

# *THE BUCKEYE* Harness Horseman

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The Official Publication of the  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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**Cover Photo:** Eight-year-old Maevyn Smtih leads her horse Penpaperpaige to the winner's circle.

**Photo Credit:** Conrad Photo | **Layout/Design:** Brelsford Creative

# TOP FRESHMEN LOOK TO REPEAT

By Frank Fraas

Seaside Diva, Sugar Instead, Clever Cody, and Tennessee Tom were the Ohio divisional winners in 2023. As the Sires Stakes season begins, so does their quest to repeat.

In the past ten years, nine horses have been able to hang on to their crowns. Winning back-to-back titles is a tall order no matter what trainer you talk to.



Seaside Diva Ohio 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year

## Seaside Diva

The Downbytheseaside filly wasted no time in 2024 staking claim as the early favorite to be named the top three-year-old filly pacer. She rolled to victories in her first three races.

In the first race of the year, Chris Page took Seaside Diva to the lead and went gate-to-wire to win the elimination of the James K. Hackett at Miami Valley.

One week later, it was another easy victory as she led the entire way in winning the Hackett final.

In the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes at Miami Valley Raceway, Seaside Diva had to avoid a horse on the break just past the quarter pole, but it did not bother her. She went around the breaker, grabbing the lead and cruising to an easy victory in 1:51, a new lifetime mark.

Chris Page has driven Seaside Diva in all of her 14 career starts and he likes the filly's chance of repeating. "She showed a lot of determination in her first three starts. I raced her hard in those three starts." Page said she was gritty last year and is showing the same characteristics this year.

One to watch: While Seaside Diva was the Ohio Two-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year in 2023, she did not win the Ohio Sires Stakes Final. That honor, rather, went to Daisy's Star. Last year, the two fillies met five times; Daisy's Star won twice and Seaside Diva once. This year, they have met twice so far. In the Hackett final, Daisy's Star finished third. In the first leg of the Sires Stakes, The Johnson Hill Jr. trainee had broken equipment and finished last.



Sugar Instead Ohio 2-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year

## Sugar Instead

Sugar Instead's defense of her freshman trotting title started a few weeks later than others. Trainer Virgil Morgan opted to open the season for the filly in the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series. "I elected not to race her in the Hackett because I think it is too much too early."

In her opener, the Volstead filly made short work of the competition, winning her division in the first leg by four lengths in 1:55.4 at Miami Valley.

She followed that win with victories in the first two legs of the Full Count Trot at Eldorado Scioto Downs. The Full Count is for Buckeye Stallion Series eligible fillies that did not race in the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes. In the second leg, Sugar Instead shattered her lifetime mark by over two seconds as she easily won by four lengths in 1:52.4.

One to watch: Jurassic Hattie will give Sugar Instead a run for her money in the quest for the three-year-old filly trotter title. Jurassic Hattie is 3-0 this year, having won the Hackett elimination and final and winning the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes. Because Jurassic Hattie was not staked to the Ohio Sires Stakes, the two have met only once, in the 2023 Next Generation which was the first career race for both fillies. Jurassic Hattie prevailed, winning by three lengths over Sugar Instead.

Brett Miller has gotten the call behind Jurassic Hattie in her three starts this year. He says she has been tremendous. "She has matured. Last year she was a little warm and did not let you rate her. This year she lets me rate her and that will make her deadly. It's a great spot to be in to drive two great fillies, but I dread the day they get in with each other," said Miller.



Clever Cody Ohio 2-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year

## Clever Cody

Clever Cody made it look easy in his opening race of 2024. The son of The Panderosa cruised to a new lifetime mark winning his division of the first leg of the Sires Stakes at Miami Valley by three lengths in 1:50.1.

Things did not go so well for Clever Cody in his second start. Behind the gate, his check bit came out of his mouth and ultimately caused a recall. Once the race started, Clever Cody was turning in what appeared to be a commanding performance only to have another issue with his equipment and ultimately finished eighth.

Trainer Dr. Ian Moore says Clever Cody is a different horse from last year. "He grew bigger, longer, and taller. He matured." Moore says he will be back in Ohio for the second leg of the Sires Stakes.

One to watch: Rose Run Zane is off to a great start in 2024 for trainer Dan Venier. He was in the opposite division of Clever Cody in the first leg of the Sires Stakes. He rolled to an easy win in a lifetime mark of 1:50.4. The win extended his winning streak to five, which included the elimination and final of the James K. Hackett. Rose Run Zane and Clever Cody met twice last year in the Sires Stakes with Clever Cody winning both matchups.



Tennessee Tom Ohio 2-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year

## Tennessee Tom

Tennessee Tom, the top two-year-old colt trotter, started his three-year-old campaign off with a bang.

In the Hackett elimination, the Long Tom gelding sat mid-pack through the first half of the race before making his move at the three-quarter pole. Chris Page swung Tennessee Tom around the final turn and reeled in Royal Precedent to win by a head in 1:55.4. In the finals, Tennessee Tom and Royal Precedent hooked up again. This time, Tennessee Tom took control heading to the half and won easily in 1:55.1, tying his lifetime mark. Next up should have been the first leg of the Sires Stakes, but Tennessee Tom missed the start due to injury.

Trainer Ron Burke says everything seems to be okay with Tennessee Tom. "He is ready to go."

One to watch: Royal Precedent has only beaten Tennessee Tom once in five head-to-head meetings. That came in the first leg of the 2023 Ohio Sires Stakes. In the four losses, the Jodi Schillaci trainee had finished second three times; two of those finishes were this year. With Tennessee Tom out of this year's first leg of the Sires Stakes, Royal Precedent went gate-to-wire to capture the win.

**Photos:** Conrad Photo

### REPEAT DIVISIONAL WINNERS SINCE 2000

Filly Pace		Filly Trot		Colt Pace		Colt Trot	
<b>2022-23</b>	McSeaside	<b>2022-23</b>	Rose Run Yolanda	<b>2020-21</b>	Charlie May	<b>2019-20</b>	Action Uncle
<b>2021-22</b>	Sea Silk	<b>2021-22</b>	Gabbys C Note	<b>2012-13</b>	Feelin Lika Winner	<b>2018-19</b>	Lane Of Stone
<b>2018-19</b>	Queen Of The Pride	<b>2018-19</b>	Only Take Cash	<b>2009-10</b>	Trick Man	<b>2013-14</b>	Rompaway Galaxy
<b>2008-09</b>	Best Of Ball	<b>2012-13</b>	Contessa Leigh	<b>2006-07</b>	KF St Patrick		
<b>2006-07</b>	Osborne's Gypsy	<b>2009-10</b>	Jesse's Messenger	<b>2001-02</b>	Noble Cam		
<b>2005-06</b>	Van Anna	<b>2008-09</b>	Rose Run Keepsake				
<b>2002-03</b>	CC Spice						
<b>2001-02</b>	Sand Squaw						

# Seaside Diva & Clever Cody S

Two of Ohio's defending two-year-old champions opened defense of their titles in the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes and did not disappoint. Seaside Diva, the Ohio Two-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year, and Clever Cody, the Ohio Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year both set new lifetime marks in winning efforts.



Three-Year-Old Filly Pacer Seaside Diva, Ohio Sires Stakes leg 1 winner

Seaside Diva opened the year by winning the James Hackett Memorial at Miami Valley in April. On Derby Day at Miami Valley, she made it three wins in three starts, as she won the \$100,000 lone division for sophomore filly pacers.

Off the gate, Bath Bomb and Trevor Smith raced to the lead from the eight-hole with an opening :26.1 first quarter.

Seaside Diva, the 2-5 favorite with Chris Page was not content to sit back and grabbed the lead heading to the half.

Around the final turn, the Downbytheseaside filly opened a length and a half lead but could not shake pocket sitter Bath Bomb.

As the two charged to the finish line, Bath Bomb closed the gap but ran out of racetrack as Seaside Diva held on to win by a nose in 1:51.

Katies Up finished third.

Seaside Diva is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscelli, Knox Services, and Let It Ride Stables.



Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer Clever Cody, Ohio Sires Stakes leg 1 winner  
Clever Cody turned in a dominating performance to win his season debut in the first of two \$65,000 divisions for three-year-old colt and gelding pacers.

Clever Cody with Aaron Merriman grabbed the lead with a :26.1 opening quarter and never looked back, cruising to victory in 1:50.1.

Heading up the backstretch, Downbythedanceclub tried to pull next to the even-money favorite, but Clever Cody shook off the challenger.

The Panderosa colt widened the lead heading home and easily won by three lengths for trainer Dr. Ian Moore.

The heavyweightway finished second with Hundred Dollar Man third.

Clever Cody is owned by the Clever Cody Stable.



Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer Rose Run Zane, Ohio Sires Stakes leg 1 winner

In the second \$65,000 division, Rose Run Zane with Austin Hanners went to the lead off the gate but gave way to Howaboutayankee and Tyler Smith at the quarter pole. Rose Run Zane quickly retook the lead and that is where the son of Racing Hill stayed the rest of the way.

The 1-9 favorite cruised to an easy two-length victory in a new lifetime mark of 1:50.4.

Howaboutayankee finished second with Racing Rebel third.

Dan Venier trains Rose Run Zane for owners John and Leann Saunders.



# Shine in Ohio Sires Stakes



Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter Jurassic Hattie, Ohio Sires Stakes leg 1 winner

Jurassic Hattie followed up her Hackett Memorial win with an easy win in the \$100,000 filly trot.

Brett Miller raced the Volstead filly to the lead with a :27-second first quarter and never looked back.

The Eric Nesselroad trainee was challenged heading up the backstretch. Butter N Syrup pulled alongside the leader's wheel but that was the closest anyone would get. Jurassic Hattie opened up to easily win by six lengths in 1:54, tying the filly's lifetime mark.

Iam Independent finished second with Butter N Syrup third.

Jurassic Hattie is owned by Jerry Welch.

In the lone \$100,000 division for the sophomore colt and gelding trotters, Royal Precedent and Trace Tetrack faced a major challenge but made favorites 5-5 in Sires Stakes action.

Tetrack took the Creatine gelding to the lead off the gate with a :27.1 opening quarter.



Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter Royal Precedent, Ohio Sires Stakes leg 1 winner

Royal Precedent controlled the tempo through the half but faced challenges up the backstretch and around the final turn.

E-Pass challenged the leader first, but Royal Precedent was able to shake free. Around the final turn, it was Spaaaanzano taking a shot at the lead going three-wide.

The two battled down the stretch with Royal Precedent holding on to win by a neck in 1:54.1, a new lifetime mark.

Smooth Talkin finished third.

Royal Precedent is trained by Jodi Schillaci and owned by the Claude Gendreau Stable.

The second leg of the Sires Stakes for three-year-olds is scheduled for June. The colt pacers are scheduled for June 1 at MGM Northfield Park. Northfield Park will host the colt trotters on June 8. Eldorado Scioto Downs will host the fillies with the filly trotters on June 14 and the filly pacers on June 22.

Photos: Brad Conrad



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# BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES ACTION UNDERWAY

The opening leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series for three-year-olds saw a total of 21 divisions with colt and gelding pacers and trotters leading the way, each with six divisions. There were five divisions for filly pacers and four for filly trotters.

The fillies opened the action May 1st at Miami Valley Gaming where favorites reigned supreme as winners of all four divisions of trotters and three of the pacing divisions.

## TWO-YEAR-OLD TROTTING FILLIES



Sugar Instead with Brett Miller was the fastest Three-Year-Old Trotting Filly **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Sugar Instead, the 2023 Ohio Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year, made her season debut this year in the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series. The daughter of Volstead was an easy winner. Brett Miller sat the filly mid-pack before making her move around the final turn, opening up to win by four lengths in 1:55.4, the fastest time of the trotting divisions. Sugar Instead was making her first start of the year for trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. and owners Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills.

Also making her 2024 debut was Justasiam AS, the Buckeye Stallion Series 2023 two-year-old filly trotting champion. Tony Hall rallied the Lionhunter filly around the final turn, taking the lead late in the stretch to win in 1:58.1. Justasiam AS is trained by Anette Lorentzon and owned by ACL Stuteri AB.

In the opening BSS race of the year, Estesio with Chris Lems grabbed the lead heading to three-quarters and cruised to an easy win in 1:56. It was the second win in three starts for the Dalton Walls trainee. Estesio, the Creatine filly is owned by Walls, Bruce Soulsby, and Alan Weisenberg.

The other division went to Maxine's Hill. Trevor Smith swung Maxine's Hill three-wide at the top of the stretch and grabbed the lead mid-stretch on the way to a two-length win in 1:57. Trained by Chris Beaver, the daughter of What The Hill won for the first time in 2024. She is owned by Beaver, Donald Robinson, VIP Internet Stable, and Mark Schwartz.

## TWO-YEAR-OLD PACING FILLIES



Flyin Bullets with Brett Miller was the fastest Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Flyin Bullets with Brett Miller kicked off the season for the sophomore pacing fillies. The Downbytheseaside filly went gate-to-wire to win by two lengths in 1:52.1, the fastest of the five divisions. It was the first start of the year for Flyin Bullets. Clair Umholtz trains her for Umholtz & Kennedy Racing.

In the second division, Illegal with Kayne Kauffman sped off the gate and never looked back winning by two lengths in 1:52.4. The daughter of Western Vintage was making her season debut for trainer Mike Polhamus who co-owns with Kevin McQuinn.

The first non-favorite to win came in the third division when Lady Bridgerton with Jeremy Smith, went three-wide coming off the last turn and turned on the jets to blow by the leaders, winning by two lengths in 1:52.4. It was the first start of the year for the Brian Georges trainee. Kent Walker, Travis Kelley, Benjamin Jamison, and Curt Carey own the Bit Of A Legend N filly.

Fearless Ginger with Tyler Smith went gate to wire to win the fourth division in 1:54. The daughter of Fear The Dragon fought off a late charge from Rock Ur Wings to win for the first time in three starts. Tim Lane trains and owns Fearless Ginger.

The final division of the first leg went to Muddinup and Jeremy Smith. Smith popped the pocket and went three-wide around the final turn, rallying down the stretch to win by two lengths for trainer John Ackley in 1:53.2. It was the first win in three starts for the Bit Of A Legend N filly who is owned by CT Stables and Thomas Cave.

### THREE-YEAR-OLD TROTTING COLTS



Beaueastel with Peter Wrenn was the fastest Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt **Photo:** Conrad Photo

The following day, the colts and geldings were in first leg action. Sons of What The Hill won three of the six divisions.

What A Dandy and Sam Widger broke his maiden when he charged down the stretch, splitting horses to win the first division by a length in 1:56.4. The son of What The Hill is trained by Jim Arledge Jr. and owned by Jude Jacobs, Paul Phillips, Greg Buckey, and William Buckey.

In the second division, Beaueastel and Peter Wrenn took the pocket trip and reeled in the leader, No Nap Nash, down the stretch to win by a length in 1:54.3. It was the first start of the season for the What The Hill gelding who is trained by Melanie Wrenn and owned by Wrenn Racing.

Sup, the 5-2 favorite, with Kurt Sugg fought off a challenge from Rankin up the backstretch and pulled away to win the third division by three lengths in 1:56.2. It was the second win in six starts for the son of What The Hill. Matthew Burkholder trains and co-owns Sup with Samuel Weaver.

The fourth division went to Chipstead and Chris Lems. Chipstead sat fourth around the final turn and went three wide down the stretch catching Swan Hilluva Rush at the wire, winning by a neck in 1:57.4. It was the first win in eight starts this year for the son of Volstead. Chipstead is trained and owned by Scott Cox.

In the fifth division, Tyler Smith and 8-5 favorite You Dont Fool Me were parked for the second half of the mile but grabbed the lead at the top of the stretch and held on to win by a length in 1:57. It was the first win of the year for Dont Fool Me. Rosy Weaver trains and co-owns the Long Tom gelding with Heartland Acres.

In the final division, Tom Swiftly showed why he was the 3-5 favorite. Dan Noble raced the son of Long Tom up the backstretch to grab the lead and pull away to win by five lengths in 1:56.2 for his first win of the year. Tom Swiftly, trained by Christi Noble, is owned by Sandra Burnett and Norman Rae Racing.

### THREE-YEAR-OLD PACING COLTS



Rock The Hill with Jeremy Smith was the fastest Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt **Photo:** Conrad Photo

There were also six divisions for sophomore pacing colts. Jeremy Smith led the way, winning three of the divisions.

Smith picked up his first win when he raced Rock The Hill off the gate, cruising to an easy six-length victory in 1:51.3, a new lifetime mark. The son of Racing Hill shaved nearly three seconds off his old mark, winning for the first time this year. Jessica Roegner trains and co-owns Rock The Hill with Paul O'Neil.

Smith's second win with the pacers came with Wireless Caller. Smith rallied the Bullville Powerful colt down the stretch to nip the favorite, High On The Hill, at the wire in 1:54. It was the second win of the year for Wireless Caller who is trained by William Miller, II and owned by Trevor Miller.

The third division went to Threemargaritashot and Aaron Merri-man. The Pet Rock gelding stalked the leader, Jonnys Sea Drop, around the final turn and raced down the lane to win by a length in 1:52.1. Trained by Randy Smith and owned by Jessica Smith, it was the first win of the year for Threemargaritashot.

What An Ocean View with Chris Page grabbed the lead in the fourth division at the three-quarter pole and held on to win by a length in 1:53.3. Trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services, RAS Racing, and J&T Siva-Purnell & Libby it was the first win of the year for the Downbytheseaside gelding.

In the fifth division, Side Bar had the lead at the top of the stretch, but Dancin Moon and Smith shot down the passing lane to take command on the way to winning by a length in 1:53.2. Trained by Herman Hagerman it was the first win of the year for the son of Dancin Yankee. Dancin Moon is owned by Hagerman Racing, Charles Reeve, and Melinda Hershberger.

The final division went to Attention Span and Brady Galliers. Attention Span fired from the eighth post position grabbing the lead and never looked back, winning by a length in 1:54.1. It was the first win of the year for the Downbytheseaside gelding. Galliers trains Attention Span for Galliers Racing and David Kryway.



# WE ARE RACING

## 2024 STAKES SCHEDULE

### OHIO SIRES STAKES

#### 2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Northfield Park | Mon. July 15   |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Thurs. July 25 |
| 3. Northfield Park | Wed. Aug. 14   |
| 4. Scioto Downs    | Mon. Sept. 2   |
| 5. Dayton Raceway  | Sat. Sept. 28  |

#### 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Northfield Park | Sun. July 14  |
| 2. Northfield Park | Wed. July 24  |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Thurs. Aug. 8 |
| 4. Scioto Downs    | Mon. Sept. 2  |
| 5. Dayton Raceway  | Sat. Sept. 28 |

#### 2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Scioto Downs    | Sat. July 13  |
| 2. Northfield Park | Sun. July 21  |
| 3. Northfield Park | Sat. Aug. 10  |
| 4. Scioto Downs    | Sat. Sept. 7  |
| 5. Dayton Raceway  | Sat. Sept. 28 |

#### 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Scioto Downs    | Sat. July 13  |
| 2. Northfield Park | Sun. July 21  |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Fri. Aug. 16  |
| 4. Northfield Park | Sun. Sept. 1  |
| 5. Dayton Raceway  | Sat. Sept. 28 |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Sat. May 4   |
| 2. Northfield Park | Sat. June 8  |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Sat. July 6  |
| 4. Northfield Park | Sat. Aug. 10 |
| 5. Scioto Downs    | Sat. Sept. 7 |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Sat. May 4   |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Fri. June 14 |
| 3. Northfield Park | Wed. July 17 |
| 4. Northfield Park | Wed. Aug. 21 |
| 5. Scioto Downs    | Sat. Sept. 7 |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Sat. May 4   |
| 2. Northfield Park | Sat. June 1  |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Sat. July 6  |
| 4. Northfield Park | Sat. Aug. 24 |
| 5. Scioto Downs    | Sat. Sept. 7 |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Sat. May 4   |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Sat. June 22 |
| 3. Northfield Park | Sat. July 27 |
| 4. Northfield Park | Sun. Aug. 18 |
| 5. Scioto Downs    | Sat. Sept. 7 |

### BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES

#### 2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Northfield Park | Wed. July 17   |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Thurs. July 25 |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Thurs. Aug. 15 |
| 4. Northfield Park | Sun. Sept. 8   |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Wed. Sept. 18  |

#### 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Scioto Downs    | Tues. July 16  |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Tues. July 23  |
| 3. Urbana Fair     | Tues. Aug. 6   |
| 4. Northfield Park | Tues. Sept. 3  |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Tues. Sept. 17 |

#### 2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Scioto Downs    | Fri. July 12    |
| 2. Northfield Park | Mon. July 22    |
| 3. Urbana Fair     | Tues. Aug. 6    |
| 4. Northfield Park | Wed. Sept. 4    |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Thurs. Sept. 19 |

#### 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Northfield Park | Mon. July 15  |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Fri. July 26  |
| 3. Northfield Park | Wed. Aug. 14  |
| 4. Scioto Downs    | Fri. Sept. 6  |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Mon. Sept. 16 |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Thurs. May 2  |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Fri. June 14  |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Thurs. July 4 |
| 4. Northfield Park | Sun. Aug. 11  |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Sun. Sept. 15 |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Wed. May 1     |
| 2. Northfield Park | Wed. June 12   |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Thurs. July 18 |
| 4. Northfield Park | Sun. Aug. 25   |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Sun. Sept. 15  |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Thurs. May 2  |
| 2. Northfield Park | Sat. June 8   |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Thurs. July 4 |
| 4. Scioto Downs    | Fri. Aug. 30  |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Mon. Sept. 16 |

#### 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Miami Valley    | Wed. May 1    |
| 2. Scioto Downs    | Fri. June 21  |
| 3. Scioto Downs    | Fri. July 26  |
| 4. Northfield Park | Mon. Aug. 19  |
| 5. Delaware Fair   | Wed. Sept. 18 |

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# SMITH, CARTER CLAIM MIAMI VALLEY TITLES



Jeremy Smith captured his first Miami Valley Gaming driving title  
**Photo:** Conrad Photo

Jeremy Smith smashed the earning record at Miami Valley Gaming as he claimed the 2024 driving title. Smith started 970 races, winning 181 while earning \$2,497,149. Smith is the first driver to exceed the \$2 million mark.

“It means a lot to win the title at Miami Valley since drivers come from everywhere for the meet,” said Smith. It’s the second driving title in a row for Smith as he won the title at Dayton to close out 2023. He says the key has been his health. “I believe it is because I have been healthy. Hopefully, I can stay healthy.” Smith says he will need a lot of luck and a lot of good horses to win the title at Eldorado Scioto Downs to give him three in a row.

Brett Miller finished second in the standings with 146 wins in 1,035 starts, the most starts by any driver this year. It is the third time in four years that Miller has been the runner-up.

Third place in the standings went to 2023 champion Trace Tetrick. Tetrick won 127 races in 872 starts.

“It means a lot to win the title at Miami Valley since drivers come from everywhere for the meet.”  
— Jeremy Smith



Steve Carter was the top trainer at Miami Valley with 59 wins  
**Photo:** Conrad Photo

Steve Carter claimed his first ever training title. Carter won 59 races in 334 starts with earnings of \$854,255. Carter’s 334 starts were the most by any trainer this year at Miami Valley Gaming. “It was a good four months,” said Carter. “We had some good horses that fit the classes and it was a lot of hard work.”

Behind Carter in second was Tessa Perrin. Perrin finished the meet with 45 winners. She led all trainers with at least 50 starts with a .364 UDRS.

Jason Brewer finished third in the standings, just one win behind Perrin.

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# Next Generation Fields Filling

With two of the three deadlines past, two of the four Next Generation races for Ohio-sired two-year-olds are guaranteed of having a full nine-horse field. The colt pace and filly trot have filled while the other two divisions, the colt trot and filly pace, each have eight entries.

The colt pace was oversubscribed and a lottery drawing was held to see which entries secured their spot.

Two entities, Mark Weaver and The Stable.ca, have entries in all four events.

Three of the four entries for Johnny Stant are guaranteed. The Stant entry in the colt pace was not drawn in the lottery. The other three entries not successful in the lottery were those of Cory Deyermant, Daniel Hale, and Hutchison Harness.

The new nominating structure allowed spots to be purchased by April 15th for \$8,000. If spots were still available, the next deadline was May 15th with a \$10,000 price tag. The last possible date to nominate is June 15th. The fee increases to \$12,000.

If fewer than ten spots are purchased within any of the individual deadlines, all purchasers from that nomination period are guaranteed a spot and are not subject to a lottery draw. Within any deadline period, if the total number of spots purchased exceeds nine, spots purchased within that time period are subject to the lottery draw. Once nine spots have been purchased by any of the given deadlines, the event will close.

The Next Generation is scheduled for Saturday, July 6th.

**Photos:** Brad Conrad



Midwind Beach Boy 2023 Colt Pacing Champion



Spaaaanzano 2023 Colt Trotting Champion



Magestic Seas 2023 Filly Pacing Champion



Jurassic Hattie 2023 Filly Trotting Champion

## NEXT GENERATION PAST WINNERS

COLT PACE	COLT TROT	FILLY PACE	FILLY TROT
DARK HORSE FARM	CHAD FOULK	CHAD FOULK	BRET ATER
DENNIS OWENS	CHRIS BEAVER	HUTCHISON HARNESS	CHRIS BEAVER
DEREK WATIKER	DAVID WILLS	JEFF FOUGHT	DARK HORSE FARM
GREG LUTHER	JOHNNY STANT	JOHNNY STANT	DEREK WATIKER
JEFF FOUGHT RACING	MARK WEAVER	MARK WEAVER	JOHNNY STANT
MARK WEAVER	ROSY WEAVER	ODDS ON RACING	MARK WEAVER
ODDS ON RACING	THE STABLE.CA	STEVE PRICE	RONNIE GILLESPIE
THE STABLE.CA	WILLIAM DONOVAN	THE STABLE.CA	ROSY WEAVER
THOMAS CERASO			THE STABLE.CA

# TRACK NOTES



Carbine wins the 2024 Pacey Mindlin "Pace Baby Pace"  
**Photo:** Conrad Photo

Austin Hanners took Carbine off the gate and never looked back, winning the 2nd annual Pacey Mindlin "Pace Baby Pace" at Miami Valley Raceway. Carbine raced out a blistering :25.4 first quarter. As the field hit the half-mile mark in :53.4, about five lengths covered the entire field. Around the final turn, Carbine increased his lead and cruised to victory in 1:49.1.

It was the seventh win in 13 starts for the son of Somebeachsomewhere. Carbine is trained by Virgil Moran Jr. and has earned \$157,895 for Odds On Racing this year.



Rose Run Zane **Photo:** Conrad Photo

The race is in honor of handicapper Pacey Mindlin who passed away in 2023.

Rose Run Zane is riding a five-race winning streak. The streak started at Miami Valley Raceway and includes wins in the James K. Hackett Memorial Finals and the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes. Rose Run Zane is trained by Dan Venier.

Dover In Motion saw his eight-race win streak come to an end. Dover In Motion won the last four starts of 2023 and then the first four this year at Miami Valley. After a nearly three-month layoff, Dover In Motion made his return at Hoosier Park on May 4, finishing second in the Open.

Pat Melloy Jr. passed the \$5 million mark for purse earnings as a trainer. Melloy reached the milestone on April 30th when Advertisedaswell finished third at Miami Valley Gaming.

MGM Northfield Park Assistant Race Secretary Michael Carter was elected President of the United States Harness Writers Association. Carter had served as the organization's Vice President last year. Carter started working at Northfield Park in 2015.



Pat Melloy Jr. **Photo:** Conrad Photo

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# SCIOTO PLANS NEW PADDOCK



Eldorado Scioto Downs is breaking ground for a new 16-race paddock. The new building is scheduled to be completed for the 2025 racing meet. Scioto Downs Director of Racing, Jason Roth, says a new paddock is something the facility needs. “The barns are 60-year-olds. The paddock is not quite that old, but it will be nice having everyone in one central location to ship into.”

Most of the funds for the new paddock will come from American Electric Power. Roth says it was a long process to finalize an agreement with AEP. The company committed to supplying power to a new Google facility north of the racetrack. In January of 2023, AEP approached the track with an access dilemma they were facing. Roth said AEP had several options to get power to the site but ultimately decided on working with Eldorado Scioto Downs owner/operator, Ceasars Entertainment. The power company already had a 50-foot right-of-way on the back of the Scioto Downs property that didn’t include the land where many of the horse barns are currently located. “They needed a 150-foot right-of-way corridor, so we played cat and mouse with them,” said Roth. “We told them we didn’t need to do this and didn’t need to tear down our barns. That’s when we finally reached an agreement.” The wider right-of-way involves seven barns that will need to be razed once racing is completed in September.

Roth says three locations were considered for the new paddock: the employee parking lot at the north end of the track, the center of the backstretch, and the area between the clubhouse and the current paddock. Because future development plans at the property were unknown, the top of the stretch location was eliminated. Roth says the backstretch location was the most economical and the design would allow the horses to exit from the middle of the paddock. He says they ultimately chose the location between the clubhouse and the current paddock. “The layout is not exactly what we wanted, but it is convenient for the horsemen to walk over to the front side.”

The new building is longer than a football field, stretching 461 feet. It will include stalls for 16 ten-horse fields, bath stalls, race offices, men’s and women’s locker rooms, and a snack and lounge area. “We tried to make the new paddock horsemen- and horse-friendly,” said Roth. “We learned from what other tracks did with their features and designs, then made it our own.” He said stall gates, hose bibs to spray out the paddock, and having the races in a single line were some of the ideas they collected.

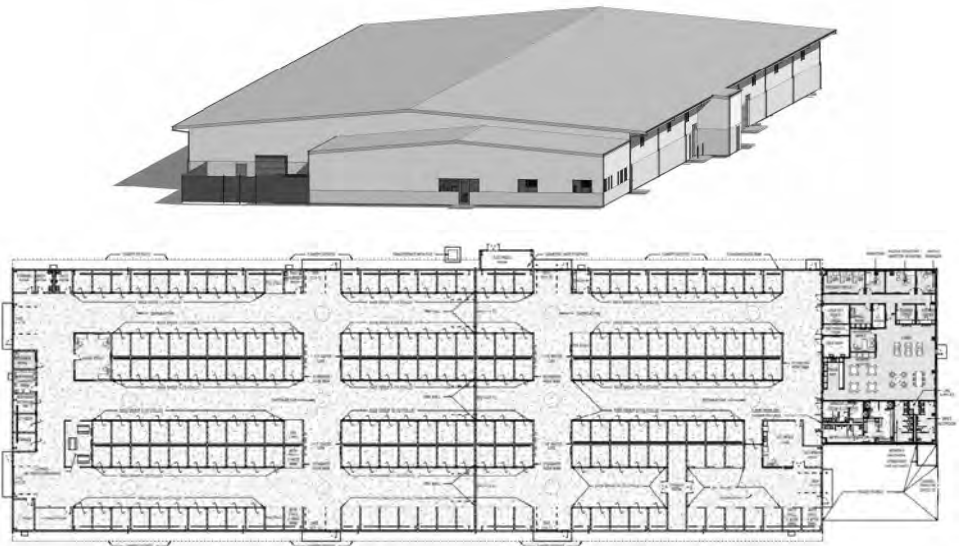
The current paddock will remain and will continue to be used for qualifiers, but the project calls for the demolition of the two

old dormitories behind the current paddock. That area will be paved for truck and trailer parking.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association has committed to assisting the project over the next five years. OHHA President Scott Mogan says the new paddock will be a key component to bringing the Breeders Crown to Ohio. “I have talked to John Campbell [of the Hambletonian Society, which owns and administers the Breeders Crown.] They would like to bring it here in 2026. That is why this project is so important.”

He praised Ceasars for their commitment to racing. “I don’t know of any other gaming company that has bought into these tracks and has spent money like Ceasars has done here.”

Roth agrees that the new paddock is a main part of getting the Breeders Crown. “We want to put on a good show for the Breeders Crown and Ohio.” Roth says there are still many hurdles and more capital improvements that need to be made before getting the Breeders Crown at Scioto Downs. He says those improvements include new LED lighting, a new video board for the infield, and continuing to spruce up the clubhouse.



# Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON



It is hard to imagine that a third of 2024 has passed. We are approaching the busiest time of the year as the Ohio Sires Stakes and Buckeye Stallion Series have started and racing at the county fairs will soon begin.

The recently concluded Miami Valley season had records galore. Driver Jeremy Smith had 181 wins and set a record for purse earnings with \$2.5 million.

As the calendar turns to May, Ohio drivers continue to dominate the standings nationwide for wins and earnings. Joining Smith in the Top Ten were Aaron Merriman, Ronnie Wrenn Jr., Brett Miller, Trace Tetrack, Chris Page, and Tyler Smith.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association has again started our Freshman Focus Features with Ohio trainers and their 2-year-old Ohio-breds. Early broadcasts featured trainers Virgil Morgan Jr., Todd Luther, Tim Lane, Ron Steck, Jessica McCown, and Rosy Weaver. The broadcast is on the OHHA Facebook page every Thursday at 7 PM.

No other state has as big a county fair racing program as Ohio. The OHHA will again this year livestream racing from the fairs beginning with Paulding, June 10-11 and concluding at Lancaster October 9-10.

When I began my county fair career in 1960, I announced five county fairs: Lebanon, Urbana, Hamilton, London, and Marietta. That first year I called a total of 89 races at those fairs.

Times have changed.

Most of the races at the county fairs in the 50s and 60s were conditioned and stake races with up to 12 in some events. Yes, that's two tiers of six on a half-mile track. The times were in the 2:05-2:15 range. The first 2:00 mile at a county fair track other than Delaware was at Greenville in 1973 with Jay Time and Gene Riegler.

The purses were about \$500 or a bit higher. The overnights were for low-money earners, invitationals, and maiden or 2-year-olds NW \$200 Lifetime Trot or Pace.

I remember that type of race because it was my audition call for Pompano Park in 1967.

I was at the Greene County Fair in Xenia and had spoken with Richard Wilson, the General Manager at Pompano, and William Van Buren, the Treasurer of Castleton, just before the race. When the race started, they were seated in the front row of the grandstand.

The race was typical of that class as eleven of the twelve broke stride and the winner stayed flat in a speedy 2:17. I looked for Wilson and Van Buren as soon as the race was over, and they had left the grandstand.

Three days later I received a telegram saying the job was mine for the 67-68 racing season.

Those were also the days of drivers wearing silk hats since they didn't need to wear helmets. There were no wheel discs, no pop-out ear plugs, and no pylons. Wagering was available only at a few venues.

Despite some large fields with trailers at the start, the number of accidents was minimal. The racing in most cases was very exciting and the packed grandstands showed the excitement of the fans.

To say the least times have changed over the years but one thing remains. Ohio is #1 for county fair racing.

**Be There!**

# 20 questions with Jessica Milner



## **Were your parents involved in harness racing?**

Yes, they were in it since they were teenagers. I was born and raised in harness racing.

## **What is your first remembrance of harness racing?**

I remember growing up at Pompano. We lived there for the first ten years of my life. We used to have miniature horses that we raced and the kids were allowed to help take care of them.

## **What do you remember about your first training win?**

It was at Buffalo Raceway with a horse named Seeyall Later.

## **How did you feel when you got your first training win?**

I was so excited! There's nothing that beats that except maybe a driving win and that's not for me. The training one was good.

## **What is the size of your stable?**

I currently have 19, but I like to keep it around 21.

## **Do you have a preference--pacers or trotters?**

No preference. Right now, I have only one trotter, but I would like to have more than that; that is how it is right now.

## **Your stable is mainly a racing stable. Have you dealt with many two- and three-year-olds?**

Early on when I first started training and I was taking over for my Dad, we did have babies. The year my son was born, we had the three-year-old trotting colt of the year, Wegoferdaprize, and we had him since he was a yearling. But as time went on, I weaned out the babies. I don't have time with the kids to be shipping everywhere. I do have a couple of three-year-olds, but they are not Ohio-breds.

## **How do you choose who will drive for your stable?**

There are a couple of guys that I mainly go to since I mainly race at

Northfield. I go to Kurt Sugg and Billy Davis. Those are usually my top choices. It usually trickles down from there. I tried to see who fits best with the horse.

## **Is there an advantage when you have the same driver?**

There is. They get to know the horse, its quirks, and ins and outs.

## **You have won nearly 900 races as a trainer, is there one big moment that stands out?**

It was probably when Wegoferdaprize won the Sires Stakes finals. I was nine months pregnant with my son. That was the most exciting time of my life.

## **The star of your stable is Bernie, but he is currently out of action. What happened?**

We noticed he was a little sore coming out of his last race. While jogging and training the next couple of days, he just wasn't right. We had the vet look at him and he has a small tear in his suspensory. The horse has a big heart, and he is not too hard on himself; so, I hope with a little bit of time he will be OK. He's been my little ATM machine.

## **Is there something you want to do in racing that you haven't accomplished yet?**

I would love to have a grand circuit horse. Bernie was close; he was getting there. I would like a horse to race in all the big races.

## **How did you meet your husband, Dennis?**

I was working for my Mom and Dad in Hamburg, New York. He came to Buffalo and eventually took over a stable. That is how we met.

## **How many children do you have and are they showing any interest in the horses?**

I have two children: my daughter, Aria, is five and my son, Deacon, is seven. They love being around the horses and giving them treats.

## **You have a young family; how do you handle their lives and a racing stable at the same time?**

It is very chaotic. We have a very good team behind us. Everyone who works for me, my husband, my in-laws, my mother, and everyone who can be there helps watch the kids and be there for the kids. We do what we can. The kids come before everything else.

## **As a family what is your favorite vacation spot?**

The kids and my favorite vacation spot is Disney. My husband not so much. He's a trooper. We try to go to Walt Disney World a couple of times a year.

## **What's your favorite sport?**

Football. I'm a Miami Dolphins fan.

## **What is your favorite TV Show?**

Law and Order SVU. I like all the crime shows.

## **Do you have a favorite restaurant?**

Olive Garden. Pasta is my favorite food.

## **What would you like to do that you have never had a chance to do?**

I don't know. I wouldn't bungee jump, I'm afraid of heights.

*Photo credit: Raymond Lance*

# Don't Bet Against



Rosy Weaver is not one to change the name of a horse after purchasing it at a sale. But she made an exception with a What The Hill colt.

Heartland Acres and Weaver purchased My Beachy Side at the Lexington Select Sale for \$30,000 last year. What happened to the colt made Weaver realize he needed a new name. "He's got quite the story and shouldn't be here today," said Weaver. His story explains why the colt is trying to live up to his new name, Beat The Odds.

Dr. Curt Honecker of Valley View Animal Hospital was at Weaver's training center to geld six of her colts. Weaver said Honecker has been gelding her horses for about 20 years. "My Beachy Side was one of the first of the bunch," said Weaver. "Everything went fine, he was up looking around, and about an hour later he was lying down. When I saw that, I knew it wasn't good, and that we had a problem." Luckily, Honecker was still at the farm. Weaver says she called for him, and he came running over. The colt was experiencing evisceration, a rare and life-threatening complication where the intestine protrudes through the incision.

Because of the location of Weaver's farm and the severity of the situation, there was not enough time to get the horse to a clinic. It was decided that something had to be done immediately to save the horse's life. Weaver and Joe Yoder, her second trainer, tried to move My Beachy Side to the other end of the barn where Honecker could perform the surgery. "The horse was in so much pain, he was wobbling," said Weaver. "We got him to the stall, and he collapsed. I thought he was dying. I was in a panic and Curt told me I had to get it together because I had to help him," said Weaver. Honecker created a second incision and, with Weaver assisting, pulled the intestines back into the body cavity. "It was really ugly, a lot was hanging out," said Weaver.

Honecker told Weaver he did all he could but didn't know if the horse would get up. Weaver said they waited and watched, anxiously. In less than an hour, the horse was

# Beat The Odds

By Frank Fraas



back standing and that's how he remained for two weeks. "I didn't sleep for three days; I was checking on him every two hours. Every time I came in, I was afraid to open the door. I was sure he wouldn't be standing. I knew if he wasn't standing, he would die because he couldn't get up."

Weaver is amazed at Honecker's efforts. "I can't say enough about Curt. What he did was amazing. There is no reason for Beat The Odds to be standing today. I don't know how many times the doctor stopped in the following week to check on the horse and give him medication."

While My Beachy Side was on the mend, Weaver said she forged a connection with the horse "When he finally would lay down, I would lay down with him. I can't say anything negative about the horse because he didn't lay down for two weeks, he didn't miss a meal, he never pinned an ear." Weaver said the horse had a will and a determination to not give up, "He never pouted. If he would have felt sorry for himself, he would have been dead. That's the reason I changed his name. I think he 'beat the odds'."

Beating the odds to live is one thing, but beating the odds to become a racehorse is something else.

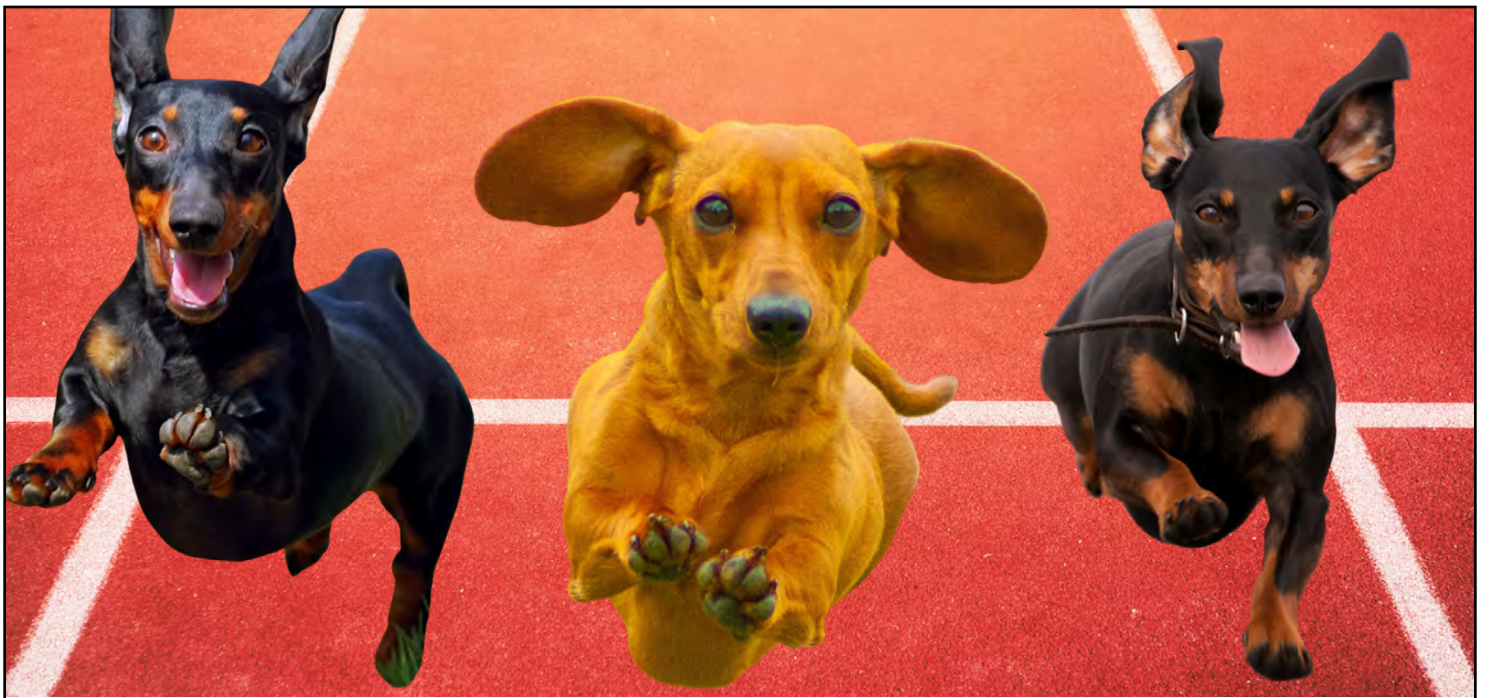
The road back was a long one for Beat The Odds. During his recovery, Weaver said the horse spiked a fever at least five times. She says the horse's caretaker, Miriam Swartzentruber, had the toughest

job. "She did a great job of keeping him clean. She took him to the bath stall every day and cared for his open wounds." Once he was able, Weaver walked Beat The Odds every day. "He was sore from the second incision and really stiff." When the time came, Weaver said she was scared to hook him the first time. "I could tell he was getting better, but I was afraid if he started trotting something would happen again." During the first two weeks of training, Weaver said when Beat The Odds jogged, it was more like a hop. "I asked if it was okay to jog him, and Curt said he'll never get better if he doesn't."

Weaver and her horses winter in Aiken, South Carolina. She knew the horse was getting better but planned to take her time with Beat The Odds and ease him back into training. "I figured it would take all year for him to come back fully." Beat The Odds had other thoughts. "He wouldn't let me take my time," said Weaver. "He wanted to go and there was no reason not to let him." The horse didn't miss a meal, put on weight, and got his muscle back. By mid-February he was training with Weaver's other two-year-olds. "Everything went better than I ever dreamt it could," said Weaver.

She thinks Beat The Odds will be a good racehorse because he has the will to live. "He's a champ. I'll never find another horse with his attitude. If he stays sound and things go half-decent, I know he'll do whatever he can on the track. What that will be, I don't know. I think he'll be one hell of a racehorse."





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# Welcome our

## MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR Hank LeVan



Hank LeVan was elected to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Board of Directors in January to represent drivers and trainers.

Hank LeVan is a third-generation horseman. His family has owned horses since the 1960s. His involvement didn't begin until he was half-way through college. "I grew up around the horses but wasn't involved. I started helping at the fairs and one thing led to another and here we are," said LeVan.

LeVan is highly educated. He received his undergraduate degree from Western Illinois University in Animal Science, before earning a master's degree from The Ohio State University in Agricultural Education with a focus in youth development and leadership.

In Junior College, LeVan began judging livestock. He carried that experience to OSU where he taught for four years and coached the livestock judging team.

When Covid hit in 2020, LeVan had the opportunity to work with horses full-time. He says the leadership skills he received in school have gone a long way. "When you have as many horses as we have and you are trying to grow, you have to make sound business decisions," says LeVan.

But it's the advice from his grandfather Herb and father Louis that ring loudly.

"My grandfather worked hard and treated people with respect. He said, 'If you do what you enjoy, you'll never work,'" said LeVan.

Louis LeVan's advice to his son was to do the right thing and if you continue to do the right thing, sooner or later, good things will happen.

There are times during the fair season when you will see the familiar burgundy color and script "L" of the LeVan family on the track. LeVan says when he, his father, and his brother Harrison are on the track it can be competitive. "We all want to see each other do well, it's not cutthroat."

LeVan and his wife Megan will celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary in June. They have two children, Perry and Scarlet, and another on the way.

### What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?

We are racing for more money than I think we could have dreams of, so we are in a great spot from that standpoint. We need to continue to promote and open ourselves up to the public from a jobs and careers standpoint. There are horses selling every day and they are demanding high prices. In my opinion, it's not going to be a horse shortage that ruins everything, but a help shortage.

The industry needs to present itself as a united front. There are so many differing opinions, and the group effort needs to be focused on the longevity and sustainability of harness racing and what we have today.

### What can be done to get more people interested in jobs in the harness racing industry?

We need to continue to focus on the younger generation, and market and advertise the industry to make it look appealing. There are a lot of young kids that are in college because mom and dad said they had to get a degree. Many have family farms that they are going back to after college. They may be able to offer a twist to the family farm when they go home.

### How do you feel about joining the Board of Directors?

I think it is important that the little guy has a voice. I don't want to be a little guy forever, but that is where my roots will always be. I think it is important to have representation from all facets of what we do. Being younger, I can offer a different point of view. I'm educated, I drive, I train, and I own horses, so I have a different perspective. I also wanted to give back to the industry that has been good to our family.

### What is your favorite harness racing memory?

Anytime that my dad gets to drive and win a race. I'm his biggest fan.

### What is on your harness racing bucket list?

To win races, be successful, and continue to keep growing.

### What is your favorite Ohio Fair?

I like Delaware; we have done well there. I like racing at Urbana and Marysville. Montpelier is like my home away from home. It is not close, but I always look forward to going there.

# *new directors!* .....

## **MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR** Charlie Myrick



Charlie Myrick was elected to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Board of Directors in January to represent owners in District 1.

Harness racing has been a family affair for the Myrick family. Growing up in Florida, Myrick's father, Dave, trained horses and raced at Pompano Park. During the summer, the Myrick stable moved to Delaware, Ohio. "Florida was home, but when we became involved with Ohio-breds we would come north to race," said Myrick.

While Delaware was the summer home, during his college years, Myrick called Columbus home as he attended The Ohio State University. A member of the Buckeye football team, Myrick had plans to attend veterinary school. "I went to school to be a vet, but I wasn't smart enough to get into vet school, so I gravitated to the horses," joked Myrick.

Myrick recorded his first training win in 1994. Since then, he has won over 500 races as a trainer.

In addition to training, Myrick does a little driving mainly at the county fairs. "I like getting the young horses going," he states.

Myrick has cut back on driving at the pari-mutuel tracks. "The drivers are now younger and have better reflexes. Some owners want you to put the best person down to drive. I have no problem with that. These guys do it night in and night out."

Myrick stables at the Stark County Fairgrounds in Canton and currently has 17 horses in his stable. His operation remains a family affair. His father owns some of the horses he trains.

"He's been really good. If I call him to ask him something, he says, 'You're there. Do whatever you want to do.'" Myrick says his father will shoot him ideas and they talk about different things. "For the most part, he lets me do what I want to do."

Myrick's wife Mary also helps as she has moved from the classroom to the barn. A retired teacher, she helps with the horses full-time. "I would never have guessed when we first met that she would be doing this, but she is out here jogging and training. It's worked out pretty well," said Myrick.

Away from the track, Myrick says playing golf and hanging out at the lake are at the top of the list.

### **What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?**

In most of the states that have casinos, it is doing well. Unfortunately, I grew up in a place that is no longer in business--Pompano Park. There are a lot of things that I think need to change. You go to the racetracks and there is not much of a crowd. Whether we can bring that back, I don't know. Hopefully, we can.

### **What are some things that can be done to improve the sport?**

You have to try and get the younger people to the track. The older folks that are bettors are here. We need to try to create excitement at the track. Hopefully, our product will be enough to get them here, but apparently, right now, it is not. It is hard to bring someone to the track and only see two or three races in an hour. Maybe speed it up to make it more exciting for the younger people to come out otherwise they will use their entertainment dollars somewhere else.

### **How do you feel about joining the Board of Directors?**

I have been around the horses for a long time, I'm getting a little older so I thought I would try to become more active and see if I can help make a difference. There are a lot of smart people on the board trying to improve racing in Ohio and we need to keep things moving in the right direction.

### **What is your favorite harness racing memory?**

It might be winning my first race as a driver. It was a Delaware matinee; I was 14 or 15 years old. You will never forget that.

### **What is on your harness racing bucket list?**

It would be nice to win a Sires Stakes Final and win a Hambletonian. Whether that will ever happen, I don't know.

### **What is your favorite Ohio Fair?**

I could say Coshocton because it is the last county fair of the year for us and we know the season is over, but it is so hard because there are so many. Maybe Delaware. It's always nice to win at Delaware.

# Miracles Do Happen and Dreams Do Come True!

By Dot Morgan



Fan Anna in her adoptive home at age 18



New Vocations trainer Amanada Munson with TJ Leasure as he prepares to take Van Anna home.

Many old-timers will remember Fan Anna as the 1994 Ohio Two-Year-Old Filly Pacing Champion. The striking chestnut daughter of Falcon Almahurst was bred, trained, and driven by Dave Rankin; she had eight wins at two and earnings of \$143,000. That was a ton of money back then! Jim Coffman and Martha Handschumaker acquired Fan Anna as a broodmare in 2000; she raised eight foals but none were as successful as their dam. Fan Anna miscarried in the spring of 2010 and it was decided to retire her from breeding and send her to New Vocations.

“Even at 18, she was an absolutely gorgeous mare with so much class and presence,” said Executive Director Dot Morgan. “She transitioned easily to riding and we found her a home that loved and appreciated her.”

Fast forward 14 years. Former Two Year Old Ohio Triple Crown-winning pacer Van Anna has concluded her broodmare

career and arrived at New Vocations from Abby Stables to transition to the next chapter in her life. She is Fan Anna's illustrious granddaughter.

Van Anna was welcomed by the charity's trainer Amanada Munson who just happened to be corresponding with Ohio Standardbred and Friends' leader Debbie Schiff about some of the retired broodmares that had been adopted through New Vocations. Amanada had sent Debbie a colorful collage of the mares. At the very bottom there was a name but no photo; that name was Van Anna.

Debbie immediately recognized the name as her son, TJ Leasure's, favorite horse when he was grooming at the track many years ago. She asked if Van Anna had been adopted and Amanada said, “She is here right now!” Debbie called her son and asked, “Do you want another horse?” “Not really,” TJ said. “Then mom told me she'd found Van Anna, and there was absolutely no question in my mind. I had to have her!”

The backstory was fascinating. “I took care of Van Anna as a two and three-year-old,” said TJ. “I was working for Danny Collins at the time, and she was owned by Bob Kaufman and driven by Chip Noble. After one of her wins, I told Chip ‘You drive her and she will be undefeated.’ Chip told me, ‘Have her ready for the State Fair, \$100,000 OSS Final and Delaware, and she will win the Triple Crown!’ So, I did – and she won them all!” Not only was Van Anna Ohio Two-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year, but she earned that honor at three along with winning the prestigious Courageous Lady Pace.

After Van Anna crushed the Open Mares at Northfield, Collins told TJ, “that she was too impressive.” “I didn’t know what he meant,” said TJ, “but I found out two days later when I learned that Van Anna was leaving for Yonkers. I was heartbroken, and it was a really hard goodbye when I loaded her on the trailer.”

Unfortunately, Van Anna didn’t race very well at Yonkers. After a few disappointing finishes, TJ received a letter from Kauffman with a check for \$3,000 that said, “Your care sure did show; Anna hasn’t raced well since leaving you.” “At the time,” TJ continues, “I thought

I was a great groom. But later, after taking care of many other horses, I found out that Van Anna was just THAT good! She took care of herself and made me look good.”

Not long after, with 2005 and 2006 Ohio Champion titles and earnings of \$274,431, Van Anna returned to Ohio and retired to the broodmare ranks. TJ moved on to other things, as well. He did visit her once at Abby Stables, and said, “I know she remembered me.”

Then TJ shares, “Eight years ago we started New Hope Stables in Stoutsville, Ohio, for the love of the horses – especially the Standardbreds. I never dreamed that one day I would see Van Anna out in our field! Throughout these past 18 years, I have kept her win blankets, win photos, trophies, and stall plaque. Now I have her! How did that happen? What are the chances of a late-night conversation turning into me getting to bring Van Anna home? God truly had His hand in this!”

Fan Anna and her granddaughter Van Anna certainly made a lot of dreams come true during their distinguished careers and each continued(s) to do so long after their racing days.



Fan Anna’s granddaughter Van Anna is adopted by her former caregiver, TJ Leasure 18 years after she left his care.



# OHHA SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will again be offering scholarship opportunities to OHHA members and their families.

The scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and/or students enrolled in degree or certificate programs. Graduate students are not eligible unless they are enrolled in a harness racing-specific graduate or professional level program, details of which are to be provided in conjunction with their application.

Scholarships will be awarded on academic merit. Financial need may be considered. These one-year awards must be used towards

the costs and expenses directly related to coursework and a degree being pursued at a college or university.

Applications and requirements are available on the OHHA website. Completed applications are due June 15, 2024.

The 2024 OHHA Scholarship recipients and the recipient of this year's John "Red" Shaw Memorial Scholarship will be announced in August 2024.



## 96th Annual FFA Ohio Convention

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association attended the annual FFA state convention in May. The event typically attract more than 9,000 attendees over its two-day span.



# Thank You to Our 2024 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

## OHHA Pacesetters as of 5/24/24

Mark Adams	Randy & Teresa Leopard
Rod Allums Jr.	Charles & Megan LeVan
Ernie Ayers	LeVan Stables
Stephen Bateson	Anette Lorentzon
Robert Baurys	Greg Luther
Andrew Beachy	Todd & Toni Dale
Marion Beachy	Hollar Luther
Donald Bean	Timothy Maier
Christopher Beaver	Joe McLead
Lucinda Belcher	Mel Rose Stable
Adam Bowden	John R & Hallie
Robert Brooks	Melsheimer
Doyle & Mary Jo Bross	John W Melsheimer
Jim Buchy	Shawn Melsheimer
Roy Burns	Ben Miller
Steve Bush	Dean Miller
Clem Lee Stables Inc.	Edward Miller
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Billy Davis, Jr	Joe Nesselroad
John DeLong	Daniel & Christi Noble
Luke Ebersole	Dana Parham
Jeff & Senena Esty	Ayers & Heidi Ratliff Jr
Keith Gisser	Ayers Ratliff Sr
Kevin Greenfield	Ross Rice
Kathy Grose	Pamela Riedeman
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Nathan Kapele	Eli Weaver
John & Bonnie Konesky	Mark Winters
Timothy & Corrine Lane	Kevin Wulff
Milton Leeman	Atlee Yoder
Derek Lehman	Kenneth Young

## 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.

### OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Mark Bradley • Mickey Burke Sr.  
Gerald Latessa Sr. • Alan Leavitt



## Regularly Scheduled OSRC Meeting Recap Tuesday, February 20, 2024 *By Renée Mancino*

*The meeting was held at the Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio. Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person.*

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the Tuesday, January 16, 2024, minutes were offered for ratification. There was discussion regarding the directive on conduct towards racing officials issued after a Miami Valley Gaming horseman threatened a Track Veterinarian. The Track Veterinarian was confronted by a horseman after his horse was scratched out of the post-parade and placed on the 14-day vet's list. Executive Director Chris Dragone reiterated the zero-tolerance policy on profanity, hostility, or threatening conduct directed at racing officials. The Racing Commission will not tolerate non-professional behavior and horsemen will be fined and suspended as needed to curtail any conduct that isn't in the best interests of racing. Racing officials are in short supply and horsemen that cannot be professional are adding to the difficulties in retaining qualified officials. If we do not have qualified officials to race, racing will be cancelled. Executive Director Chris Dragone lauded the efforts being made by Elizabeth Rogers in dealing with the strangles outbreak at Mahoning Valley. All items were ratified and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Agenda Item Issue 5, Resolution 2024-03 Adopting ARCI Guidelines for Foreign Substances and Recommended Penalties Model Rule. Deputy Director Tanya Boulmetis discussed the decision from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals case (Robert Boggs v. Ohio State Racing Commission). Mr. Boggs was successful on appeal because Ohio Adm. Code 3769-18-01(A)(2) requires the commission establish a system of classification of prohibited substances by order, but there was no evidence the commission promulgated a rule or issued an order regarding boldione.

Due to that court's directive it is necessary to pass by Resolution the use of the Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances and Recommended Penalties Model Rule published by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI). Racing Commission may use them as Guidelines when adjudicating facts and opinions related to a medication and testing infractions.

Commissioner Beth Hansen further discussed potential passage as a precursor to discussions related to the medication and testing committee's work on differences between Ohio's regulation and the ARCI Model Rule. It was noted in the Resolution that any Ohio State Racing Commission Regulatory Thresholds adopted supersede any conflicting ARCI Guidelines. After discussion Resolution 2024-2 was unanimously approved by the Racing Commission.

Update on Senate Bill 9 Rule regulatory restriction reduction status. Deputy Director Tanya Boulmetis outlined they have complied with the 10% threshold required for 2024 and have received a letter of compliance from the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. The Commission is on-target for the requirements set in Senate Bill 9 with the next deadline date being 2025.

The 2024 final Standardbred Development Commission's Ohio Sires Stakes 2, 3-year-old, and Aged Stakes racing rules, schedule, budget, and other related items were provided to the Racing Commission for ratification. The Standardbred Development Commission item submissions from meetings held October 25, 2023, and January 13, 2024, were reviewed and unanimously ratified by the Racing Commission.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To February 20, 2024, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes two thoroughbreds in January and February and no standardbred catastrophic losses. The 2024 thoroughbred catastrophic losses to date are four (three racing and one training) and no standardbred fatalities. In discussing the thoroughbred fatality totals Chairman Scott Borgemenke asked Dr. Robertson about the reduction from 2022 on standardbreds. Dr. Robertson commented that both thoroughbred and standardbred catastrophic losses dropped and acknowledged good practices.

Monthly financial Report by Fiscal Officer Sherry White reported stagnating revenue with year-over-year falling 95% behind where they were last year. Fiscal Year gaming revenue has plateaued and is trending slightly below the average. Tax revenues remain down. Expenses are down with lower volumes on testing costs due to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) testing on thoroughbreds but significantly more difficult and expensive for harness racing testing and the cost on veterinarians. Standardbred racing testing costs increased 6% for blood and urine testing with a price increase of \$133 for a blood test, which was a 138% increase from \$56 in 2023. The increases cost \$129,000 year-over-year for January and over \$200,000 for the fiscal year since signature on the new contract by the Racing Commission. When pressed about year-end revenue projections Ms. White opined the fiscal year ending equal to the prior year or slightly down.

Chairman Scott Borgemenke asked John Oberle with Ice Miller to discuss the legislative history on the casino commission. Mr. Oberle represented the history with two casino operator proponents supporting the inclusion (Jack and Penn Gaming), so it didn't appear self-serving while pursuing the casino gaming constitutional referendum. The intent was for the casino commission not to benefit an owner-operator. Mr. Oberle opined that we do not have owner-operators on many properties with the Real Estate Investment Trust's ownership at multiple property locations. Mr. Oberle said former Racing Commission Chairman Zano at the time asked if the Racing Commission had any authority to take any portion of the Casino Commission for Racing Commission operations. Chairman Scott Borgemenke discussed the commission reaching out for discussion over the next thirty to sixty-days. It is anticipated they will increase the Racing Commission's operational share to 10%, noted as being deducted off the top of the revenue being distributed. The effective date anticipated for the change would be with the second quarter distribution July 2024.

Safety Committee Chairman Gregg Simpson reported the safety committee had no report.

Standardbred Committee Chairman Commissioner Thomas Winters discussed concern over an article published in *Harnessracingupdate*, Takter Fighting to Remove the Stain from Manchego's Record, by Dave Briggs. World Record holding standardbred trotter Manchego had an infraction ruling by the Ohio State Racing Commission overturned by the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Manchego's post-race sample contained the common human therapeutic medication categorized as a class 3, gabapentin. The sample was quantified at 263 pg./ml when tested September 27, 2019, by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's lab. The Judges issued a \$500 fine, 15-day suspension, and \$25,000 purse redistribution. October 30, 2019, after outside consultation and recommendation, former Executive Director Bill Crawford sent an e-mail to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's testing lab to set a screening limit at 8,000 pg./ml for gabapentin, he instructed the lab that tests under 8,000 pg./ml weren't to be reported back as an infraction, that was an environmental contaminant. Manchego's split sample test came back November 21, 2019, remaining well under the adopted screening limit. The Racing Commission upheld the judge's original ruling at hearing January 18, 2023, for disqualification. The Common Pleas Court held that the test was negative for gabapentin under Racing Commission rules as-of October 30, 2019, and it must be treated as such reversing the Racing Commission's January 18, 2023, and judges' original decision. Trainer Nancy Takter stated in the article that the Hall of Fame would not consider Manchego for

inclusion with the blemish on her record, and she would continue to fight to have the record rescinded. Commissioner Winters wanted to discuss the issue as a new business item and the potential for expungement in a future Racing Commission meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is March 19, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center 77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the

Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

## Regularly Scheduled OSRC Meeting Recap Tuesday, March 19, 2024 By Renée Mancino

*The meeting was held at the Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio. Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person.*

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the Tuesday, February 20, 2024, minutes were offered for ratification. All items were represented as being normal and customary. All items were ratified and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Agenda Item Issue 5, 2024 Live Meet Requests for Scioto Downs, Thistledown, and Belterra Park. All three submitted requests to, (1) Waive their surety bond for the 2024 race meet, (2) Approve listed officials, (3) Approve the number of races and wagering format, (4) Approve post times, (5) Approve their simulcasting schedule, and (6) Approve their letters to the Fire Marshall. There were questions raised regarding the difficulty of hiring officials. There was discussion regarding Drs. Hagemeyer and Wrenn covering Belterra Park with the Scioto Downs officials also being finalized. Compliments were given to Thistledown on taking in horses from Mahoning Valley related to the strangles and EHV cases that were relocated there to quarantine. After discussion the Racing Commission unanimously approved all three live meet racing applications.

Update on Senate Bill 9 Rule regulatory restriction reduction status. Deputy Director Tanya Boulmetis outlined they have complied with the 20% threshold required for 2024 and are at 27%. For the 2025 deadline they are on track to meet the next threshold.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes four thoroughbreds in March and no standardbred catastrophic losses. The 2024 thoroughbred catastrophic losses to date are nine (six racing and three training). It was noted one thoroughbred that had to be euthanized

was not counted because the horse didn't fit the definition after the horse was pulled up uninjured. The horse ultimately tested positive for Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM, the neurologic disease) and was euthanized. There are no year-to-date standardbred fatalities. Dr. Robertson discussed differences between the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act's (HISA) treatment and the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) policies regarding strangles and Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) or Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). Strangles is formally streptococcus equi bacteria that infects lymph nodes causing abscesses with little morbidity. EHV is a common DNA virus with EHM being the associated neurologic disease. The ODA doesn't require reporting on strangles with management on premises and 14-day tentative quarantine of the horse. With EHV or EHM the ODA requires the highly contagious disease be reported by law and places a premises under quarantine for 21 days. HISA has a 21-day quarantine for both strangles and EHV or EHM. In the strangles and EHV positive cases at Mahoning Valley it was noted that the release date from quarantine is March 21st for EHV and March 28th for strangles if no additional positive tests are reported before that date. Mahoning Valley remains under a general quarantine with horses tested upon entering the grounds at the horsemen's gate.

Monthly financial Report Fiscal Officer Sherry White was not in attendance, Chairman Scott Borgemenke reported stagnating revenue with year-over-year revenue down \$92,000. The Chairman noted there need to be discussions related to being properly funded to properly regulate. By comparison the Lottery Commission had the equivalent of the entire OSRC staff in attendance at the legislative Gaming Commission Study Committee hearings that day. He also noted jurisdiction over county fairs and county fair racing with revenue, excepting out Delaware County's pari-mutuel wagering revenue, as not being enough to regulate the county fair system properly. The money needs to come from somewhere.

In the matter of Jared Seekman in selling or transferring Bit Of Luck and Unlikeanyother within thirty-days of claim which necessitated scratching both horses on November 2, 2023 at Dayton Raceway. The judges levied a \$1,000 fine (\$500

each) or \$600 fine (\$300 each) if not appealed. Mr. Seekman appealed. No details were provided relative to the appeals hearing. Mr. Seekman did not appear and had no one in attendance representing him at the meeting. The Racing Commission unanimously upheld the Hearing Officer's decision to uphold the Judge's ruling.

In the matter of Edward Zubkoff for Falsification of License Application because he failed to list his prior arrest record and USTA ruling violations on his OSRC license application. Mr. Zubkoff was issued a probationary license in 2022. Mr. Zubkoff received a subsequent conditional license in 2023. After a Judges hearing September 9, 2023, Mr. Zubkoff was suspended by the Judges from September 14, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for failing to disclose and violation on the probationary license having received a positive test. Mr. Zubkoff appealed. Appearing on behalf of Mr. Zubkoff was attorney Alison Boggs. Attorney Boggs represented mandatory dismissal as proper because the Racing Commission had not set his appeal hearing within 15 days as required by the rules. The same Hearing Officer in Mr. Zubkoff's matter had historical precedence for dismissal in three other unrelated cases, 2021-52, 53, and 54 therefore dismissal was proper here. In the alternative Attorney Boggs set forth Mr. Zubkoff had disclosed the prior arrest and USTA ruling violations in the 2022 license application as proof that he disclosed and the OSRC had the information. Attorney Boggs further pointed out that in addition to Mr. Zubkoff's disclosure in 2022, the OSRC in the normal course of a licensee's investigation obtains a full and complete background check for all applicants seeking licensure every year and keeps them on file. Attorney Boggs represented not knowing that occurred automatically, but that provides added evidence that the information of Mr. Zubkoff's prior arrest was in their possession. Attorney Boggs requested rescission of the infraction in its entirety. Discussion was related to the requirement that an applicant must disclose ALL items regardless of prior disclosure in previous years. The Racing Commission unanimously affirmed on the first issue stating Mr. Zubkoff didn't have "unclean hands" on failing to disclose and overruled rescission on the fifteen-day time limit to set the hearing. In overruling dismissal for failure to set the appeals hearing within fifteen days they said Mr. Zubkoff's case could be

distinguished from the unrelated 2021-52, 53, and 54 cases that had been dismissed.

Medication and Testing Committee Chairman Commissioner Beth Hansen discussed review of the Association of Racing Commissioner's International Model Rules and Standards with Dr. Robertson after the February Racing Commission monthly meeting, adoption of Resolution 2024-03, and ARCI Guidelines. The discussion examined differences between Ohio's Regulatory Thresholds list effective September 1, 2022, and ARCI Guidelines. No specifics related to the

comparison were provided. The examination and discussion process would continue with Commissioner Hansen and Dr. Robertson meeting with the Racing Commission staff after the Racing Commission's meeting concludes.

Safety Committee Chairman Gregg Simpson reported that he had been present at Miami Valley Gaming and provided compliments on smooth operations this meet.

Standardbred Committee Chairman Commissioner Thomas Winters had no report.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is April 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center 77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the

Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

## Regularly Scheduled OSRC Meeting Recap Tuesday, April 16, 2024 By Renée Mancino

*The meeting was held at the Riffe Center, Columbus, Ohio. Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person.*

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Christopher Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the Tuesday, March 19, 2024, minutes were offered for ratification. All items were represented as being normal and customary. Jack Thistledown simulcast approvals were discussed, which the HBPA had received Friday and turned around with requested rate changes from NYRA. Expectation was approval would be by Wednesday with optimal approval four days prior to the live start date. Difficulties with finding a state veterinarian were also noted at Thistledown. HISA has advised them they will supply a veterinarian Monday if there isn't one available. Belterra Park and Thistledown meets transitioning from Hollywood Mahoning Valley after the three-month strangles outbreak. Both facilities are requiring negative PCR swab tests for all incoming horses to the racetracks. Executive Director Christopher Dragone outlined a difference among breeds because all thoroughbred racetracks have backstretch locations versus standardbred ship-in facilities except MGM Northfield and forecast a Directive to be released soon regarding testing. All items were ratified and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Agenda Item Issue 4, 2024 OHHA Reappointment Request for Brad Wallace as Horsemen's Healthcare and Retirement Trustee. This item was removed from the Agenda by the Chairman due to one Commissioner Thomas Winter's requests for the audit when the 990's were supplied. Consideration and approval of Resolution 2024-04, the 1st Quarter Casino Commission distributing the Casino Tax of \$2,565,541.55. \$487,452.89 was distributed to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Ohio Standardbred Development Fund. \$192,415.62 each to Eldorado Scioto Downs and Miami Valley Gaming for support of commercial operations at non-Ohio casino interest owned properties. \$128,277.08 to the Ohio State Racing Commission for support of commercial operations. \$93,401.28 to Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley purse pool, \$85,466.71

to Belterra Park purse pool, \$90,567.50 to JACK Thistledown purse pool, \$50,000 to Belterra Park purse pool for Quarter Horse Racing. \$136,134.64 to Miami Valley Gaming and Racing purse pool, \$350,254.81 to MGM Northfield Purse Pool, \$158,804.85 to Eldorado Scioto purse pool, and \$112,897.67 to Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway purse pool. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified Resolution 2024-04.

Update on Senate Bill 9 Rule regulatory restriction reduction status. Deputy Director Tanya Boulmetis outlined they have complied with the 2024 threshold and will begin 5-year rule reviews.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes no thoroughbred or standardbred losses in March. The 2024 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses are six (four racing and two training). There are no year-to-date standardbred catastrophic losses. Monthly financial Report. Fiscal Officer Sherry White provided the financial recap, revenue year-over-year was down \$12,000. Expenses were up led by payroll at \$102,000 with revenue down primarily due to a fine money loss of \$13,000 from thoroughbred fine money not received and an increase in medication and testing costs for standardbred testing so far of \$96,000. Comments included passing the actual costs on testing for one test per race to the horsemen, which will issue in a future directive. Chairman Scott Borgemenke again noted there need to be discussions related to being properly funded to properly regulate because they run very lean. They have cut what they can cut and are at an "unsafe level of regulation". Contributing factors were a continuing loss of 20% year-over-year in live pari-mutuel tax.

Medication and Testing Committee Chairman Commissioner Beth Hansen discussed reviewing the Association of Racing Commissioner's International Model Rules and Standards with Dr. Robertson and staff after the March Racing Commission monthly meeting. No specifics related to the comparison were provided. The examination and discussion process would continue with a review next week on penalties and drug classes. Safety Committee Chairman Gregg Simpson reported that he had been present at various live racetracks during races and provided compliments on smooth operations for all locations visited.

Standardbred Committee Chairman Commissioner Thomas Winters had no report.

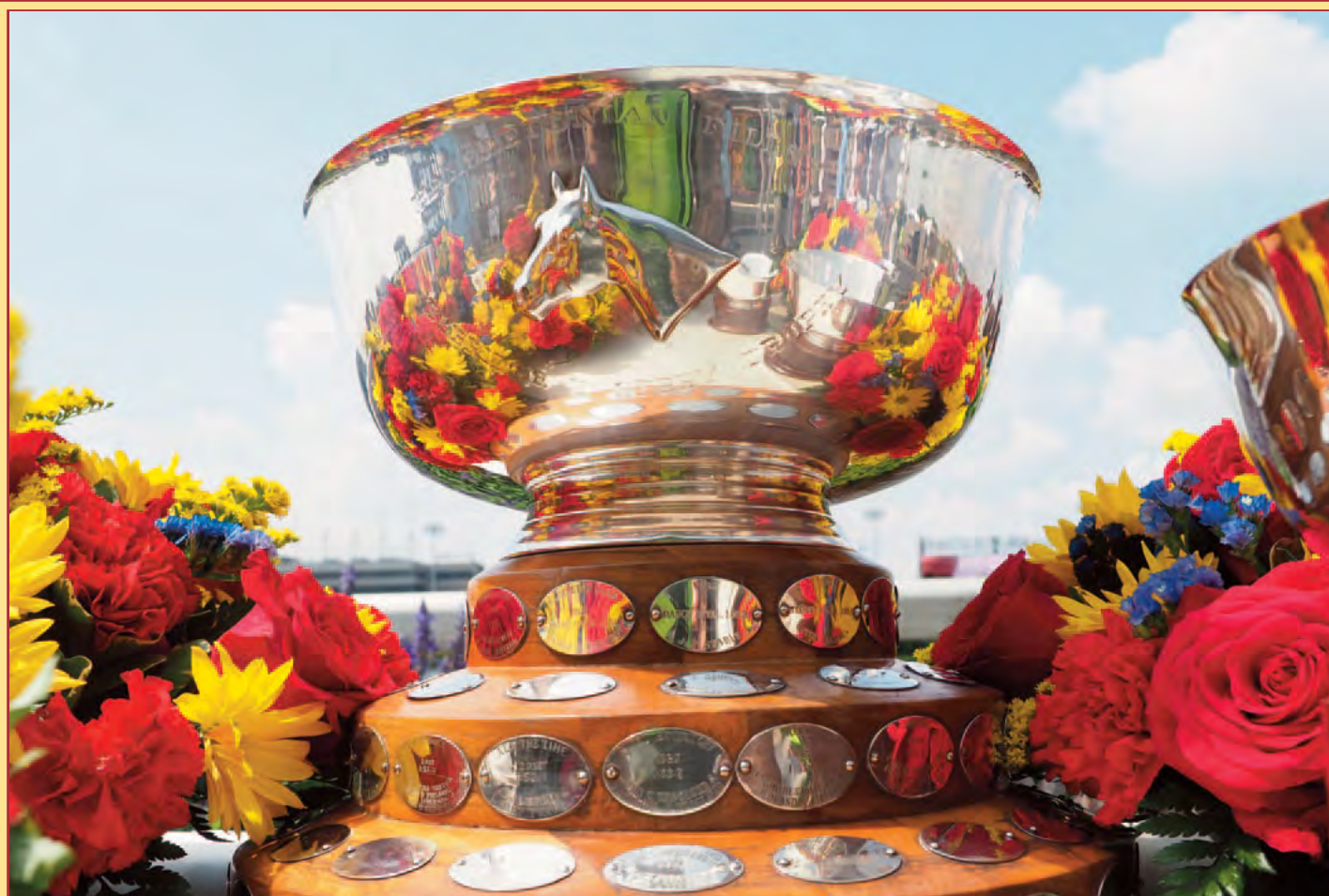
In public comment Chuck Treat and Jim Bratt with a Quarter Horse Association requested additional monies from the Casino Commission without an increase in their allocated share to fund two live racing days. They represented receipt of \$35,000 from the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association in addition to the \$50,000 they receive from the quarterly Casino Commission. They said that was enough to card five races, which Belterra Park hosts. Comment from Ashley Holliday, Racing Manager from Belterra Park was the ability to card two races in 2023 with one race filling, which was cancelled due to the heat index. In filling one race the difficulty is with uncoupled interest horses and handle not being commensurate with a full field. Mr. Treat and Mr. Bratt requested enough money from the Casino Commission to card five live races over two days.

There was no need for an executive session, and the meeting was adjourned.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is May 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center 77 South High Street, 19th Floor, Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

### OHHA BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will conduct its third-quarter board meeting on July 25, 2024 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. The meeting will take place in the Three Diamonds room. The general board meeting will begin at 11:00 AM. **RSVP by calling the OHHA office at 614-221-3650**



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**Saturday, July 13**

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\$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks  
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