

INTRODUCING TO OHIO



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WRENN CAPTURES FIRST BREEDERS CROWN



Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. wins Breeders Crown

Entering the Breeders Crown this year, you might say the deck was stacked against Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. He had only driven in one previous Breeders Crown, and it was only his second trip to the Meadowlands.

When you add that Wrenn's horse Louprint was starting from the ninth post-position, you might say he may as well wait until next year.

Wrenn's first drive in the Breeders Crown was last year at Hoosier Park. He piloted the Ron Burke trainee Noblesville in the two-year-old colt pace to a fifth-place finish from the second tier. It was an experience he learned from. "Last year was my first time. It was awesome. In a lot of ways, it is like any other race: everyone is on their A-game--good horses and top drivers."

His only other trip to the big M was the weekend before when he had two drives in the Breeders Crown eliminations.

On Breeders Crown night, Wrenn wasted no time getting that first win as he scored on his first drive of the evening with Papi's Rocket. "It felt great, but I was glad to get it over with," said Wrenn. "A night like that goes fast and I was trying to take it in. I wanted to make sure I did that rather than being stressed out. The first win kind of relaxed me."

Following a third-place finish with Messenger Hanover in the next race, Wrenn set his sights on the finals for the two-year-old colts and geldings, driving Louprint for Burke.

When the race started, Wrenn hustled Louprint to the lead, going three-wide around the first turn but gave way to Fallout and Tim Tetrick just past the quarter pole. "I wasn't sure what Timmy was going to do. I knew he wanted to cut the mile, so I was happy taking the two-hole trip."

As the field entered the final turn, Captain Optimistic and Dexter Dunn tried to enter the fray, but could get no closer than Louprint's wheel in the pocket.

Fallout and Louprint turned for home, separated only by a length. The two battled down the stretch as Sippinonsearoc and Scott Zeron shot down the inside towards the line.

In the final strides at the wire, Louprint surged to win by a neck. "I knew in the last turn I had a lot of horse. I didn't know how much horse Timmy had. My horse just dug in and was able to get his nose there first. He's probably the best colt I have ever driven."

With the close finish, Wrenn didn't know he had won the race when they crossed the line. "I didn't know if I held off Scotty sneaking up the rail until Dex and Yannick told me I got it done."

While in the winner's circle doing interviews, Wrenn peeked at the video board in the infield. "I don't watch many replays, but I was very happy to watch that one. It is kind of a surreal moment for me; I can't believe it happened."

Wrenn was joined in the winner's circle with his six-year-old son, Easton, and his father-in-law, Kraig Wood. The two made the trip





A night like that goes fast and I was trying to take it in.

Ronnie Wrenn, Jr.

after Wrenn's wife, Briana, who was expecting the couple's third child, convinced him to take the two to the Meadowlands. "I wasn't going to bring them. I was going to fly out alone and back, but my wife talked me into bringing them. She said, 'What if?' It means a lot that my father-in-law and my son were there. It's a dream come true."

The win gives Wrenn more confidence moving forward. "I'm confident in what I do, but when you haven't done it before, until you do, you're not sure."

Wrenn says he enjoys driving in big races and he hopes the win will give him more opportunities.

Now, with the birth of his daughter, Mayla, Wrenn says winning the Breeders Crown is starting to sink in. "I've had so much going on the last couple of weeks," said Wrenn.

"It's always fun to win a race. It doesn't matter what the purse is, but to win a race like that is more prestigious and meaningful and a good chunk of change when you win it."

Wrenn says his wife has plans for the winnings. "I made a joke back in June when I was starting to realize that this was a really special colt. I told her that if I win the Breeders Crown, we'd redo the kitchen." Wrenn says they were planning to do the remodel anyway, but now he has more reason to do it.

Allegiant Powers Home To Win Crown Title

Ryan Smith and his family stood just past the finish line at the Meadowlands as his horse Allegiant was making a bid to win the \$600,000 Three-Year-Old Filly Trot Breeders Crown. As the race unfolded, the emotions in the group continued to rise, finally erupting as Allegiant crossed the finish line.

Allegiant with Scott Zeron used a burst of speed off the gate to grab the early lead, but the 2-1 favorite gave way to R Melina and Todd McCarthy taking the pocket trip through fractions of :27.4, :55.4, and 1:23.2.

Around the final turn, Elista Hanover and David Miller moved into second place as R Melina opened a two-length lead. Turning for home, R Melina and Allegiant separated from the pack to begin a stretch run duel.

Zeron popped the pocket with Allegiant mid-stretch and fired past R Melina, drawing away to win by two lengths in 1:51.1.

The win was the fifth of the year for Allegiant in 15 starts. She has won 10 races in her career and has earned over \$900 thousand.

Zeron said Allegiant was impressive turning the page after her worst start a couple of weeks ago in the Kentucky Filly Futurity. "She put in a great performance last week to turn the page and come out stronger. The last two races show how tough she is. She doesn't show any emotion. She goes out and does exactly what she needs to do."

Smith, who says he is always nervous before a race, was giving his three daughters play-by-play throughout. "We know where she had to be during the race and I was letting them know she was in the perfect spot. She's a really strong horse and she came through and hit a home run."

A \$50,000 purchase at the Harrisburg Sale, Smith sent the horse to Vernon Beachy who trained Allegiant until the beginning of October, when the horse was sent to Linda Toscano. It was just the second race for Allegiant in the Toscano barn.

"Vern was busy with the new babies, so we decided to move her to Linda," said Smith.

The horse has been a blessing for Smith and his three daughters, Lily, Sophia, and Ella. The girls lost their mother in March of 2023. "This has helped be a distraction for the girls," said Smith.

Smith currently has about 40 horses and is building his training center which will include barns and a five-eighth mile track.

The plan is to bring Allegiant home following the Matron. Smith told the USTA that the girls wanted the horse home before she is sold in the North American Standardbred Sale in December. "She's been a blessing. I'm thankful to Allegiant. She's helped us out a lot."



Ryan Smith









Miki And Minnie

Win Breeders Crown For Ohioan



Bob Mondillo has felt the highest of highs and the lowest of lows this year in harness racing. Mondillo of Delaware, Ohio, reached the pinnacle of the sport as Miki And Minnie, a horse he co-bred and owns, won the \$700,000 Breeders Crown Two-Year-Old Filly Pace. He also felt the depths of despair when the filly's dam, That's The Ticket, and the foal she was birthing died this spring.

It was Mondillo's second shot at a Breeders Crown championship. In 2017, This Is The Plan finished sixth in the Two-Year-Old Colt Pace.

Watching on his computer because a previous commitment did not allow him to make the trip to the Meadowlands, Mondillo says he focused his attention on Dexter Dunn as much as the horse during the race.

Dunn tried to take Miki And Minnie to the lead off the gate from the ninth post-position, but the speed on the inside forced him to tuck in fifth.

As the field headed up the backstretch to the half-mile, Dunn was first over with the daughter of Always B Miki setting sights on the leader, Looksgoodinloulou.

"Dexter seemed quite calm and when he pulled the right line she went on and kept coming and coming," said Mondillo.

Around the final turn, Dunn worked Miki And Minnie to the front of the pack, pulling even with the leader's wheel.

Turning for home, Miki And Minnie started her charge, blowing by the leader and opening up to win by a length in 1:50.2.

Mondillo said he had all the confidence in the world when she got away fifth. "Dexter gave her a great drive. He was extremely calm and that's when I knew we were going to be OK."

As the horse headed to the finish line, Mondillo said he remained calm. "I didn't yell and scream. I just thanked God it was over, and we won! It is an honor to own a piece of a horse that won the Breeders Crown. I will never forget that." Miki And Minnie has hit the board in all 10 of her starts, winning five and finishing second four times, earning \$671,750 this year.

Mondillo partners with Craig Henderson and Lawrence Minowitz on owning and breeding Miki And Minnie, but it was a co-worker that got him into the business 25 years ago. "I worked with Don Robinson of Cardington for years. He was born into the industry."

The two started with claimers, but after losing a horse he really liked to a claim, Mondillo said things changed. "I didn't like that, so I said to Don, 'Let's up our game and get into stakes racing.' I didn't know how we were going to do it, but one thing led to another and we are still partners and have horses together."

The road has taken Mondillo to the top of the mountain and he hopes to stay there for one more race this year. Miki And Minnie will race in the Three Diamonds, a race her mother won. Mondillo has his fingers crossed that she can win the race in the memory of That's The Ticket.

Sbrocco Adds Another Breeders Crown Trophy



Add the name Sig Sauer to the list of Breeders Crown winners for Brecksville's Joe Sbrocco. The son of Muscle Hill captured the \$600,000 Breeders Crown for Three-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Trotters at the Meadowlands with a stirring charge down the stretch to nip T C I in 1:50.4.

Sbrocco co-owns Sig Sauer with Patricia Stables, JAF Racing, Allister Stables, and Caviart Farms.

Sig Sauer with Andrew McCarthy sat sixth through the first half mile, but followed the cover of Amazing Catch up the backstretch setting his sights on the leader, T C I.

As the three turned for home, T C I held a length lead over Amazing Catch with Sig Sauer another length back.

Riceders Control of the Control of t

The three battled down the stretch with Sig Sauer cutting into the lead with every stride. As the three hit the wire, Sig Sauer surged to nip T C I by a nose and Amazing Catch by a neck.

"He was super tonight," said McCarthy. "As soon as I set foot on the track, I knew he was going to have a good night."

The horse that Sbrocco calls "a beast" goes out a champion as Sig Sauer will start his breeding career at Hanover Shoe Farms next year.

Sbrocco says he currently owns about 60 horses in partnerships. "There is nothing like going to the winner's circle with your buddies. I have more fun with my partners than anything."

Sbrocco missed this year's winner's circle celebration as he was not in New Jersey for the race. "I would have gone, but my best friend's daughter was getting married, and I wouldn't hurt him by being anywhere except the wedding. Luckily, the wedding was over when I got home, and I was able to watch it."



Sig Sauer's victory gives Sbrocco four Breeders Crown champions. The others were with Tactical Approach (2023), Pebble Beach (2022), Captain Treacherous (2013).

When asked where this Breeder's Crown ranked, Sbrocco said, "That's a tough question. A favorite of mine is Captain Treacherous, but they are all special, there is nothing like it."



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Buckeyes At The Breeders Crown

For the second straight year, there were over 30 horses with Ohio connections, either Ohio-bred, Ohio-owned, Ohio breeders, Ohio trainers, or Ohio drivers, entered in the Breeders Crown at The Meadowlands. The Buckeye State was represented in each final with the most, five, in the Three-Year-Old Colt Pace. When the curtain fell, 10 connected horses hit the board with four champions, four second-place finishers, and two third-place finishers.

Two-Year-Old Filly Trot

In the first race of the 2024 Breeders Crown, Miss Belmar, the only entry with an Ohio connection finished second. Miss Belmar is owned in part by Joe Sbrocco (Brecksville).

Two-Year-Old Filly Pace

Three fillies represented the Buckeye State in the Two-Year-Old Filly Pace.

Robert Mondillo (Delaware) had connections to Miki And Minnie as one of the owners and breeders of the Always B Miki filly. Dexter Dunn drove and came home a winner. He said he had a lot of confidence in the filly. "She's gotten better and better as the year went on."

Dr. Jason Melillo is listed as one of the breeders of Rose, the fifthplace finisher.

Mondillo, Sbrocco, and Michael Robinson (Lewis Center) are connected to Duration. Mondillo and Robinson are two of the breeders, while Sbrocco is part owner. Duration finished 7th.

Two-Year-Old Colt Trot

Three horses represented Ohio in the Two-Year-Old Colt Trot.



Momento Mori Photo: Frank Fraas

Memento Mori was the best finisher of the three, finishing in seventh place. Memento Mori is co-owned by Thestable (Brunswick) and Hutchison Harness (North Ridgeville). He is trained by Jason McGinnis and driven by Anthony MacDonald.

Spring Haven Farms (Utica) is the breeder of Tactical Dynasty which finished eighth.

The ninth-place finisher was Hidalgo, owned in part by Hatfield Stables (Columbus).

Two-Year-Old Colt Pace



Louprint (Outside) and Sippinonsearoc (Inside) Photo: Lisa Photo

The final freshman race of the opening night was the Two-Year-Old Colt Pace which had the most Ohio connections of any race.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. won his first Breeders Crown driving Louprint to victory, edging out another Ohio-connected horse, Sippinon-searoc. "He is a terrific horse. I have all the trust in the world in the horse," said Wrenn.

Sippinonsearoc is an Ohio-bred by Downbytheseaside which is owned in part by RAS Racing (Powell) and Knox Services (Mt. Vernon) and was bred by Alisha Binkley (Lebanon).

Swingtown, another Ohio-bred by Downbytheseaside, finished fifth. Swingtown is owned in part by Hatfield Stables, Knox Services, and RAS Racing.

Makes Sense which is co-owned by Carl Howard (Powell) finished eighth, while Hatfield Stables, the co-owner of Railroad Station finished ninth.

Open Mare Trot

The Open Mare Trot kicked off the second night of the Breeders Crown. For the second year in a row, Ohio had a connection to four of the entries.

M-M's Dream which is owned in part by Hillside Stables (Dundee) was the top finisher, hitting the board in third place.

The fifth-place finisher was Tactical Mounds which is owned by Thestable and bred by Spring Haven Farm.

Refined, the Ohio-bred by Uncle Peter, finished sixth. She is owned in part by Joyce McClelland (Zanesville) and Larry Wills (Columbus). Refined is trained by Virgil Morgan Jr.

Morgan also trained Baroness Hill which finished seventh.



Three-Year-Old Filly Trot

The first Ohio champion of the night was Allegiant. Owned by Ryan Smith (Dennison), the daughter of Tactical Landing took the pocket trip before pulling in deep in the stretch to catch the leader R Melina, another Ohio-connected horse, and drew away to win by two lengths. "She's a really strong horse," said Smith. "We finally came through and hit a home run."



R Melina who was bred by Marsh Valley Standardbreds (Middlefield) held on for second.

Sugar Instead, who won 12 of 13 races entering the Breeders Crown, finished ninth. She is owned by McClelland and Wills, trained by Morgan, and was driven by Brett Miller.

Sugar Instead **Photo:** Frank Fraas

Three-Year-Old Filly Pace

The only Ohio-connected horse in the sophomore filly pace was Its A Love Thing. Owned in part by Rich Lombardo Racing (Solon), Its A Love Thing finished in fourth.

Three-Year-Old Colt Trot

The top two finishers in the Three-Year-Old Trot both had Ohio connections. T C I led as the field turned for home, but a :27.3 final quarter vaulted Sig Sauer to the lead and the Breeders Crown championship, winning by a head.

Driver Andrew McCarthy had high hopes for Sig Sauer, "He was super tonight, I knew as soon as I stepped foot on the track, he was going to have a good night."

Sig Sauer is owned in part by Sbrocco, while Knox Services and Hatfield Stable are part owners of T C I.



Open Pace



Bythemissal Photo: Frank Fraas

Ohio-bred Bythemissal was looking to repeat in the Breeders Crown Open Pace. Owned in part by Rich Lombardo Racing, the Downbytheseaside gelding, finished fifth.

Greg Luther Racing (Blacklick) was the owner of Why Not Now which finished eighth.

Open Trot

Luther's other entry in the Breeders Crown was Hillexotic. Trained by Todd Luther and driven by Austin Hanners, Hillexotic rallied down the stretch from the back of the pack to finish third.

Ohio-bred It's Academic finished sixth. The richest earning Ohiobred is by Uncle Peter and was bred by GBW Breeding Farm (Findlay).

Three-Year-Old Colt Pace

McCrunch and Timeisonmyside were the two Ohio connected entries in the Three-Year-Old Colt Pace.

McCrunch finished fifth and is owned in part by Sbrocco, while seventh place finisher Timeisonmyside is owned by Thestable.

Open Mare Pace

Ohio had a pair of horses in the final Breeders Crown race of 2024, both trained by Morgan. Grace Hill, which won the Breeders Crown in 2022, finished fourth, while Strong Poison was 10th.

in the world in the horse.

-Ronnie Wrenn Jr., driving Louprint



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Miller and Morgan Capture Three Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championships

By DRF Harness for the OHHA

Driver Brett Miller guided Virgil Morgan Jr. trainees Sugar Instead and Aunt Laura to victories in their \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championships for trotters on October 12 at MGM Northfield Park. Both added a third title as Miller drove Darren Harvey's Lt Loverboy to victory. Dexter Dunn won with another Morgan trainee, Odds On Hialeah.



Sugar Instead

One of the stars of the Ohio Sires Stakes program as both a rookie and a sophomore, Sugar Instead, completed her Ohio Triple Crown season with a 1:55.2 triumph in the event for three-year-old fillies. Miller floated away with Sugar Instead from post four, and, once the dust settled, drove her on two-wide to take the top spot away from Jurassic Hattie (Tyler Smith) after the :29.1 quarter-mile marker.

Createaqueen (Dan Noble) came with a big brush out of fourth in the second quarter and took the lead on the outside from Sugar Instead past the :58.4 half. Createaqueen couldn't clear, though, and then broke on the third turn, putting Sugar Instead back in charge. Legacy Affair (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) was the next challenger to Sugar Instead on the outside heading to the 1:27 three-quarters, but Sugar Instead dealt with that bid with little issue and went on to defeat Jurassic Hattie by a length. Legacy Affair wound up third.

"What do you say? Every time I think I don't know if she can do it again, she just does it again," said Dick McClelland, whose wife, Joyce, owns Sugar Instead with partner Larry Wills. "Tonight, they tried her a lot. She's a very nice horse. We've got a really great partner. He puts up with me a little bit, and we've had a great season with her."

Sugar Instead has 19 wins, two seconds, and a third in 23 efforts, and has put away \$866,014. She returned \$2.20 to win as the 1-9 favorite. Sugar Instead, a daughter of Volstead, was bred by Elmer Miller.



Aunt Laura

In the Championship for two-year-old filly trotters, Miller and 15-1 Aunt Laura, who was also bred by McClelland and his wife Joyce who is also the owner, led through panels of :28.1, :58 and 1:26.3 on her way to a 3 3/4 length victory in 1:56.1. 2-5 favorite Mocha Hill (Chris Page) went three-wide from second over on the final turn but had to settle for runner-up honors and Aunt Lilly (Anthony MacDonald) turned a pocket trip into a third-place result.

"I've liked her all along since we broke her. She was just immature, but she always had talent," Morgan Jr. said of Aunt Laura postrace. "When she got through the first turn, I felt really good. Again, she's shown sparks of this, but she put it all together tonight, which is the right night to do it."

"Joyce and Dick McClelland, I can't say enough about them. They do a great job at their farm raising these horses, and they bring them to me. There's pedigree there. Their broodmares are excellent and it shows when they race. It's just a pleasure to train for them."

A daughter of Uncle Peter, Aunt Laura has a trio of tallies from nine outings, has banked \$229,250, and paid \$33.80 to win.

Miller's third championship came with Lt Loverboy via placing in the Championship for two-year-old colts and geldings. Battle Hill (Chris Lems) worked his way around Hilltop Sonar (Page) nearing the :27.3

quarter, and when Hilltop Sonar broke on the second turn while trying to re-move, that left Battle Hill on the lead.

While that was going on up front, Scrappys Love (Mike Wilder) would commit to an extended first-over move out of fourth before the :57.4 half and that gave cover to Lt Loverboy, who wound up parked from post seven. Scrappys Love continued to make forward progress on the rim and was nose-to-nose with Battle Hill at the 1:27 three-quarters while Lt Loverboy was out three-wide.



It Loverboy

Scrappys Love forged his way by Battle Hill for good before they entered the stretch drive and dug in gamely, but he shifted out in the closing strides, bothering Lt Loverboy in the process. So, even though Scrappys Love hit the wire half a length ahead of Lt Loverboy in a 1:57.3 performance, the judges would move Scrappys Love to second and promote Lt Loverboy to the victory after an inquiry. Oso Fast (David Miller) went across the wire off-stride in third and was also moved back to fifth, elevating Battle Hill from fourth to third.

"There were a few breakers earlier, and that changed the whole race," Brett Miller offered after the victory. "When Chris Page's horse made a break, that really changed it for us. My colt raced awesome."

Bred by Midland Acres Inc., Lt Loverboy, a gelded son of Long Tom, is owned by Wayne Mast Jr. and Callam Racing LLC. Lt Loverboy has a summary of 6-3-1 from 10 appearances, has pocketed \$304,855 and returned \$3.60 to win.

Morgan captured his third title in the twoyear-old filly trot. His trainees finished first and second with a pair of Odds On Nourrir-bred/Odds On Racing-owned or coowned fillies, as Odds On Hialeah (Dunn) fought off Odds On Chesapeake (D. Miller).



Odds on Hialeah

Odds On Hialeah, the 1-9 choice, marched two-wide to the lead past the :27.3 quarter but Odds On Chesapeake came first-up out of fourth heading to the :57 second half and battled eye-to-eye with Odds On Hialeah around the third turn and to the 1:25 three-quarters. Odds On Hialeah was game on the inside, though, and was able to keep in front around the last turn and to the finish line, defeating Odds On Chesapeake by a neck. Skywalker Sea (Austin Hanners) had pace off a second-over trip and collected third.

"She's a beautiful filly and lovely to drive. She put in a great performance at Delaware and went to Dayton and put in a good mile," Dunn remarked after the victory with Odds On Hialeah. "She was great again here tonight. She's very easy to drive and gets around the small tracks great, too."

"I probably deserved to get pressure because I went too slow in the second quarter, but it probably helped her a little bit. She's probably more of a stalker than on the front, but with a good draw, we had to use it. It sort of got her up and going. We got her traveling around the last turn, and she had to fight hard up the straight, though."

Odds On Hialeah, a Lather Up filly, is seven-for-eight in the win column, has pocketed \$324,750, and paid \$2.80 to win as the 1-9 favorite.

Trainer Ron Burke collected a pair of pacing titles as his horses finished 1-2-3 in the \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championship for two-year-old male pacers and also prevailed in the Championship for three-year-old pacing fillies with Seaside Diva.

Rick Wink (Page), who was trying to improve to nine-for-nine in 2024, led early

in the Championship for the rookie colts and geldings, but Sippinonsearoc (Yannick Gingras), who became harness racing's all-time fastest two-year-old with a 1:48 2/5 performance at The Red Mile on August 13, overtook him before the :27.4 quarter. Sippinonsearoc then yielded to sit behind a brushing Swingtown (Ronnie Wrenn Jr.) after that marker.



Sippinonsearoc

Swingtown maintained the top spot through a 56-second half and a 1:24 three-quarters, but Sippinonsearoc was full of pace to his outside in the lane, went by and pulled clear to prevail by a length and a half in 1:51.2, equaling the track record. Swingtown was second and Rick Wink, who tried a first-over attack out of third before three-quarters, couldn't make any headway and had to settle for the show dough.

"I was kind of rooting for Rick Wink since he could win the Ohio Triple Crown, but Sippinonsearoc—what a beast," remarked co-owner Carl Howard, whose wife Rocchina competes as R A S Racing LLC.

"I was fortunate that Mark (Weaver) put me in the whole group. We just wanted to invest in a few horses, and the next thing you know we've got 10, 15, 20."

Burke trains Sippinonsearoc, a Downbythe-seaside colt bred by Trent Stohler Stable Inc. and Alesha Binkley, for owners Burke Racing Stable LLC., Weaver Bruscemi LLC., R A S Racing LLC. and Knox Services Inc. Sippinonsearoc has a summary of 6-1-1 from nine trips behind the gate, has earnings of \$408,500 and returned \$6.60 to win.



Seaside Diva

Seaside Diva (Page) avenged her defeat in the Championship a year ago with a 1:52.2 triumph in the showdown for sophomore fillies. Daisy's Star (D. Miller), who knocked off Seaside Diva in that Championship in 2023, led the way early, but Seaside Diva marched up two-wide and cleared her past the :27.1 quarter. Seaside Diva maintained her grip on the front-end through middle-half panels of :55.4 and 1:24, then sealed her 1 1/2 length triumph with a :28.2 final kicker. No Foolin April (Dunn) was game from first-over and held off second-over Wasted On You (B. Miller) for the runner-up spot.

"As a two-year-old she was probably the best filly. A minor setback out in the field probably caused her to get beat in the final," recalled Page. "This year, she's just been flawless."

A daughter of Downbytheseaside, Seaside Diva is a homebred for Burke Racing Stable LLC., Weaver Bruscemi LLC., Knox Services Inc. and Let It Ride Stables Inc. Seaside Diva made her 15th trip to the winner's circle in her 26th try, has banked \$761,605 and paid \$2.20 to win as the 1-9 favorite.

The final two championships for sophomore colts and geldings went to Clever Cody and Hung Over.



Clever Cody

Clever Cody (Aaron Merriman) overcame an extended first-over grind to take the Championship on the pacing side in 1:52. Paris's Dragon (Noble) and Janelle Granny (Dunn) battled most of a :26.1 quarter before Paris's Dragon took command. As Paris's Dragon was clearing, Merriman sent Clever Cody off the pylons from fourth, and he would advance into second on the outside as Paris's Dragon got to the half in :54.4. Paris's Dragon and Clever Cody kept up their duel around the third turn and over to the 1:22.1 three-quarters, with Hundred Dollar Man (Montrell Teague) going three-wide from second-over and Janelle Granny still in the hunt after he slid off the cones into a thirdover position.

In the stretch Clever Cody showed his determination by dispatching Paris's Dragon for good, and from there, Clever Cody went on to score by three-quarters of a length in 1:52. Paris's Dragon held off a ground-saving Rock The Hill (D. Miller) for third.

"He kind of makes you feel good about yourself. A couple of other guys drive him, Hall of Famers, and they don't get along with him. He's been very, very good for me," remarked Merriman of Clever Cody. "Today he really raced gritty. I was very, very impressed. He lost a shoe in the first turn, and he had a lot of things that might not have been great for him. I moved him at the quarter, and he just raced well."

"I knew there was going to be a lot of speed. I took it upon myself here a few starts back to really teach this horse how to race off a helmet. He's so great on the front and he relaxes so well, but there are other guys who want to race on the front. One of the races this year, I really think that I committed and it was my fault. Hats off to Danny's horse, too. He raced unbelievable, but I'm just really happy with the way the horse raced and happy for the connections."

Clever Cody, a colt by The Panderosa, was sent out by Dr. Ian Moore for owner Clever Cody Stable. The Marvin Raber-bred posted his 11th-lifetime triumph, has put away \$712.732 and returned \$3.00 to win.



Hung Over

In the trot for three-year-old colts and geldings, Spaaaanzano (Merriman) went to the front from post two, and he was tracked from the pocket by Hung Over. Royal Precedent (Wrenn) also had early speed from post seven but wound up parked to the :27.4 quarter and would continue to pester Spaaaanzano on the outside through a :56.4 half and a 1:25.3 three-quarters.

Through the stretch, Spaaaanzano was game on the lead and continued to keep the

persistent Royal Precedent at bay, but Hung Over dove into the passing lane. He had just enough time and just enough trot to get by Spaaaanzano at the end of the 1:55 3/5 mile, prevailing by a nose. Royal Precedent turned in a huge mile of his own at 55-1 to get third, just a length behind the top two.

"He shows up every time we race him, and he got the job done tonight," remarked winning trainer Bob Stewart regarding Hung Over. "We trained his father, so it's even more special. We're partners with Mitchel Skolnick, who is one of my best friends. He bred the horse and was nice enough to let us get in on him. It's been a good ride."

"I was a little worried about going up the inside because he hasn't done that before, and some horses aren't used to going to the inside. Danny didn't have a lot of choice, and the stretch was just long enough."

As Stewart mentioned, Hung Over is a colt by Creatine and was bred by Skolnick's Bluestone Farms. Lynda Stewart co-owns Hung Over, who made his eighth trip to the winner's circle, has now earned \$487,933 and paid \$7.80 to win as the 5-2 third choice.

Photos: JJ Zamiko





Hanners and Merriman Double Up In Sires Stakes Gray Championships

The rain and a sloppy track at MGM Northfield Park didn't bother Austin Hanners and Aaron Merriman as they each won two \$100,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Gray Championships on September 13. Hanners collected the Two-Year-Colt Pace and Three-Year-Colt Trot titles while Merriman won the Two-Year-Old Filly Trot and the Three-Year-Old Colt Pace.



Gorgeous Package

The opening Gray Championship was for two-year-old filly pacers. Gorgeous Package with Anthony MacDonald drew the number one post position. MacDonald used the rail to his advantage, taking Gorgeous Package to the lead and never looking back, cruising to an easy three-length victory in 1:54.4 over Odds On Collateral and Goodnight Dance.

It was the fifth win in 10 starts for the daughter of Lather Up.

"She is a very likable filly," said MacDonald. "We bought her for next to nothing and she has been a treat."

Gorgeous Package is trained by Jason McGinnis, owned by TheStable.ca, and was bred by Odds On Nourrir.



Mega Money

Merriman's first title came in the first championship of the night, the Two-Year-Old Filly Trot with Mega Money.

Merriman took the daughter of Triumphant Caviar to the lead off the gate, covering the first quarter in :28.1. After a :30.1 second panel, Mega Money, the 7-5 favorite, was pressured by Mia Sangria and Dublins Dragonfly as they hit three-quarters in 1:28.4. Around the final turn, Up went four-wide to join Mega Money and the challengers while Triump Over You sat in the pocket.

Mid-stretch, Triump Over You fired down the passing lane entering the fray while Strawberry Hill found racing room in the middle of the track. At the wire, the field was six wide within a length of the winner, but it was Mega Money stopping the clock in 1:59.2 winning a tight photo and inquiry over stablemate Triump Over You. Dublins Dragonfly was third.

Chris Beaver trains Mega Money who won for the first time in nine career starts for co-owners Beaver, Patricia Stable, LA Express Stable, and Sjoblom Racing.

Hanner's first championship win came in the next race for two-yearold colt and gelding pacers with Twin B High Tide.

Off the gate, Chris Lems hustled Downbythewater to the lead which he held for the first three-quarters with fractions of :28, :57,3, and 1:25.1.



Twin B High Tide

Heading up the backstretch, Twin B High Tide started to make his move. The 1-5 favorite pulled even with the leader around the final turn. As the two hit the top of the stretch, Hanners asked for more from the son of Downbytheseaside and the colt responded, reeling in Downbythewater, drawing away to win by three lengths in 1:53.4.

It was the fifth win of the year for Twin B High Tide who is trained by Hanner's mother Alicia. "This horse has a huge motor," said Hanners. "When I asked him, he gave me everything he had. He's been awesome. This means everything to us. We finished out the way we wanted to."

Twin B High Tide is owned by Hanners Racing and was bred by Twinbrook Limited.

The Onyx Dragon finished second with Downbythewater third.

In the final two-year-old Gray Championship, What A Buckeye and Dan Noble were fighting off the challenge of Rose Run Ari and Austin Hanners up the back stretch as Rose Run Arch and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. took aim on the leaders.



Rose Run Arch

Around the final turn, Wrenn took Rose Run Arch three-wide and grabbed the lead with a late stretch run to win by a length in 1:59.2.

"He was really good tonight after some trouble with breaking when leaving the gate early in the year," said Wrenn. "I had a lot of trot and when I tipped him, he responded."

It was the first win of the year for the Long Tom gelding. Jeff Conger trains Rose Run Arch and co-owns with Knox Services and Joshua Conger. Rose Run Farm bred Rose Run Arch.

Rose Run Ari held on for second with What A Buckeye finishing third.

In the first of the Three-Year-Old Gray Championships, Beaueastel overcame the far outside sixth post position to claim the title.



Beaueastel

Peter Wrenn grabbed the lead with the 2-5 favorite just past the quarter pole and shook off a challenge from Gypsy Hill around the final turn to cruise to a two-length victory in 1:58.2

Beaueastel was tied in points for the final spot of the Scarlet Championship but ended up in the Gray Championship. "We were happy to be in the Gray Championship," said trainer Melanie Wrenn. "We landed here, and we are super happy." Wrenn says it was a miracle that the horse made it to the championship after missing a couple of weeks due to an injury in August.

The son of What The Hill is owned by Wrenn Racing and was bred by MT Pockets Stables. He has won six of 12 starts this year.

Gypsy Hill finished second with Tt's Magnum Force third.

Like Beaueastel, Calypso Pearl was also tied in points for the final spot in the Scarlet Championship and came away with the Gray Championship title.

Dan Noble and Calypso Pearl won a threeway battle for the lead heading to the quarter,



Calypso Pearl:

taking control and cruising to an easy threelength victory in 1:55. She was never really challenged through quarters of :27.2, :56.1, and 1:24.4.

"She likes to keep trucking," said Noble. "When she is really good, she just keeps going."

It was the seventh win of the year for the Fear The Dragon filly. Christi Noble trains Calypso Pearl for owner-breeder Sandra Burnett.

Zuma Beach rallied down the stretch to finish second with Bad Girls Racing third.

Hanners' three-year-old championship came in the three-year-old filly trot with Justasiam AS. The daughter of Lionhunter was third off the gate but grabbed the lead following a :28.2 opening quarter.

Following a :30.1 second quarter, Hot Tea with Tyler Smith challenged the leader up the backstretch. The two were side-by-side around the final turn and battled down the stretch with Justasiam holding off Hot Tea to win by a nose in 1:58.3. Uma Lady rallied to finish third.



Justasiam

Hanners picked up the drive after Tony Hall, who drove Justasiam As to the Buckeye Stallion Series Championship was injured. "She won last week and was impressive. She is extremely talented and showed it tonight," said Hanners.

It was the fifth win in 14 starts for the Anette Lorentzon-trained filly. ACL Stuteri AB owns and bred Justasiam AS.

The final championship of the night was for three-year-old colt and gelding pacers and went to Howaboutayankee which gave Merriman his second title.



Howaboutayankee

Howaboutayankee sat fourth heading to the half, but with a head of steam. The son of Dancin Yankee pulled even with the leaders as they approached the back stretch. Howaboutayankee then kicked it into high gear and opened a big lead around the final turn, coasting to a four-length win in 1:54.

"We hoped to get away towards the front, but he's gritty and tough, and if he's good he can come first up and he was good tonight," said trainer K. Dean Glispie.

It was the sixth win in 18 starts for Howaboutayankee. He is owned by Always Finish Second Stable and was bred by Matt Rowe.

Photos: Diane Wise

This horse has a huge motor. When I asked him, he gave me everything he had.

-Austin Hanners, driving Twin B High Tide

Nobles Sweep Buckeye

Eight \$75,000 Buckeye Stallion Series finals were contested at Hollywood Dayton Raceway. Dan Noble drove four to victory while trainer Christi Noble claimed three of the Stallion Series titles.



Tommy Count

Dan's first victory came aboard Tommy Count in the freshmen colt trot division. The son of Long Tom raced from the back of the pack after leaving from the eighth post-position. At 9-1, Tommy Count trailed the field but was urged three wide in the last turn. Answering the call, the colt rallied home in a new lifetime mark of 1:56.4. Vandy Lane was second and Sweet Harmony finished third.

"It was my first-time driving [Tommy Count], but I was familiar with the horse," said Dan. "He hasn't made any mistakes, and I trusted what [trainer] Ron Gillespie said. I thought heading into the last turn that I was a winner."

The victory marked the second lifetime win for Tommy Count. He earned \$54,060 this season for owner Anthony Miller. Wayne Weaver bred Tommy Count.





Travel Nurse

Travel Nurse and Brett Miller took the freshman filly trot division in 1:56.3. Travel Nurse got away fourth along the rail and stayed put. The Enterprise filly found racing room in the final turn and slipped into the passing lane. Digging in through her last stride, Travel Nurse tripped the wire in a new lifetime mark. Bye Bye Girl was second while Bb's Kanson Lady held on for third.

"On the backside, we weren't in a very good spot," commented Miller. "I was going to need a lot of luck and we actually got some. She was much better."

Trained by Virgil Morgan Jr., Travel Nurse earned \$75,120 with three lifetime victories. Joyce McClelland owns and co-bred Travel Nurse alongside Richard McClelland.



Twin B High Tide

The two-year-old colt pace division went to Twin B High Tide in a new lifetime mark of 1:52.1. Guided by Austin Hanners, the son of Downbytheseaside settled in fourth and followed cover while moving toward the half. The colt kicked it into gear and flew three wide on the backside. There was no catching 1-5 Twin B High Tide as he won with three lengths to spare. The Onyx

Dragon finished second and Go Jim Dandy was third.

Twin B High Tide won four of eight lifetime starts to earn \$84,595 for Hanners Racing. Twin B High Tide was bred by Twinbrook Limited.

"He was special as soon as he walked into the barn," said Austin, son of trainer Alicia Hanners.



My Hare Legend

My Hare Legend equaled the divisional track record for freshman filly pacers in 1:51.4. Eric Goodell placed the daughter of Bit Of A Legend N in the pocket and stayed patient. As the 8-5 favorite, My Hare Legend made her move in the final turn and easily gained control of the field, winning by five lengths in a new lifetime mark. Pink Jammies finished second with Gorgeous Package third.

My Hare Legend won half of her eight lifetime starts. The Logan Ebersole trainee has earned \$71,450 for Ronald Rust. Schare Adams bred My Hare Legend.

"I was hesitant if [My Hare Legend] would make it to the races or not, but once it clicked for her, she's been a pleasure," said Ebersole.

Dan Noble guided Tom Swifty to victory in the division for sophomore colt trotters. Tom Swifty got away fourth but immediately followed cover heading to the opening quarter. The Long Tom gelding quickly found himself first-up and did not see the rail again. Showing his grit, 6-5 favorite Tom Swifty

Stallion Series Finals



Tom Swifty

dug in every step of the way to win in a new lifetime mark of 1:54.4. Beaueastel held on for second with When I'm Gone third.

"I was not feeling very good at all," laughed winning connection Jim Burnett. "We were hung up, but he showed his grit."

The Christi Noble trainee notched his eleventh seasonal win and upped his earnings to \$132,650. Tom Swifty is owned by breeder Sandra Burnett and Norman Rae Racing. The Noble husband and wife duo won the BSS Final for three-year-old colt trotters in 2023 as well.



Justasiam

Justasiam As won the three-year-old filly trot division in 1:56.1. Tony Hall piloted the daughter of Lionhunter from the rail post position. As the 1-5 favorite, Justasiam As was first-up to challenge the leader. Coming out of the final turn, Justasiam As easily pulled away to win by a length. Tammie Sue was second while Lady Almas rallied for third.

Justasiam As won the BSS Final last year as a two-year-old. "It wasn't hard to bring her back [from her freshman season]," commented Hall. "She loves her work and makes it easy."

As a sophomore, Justasiam As hit the board eight times in 13 seasonal starts. She has notched four wins and \$102,810 under trainer Anette Lorentzon. ACL Stuteri AB owns and bred Justasiam As.



Legendary Noble

Legendary Noble overcame the eighth post position to give Dan Noble another series victory in the sophomore colt pace division. The gelded son of Bit Of A Legend N briefly let the dust settle before rolling to challenge the leader. Once on top, 8-1 Legendary Noble never looked back, stopping the clock in 1:51.2. Twenty Five was second and High On The Hill rounded out the trifecta.

Legendary Noble has hit the board 15 of 19 tries this season. With six victories, he has bankrolled \$82,672 for Norman Rae Racing. Christi Noble trains Legendary Noble, a homebred by Carol Jean Noble.

"It couldn't have been a better night," smiled Dan. "Legendary Noble is a family horse. He's pretty special to us."



Calypso Pearl

In the division for three-year-old filly pacers, Calypso Pearl went wire to wire in 1:50.3. Dan Noble put the daughter of Fear The Dragon on top and never looked back. As the 1-5 favorite, Calypso Pearl set fractions in :27.1, :55.2, and blazed to a three-quarters in 1:22.1. After taking the pocket trip, Fearless Ginger challenged Calypso Pearl at the top of the stretch but was no match. Calypso Pearl won by a nose and lowered her lifetime mark. Genetic Edge was third.

"I was nervous with the :27. third quarter, but [Calypso Pearl] likes to fight horses off," said trainer Christi Noble. "She just keeps getting better and better."

Calypso Pearl won six of 16 this season. Despite not starting as a two-year-old, she has bankrolled \$181,475. Sandra Burnett owns and bred Calypso Pearl.

I was hesitant if My Hare Legend would make it to the races or not, but once it clicked for her, she's been a pleasure.

-Logan Ebersole

Buckeye Stallion Series Consolations



The 2024 Buckeye Stallion Series closed with the \$25,000 Consolations at MGM Northfield Park.





John's Shadow

Filly pacers came out swinging. In the sophomore division, John's Shadow opened the night in an exhilarating 25-1 upset. Driver-trainer Beau Brown kept the daughter of Big Bad John patient until pulling three wide in the last turn. With a burst of speed in her final strides, John's Shadow won by a head in 1:55. I'm A Beach Lady was second with Beautiful Lather third.

The victory was the third seasonal win for John's Shadow. This year, she earned \$37,940 for breeder-owner Winchester Baye Acres.



Rose Run Anabelle

Not to be outdone by the older counterpart, freshman filly pacer Rose Run Anabelle upset her division at 17-1. The daughter of Fear The Dragon moved first up at the halfmile marker and refused to give up the lead

once on top. Rose Run Anabelle fought back against a late charge from Lucy Hill in the stretch. Austin Hanners guided Rose Run Anabelle across the wire in 1:56.2. Lucy Hill held on for second while Rose Run Alexandra was third.

Rose Run Anabelle scored four wins and two seconds this year to earn \$30,003. Jeff Nisonger trains for Jerry Zosel. She was bred by Rose Run Farm.



Nine One Oh Six

Nine One Oh Six took the three-year-old colt pace division in 1:54. Dan Noble urged the Lather Up gelding to grab the early lead and never looked back. Nine One Oh Six won as the 1-2 favorite over Cheyenne Tuff. Rainrock was third.

The Christi Noble trainee earned more than \$100,000 this season, scoring eight wins in 21 starts. Tim Homan, Norman Rae Racing,

and Jim Burnett own Nine One Oh Six. He was bred by Sugar Valley Farm.



Johnny Up

Another gelded son of Lather Up, Johnny Up won the two-year-old colt pace division in 1:55.3. Guided by Chris Lems, 3-1 Johnny Up followed cover while heading toward the half. Pulling three wide, the colt changed gears on the backside and flew to the lead. Johnny Up won by eight lengths in a lifetime mark. Southern Rockfest was second and Seaside Star rounded out the trifecta.

The consolation victory was the first career win for Johnny Up. With three board hits in seven starts, Johnny Up bankrolled \$29,300 under trainer-owner-breeder Allen Miller.



Home Run Queen

For trotters, even money favorite Home Run Queen hit it out of the park in the sophomore filly division. Daren Harvey guided the daughter of Full Count in a gate-to-wire victory in 1:58.3. Purplepeopleater finished second and Dublin Water Gal was third.

Home Run Queen notched ten victories, eight seconds, and two third place finishes in 25 seasonal starts. She earned \$70,120 in

2024 under Wes Hershberger's conditioning. Wayne Mast Jr. and Steven Miller own Home Run Queen while she was bred by Ray Yoder.



Sweet Rose

Chris Page and Sweet Rose' took the division for freshman filly trotters. The daughter of Marseille inherited the pocket trip after a miscue from an early leader. Heading into the final turn, Page urged 2-1 Sweet Rose' to the outside and she answered the call, winning in 1:58. Triump Over You was second while Volstarita finished third.

Sweet Rose' scored three wins in eight starts, earning \$29,900. Courtney Blodgett leases Sweet Rose' from breeder Lori Blodgett.



Papa Nordir

Papa Nordin scored amongst sophomore colt trotters. The Volstead gelding refused to take a pocket trip. Page immediately pulled to regain control of the field in the opening quarter. Holding off multiple challengers, 3-2 Papa Nordin dug to win in 1:59.3. TT's Magnum Force was placed second while Tabbys Delight was placed third.

Despite a slow start his freshman year, Papa Nordin earned \$50,190 this season. In 17 starts, he scored three wins, three seconds, and three third-place finishes. Danny Collins trains and co-owns alongside Alan Swayne, Jr., Keith Gisser, and Hurley Racing. Shaffer & Sons bred Papa Nordin.



Massive Hill

Freshman colt trotter Massive Hill won in a lifetime best of 2:00.1. The son of What The Hill let the dust settle before taking control of the field past the opening quarter. As the 7-5 favorite, Massive Hill tripped the wire with two lengths to spare. Letsgotoparis held on for second with Good Envy finishing third.

With four wins and four second-place finishes, Massive Hill bankrolled \$40,538 in 12 starts. Ryan Stahl trains, drives, and co-owns Massive Hill with Watson Harness Racing, Kendall Stucky, and William Hartt. Brookside Stables bred the trotter.

Photos: Diane Wise



Offering;

- Colt Starting
- Boarding
- Turnout
- Foaling
- Breeding Via AI

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CURTAIN CLOSES ON FAIR SEASON

The Buckeye State's county fair season came to a close on October 19, with \$50,000 Ohio Fairs Championships at MGM Northfield Park. Three of the freshman champions closed their season with new lifetime marks.



Jailhouse Pearl

Jailhouse Pearl kicked off the championships, lowering her lifetime mark by over four seconds. Chris Lems took the daughter of Long Tom to the lead and never looked back, posting fractions in :28.4, 1:00.1, and 1:29.1, drawing away to win by two-lengths in 1:59.1.

Jailhouse Pearl hit the board in all 15 starts this year, winning ten and finishing second five times, earning \$63,377. The two-year-old filly trotter is trained by Eric Nesselroad and owned and bred by Casey Clemens.

Brady Clemens drove Jailhouse Pearl on the Southern Valley Colt Circuit and had some advice for Lems. "I told Chris she will be all right on the front, but better off the pace. He knew what he needed to do."

Madam L finished second with Kountry Behave third.



Evil L

The championship for filly pacers went to Evil L in 1:57.3. Evil L and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. raced third along the rail as betting favorite Pink Jammies and Hunter Myers set fractions of :28.2, :59.2, and 1:29. Fifth at the three-quarter pole, Evil L turned on the jets going three-wide around the final turn.

The daughter of Fear The Dragon reeled in the leaders in deep stretch to win by a neck. Maddie's Delite was second while Pink Jammies held on third.

Evil L has notched six wins, seven seconds, and four third place finishes this year. She has earned \$52,195 in 18 tries. It was the second start for Evil L under trainer Elson Miller. Josiah Miller owns the Midland Acres bred the filly.

"On the backside I thought we had a good chance to get a piece of it. I did not expect her to explode to the wire the way she did," said Elson Miller.



Jet Wings

Jet Wings and Elliott Deaton took the championship for colt trotters in 1:59.4. Jet Wings took advantage of his inside post position, eased off the gate settling in fourth. After the :29.4 opening quarter, the What The Hill gelding pulled first-up as the field passed the half in 1:01.1. Jet Wings easily grabbed the lead before hitting the three-quarters in 1:30.2. With no challengers, Jet Wings cruised to a two-length victory in a new lifetime mark.

Full Moon Howl rallied from the back of the pack to finish second while Hydroplane'n Henry finished third.

The victory was the fifth of the season for Jet Wings. The Virgil Morgan Jr. trainee has hit the board in 14 of 15 starts, earning \$55,794 for owner Joyce McClelland. Martz Creek Farm bred Jet Wings.



Unique Catch

Unique Catch captured Two-Year-Old Colt Pace championship, the final freshman championship of the night. Out of the gate, Unique Catch briefly battled with Downbytheparade before settling into the pocket. Driver-trainer Daren Harvey stayed patient with Unique Catch while the field reached the half in :58.2. The son of Catch The Fire changed gears while passing the three-quarters pole 1:27. Around the final turn, Unique Catch popped the pocket and rallied to catch Downbytheparade at the wire to win by a nose in 1:55.4. Lord Bridgerton was third.

A \$15,000 purchase out of the Buckeye Classic Sale, Unique Catch has won nine of 12 this season, earning \$51,331. Wayne Mast Jr., Eden Acres Farmstead, Steven Miller, and Daren Harvey own the colt. Henry Burkholder bred Unique Catch.



Lady Bridgerton

The first of the three-year-old championships went to pacer Lady Bridgerton. Wrenn took Lady Bridgerton to the front, opening a six-length lead at the half in :56.3. The 1/5 favorite faced some late pressure from Sp Dancinwithstarz around the final turn but was able to cruise to a two-length win in 1:55.2.

Trainer Brian Georges was glad things paid off after a long summer, "We went all over Ohio this summer. This little filly is tough as nails, she's little but she's mighty. She gives you everything she has got."

The win was the 10th of the year for the daughter of Bit Of A Legend N. She has hit the board in 17 of 22 starts, earning \$78,089. Lady Bridgerton is owned by Kent Walker, Travis Kelley, Benjamin Jamison, and Curt Carey. CT Stables bred Lady Bridgerton.

Sp Dancinwithstarz held on for second with Cruiser Cancelled third.



Flip Five Stones

Flip Five Stones returned to the winner's circle in the Three-Year-Old Filly Trot. Chaos erupted in the first turn as the three front runners made breaks. Flip Five Stones with Jeff Nisonger minded her manners in the middle of the pack as the field passed the opening quarter in :29. Flip Five Stones followed cover heading to the half in 1:00 but made a powerful move to grab the lead at the three-quarter pole in 1:29 and cruised to victory in 1:59.

All About Faith rebounded from the early break and finished second, while Phyllis L was third.

It was the 11th win in 21 starts for the daughter of Lane Of Stone. Trained by Mark Winters, Flip Five Stones has earned \$69,842 for owner-breeder Dennis Shaner

The big upset of the night came in the sophomore colt pacing championship.



Threemargaritashot

Threemargaritashot with Austin Hanners went off at 37-1. The gelded son of Pet Rock settled into the pocket behind All Lathered Up through an opening quarter of :27.2. Heading to the half, race favorite Drinkinmybabygdby took control as the field headed up the backstretch. As the field navigated the final turn, Hanners asked Threemargaritashot for more and the longshot went to the lead, holding on to win by a length in 1:53.3. Drinkinmybabygdby held on for second with All Lathered Up third.

"He's been awesome to drive at the fairs," said Hanners. "He is so handy to get off the gate and today he showed how versatile he is."

The Randy Smith trainee has hit the board 16 of 24 seasonal starts. Threemargaritashot has bankrolled \$68,149 this year for owner Jessica Smith. He was bred by Brent Hopper and Kyle Gray.



Jurassic Justice

The final Fair Championship of 2024 was for three-year-old colt trotters and Jurassic Justice and Aaron Merriman took no prisoners. Jurassic Justice grabbed the lead with a :29 first quarter and controlled the race with fractions of :58.4 and 1:28.4 on the way to a dominating five length victory in 1:58.4.

Whiskey Peddler was second while Super James finished third.

Jurassic Justice has won 10 of 18 seasonal starts and earned \$60,024. Michael Lowe trains and co-owns Jurassic Justice alongside breeder Jerry Welch.

"He raced hard all year," said Welch. "He really deserved this, and this is a great way to end it."

Photos: Diane Wise

St. Louis and Clegg Take Top Fair Honors





Marc St. Louis, Jr. and Betty Clegg have been crowned King and Queen of the fairs.

St. Louis led all drivers in 2024, winning 114 races this summer. Clegg was the top trainer across the four fair circuits as she recorded 75 wins.

Drivers

Marc St. Louis, Jr.	114
Jeff Nisonger	102
Drew Neill	89

Trainers

Betty Clegg	75
Rosy Weaver	66
Hank LeVan	51

OCRA HONORS TOP PERFORMERS

The Ohio Colt Racing Association (OCRA) held its 91st annual banquet at Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway to honor the circuit's top performer. The OCRA is home to 19 member fairs.

The Smith family swept the freshmen colt titles.



The Smith Family received the trophy for the top two-year-old colt pacer Fear The Panda.

The top two-year-old pacing colt was Fear The Panda. The son of Fear The Dragon hit the board eight times in 17 starts. Trained by Randy Smith and owned by Amelia Smith, Fear The Panda earned \$18,892 in 2024.

Full Moon Howl was honored as the top freshman trotting colt. Trained by Jessica Smith, the gelded son of Full Count won six of 18 races, earning \$53,128. J. Smith co-owns Full Moon Howl with Madisyn Smith.

The OCRA's top two-year-old pacing filly was Ella Jo. She hit the board in 14 of 16 starts. The daughter of Racing Hill earned \$25,090 under Ronnie Gillespie's conditioning. Ella Jo is owned by Steven Butler and Eric Butler.

Petra Petra Petra was named the two-year-old filly trotter. The Uncle Peter filly was previously trained by Jeff Nisonger and owned by John Stant, but recently moved into the Betty Clegg Stable. Petra Petra Petra hit the board in 14 of 18 races, winning five. She earned \$31,005.

The three-year-old colt pace division was led by Hunkalicious. Trained by Brian Georges, Hunkalicious made 22 seasonal starts, winning nine times and earning \$34,230. The Western Terror gelding is owned by Scott Hagemeyer and Dr. Lyndsay Hagemeyer.

A Line Of Stone was the top sophomore trotting colt. A Line Of Stone is owned by Harry Horowitz and trained by Mark Winters. In 2024, the son of Lane Of Stone won 13 of 23 races and earned \$41,247.

The Fear The Dragon filly Rockin Rae L took home the honors as the top three-year-old pacing filly. Hank LeVan trains Rockin Rae L for owners LeVan Stables, Megan LeVan, Rosemary LeVan, and

Adam Heffelfinger. She hit the board in 22 of 34 races, winning 13 and earning \$55,274.

Rounding out the awards for the three-year-olds is filly trotter All About Faith. The Tyler Tinch trainee made 31 seasonal starts, winning 11 and finishing second nine times. All About Faith earned \$72,284 for owners Blaze Racing Co.



Connections to Blaze Racing Co. accepted the top three-year-old filly trot trophy for All About Faith.

The Oho Colt Racing Association sponsors the Dr. H.M. Parshall Memorial Stakes held at the Darke County Fair. Named in memory of "Doc" Parshall, the stakes honor the two-time Hambletonian winning trainer. The fastest division winner is crowned with the overall title.

This year, the two-year-old Parshall Stakes winners and one of the three-year-old winners were conditioned by Todd Luther and owned by Greg Luther Racing. Stacking Green took the Parshall Futurity for freshmen trotters while My First Fire took the pacing honors. In the three-year-old pacing division, Swaggy Cal took home the trophy.

The three-year-old trotting Parshall Stakes winner was Tom Swifty. Christi Noble trains Tom Swifty for owners Sandra Burnett and Norman Rae Racing.

The honorees were awarded trophies made and presented by Ann & Ray Lufkin.

Surfinthecanyon was honored as the Signature Series top pacing point-getter. Trained and owned by Steve Bateson, Surfinthecanyon raced in 11 series events, winning 10, including the Signature Series Final at the Delaware County Fair in a new lifetime mark of 1:50.

Stoney Ridgetop was the Signature Series trotting highpoint earner. Stoney Ridgetop won six of his eight contested series events. John Konesky III trains, drives, and co-owns Stoney Ridgetop alongside Patrick Konesky.



Bob Geist was honored as the recipient of the Dr. H.D. Schoonover Award

Bob Geist received the Dr. H.D. Schoonover Award, which is presented to a lover of Ohio harness racing who is optimistic, passionate, and patient in teaching, participating in, and thoroughly enjoying the sport, particularly at the county fair level. Geist was instrumental in starting The Signature Series in 2000 and served as the organization's President. He was a long-time board member of the Mercer County Agricultural Society and remains on the speed committee today. Bob is a member of the Mercer County Harness Horsemen's Association which is a multi-time recipient of the Dick Brandt Sr. Extra Effort Award from OHHA. He resides in Celina with his wife, Kris, and this year they campaigned two-year-old pacing gelding Jbmagic in the Buckeye Stallion Series and Ohio County Fair Stakes.

The Dr. Schoonover Award originated in the North Central Ohio Colt Stakes circuit in 2001 and passed from there to the Western Ohio Colt Racing Association. The award now resides with the OCRA.



Jeff Nisonger received the circuit's top driver award from OCRA President Dr. Robert Schwartz.



Carol Winters accepted the top trainer award from OCRA Vice President Dennis Fricke on Mark's behalf.

This year's top driver in the OCRA was Jeff Nisonger. Mark Winters took home the top trainer title. Nisonger won 75 races while Winters trained 39 winners.

Photos: Conrad Photo

Clegg, Hershberger, Shrake double up with *HTCS titles*

Eight two- and three-year-olds were crowned divisional winners in the Home Talent Colt Stakes (HTCS). The HTCS circuit is comprised of 15 fairs.

Two Betty Clegg trainees took the freshmen colt titles.



Downbytheparade – HTCS leading two-year-old colt pacer Downbytheparade was the winningest freshman in the nation with 17 seasonal victories. **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Downbytheparade was the top colt pacer. He earned \$124,171 in 2024 with 17 victories, 11 seconds, and one third place finish in 32 starts. Clegg also owns the Downbytheseaside gelding.

Pink Panther gave Clegg her second title as trainer-owner in the colt trot division. The gelded son of Marseille scored nine wins in 25 races, earning \$42,503.

Song Somewhere was the leading two-year-old filly pacer. The daughter of Bring On The Beach hit the board 13 times in 16 races, winning seven. Trained by Isaiah Shrake, Song Somewhere earned \$33,854 in 2024. She is owned by Philip Baldauf.

Rounding out the top HTCS freshmen was filly trotter Blueberry Poptart. The Wes Hershberger trainee won six of 14 starts. The daughter of What The Hill bankrolled \$24,652 for owners Wayne Mast, Jr., Eden Acres Farmstead, and Steven Miller.

The leading three-year-old colt pacer was Just Barley. He scored five wins, eight seconds, and three third place finishes in 26 seasonal starts. The Charley Barley gelding earned \$36,957 under Shrake's conditioning. Shrake co-owns Just Barley alongside Terrie Shrake.

Nine-time winner Super James was the top sophomore colt trotter. The gelded son of Volstead hit the board in 18 of 26 races, earning \$52,174 in 2024. Hershberger trains and co-owns Super James with Johns Racing Stable.

Cruiser Cancelled led the three-year-old filly pacers. With nine victories, the daughter of Yankee Cruiser bankrolled \$47,599 this season. Ryan Deaton trains for Colder Than Ice Racing, Dustin Ford Racing, and Randy T Young Stables.

Another nine-time winner, Elisdreamgirl was the top sophomore filly trotter. Elisdreamgirl earned \$40,528 in 22 seasonal starts. Levi Hershberger trains and owns the Global Republic filly.

St. Louis, Weaver, and Johnson *Earn OFRC Honors*

The Ohio Fair Racing Conference honored its winners at the 11th annual banquet in Napoleon.

Marc St. Louis, Jr. was named the circuit's top driver with 47 victories, while the top trainer was Rosy Weaver with 31 wins.

The 2024 Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series title went to Christina Johnson who won seven races including the Championship at the Delaware County Fair.

DIVISIONAL WINNERS		TRAINER	OWNER(S)
Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer	Spartan Hill	Steve Novak	Gerald Mijal
Two-Year-Old Filly Pacer	Reallyrukiddingme	Dan Venier	Dan Venier
Two-Year-Old Colt Trotter	Hydroplane'n Henry	Brain Boring	Ernest Ayers and Ellen Bellemore
Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter	Deetz Lighting	Dan Venier	Venier Racing, John & Leann Saunders, Schuberg Racing
Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer	Dance In Style	Steve Novak	Gerald Mijal
Three-Year-Old Filly Pacer	Bug Juice	Tim Grubb	Chris Page, Beau Brown
Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter	Smooth Talkin	Rosy Weaver	Rosy Weaver, Heartland Acres, Kabby D
Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter	Desert Hayz	Greg Bateson	Greg Bateson, Hayter Stable



Spartan Hill - Leading OFRC driver Marc St. Louis, Jr. guided top two-year-old colt pacer Spartan Hill. **Photo:** Brad Conrad



Smooth Talkin - Three-year-old colt trotter Smooth Talkin is conditioned by leading OFRC trainer Rosy Weaver. **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Nesselroad Trainees Dominate

the Southern Valley Colt Circuit

The Southern Valley Colt Circuit will honor the top horses, drivers, and trainers at their annual banquet in Zanesville.

Trainer Eric Nesselroad claimed three titles.



Jailhouse Pearl

Nesselroad's Jailhouse Pearl was the top freshman filly trotter. She won 10 of 15 races, including the \$50,000 Ohio Fairs Championship at MGM Northfield Park. Jailhouse Pearl earned \$63,377 for owner-breeder Casey Clemens.

Endless Dance, the top two-year-old colt also trained by Nesselroad. He earned \$37,718 as an eight-time winner. Nesselroad co-owns the Dancin Yankee gelding along with Bo Powell and Dennis Ruff.

Nesselroad and Clemens partnered on the top three-year-old filly trotter, Miss Clementine. Miss Clementine was named the circuit's top two-year-old filly trotter in 2023. She won five races this year and earned \$30,233.

Heres Arthur was named the top freshman colt trotter. The son of Team Six won seven races and earned \$39,325 for trainer James Bolen, Jr. and owner Charles Bolen.

The top freshman filly pacer was Lost In The Night. The Steve Carter trainee won six times to earn \$26,578. Brent Hopper and Kyle Gray own Lost In The Night.



Jurassic Justice

Jurassic Justice was the top sophomore trotting colt. Justice won 10 races including the

Ohio Fairs Championship title, upping his earnings to \$60,024. Michael Lowe trains and co-owns with Jerry Welch.

Q Dancer led sophomore filly pacers with six wins for trainer Melvin Byler and owners Steven and Eric Butler. Q Dancer was SVCC's top freshman pacing filly last year. He bankrolled \$40,284 this year.

Another repeat SVCC title holder is threeyear-old colt pacer Dragon Medicine. Dragon Medicine earned \$48,551 this season winning ten races. Earl Owings trains for Richard Owings.

Brady Clemens was the recipient of both the Fred McVicker Driving Award for the most wins and the Sid Spencer Driving Award for the most points.

The Terry Van Rhoden Training Award, which is determined by UTRS, went to Byler.

Photo: Diane Wise



OHHA Annual Awards Banquet



2023 Horse of the Year Bythemissal

Join us to celebrate 2024!

OHHA Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 18, 2025 Marriott Columbus Airport

1375 N Cassady Ave., Columbus, OH, 43219

- Reservations and payment for tickets for the banquet must be at the OHHA office by Saturday, December 28, 2024.
- Tickets are \$30 each and can be picked up at the Banquet Reservation Table. **No tickets will be sold at the door.**
- Reserved tables for 8 are available. To reserve, please use the reservation form to provide your table name and guests.

January 18, 2025 Tentative Agenda

11:30 a.m. Charity Luncheon

1:00 p.m. OHHA Annual Membership Meeting

2:00 p.m. USTA District 1 Annual Meeting

4:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour - Cash Bar

5:00 p.m. Dinner Seating

5:30 p.m. OHHA Annual Awards Banquet

9:00 p.m. After Party - Cash Bar

Room reservations can be made in the OHHA block at a discounted rate of \$124 by **January 2, 2025**.

Use the reservation link online:

https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1714576011686&key=GRP or call the Marriott at 614.475.7551 (ask for the OHHA rate). Rooms may be available at the standard room rate after January 2.



Banquet Reservation Form
Tickets are \$30 each. Reservations and payment must be received by the OHHA office by December 28, 2024.
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association 2237 Sonora Drive Grove City, OH 43123 614.221.3650
Name of Guest(s) & Meal Preference: (Please note B - Beef, C - Chicken, or V - Vegetarian for each guest.)
1
Full tables of 8 guests can be reserved. Please let your guests know the name on the table that is reserved. Provide their names and meal selections above.
Table Reservation Name.
Phone Number:
Total Tickets: Amount Enclosed: \$
Charity Luncheon
RSVP here. The luncheon is free of charge. Donations will be accepted for the guest charity.
Attendees: (Please include email)

Attention Stallion Owners & Breeders

Nominate Your Stallion by January 15 to Make Foals Eligible To the Sport's Most Prestigious Program



BREEDERS CROWN No. 42 for FOALS OF 2026

TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE—\$7,000,000

Stallion Nomination Fees

Due and Payable January 15, 2025*

*except first year stallions

Visit Hambletonian.com for nomination forms and amounts, surcharge information and first year stallion deadlines.



The Hambletonian Society | Breeders Crown • 109 South Main Street, Suite 18 • Cranbury, NJ 08512-3174 Phone: 609-371-2211 • Fax: 609-371-8890 • Web: hambletonian.com

ATTENTION STALLION OWNERS & BREEDERS

Nominate Your Stallion by January 15 to Make Foals Eligible To The Sport's Most Prestigious Program

BREEDERS CROWN No. 42 FOR FOALS OF 2026

TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE - \$7,000,000

STALLION NOMINATION FEE: Due and payable Jan. 15, 2025, in the amount of the advertised stud fee for the 2025 breeding season (\$500 U.S. funds minimum,) plus an additional surcharge as indicated below, provided, however, that for firstyear stallions placed in commercial service (which would not include test breedings) after Jan.15, the nomination must be paid within 60 days after the stallion first breeds a mare. In no event will any stallion nomination fee be accepted after Dec. 31, 2025. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to determine the stallion nomination fee of those stallions whose 2025 service is advertised as private treaty, or if the amount of the fee is not advertised. This payment covers 2025 matings (foals of 2026).

In addition to the 2025 service fee, the amount of the stallion nomination fee must include a surcharge as follows:

- a) For stallions that stand for a fee from US\$3,000 to \$5,999 (or \$4,158.77 CAD (Canadian Dollars) to \$8,316.14 CAD), an additional amount equal to 40% of 2025 service fee must be
- b) For stallions that stand for a fee from US\$6,000 to \$9,999 (or \$8,317.53 CAD to \$13,861.16 CAD), an additional amount equal to 75% of 2025 service fee must be paid;
- c) For stallions that stand for a fee of US\$10,000 (\$13,862.55 CAD), or more, an additional amount equal to 200% of 2025 service fee must be paid.

For stallions that stand for a service fee of less than US\$3,000 (or \$4,158.77 CAD), no additional surcharge is necessary for nomination.

Note: To determine the surcharge in other than U.S. funds, the November 6, 2024 exchange rate is used; a rate of \$1.39 CAD per US\$. Stallion nominations for other than first-year stallions that are postmarked after January 15, 2025, but on or before Dec. 31, 2025, will be accepted upon payment of an additional penalty amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge). Likewise, stallion nominations for first-year stallions that are postmarked after the above 60day deadline, but on or before Dec. 31, 2025, will be accepted upon payment of an additional amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including 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 2025 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 Dec. 31, 2025.

Moreover, if a nominated stallion does not breed more than twenty (20) mares in 2025 or produce more than fifteen (15) registered foals in 2026, 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 Dec. 31, 2025 (mares bred) or by Dec. 31, 2026 (registered foals). No stallion nomination fee will be reduced to less than \$500.00 U.S. funds.

Any payment on a North American stallion that has been nominated by Jan. 15, 2025, and is subsequently exported prior to Feb.15, 2025 and that does not commercially breed a mare in North America by any means during the entire 2025 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 Dec. 31, 2025. With the exception of supplemental nominations or declarations as provided in the conditions, foals of 2026 by a stallion for which the above nomination fee has been refunded will be ineligible to the Breeders Crown unless an additional amount equal to the amount of the refund is paid.

Except as provided above, stallion nomination fees shall not be refunded.

Stallion payments may be made in the local currency of the nation in which the stallion stands, or in equivalent U.S. funds (\$500 U.S. funds minimum).

Conditions for nominating yearlings will be published in the USTA Stakes & Futurities Nomination Book. Specific conditions for the races for which these foals are eligible will be published in the USTA Stakes Guide in the year of the races. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to add to, amend or delete the conditions of all or any part of the Breeders Crown program, without liability. For more information contact: The Hambletonian Society at (609)371-2211 or www.hambletonian.com

BREEDERS CROWN STALLION No. 42 NOMINATION BLANK

Name of Stallion		Age/Foal of	2025 Service Fee		
Sire	Dam	Sire	Sire of Dam		
Farm address			State/Province/Zip		
Owner(s)					
Please check $[]$: [] In-	production stallion (by Jan. 15, 2025	7 []	With penalty (additional 50% after Jan. 15, 2025)		
[] First-season stallion (within 60 days of 1st cover)		[] First-se	[] First-season with penalty (additional 50% after 60 days)		
The Stallion Nomination over	Fee is the amount of the 2025 Servic	ce Fee plus the above s	urcharge for fees \$3,000 US (\$4,158.77CAD) or		
2025 Service Fee	+ Surcharge (%)	= Nomina	tion Fee enclosed:		
		e Hambletonian Societ	•		

Cranbury, NJ 08512

(over)

Be There! BY ROGER E. HUSTON

As we approach the end of the year and look forward to 2025, I realize how blessed I have been. For the past 65 years, I have been able to do what I love the most. During that time, I have called over 184,000 races at 163 tracks all over the world.

From that first race at the Clinton County Fairgrounds in 1960 to three programs at the Meadows in December, this 82-year-old Buckeye will probably take a few steps toward full retirement in 2025. The steps I take may not be noticeable to many, but my family is sure to notice.

A recent article on the USTA web page by Rich Fisher reported on the first winning drive by Lesley McDaniel at the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds in Woodstock, Virginia. This young man said he was thrilled to have me call the race more so than winning the race itself. That statement means so much to me as I think about total retirement.

I'm often asked which race defined my career. It's a race that will mark its 40th anniversary next year. It occurred on

September 19, 1985, at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, but it wasn't Nihilator winning the Jug in 1:52.1; it was a race on the undercard.

For others, that day will be remembered as the day of the fastest mile ever on a half-mile track, set by Falcon Seelster and Tom Harmer

A field of six was entered in a \$6,000 Open Pace. Along with Falcon Seelster, the field included Skipper Dale Marx, Crown Time Leader, Tequila Star, OB's Falcon Eddie, and BJ's Reply. They were fighting for second money.

I spoke with Harmer the day before the race and asked him what kind of fractions he would cut. His reply was :27, :55, and 1:23. I then asked what the final time would be. He said, "That's up to Falcon."

That day the fractions were :27, :54.3 and 1:22.4. After the three-quarters, I announced "Falcon Seelster opens up for Tom Harmer. If you've never been on your feet, you better get up now." The final time was 1:51!



In speaking with Tom and Debby Harmer a few days ago, Tom said, "Falcon Seelster was the icing on the cake," while Debby recalled that the horse was purchased by Charlie Day on the same day that their daughter Jen was born.

Following the world record, Day gave Tom an ivory Mercedes 500SL convertible. That winter at Pompano Park, Harmer could be found driving around the barn area playing a cassette recording of my race call.

Now that's the story behind the race that I feel defines my career. If you haven't seen the race, you can watch it on YouTube

Be There in 2025!

I will be as well!

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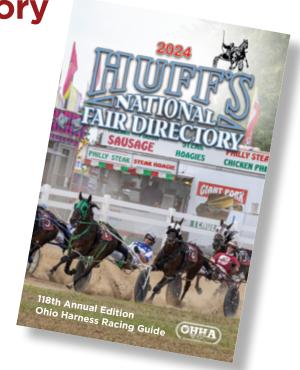
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Published by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association



20 questions with **Daren Harvey**

1. What is your first memory of harness racing?

I always grew up with harness racing with my mom and dad, so I ran around the county fairs with watched Mom race.

2. Does harness racing go back farther than your mom in the family tree?

No, my mom was introduced to it when she was young and it rolled over into her kids.

3. Did you ever think about doing something else besides harness racing?

There were the normal teenage dreams of being a baseball player or football player. There were no aspirations for any other career. I went into the Army and then got out, but it was always the horses.

4. Did you play sports in high school?

I was more active in sports than in racing. I played baseball and football. I was the utility guy in baseball, I played third base, shortstop, and centerfield. In football, I played cornerback on defense. I'm sure Mom would have liked me to be more active in the racing.

5. Your first win was with Proxies Fame; do you remember that win?

It was a special and proud moment. I remember it like it was yesterday. The horse ran but still came back to win. She was a special horse, just tough. She wasn't the best horse out there, but she tried as hard as anything. I raced her for years after. She wasn't the easiest thing to drive but she was a good horse to learn behind.

6. Do you remember your first win as a trainer?

No, that one alludes me. Mom has the picture at home. I remember it, but I don't have specifics.

(Note: Daren's first training win was with Cauliflower in 2007.)

7. Do you have a preference for trotters or pacers?

I prefer my trotters. They are a little craftier so you need more patience.

8. Has your recent success been with trotters or pacers?

With the trotters, but we have more trotters. The owners that I have prefer the trotters. I

only have two or three pacers every year. My numbers are better with the pacers, but we have more chances with the trotters

9. You are branching out to the racetracks. Do you still like racing at the county fairs?

The county fairs are home. It's fun, it's grassroots. With the pari-mutuel tracks, you make a better living. It is what everybody dreams to do--race at the racetrack and win.

10. As a driver what size track do you prefer to drive on?

I like the 5/8th. You go faster on the 5/8th, but in my opinion everything from a driver's aspect is slower. It is easier for me.

11. You have 25 horses in your stable, do you ever envision a bigger stable?

I don't spend a lot of time thinking about a bigger stable. I've told the owners that their job is to buy the horses and my job is to train them. If we keep having success, I might have to live up to that. It all comes down to the help. You can have 10 horses or 100 horses, but it all comes down to the help.

12. Do you get involved in purchasing the horses with your owners?

I go to the sales; I look for some myself. Everybody is looking for the screaming deal. You fight hard to find that five-thousand-or six-thousand-dollar horse that turns into a Sires Stakes horse. I'm there to give my opinion when it is asked. You hope you have the next big one.

13. You won the Sires Stakes this year with Lt Loverboy. Is he the best horse you ever trained?

He is the best stakes horse I have ever trained. He is the whole package—just pure raw talent and desire. I've had other nice horses, but it's him, hands down.

14. Early in a horse's training, do you get a feeling they will be good?

I always know which one is going to be the best, but then normally they are not. Like Lt Loverboy, he never did anything wrong, but I had other colts that I thought were better than him and I was wrong. I was taught early on to treat them the same whether they are an open trotter or a five-thousand-dollar claimer.



Daren Harvey

15. Let's get away from racing. Do you have one food you could eat every day?

That's an easy one: mashed potatoes--no butter, no gravy.

16. Do you have a favorite sport you like to watch on TV?

Golf. As I was growing up it was an old man sport and it holds true because that's what I like anymore. I don't play like I used to, but I try to get out as much as I can.

17. What is your favorite TV show?

Ghosts. It's killer. The TV is on for noise, so my wife and I don't have any consistent shows we watch.

18. Do you have any outside activities away from the track?

I eat, live, and breathe horse racing. When I'm not at the races, racing my own, I'm watching friends race.

19. Do you have a favorite vacation spot?

We've taken a few vacations, but no specific location. Virginia Beach was a blast; we had fun at the Atlanta aquarium; but our all-time favorite was whale watching in Massachusetts. I was totally against it; I was dead set against it. I thought it was dumb, but I had a blast, and we went back to do it again.

20. What is on your bucket list?

I don't really have a bucket list. Every year I set personal goals. It always has been to win a Sires Stake. It went further this year: winning the final! Thinking ahead it would be to race on the grand circuit. I would like to win the Hambletonian or a Breeders Crown, but you can only go if you have the horse.

Record \$1.8 Millon Paid For Amazing Catch



Bought by an Ohioan, the most expensive Standardbred ever will stand in the Buckeye State. Greg Luther purchased Amazing Catch on the final day of the Harris-

burg Mixed Sale for \$1.85 million and has decided the horse will stand in Ohio beginning in 2026 at Winterwood Farm.

Luther won a bidding war for the son of Walner but was willing to go over the \$2 million mark to get the 2024 Canadian Trotting Classic winner. "I told myself \$2 million, but I think I would have gone to \$2.5 million. I figured if he went for under \$2 million it was a no-brainer."

The price continued to rise as Luther and Andrew Harris traded bids, eventually passing the \$1.55 million paid for Atlanta.

"He came back at \$1.7 million, and we were going [in hundred thousand increments] and I thought he might be done." Luther

cut the bid in half to \$1.75 million and Harris countered at \$1.8 million. Luther then made the final bid.

"I thought he might be thinking since I cut it in half it was my final bid and for an extra \$50,000, he didn't want to lose the horse," said Luther. "He came back at \$1.8 million. I immediately bid \$1.85 million and he bailed."

Amazing Catch's pedigree stood out to Luther. The horse hit the board in this year's Hambletonian and there have been other top-three finishes on the dam's side. "To have first, second, and third dams all have horses that hit the board in the Hambletonian--what an amazing breed to bring to Ohio," said Luther.

Luther said developments with this year's three-year-old trotters also made Amazing Catch stand out. "I started to appraise the horse, and I realized that with everyone that is retiring from racing, he could have a huge four-year-old season."

Karl, T C I, and Sig Sauer the top sophomore trotters this year will start their second career standing stud next year.

Luther plans to race Amazing Catch next year, keeping him with trainer Ake Svanstedt to give him a chance to earn some of the money back. "Ake said the horse will make over a million dollars racing next year and he wanted to train the horse." Luther said Svanstedt told him Amazing Catch might be the best horse he's had in the U.S. That is a pretty good statement coming from Svanstedt.

Luther considered racing and breeding Amazing Catch like he did with Catch The Fire, but he would not be able to race the horse outside of Ohio until mid-July.

Luther will be forming a racing and breeding syndicate for Amazing Catch. "With this, if you buy a share, you can go on the ride with us racing next year and then breed a mare every year. I think that will be a lot of fun."

"My ultimate goal in spending this kind of money was to do it my way. Being a Buckeye, I always wanted to have a great stallion here," said Luther.

TRACK NOTES

Aaron Merriman scored his 16,000th career victory at The Meadows aboard Divas Dragon.

Merriman has been driving since 1997. Today, Merriman has guided over 84,000 horses, earning more than \$120 million.



Chris Page Photo: Diane Wise

Chris Page coll ected his 7,000th career win at MGM Northfield Park. Page recorded the milestone in the Buckeye Stallion Series Consolation for Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trotters when he guided Papa Nordin to a gate-to-wire victory.

Page started his driving career in 2000 and has amassed over \$74 million in purse earnings.



Billy Davis, Jr. Photo: Diane Wise

Billy Davis, Jr. earned his 4000th career victory in an upset with Jillian B Miki at Northfield Park.

Davis began his driving career in 2007. With over 26,000 races on his resume, Davis has bankrolled \$31.2 million.

Brett Miller surpassed \$120 million in career earnings at Hollywood Dayton Raceway. Miller accomplished the milestone in a victory aboard I Choose You.

The reinsman scored his first career win in 1992. His most successful year was 2014 when he bankrolled \$7,939,143 on the sea-

son. Miller has driven in over 64,000 races, scoring upwards of 10,500 victories.

Hunter Myers surpassed \$20,000 in career earnings while driving Urania Blue Chip at The Meadows.

Myers' driving career started in 2014. He boasts more than 2,200 lifetime victories. The young reinsman's best year was 2022 when he earned \$4,451,307 on the season.



Cory Kreiser

On the training side, Cory Kreiser scored his 1000th career win with Brooklets Desire at Northfield Park.

Kreiser established his training stable in 2014 and has earned \$7 million in 5,400 lifetime starts.

Southwind Amazon Reaches Summit By Michael Carter



A week removed from his most recent victory and up in class, Southwind Amazon was all class, re-writing the harness racing history books by earning career win number 138 at

MGM Northfield Park on Tuesday, November 5.

The victory also pushed the 14-year-old son of Camluck's earnings to over \$1.5 million dollars and pushed him past Niffit who had 137 wins.

Things were stacked against the warhorse, Southwind Amazon (Justin Irvine), from the word go. He earned his 137th victory two weeks prior and was forced to move up in class to face tougher company. Neither did he get the greatest of beginnings as Amazon came away sixth, with Beach Forecast (John Ciocca Jr.) and Native's Filou (Kurt Sugg) both flying off the gate. The top three arrived at a bone crushing :26.

At the half in :55.3, the outer flow began to develop, with Southwind Amazon beginning his bid third over. Up the backstretch, Native's Filou kicked clear, but as the field arrived at three-quarters in 1:24.3, Win Not Lou (Billy Davis Jr.) flipped off the cover three-wide. Southwind Amazon followed his cover and found another gear around the last turn.



When Southwind Amazon met Native's Filou, he went by like the gelding was standing still, drawing off to win his historic mile by 3-3/4 lengths in 1:54.

Southwind Amazon is owned by Ameer Najor and trained by Paul Holzman. 22-year-old Justin Irvine earned one of the biggest victories of his career. "He was racing before I even got my driving license. I can't believe that my name will be in the record books with such a great horse," said Irvine.

Holzman plans to race Southwind Amazon through the end of the year until he is forced into retirement on December 31. "He has taken me to places I never thought I would be and has raced against some of the greatest horses of all-time. I couldn't be more proud of him," said a jubilant Holzman. "He's like my son. I rode on his coat tails. It's been an absolute thrill and honor."



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Solferino is a handsome son of Uncle Peter that was bred and raced by former longtime USTA employee Carol Cramer. Unfortunately, as a racehorse, Solferino's resumé included being hot and fractious along with the distinction of making a break in every one of his eight lifetime starts. With a bleak future as a racehorse, Carol donated the gelding to New Vocations in December of 2023. By the fall of 2024, his resumé had improved dramatically.

New Vocations trainer Bridget Heasley immediately liked the looks of Solferino when he arrived at her Richwood, Ohio facility. Measuring only

15h, he looked like a cute Pony Club horse. He stood nicely in the crossties and his barn manners were good. However, Bridget was surprised when she started turning Solferino out. "He went feral! I could not catch him," she said. "Once he learned the routine, he gradually got better, but he liked to play games, like run around the round bale!"

Solferino transitioned well to his new vocation. "He was lovely to ride, very cute, and went right to work. He had lots of personality and was just fun to have around," said Bridget. It wasn't long before the little gelding was the star of the stable.

Arlene Taylor and her husband, Matt Laux, from Michigan visited Bridget in January looking for a foxhunting partner. They liked Solferino's kind eye and small stature; however Arlene was concerned about his young age and greenness. "Matt thought he was really nice and said we should take him," Arlene shared. "I said he was too hot. I was looking for a very calm horse. We had two young horses at home; I did not need another wild, young horse."

Bridget shared that Solferino was more energetic than usual since inclement weather had confined him to a stall all week. That was enough for Matt. Once again, he said, "Take him!" Then, he added, "He can be returned if he doesn't work out. Let our trainer ride him awhile." Still on the fence, Arlene needed time to think. "I hand walked Solferino all around Bridget's property, by chickens and other hazards, and he was fine. We signed the papers and he was ours."

Solferino settled in nicely at Arlene and Matt's. It was one of their other horses that started the "Break the Fence" game to check out



Arlene Taylor fox hunting with Solferino. Photo: Greg Sadler

the new gelding. The next day Solferino reverted to his feral play and broke through the fence to get to Arlene's two geldings. They moved Solferino to another paddock, but when they left to go foxhunting, Solferino broke through the solid fence and went running down the road and past the hunt club. He was quickly nicknamed Gump after Forrest Gump and the iconic scene in the movie with Forrest running off the football field and down the road to the chant "Run, Forrest, Run." "Fortunately, there have been no other runaways since then," Arlene said. "But we repaired a lot of fences."

Matt's horse had gotten hurt the previous season and was still out of commission, so after only a couple of months, Gump was called upon to go on his first hunt. "There were some pretty rough times," Arlene shared. "Once, Gump stood on his back legs; another time he sat down. But he and Matt soldiered through, and we had a very calm progressive summer, thereafter. This fall Gump started leading the second flight with his buddy following, and sometimes his buddy took over the lead when Gump wasn't so confident. Now that his buddy has moved up to a faster field, Gump leads all the time and is a real champ."

Like many Standardbreds, Gump has a habit of flapping his lip. Arlene found it cute and learned to use it as a barometer of his anxiety level. "The more anxious he is, the faster it goes. So, now I know to pet him and talk to him to reassure him," she said.

Gump has matured and developed under Arlene and Matt's experienced care. "He is fast and really powers through his hind end going up hills. He has taken to jumping with style and courage," said Arlene. "Though we are building up slowly, he has progressed faster than any of my other horses. He is now jumping a variety of fences including a six-panel coop.

"Gump still gets a little ramped up at times, but he is a racehorse and it is exciting out there. He settles pretty fast if I get a steady slower horse in front of him for a few minutes. Then I let him take over the lead again. He really thinks I just don't get it. He thinks he can easily run as fast as those grown-up Thoroughbreds in front of him! Why am I holding him back? Yes, he can do it! Unfortunately, I might not be able to stay with him while he keeps up. LOL!"

HARNESS RACING INDUSTRY

at National FFA Convention

By Jessica Schroeder

Over 71,000 people were in attendance at the 97th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis the week of October 22. Harness racing was well represented with a 10x30 booth at the Indiana Convention Center, complete with a race bike and a 360° video experience, a bandaging station, a harness racing trivia game, literature, and giveaways for both advisors and students.

"It's important for us to share harness racing with the next generation and there's no better place than the FFA Convention," said Emily Dever, a booth volunteer and Indiana Standardbred Association Director. "Even if we only reach 10% of those (in attendance), that's 7,000 people within three days that didn't know about harness racing and now do."

Students from 47 of the 50 states plus Puerto Rico visited the booth and pinned the "Which Track is Closest to You?" map. Trivia questions tested student knowledge of not only harness racing, but general equine health and wellness; demonstrations were made to show the difference between trotters and pacers; and many conversations were had

about harness racing careers, off-track opportunities for ex-racehorses and where they can find harness racing, either at their local pari-mutuel track or at a county fair.

The industry rallied together for this event, both working at the booth and through sponsorships. Special thanks are extended to booth workers from the Indiana Standardbred Association and local horsemen: Tony Renz, Emily & Sonora Dever, Julie & Doug Rideout, Kyle Wilfong, Donna Loney, and Carrie Hollman; the Indiana Standardbred Breed Development Fund: Joyse Banister and Jen Tuttle; the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association: Ashley Dailey and Susan Schroeder; the Harness Horse Youth Foundation: Vicky Rouch; and the USTA: Jourdan Miller.

The booth would not be possible without the sponsorship from the USTA, Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF), Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA), Indiana Standardbred Breed Development Fund, Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association (OHHA), Caesars Entertainment (Harrah's Hoosier Park & Horseshoe Indianapolis), Delaware

Standardbred Owners Association (DSOA), Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association (IHHA), Meadows Standardbred Owners Association (MSOA), Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association (PHHA), Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOA NJ), and Eldorado Scioto Downs.

Planning is already underway for next year's FFA Convention and Expo, which will be held October 29-November 1, 2025.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization whose membership surpassed 1-million students in 2024. There are 9,235 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Utah, Florida, and Alaska saw the highest growth rates in membership compared to last year; the top five states for membership are Texas, California, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina. The convention was first held in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri, and was in that city for 70 years; it has also been held in Louisville and will be in Indianapolis through 2033.









OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Mares registered in 2019 (Foals of 2020) mare registration date 11/30/19

Foal Age

Membership Requirement

Foal Born 2020 Membership Required
Yearling 2021 No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2022, 2023 No Membership Required

Mares registered in 2020 (Foals of 2021) mare registration date 11/30/20

Foal Age Membership Requirement Foal Born 2021 Membership Required Yearling 2022 No Membership Required 2 & 3-Year-Old 2023, 2024 No Membership Required

Mares registered in 2021 (Foals of 2022) mare registration date 11/30/21

Foal Age Membership Requirement Foal Born 2022 Membership Required Yearling 2023 No Membership Required 2 & 3-Year-Old 2024, 2025 No Membership Required

Mares registered in 2022 (Foals of 2023) mare registration date 11/30/22

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2023	Membership Required
Yearling 2024	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2025, 2026	No Membership Required

Mares registered in 2023 (Foals of 2024) mare registration date 11/30/23

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2024	Membership Required
Yearling 2025	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2026, 2027	No Membership Required

Registration Fee: \$20 per mare. For mares registered in 2019 forward, in addition to the \$20 registration fee per mare, registrations received from December 1st to December 31st must add a \$100 per-mare late fee. Registration will not be accepted until all fees are paid in full.

Membership Requirements: All owners of the mare (including those in businesses or stables) are required to join as Active OHHA Members. All business entities or stables listed as owners are also required to join as Associate Members.

Mare Residency: Mare in foal to an Ohio Stallion, must foal in Ohio, and reside in Ohio for 187 consecutive days in the year of foaling.



Thank You to our 2024 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

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Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting Tuesday, July 16, 2024

- (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission ("OSRC") held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on July 16, 2024, at the Vern Riffe Center, Room 1948, 19th floor, 77 S High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
- (2) Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioner Hansen stood in as the Chair for this meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Commissioners Beth Hansen, Tom Winters, and Dan McCarthy were present. Chair Scott Borgemenke and Commissioner Greg Simpson were unable to attend. There was a quorum.
- **(3)** There was a moment of silence for Chair Borgemenke and his family as his mother recently passed.
- (4) Approval of Minutes from the June 18, 2024, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the June 18, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (5) Ratification of Executive Director Approvals: Commissioner Winters moved to ratify the Executive Director's approvals and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Executive Director, Chris Dragone informed the Commission of Belterra and Thistledown's post time change for the excessive heat for the current week. The racetracks representatives were reminded to have plenty of ice and cold water available. Mr. Dragone informed the Commission that the strangles directive has been removed, but the racetracks have the ability to maintain their own mandate for the timing of PCR testing. Scioto Downs and their outrider were commended for their swift response and professionalism to a bad accident last month.
- (6) Meet Requests
 - (A) Delaware County Fair; Little Brown Jug: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Meet request, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote

- **(B)** Dayton Raceway: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Meet request conditioned upon the approval of the simulcast export by the horsemen, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- **(C)** Mahoning Valley Racecourse: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the Meet request conditioned upon the approval of the simulcast export by the horsemen, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (7) Resolution 2024-07 Casino Distribution: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the resolution, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (8) Update on Rules Status: Deputy Director Boulmetis stated the commission is compliant for the June 2025 SB9 deadline and is working on the chapters due for the 2025 five-year review.
- (9) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson updated the Commission on horse racing and training fatalities at the pari-mutuel tracks in Ohio. Through July 16, 2024, there have been two Standardbred fatalities and 11 Thoroughbred fatalities. The total number of horse fatalities in Ohio to date is 13. The overall Thoroughbred safety record for dirt races at the two currently active meets is 99.93%. There were no Turf racing fatalities. Stave Bateson with the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association asked some questions regarding the decrease in fatalities.
- (10) Monthly Financial Report: Fiscal Officer, Sherry White informed the Commission that for the fiscal year that just concluded the commission is slightly in the black due to higher-than-expected tax revenue and decreased testing costs. Tax revenues are down 13% from last year, and casino revenues are down slightly. Maintenance Expenses are up 9%, mostly due to inflation. There will be a Twenty Thousand Dollar (\$20,000) expense for the new licensing system.

- (11) Cost of living adjustment for exempt employees: The Chair introduced the COLA because exempt [sic] employees do not have the automatic increase that is negotiated for non-exempt [sic] employees. Commissioner Winters moved to approve the increase, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (12) Adjudication for Rebecca Doering: AAG Todd DeBoe spoke on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Doering did not appear, nor did she have a representative appear for her. Commissioner Winters moved to approve the hearing officers report and recommendation, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (13) Update on HISA: Dave Basler, of the Ohio HPBA spoke about recent decision by the 5th
- circuit to declare the ability of HISA to issue penalties for rule violations are unconstitutional. He predicts that this issue will eventually end up in the Supreme Court.
- (14) Committee Reports
 - **(A)** Medication: Commissioner Hansen mentioned having a later meeting with Dr. Robertson.
 - **(B)** Safety: There were no comments.
 - (C) Standardbred: No updates.
- (15) Commissioners Comments: No Commissioner comments.
- (16) Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- (17) Executive Session: There was no executive session.
- (18) Adjournment: Commissioner Winters moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.
- Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center

Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024

- (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission ("OSRC") held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on September 24, 2024, at the Vern Riffe Center, Room 1948, 19th floor, 77 S High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
- (2) Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Scott Borgemenke called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Commissioners Beth Hansen, Torn Winters, Greg Simpson, and Dan McCarthy were present.
- (3) Approval of Minutes from the July 16, 2024, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the July 16, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. Chair Borgemenke and Commissioner Simpson did not vote because they were not in attendance at the July 16, 2024, Commission meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote by the Commissioners who did attend the meeting.
- (4) Ratification of Executive Director Approvals:
 Commissioner Simpson moved to ratify the Executive
 Director's approvals and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved
 by roll call vote. Executive Director, Chris Dragone
 congratulated Scioto on a good meet and wished Dayton
 luck for their opening night. Dragone also informed
 the Commission of the smoothness of the Little Brown
 Jug at the Delaware Fairgrounds this year. He also
 reiterated the importance of horsemen being respectful
 to officials, noting that yet another track vet has decided
 not to return to Ohio next year. He also said that the
 Commission is looking into a rule revision which would

- allow licensed registered veterinary technician the ability to administer Lasix, as allowed by the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to assist the veterinarian they are employed by.
- (5) Casino Revenue Percentage Adjustment: There was a discussion regarding utilizing the statutorily mandated maximum allocation to the Commission. It was discussed that the Commission is presently unable to properly regulate with only 7 full-time employees for 7 racetracks. Various scenarios of where the funding would come from and how it would be allocated was discussed. Gary De Witt from Miami Valley Gaming spoke and requested it be as fair and equitable as possible. Joe Morris from Scioto Downs commented on the transparent way the Commission is dealing with this issue and noted he personally has changed his wagering pattern from the old on track cash to an app on his phone. The Chair commented on the breeders having some input on this. The Commission will plan to have another meeting on this issue prior to the October Commission meeting.
- (6) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson updated the Commission on horse racing and training fatalities at the pari-mutuel tracks in Ohio. Through September 24, 2024, there have been five Standardbred fatalities and 20 Thoroughbred fatalities. The total number of horse fatalities in Ohio to date is 25. The overall Thoroughbred safety record for dirt races at the two currently active meets is 99 .88%. There were no Turf racing fatalities.

- (7) Monthly Financial Report: Fiscal Officer, Sherry White informed the Commission that the Commission is within the projected revenues, and expenses are higher than projected. The 2025 budget is being evaluated depending on the percentages of casino revenue the Commission will be receiving.
- (8) Committee Reports
 - (A) Medication: Commissioner Hansen mentioned making two small changes and recommendations regarding drug classifications and penalties and would like to suggest a process to get these done so they are updated and consistent.
 - **(B)** Safety: Commissioner Simpson applauded the fairs on working hard on safety this year.
 - **(C)** Standardbred: Commissioner Winters mentioned that the USTA assumed a role in an advisory committee with RISA.
- (9) Judgment Bruce Trogdon: Commissioner Winters moved to suspend Mr. Trogdon, noting the need for licensees to pay their bills and Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (10) Adjudications:
 - (A) Jeffrey McNabb: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the Hearing Officers Report and Recommendation and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

(B) Drew Neill: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the Hearing Officers Report and Recommendation and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with Commissioner McCarthy voting nay.

(C) Ann Russell: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the Hearing Officers Report and Recommendation and Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

(11) Commissioners Comments: No Commissioner comments.

(12) Public Comments: There were no public comments.

(13) Executive Session: There was no executive session.

(14) Adjournment: Commissioner Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 11: 16 a.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center

Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024

(1) The Ohio State Racing Commission ("OSRC") held a public meeting at 2:00 p.m. on October 9, 2024, at the Vern Riffe Center, Room 1918, 19th floor, 77 S High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

(2) Call to Order and Roll Call: The Commission Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm. Chair Scott Borgemenke, Commissioners Beth Hansen, Greg Simpson, Tom Winters, and Dan McCarthy were present.

(3) Open Discussion on Casino Revenue Distribution: The Chair reiterated this was to be a discussion only, non-voting meeting. The Chair discussed the financial situation of the commission, and the fact that the ability to effectively regulate has been difficult due to the way the commission has been historically funded. Currently the commission receives 5% of the Casino Revenue fund, and the discussion was how it would affect the current distribution of funds once the commission receives the 10% as authorized by law. Various options were discussed in reallocating the funding. There was agreement from all in attendance that the thoroughbreds should be exempted from any negative ramification due to the extraordinary costs they are incurring as a result of RISA. Dave Basler from the HBP A spoke and gave some history about how the percentage division had previously been allocated. Greg De Witt from Miami Valley spoke and agreed there needs to be more regulation in the state, and asked how the process is done. The Chair informed

him that a vote occurs at a public meeting. Steve Bateson asked about how much money the commission is looking for in a dollar amount, and the Chair informed him it is a percentage basis. It was decided that the next commission meeting will have a vote on a proposal that the additional 5%which will go to the commission come from the permit holders and the standardbred purse pools.

(4) Adjournment: This public meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center

The **Ohio Fairs Passport** program was a huge success!

At the end of the fair season, program winners were determined. Prizes were awarded for the top three fairgoers this summer.

Roy James claimed the top prize attending 66 fair racing programs this summer at 36 fairs. Roy will receive two tickets to the Top Of The Hill Pavilion at the Delaware County Fairgrounds for the 2025 Little Brown Jug and the Jugette. He will also receive a 65-inch television.

Second place goes to Mike Frey of London who attended 47 fair programs at 26 fairs. Mike will receive two tickets to the Top Of The Hill Pavilion at the Delaware County Fairgrounds for the 2025 Little Brown Jug and a 55-inch television.

There was a tie for third place. After a random drawing, Miran-

da Turner of Marion, Indiana was selected. She attended 42 racing programs at 27 fairs and will receive a 43-inch television.

Everyone who sent in a passport received an Ohio Fairs Passport t-shirt. We are looking forward to continuing the program in 2025.





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