boarded the train Friday morning and with the Toronto train station downtown it was an easy walk to the Four Seasons Hotel where we had booked a room. Hey, we were going to do this trip up right, so why not the Four Seasons?

I texted Bill to ask about his memories from the trip, and he remarked to me about the hotel, “The room was magnificent. We thought we had died and gone to heaven.”

It was also an easy trolley ride from the hotel directly to Greenwood, and we made the trip first for the Friday night card. Although I had been in the Hazel Park and Northville PR departments for five years, I hadn’t yet met Greenwood publicity director Jim Lampman, so I made it a point to introduce myself and Bill. Jim couldn’t have been nicer, and that included calling a taxi for us to return to the hotel. And he paid for it.

Saturday was cold and windy and after once again trolleying it to Greenwood, I remember a buzz in the air when we arrived. The excitement grew even more when Cam Fella and his trainer-driver Pat Crowe came onto the track. Cam Fella did not disappoint in the $75,000 race as he took the lead after being parked just past the quarter and never looked back. Cam Fella won in 1:57.2 to the roar of the huge crowd, extending his streak to 28.

Bringing his earnings to $2,041,360 for owners Norm Clements, Norm Faulkner and Ed Freidberg’s JEF’S Standardbred Country Club, Cam Fella also passed Rambling Willie as the all-time richest pacer. The win also capped off Cam Fella’s second Horse of the Year campaign.

What was super cool about the post-race ceremonies was the crowd singing Auld Lang Syne as Cam Fella was paraded from the winner’s circle past the crowd.

After the races were over, Bill and I waited in line to get back on a trolley and return to the hotel where we grabbed a bite to eat, picked up our baggage, and headed to the train station for the return trip, which turned out to be a late-night milk run. The train made several stops at small towns along the way. The train didn’t arrive back in Windsor until the wee hours, but the trip gave Bill and I memories of a lifetime.

After winning 61 of 80 career starts, Cam Fella retired in 1984 to a stallion career, where his progeny included Precious Bunny, Cam’s Card Shark, Goalie Jeff, Camtastic and Ellamony. When breeding problems ended his stud career, he moved to The Hall of Champions at the Kentucky Horse Park in 1997, where he died on May 9, 2001.

A Train Ride To Bid Farewell To Cam Fella

Hard to believe it’s been 36 years since the great Cam Fella wrapped up his career with a 28th consecutive victory at Greenwood Raceway. I was there that frigid afternoon of Dec. 10, 1983, to see one of my all-time favorite horses, although most of my affection came via reading the race wrap-ups in The Horseman And Fair World as this was only the second time I got to see “The Pacing Machine” in person.

The first time I saw Cam Fella was in the 1982 Provincial Cup at Windsor Raceway. I remember being in the packed Windsor grandstand that cold November day as Cam Fella capped off his 3-year-old season with a win in the $100,000 race—the first time the Cup purse reached that level—on his way to Horse of the Year honors.

Cam Fella’s 4-year-old season got off to a slow start as he was winless after three starts and had just two victories in his first eight attempts. But from May 19 on he was unbeatable, winning races at 11 different racetracks and eventually stretching his streak to 27 consecutive victories. After winning his 27th straight at Pompano Park, Cam Fella headed to Greenwood for his final career race before being retired to stud duty.

I had remained vigilant in keeping up with Cam Fella’s year, and I wasn’t going to miss his finale. So along with my friend Bill Rayle, who transitioned from a substitute teacher at my high school to a partner in the first horse I owned to an assistant in my race office at Hazel Park to the Detroit Free Press harness handicapper, we embarked on our journey to Greenwood Raceway.

Bill and I did not fly to Toronto—actually, I didn’t even take my first plane ride until early the following year—nor did we drive. We took the train. Back then it was pretty simple and, more importantly, not too costly. We did have to drive some, but that was just through the tunnel under the Detroit River to the Windsor train station. If I remember, the round-trip ticket cost $24.
Niatross ended the most remarkable career in harness racing history by shattering the track record at Pompano, winning by 15 widening lengths in 1:54.3.

Up to that point, the fastest mile ever on Pompano's five-eighths mile oval was registered by Baron Lancer and driver Don Irvine Jr., pacing in 1:56.2 last year.

Niatross, leaving from the extreme outside post in the eighthorse field, had a clear lead before reaching the quarter pole in 28 seconds. He led by 10 lengths at the half-mile mark in :57.4, and with Clint Galbraith tapping the colt lightly with the whip, Niatross reached the three-quarters in 1:25.3—the fastest three-quarters ever at Pompano Park—and paced the final quarter under light urging in 29 seconds to complete his track record.

Wellie Belanger’s Wizard Almahurst, one of the top aged pacing stallions racing today and co-holder of the season’s fastest mile on a five-eighths mile track with a mark of 1:56.1, turned in a fine effort to finish second as lady champion driver Bea Farber guided the 5 year old to a 1:57.3 effort.

George Bowser’s J.B. Byrd, driven by Ted Taylor, finished third and was timed in 1:57.4, while The Consigliori and driver Nick Salvi got under the wire in fourth position in 1:58.

“It was the finest field of older horses ever assembled at this racetrack and certainly one of the best fields ever to go against Niatross,” said Ken Marshall, Pompano Park’s racing secretary.

Temperature at post time was 56 degrees and a stiff, chilling wind made it seem even colder.

Niatross was playful and full of life in the winner’s circle after winning the $35,000 invitational, named after breeder and part-owner Elsie Berger, and appeared as fresh as a horse who hadn’t raced.

Niatross earned $17,500 for the victory, increasing his career earnings to $2,019,213, an all-time record for harness racing and the only case in history in which a race horse of any breed has won over $2 million in two years of racing.

“The thing that makes this a great horse,” Galbraith said, fighting back tears after the race as Niatross was being led back to the paddock, “is that he wants to be a great horse. He knows he’s a great horse.”

Fred Van Lennep, Pompano Park President and Chairman of the Board and master of Castleton Farms, summed it up by saying, “When you see a horse come out here without a race in two weeks and go a mile like this, I think you’ve got to realize that this is the greatest horse we’ve ever seen.”

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Michele Crawford leads rescue effort
Michelle Crawford, a breeder and owner of horses with her husband, Al, at Crawford Farms in New York, has helped organize the rescue of 53 Standardbred horses held for ransom as they were destined for a kill pen. Michelle worked with the Standardbred Retirement Foundation to raise money to rescue the horses and now they are reaching out to find homes for the horses. more

Dave Ingraham hurt in Pompano accident
An accident in the last race at Pompano Park on Wednesday night sent driver Dave Ingraham to the hospital. Ingraham’s son, Dustin, posted on social media Thursday morning that his father was alert and hoping to be released by the end of the day. more

Meadowlands discontinues SNY replay show
The Meadowlands has a few changes to announce on the racing broadcast horizon as the calendar turns to 2020. The value of continuing to fund the SNY replay show has been reviewed and the decision has been made to redirect the considerable amount of revenue spent there toward potentially broadcasting select Meadowlands race cards live. As a result, the SNY replay show will cease on Jan. 1, 2020. more

Free chance Saturday at Big M for WHHC
This Saturday, Dec. 21, Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment is hosting a free handicapping contest with the Grand Prize of a $1,300 seat into the World Harness Handicapping Championship presented by DerbyWars. The free handicapping contest is open to all patrons on Saturday and there is no fee to enter. more

Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory Saturday at Mohawk
Woodbine Entertainment Tuesday announced a mandatory payout on the Standardbred Jackpot Hi-5 for this Saturday, Dec. 21, at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Jackpot Hi-5 wagering has been suspended for the remainder of the week until Saturday's mandatory payout. The carryover heading into the mandatory payout will be $180,992.59. more

OHHA announces new Huston-hosted Podcast
The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA) unveiled the first in a new series of podcasts, Top of the Stretch. Top of the Stretch will be hosted by “The Voice” Roger Huston, brand ambassador for the OHHA. more

All shares in Greenshoe now sold
All available shares in trotting sensation Greenshoe have now been sold. Hanover Shoe Farms, Courant Inc, Morten Langli, Hans Backe and Lars Granqvist would like to sincerely thank everybody who purchased a share in Greenshoe. more

Record-breaking season at Batavia Downs
Although the final day of racing was canceled on Saturday, Dec. 14, due to bad weather conditions, the clubhouse that night was still sold out and the 400 or so patrons enjoyed Christmas music instead of race calls. But that was the norm at Batavia Downs in 2019; happy customers having fun at the races. more

Big Pick-4 pools, full fields at Meadowlands
The Meadowlands’ Pick-4 pools raised to high levels last weekend, just in time for what is in all probability to be a record three days in terms of average field size at the mile oval. more

Jazmin Arnold named Amateur Driver of Year
After a spectacular season in the sulky, Jazmin “The Little Flower” Arnold was unanimously named the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s (USHWA) National Amateur of the Year. She now joins “Hurricane” Hannah Miller as only the second woman to earn this prestigious honor. more

Record Pick 4 pool pays out at Pompano
With a carryover of almost $16,000 in Pompano Park’s Pick 4 going into the Tuesday night program, a $75,000 guaranteed pool and an industry low 12 percent takeout, interest spanned throughout North America with a record pool of $102,666 being the final total for the track’s “Send It In” feature wager. more

Meadows honoring best of 2019
On Saturday, Dec. 28, The Meadows and the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA) will honor the track’s top horses of 2019 at the annual “Day of Champions.” more

Ohio Commission reminds horsemen of Therapeutic Medication Resolution
The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) reminds Ohio horsemen that the new therapeutic medication resolution for regulatory thresholds takes effect on Jan. 1, 2020. more

Changes made to Ill. out-of-state breeding rules
The opportunity to breed out-of-state mares to Illinois registered stallions and have resulting foals that are eligible to register as Illinois conceived and foaled horses went into effect on Jan. 1, 2018 and will continue through Jan. 1, 2022. Since the new rule has been put in place those that fall under this rule change will be available for all the eligibility benefits, this includes foals born between Jan. 1, 2019 through Jan. 1, 2022. more

More than 300 attend open house at thestable.ca
A record crowd of more than 300 people from eight states and provinces attended the Christmas Open House on Dec. 15 hosted by TheStable.ca, horse racing's fastest growing fractional ownership operation and the largest harness racing stable in Canada. more
Final Standardbred Poll
Hambeltonian Society/Breeders Crown Poll compiled by
Harness Racing Communications for the week of December 3, 2019

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Others receiving votes: Atlanta 48; McWicked 41; Six Pack 39; Lather Up 38; Emoticon Hanover 10; When Doovescry 9; Captain Crunch, Forbidden Trade, Senorita Rita 8; Southwind Ozzi 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 17, 2019 (week difference Dec. 11-17).

Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses

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Leading Money-Winning Drivers

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Leading Breeders

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Leading Money-Winning Sires

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