

THE BUCKEYE Harness Horseman

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The Official Publication of the
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

'A Huge Blessing'

Big Ranger beats the odds
to be named Ohio's
2025 Horse of the Year





Volstead

**Cantab Hall - Madame Volo - Yankee Glide
T, 1:51.3 (\$729,716)**

From three small crops of racing age, Volstead has sired the winners of more than \$3.2 million with seven \$100,000 winners and seven in 1:55 or faster, led by Ohio Sires Stakes Champions

Sugar Instead T, 4, 1:52.2f (\$1,015,951)

Jurassic Hattie T, 4, 1:50.4f (\$665,994)

We are looking forward to seeing his first big crop of 2-year-olds race in 2026, as Volstead bred a full book of 140 mares in 2023, 2024 and 2025!

2026 FEE: \$7,500



Slay

**Chapter Seven - Swinging Royalty - RC Royalty
T, 2, 1:52.4; 3, 1:51 (\$738,941)**

Slay's dam has produced four \$200,000+ winners, including Slay's full siblings **Ahundreddollarbill T, 4, 1:50.2 (\$972,356); Royal Filly T, 3, 1:52s (\$246,209), & Royal Mission T, 3, 1:54.s (\$472,022)**, who sold for \$390,000 at the 2023 Harrisburg Sale.

Slay's 3/4 sister, **Swinging Loyalty**, sold for \$760,000 at the 2024 Harrisburg Sale; & **Swingingchandelier**, sold for \$375,000 as a yearling at the 2025 Harrisburg Sale.

Slay bred 120 mares in each of his first two seasons at stud.

His first foals are yearlings in 2026!

2026 FEE: \$5,000



Coach K Hanover

**Walner - Chezatter - Explosive Matter
T, 2, 1:54.4f (\$160,712)**

Coach K Hanover was a hard-knocking competitor, and in his final start at the Meadowlands, despite making a break at the half, finished second in the \$413,600 Valley Victory Trot. An injury prevented him from returning to the racetrack as a 3-year-old.

Coach K Hanover's first foals are 2-year-olds in 2026!

2026 FEE: \$4,000

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**April 16, 2026 – OHHA 2nd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting
General Session Meeting, 11 a.m., Eldorado Scioto Downs, Three Diamonds Room**

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‘A Huge Blessing’

Big Ranger Beats the Odds to be Named **Ohio’s 2025 Horse of the Year** By Wes Mayberry



Big Ranger, the 2025 Ohio Horse of the Year and 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year, wins the Next Generation at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 5, 2025.

When Big Ranger won the 2025 Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championship to complete the Ohio Triple Crown, Ronnie Gillespie told everyone that the horse had beaten the odds.

“I say Big Ranger beat the odds because there was so much tragedy going on with me, and he had some things going on with him, and he still did what he did,” he said.

“So much tragedy” is an understatement to the losses Gillespie experienced as he began training and driving Big Ranger. But through it all, Gillespie persevered. The horse, meanwhile, delivered a dream season for his connections — seven starts, seven wins, an Ohio Triple Crown title, and earnings of \$370,610. With such impressive stats, it was perhaps no surprise that he was named Ohio’s 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year.

“I thought he had a pretty good shot at being the 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year based on the season that he had,” said Anthony Miller.

Miller, the corresponding officer for Big Ranger ownership group Madison Global, was much less certain about his horse’s chances of being named Ohio Horse of the Year. But the son of In Range out of Big Blue Bird joined 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year Jailhouse Pearl and 3-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year Sippinonsearoc as a finalist for the top honor.

“I thought he might be in the mix, but to see him as a finalist was pretty amazing and unreal to me,” Miller said.

After the finalists were announced at the awards banquet, Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association Board President Scott Mogan opened the envelope containing the name of the night’s big winner and made the announcement...Big Ranger. Surprise? Not to Gillespie.

“They were all nervous, but I wasn’t,” Gillespie said, referencing the horse’s other connections during his acceptance speech. “The horse overcame a lot. He’s a tough horse.”

Big Ranger wasn’t the only one whose grit and determination led to that prestigious honor, however. Earlier that evening, Gillespie shared just how much he had overcome to be on that stage.

Tragedy & Triumph

Looking back on the 2025 season, Madison Global’s Wes Beachy knows none of it would have been possible without Gillespie.

“I can’t say enough to show my gratitude for Ronnie and everything he did and how he handled the whole season,” he said. “Everything that he’s been through, he’s just been a cornerstone for us. If we needed anything, he always had thoughtful answers. He did a phenomenal job.”



OHHA President Scott Mogan (right) and connections of 2025 Ohio Horse of the Year Big Ranger



Big Ranger wins the Ohio State Fair Stakes at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 31, 2025.

In accepting Big Ranger's 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year award, Gillespie displayed raw emotion as he reflected on his personal journey. Before explaining to the crowd why he continues to say Big Ranger beat the odds, though, the Mississippi native set the mood with a little humor.

"I drove 12 hours in the rain to get here, so be patient with me," he said.

Gillespie then told of how he lost his son to gun violence in 2020 and his daughter to a

blood clot just two years later. It was around that time that he was driving Sugar Instead, who went on to be named the Ohio Horse of the Year in 2024 and has over \$1 million in career earnings.

"People were saying that Sugar Instead was a once-in-a-lifetime horse and that I wouldn't come across another horse that good," Gillespie said. "I said, 'Well, I must not be a good trainer then because there's another one coming.'"

BIG RANGER

2025 Ohio Horse of the Year
2025 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year

IN RANGE - BIG BLUE BIRD - TACTICAL LANDING

1:53.4F

\$370,610

Owner: Madison Global (Dundee, OH)

Breeder: Spring Haven Farm (Utica, OH)

Trainer: Ronnie Gillespie

Caretaker: Dylan Hosier

That confidence proved prescient. But tragedy struck yet again before he was able to truly devote his attention to Big Ranger. On Jan. 20, 2025, Gillespie's brother passed away.

"That was a big blow because we were very close," he said.

While still grieving, Gillespie got to work training Big Ranger. He was not impressed at first.



Connections of 2025 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year and Ohio Triple Crown winner Big Ranger

“He was a lazy horse, and I didn’t think much of him,” he said.

But it wasn’t long before he started to see Big Ranger’s true potential as a racehorse. A few months later, just as things were looking up for the colt, Gillispie received even more tragic news — his 19-year-old nephew, the son of his deceased brother, was killed in a four-wheeler accident.

With tragedy impacting so many loved ones in such a short time frame, it would have been understandable if Gillispie had wanted to press pause on his professional duties. But he saw something special in Big Ranger and was excited for the horse’s freshman season. That excitement was well placed, as the colt won his first purse start, taking the Next Generation at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 5 in a stakes and track record 1:54. He went on to win three legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes as well as the Ohio State Fair Stakes, Ohio Breeders Championship, and OSS Scarlet Championship to finish as the only horse to capture the Ohio Triple Crown in 2025. His season-best mark of 1:53.4 came in the Scarlet Championship at

Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway on Sept. 27, setting a track record.

It wasn’t always smooth sailing, though, as Big Ranger was scratched from the second leg of the OSS on July 23 due to an abscess. He pushed through the adversity thanks to his calm, tough demeanor.

“Even if he wasn’t a hundred percent, it didn’t seem to bother him on the track,” Miller said.

That trademark toughness was evident at an early age, according to Senena Esty, of breeder Spring Haven Farm.

“I knew he was a special colt when he was about 3-and-a-half months old and one of the broodmares kicked him into the water tank,” she said. “We saw it from our living room window and ran out and rescued him from drowning.”

From surviving that early scare to being named the 2025 Ohio Horse of the Year, Big Ranger has certainly proven to be a special horse. Even weeks after the awards banquet, his owners were still in shock at all their good fortune.

“I’m really honored,” Miller said. “I never thought I would have a shot at having a Horse of the Year, so it was kind of a shock to me.”

Beachy agreed.

“It was amazing to be a part of it,” he said. “It was very surreal, especially with this being my first year of being involved in having horses on the track. I honestly felt quite undeserving.”

Madison Global purchased Big Ranger for \$25,000 at the Ohio Selected Jug Sale in 2024 and have since been making memories that will last a lifetime. Both Miller and Beachy pointed to the Ohio Breeders Championship and the OSS Scarlet Championship as standout moments from 2025 and are grateful for everything they’ve experienced thus far.

“We received so many warm welcomes and congratulations this year, and it’s humbling,” Beachy said. “I’m just extremely thankful to be a part of it, and I hope that we can continue to support and help out this industry.”

As for what Big Ranger’s future holds, Miller is cautiously optimistic.

“You never know how they’re going to come back as 3-year-olds,” he said. “Hopefully he’ll be able to come back strong and lower his record by a couple seconds, but that remains to be seen. I think he definitely has the talent to do it, but we’re still a long way from there. So I guess we’ll find out when we get there.”

No matter what 2026 has in store, Beachy is unequivocal in describing the special impact the colt has already had on his connections.

“He’s a huge blessing,” he said. “He has connected a lot of deserving people.”

Gillispie is perhaps foremost among them.

“I can honestly say I’m the most happy for Ronnie,” Beachy said. “With where Ronnie has his sights set, this is a great horse for him to have in his barn.”

“I’m really honored. I never thought I would have a shot at having a Horse of the Year.”
— Anthony Miller

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Lindy Dragonwater

2025 2-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year By Wes Mayberry



LINDY DRAGONWATER

2025 2-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year

DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - IMAGINE DRAGON - DRAGON AGAIN

1:51.0F

\$301,240

Owners: Burke Racing Stable (Fredericktown, PA), Knox Services (Mt. Vernon, OH), Beasty (Las Vegas, NV), Bradley Grant (Milton, ON)

Breeder: Lindy Farms of Connecticut (Enfield, CT)

Trainer: Ron Burke

Caretaker: Suzanne Turley



OHHA Director John Konesky III (left) and connections of Lindy Dragonwater

The Knox Services ownership group is starting to make a habit of identifying talented 2-year-old colt pacers. Co-owner of 2024's 2-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year in Ohio, the group had yet another of its horses win that award in 2025.

"We won this last year with Sippinonsearoc, and to come back this year and win it with Lindy Dragonwater is fantastic," said Knox Services' Kris Brechler.

In 10 starts in 2025, Lindy Dragonwater recorded five wins and two third-place finishes to go with \$301,240 in earnings. The Downbytheseaside gelding out of Imagine Dragon scored victories in three legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes and the OSS Scarlet Championship while adding a win in the Ohio State Fair Stakes. He posted a lifetime mark of 1:51 in the fourth leg of the OSS at Eldorado

Scioto Downs on Aug. 23 and matched it in a track-record performance at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway in the Scarlet Championship on Sept. 27.

Bred by Lindy Farms of Connecticut and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services, Beasty LLC, and Bradley Grant, Lindy Dragonwater is trained by Ron Burke and was primarily driven by Chris Page. He opened the season with a third-place finish at Scioto Downs before winning all five of his remaining Ohio starts. He also competed in the Kentucky Sire Stakes, International Stallion Stakes, and the Breeders Crown Eliminations.

"You notice certain things when they're racing with how special they are, and he showed that special trait throughout the season. He got better and better with each start and turned out to be our best Ohio colt," Brechler said. "The thanks goes to the Burke Brigade for all the hard work they put in getting the horse ready, and Chris did a really good job teaching him how to race."

Burke was also pleased with the season Lindy Dragonwater had, and he expects big things out of him as a 3-year-old in 2026.

"We really thought he was the top colt all along, and he just got better as the year went," he said. "I think he'll really be a serious horse next year."

Accepting the divisional horse of the year award on behalf of Lindy Dragonwater's connections, Page agreed.

"He did everything you want a good horse to do, and I'm really excited to race him next season," he said.

She'safirewoman

2025 2-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year By Wes Mayberry



SHE'SAFIREWOMAN

2025 2-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year

CATCH THE FIRE - SHESA-SMOKINLADY - MCARDLE

1:51.4F

\$246,576

Owner: Harry Horowitz Estate
(Brooklyn, NY)

Breeder: Harry Horowitz
(Brooklyn, NY)

Trainer: Mark Winters



OHHA Director John Konesky III (left) and connections of She'safirewoman

For trainer Mark Winters, two qualities come to mind when asked about She'safirewoman.

"She's a fast horse, and she's very smart," he said.

Perhaps that's why she was so successful during her freshman season in 2025. The daughter of Catch The Fire out of Shesasmokinlady hit the board in all 10 starts on the year with eight wins and two runner-up finishes to go with \$246,576 in earnings en route to being named Ohio's 2-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year. Driven

primarily by Luke Hanners, She'safirewoman posted victories in all five legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes, recording a lifetime mark of 1:51.4 in the second leg at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 25. She capped the season with a second-place finish in the OSS Scarlet Championship.

"She was a pleasure to drive," Hanners said. "She did everything I asked her to. You can't say anything bad about her."

Winters agreed, crediting the filly for being a talented, versatile racehorse.

"Luke can do what he wants to do with her when he wants to do it," he said. "She has raced a lot on the front, but I don't think she has to. Training down, she was better coming from behind. She liked to chase down other horses versus being in the front."

Her racing talent wasn't immediately evident, however, as Winters said she trained down like a normal horse.

"She always did what I asked her to do but not more," he said.

But, he added, she has been a pleasure to train, and she let her results speak for themselves.

"She'll let you do what you want to do when you want to do it instead of it being her way or no way, which helps a lot," Winters said. "She's not hard to deal with in the barn, and she likes her job."

“She did everything I asked her to. You can't say anything bad about her.”

— Luke Hanners

Setyoursightshigh

2025 2-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year By Wes Mayberry



OHHA Directors Senena Esty and Kevin Greenfield

Setyoursightshigh had a special 2025 season, never finishing worse than second in 11 starts. That consistent success earned her the honor of Ohio 2-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year.

Bred by Kentuckiana Farms, Setyoursightshigh is owned by Heights Stable, Mantorp LLC, AMG Stable, K Kjellgren, and Livs AB Inc. Hickory Lane Horse Farm's Kevin Greenfield spoke for the horse's connections in accepting the award on their behalf.

"They said that this was their first real foray into Ohio, and they really enjoyed it a lot," Greenfield said. "They bought more Ohio yearlings, and they said, 'We're coming back next year.' They hope to be in the Breeders Crown here in Ohio and are looking forward to racing here. They said this was the best filly trotter they've had in their barn, which says quite a lot."

Setyoursightshigh closed the year with seven victories and four runner-up finishes. The In Range filly out of Special Interest won the Next Generation and two legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes en route to taking the OSS Scarlet Championship at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway in a track-record 1:54.1. Trained by Marcus Melander, she recorded a season-best mark of 1:53.1 in the first leg of the Kentucky Championship Series at The Red Mile on July 30 and was

SETYOURSIGHTSHIGH

2025 2-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year

IN RANGE - SPECIAL INTEREST
- CANTAB HALL

1:53.1M

\$678,159

Owners: Heights Stable (Lexington, KY), Mantorp (Greenwich, CT), AMG Stable (Delray Beach, FL), K Kjellgren Livs AB (Bordentown, NJ)

Breeder: Kentuckiana Farms (Lexington, KY)

Trainer: Marcus Melander

the runner-up in the Kentucky Championship Series Final and the Breeders Crown.

Setyoursightshigh finished second in earnings (\$678,159) among all 2-year-old trotters on the season and was also selected as the 2025 Dan Patch Award-winner in the freshman filly trotter division.

Sippinonsearoc

2025 3-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year By Wes Mayberry



SIPPINONSEAROC

2025 3-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year

DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - QUEEN ANN M - BIG BAD JOHN

1:47.3S

\$792,375

Owners: Burke Racing Stable (Fredericktown, PA), Weaver Brusceci (Canonsburg, PA), RAS Racing (Powell, OH), Knox Services (Mt. Vernon, OH)

Breeders: Trent Stohler Stable (Markleville, IN), Alesha Binkley (Lebanon, OH)

Trainer: Ron Burke

Caretaker: Sydney Dicks

How does Kris Brechler describe Sippinonsearoc?

“He’s really special,” Brechler said.

Brechler is part of the Knox Services group that co-owns Sippinonsearoc with Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci, and RAS Racing. The horse gave Knox Services its first Breeders Crown win and surpassed \$1 million in career earnings in what was a standout 2025 season. The son of Downbytheseaside out of Queen Ann M recorded seven wins, two seconds, and three thirds while banking \$792,375 in 15 starts last year. The Breeders Crown victory at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Oct. 25 came in a stakes-record and lifetime-best 1:47.3 as he surged from third place down the final stretch to overtake Dandy Ideal by a neck at the line. Other stand-out wins included the Kentucky Championship Series Final and the fifth leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes.

Bred by Trent Stohler Stable and Alesha Binkley and trained by Ron Burke, Sippinonsearoc produced yet another award-winning season in 2025. Named Ohio’s 2-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year in 2024, he repeated as the divisional winner as a 3-year-old. His freshman season, during which he set a world record for 2-year-olds in 1:48.2 at The Red Mile in Lexington, Kentucky, was phenomenal. But his sophomore campaign was arguably even better.

“I thought he was special last year, and then he came back as a 3-year-old and was fantastic,” Brechler said.

The success came despite some stiff competition from several stablemates, including Harrisburg Heist, Rick Wink, and Swingtown.

“There’s no telling what that horse would’ve done if not for other horses from my own barn,” Burke said. “He’s really a top-notch horse.”

Sippinonsearoc closed 2025 with a lifetime record of 13-4-4 and earnings of \$1,360,375 in 26 starts as he prepared to enter a new career standing stud in Indiana. Reflecting on the horse’s time on the track, Brechler will always remember him fondly.

“He’s the first Breeders Crown win for Knox Services, so he’ll always hold a special spot in our heart,” he said.



OHHA Director John Konesky III (left) and connections of Sippinonsearoc

Lt Loverboy

2025 3-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year By Wes Mayberry



LT LOVERBOY

2025 3-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year

LONG TOM -
FORTHVELOVEOFLINDY -
CANTAB HALL

1:52.1F

\$314,879

Owners: Wayne Mast Jr. (Dundee, OH), Callam Racing (Chagrin Falls, OH)

Breeder: Midland Acres (Bloomington, OH)

Trainer: Daren Harvey

Caretaker: Harvey Stable

The ownership team of Wayne Mast Jr. and Callam Racing have something special in Lt Loverboy. Named Ohio's 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year in 2024, the horse repeated as the divisional winner as a 3-year-old in 2025.

"We've both been in the business for so long, and this is what you dream about," said Walt Callam, of Callam Racing. "Training him down, we weren't sure he was going to be this special, but he's made us a lifetime of memories."

Bred by Midland Acres and trained by Daren Harvey, Lt Loverboy hit the board in all 10 starts with six wins as a freshman. He added five wins, one second, and two thirds with \$314,879 in earnings in 11 starts as a sophomore in 2025. The Long Tom gelding out of Fortheloveofflindy scored a victory in the James K. Hackett Memorial at Miami Valley Raceway on May 3 and capped the season with a win in the Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championship at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway on Sept. 27, equaling the track record of 1:53.2. In between, he added wins in three legs of the OSS, recording a lifetime mark of 1:52.1 in the third leg at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 5.

"It was a great year. There were a lot of ups and downs, but he sure put it together when he had to," Callam said. "He really didn't

train well between races, so we were on pins and needles every race. But all in all, I couldn't be happier."

Mast Jr. agreed.

"He was definitely a pleasure to work with all year," he said. "Daren Harvey did a phenomenal job of having him ready for big races. He's really been a blessing to us, and it's always amazing to have a Horse of the Year. It's a very nice compliment to get at the end of the year."

After being named Colt Trotter of the Year as a 2-year-old, Lt Loverboy faced pressure to match that success as a sophomore, Mast Jr. said. So winning the award again in 2025 was a special feat.

"It's unbelievable to get this award two years in a row," Mast Jr. said. "It's so hard to

even get it once, and everybody is out there gunning for you in the second year."

Callam accepted the award on behalf of Lt Loverboy's connections.

"We are honored to receive this amazing award for an amazing horse," he said. "To win this award again as a 3-year-old is a dream come true."

Lt Loverboy has a record of 11-4-3 with \$619,734 in earnings in 21 lifetime starts spanning two seasons. His owners will be sending him back onto the track in 2026.

"Hopefully we can step him up into trying a couple Grand Circuit races if he progresses," Mast Jr. said. "If he doesn't, we'll be happy with what he is and will continue to have a lot of fun with him the rest of his career."



OHHA Director Senena Esty (left) and connections of Lt Loverboy

Odds On Chesapeake

2025 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year By Wes Mayberry



Hall of Fame trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. is succinct when asked about Odds On Chesapeake.

“She’s a special filly — we really like her,” he said upon accepting the horse’s award as the 2025 Ohio 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year.

Odds On Chesapeake had a standout 2025 season, finishing with a record of 9-6-1 in 18 starts while banking \$477,800 and recording a lifetime mark of 1:49.3 in the

Jugette Elimination at Delaware on Sept. 17. Bred by Odds On Nourrir and owned by Odds On Racing, the Downbytheseaside filly out of Macaroon was victorious in four of the five legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes and won the Nadia Lobell and Ohio State Fair Stakes at Eldorado Scioto Downs. She was the runner-up in the Jugette Final at Delaware and the Courageous Lady at MGM Northfield Park.

“I wasn’t expecting this, but I’m not surprised either. She had a heck of a year,”

Odds On Racing’s Dana Parham Sr. said of Odds On Chesapeake earning divisional recognition. “I’m really happy for Virgil Morgan and his whole team. They work so hard, and a lot of her success is because of them.”

In 28 lifetime starts, Odds On Chesapeake boasts a record of 13-8-1 with \$635,500 in earnings.



OHHA Director John Konesky III (left) and connections of Odds On Chesapeake

ODDS ON CHESAPEAKE

2025 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year

DOWNBYTHESEASIDE - MACAROON - SWEET LOU

1:49.3H

\$477,800

Owner: Odds On Racing (Boca Raton, FL)

Breeder: Odds On Nourrir (Boca Raton, FL)

Trainer: Virgil Morgan Jr.

Caretaker: Susan Wentworth

Jailhouse Pearl

2025 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year By Wes Mayberry



JAILHOUSE PEARL

2025 3-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year

LONG TOM - JAILHOUSE BROAD
- JAILHOUSE JESSE

1:52.2F

\$309,317

Owner: Casey Clemens (Malta, OH)

Breeder: Casey Clemens (Malta, OH)

Trainer: Eric Nesselroad

Breeder and owner Casey Clemens has nothing but good things to say about Jailhouse Pearl.

“She’s just a nice horse, and everybody likes her,” he said.

She’s also been very successful on the racetrack to the tune of a 15-10-2 record and \$372,694 in earnings over her first two seasons. A standout 2025 campaign earned her recognition as the Ohio 3-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year.

In 2025, the Long Tom filly out of Jailhouse Broad tallied five wins, five seconds, and two thirds while earning \$309,317 in 14 starts. The Eric Nesselroad trainee also set a lifetime mark of 1:52.2 in winning the Ohio Sires Stakes Scarlet Championship at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway in track-record fashion on Sept. 27. In addition to that victory, she posted wins in the second and fifth legs of the OSS and won the Ohio Stake Fair Stakes.

“It’s been a good year,” Clemens said.

During his award acceptance speech, Clemens thanked all of Jailhouse Pearl’s drivers for their role in the horse’s success. Austin Hanners served as primary driver and was in the sulky for the OSS Scarlet Championship victory to cap the season. Jailhouse Pearl won that race by two lengths.

“I have to watch that race about every week just to make sure it still happened,” Clemens said.

Jailhouse Pearl displayed signs of future success as a 2-year-old. She finished no worse than second in all 15 of her starts with 10 wins and \$63,377 in earnings. Nine of those victories came at various Ohio fairs with Casey’s son, Brady Clemens, in the bike. Driven by Chris Lems, she closed out her freshman season with a win in the Ohio Fairs Championship, and she carried that positive momentum into 2025.

“As a 2-year-old, we didn’t know whether we should stake her, but we continued to train her, and we found out that she really likes to pass. Brady drove her at the fairs as a 2-year-old, and he would try to make her have to pass, and she won most of the fair races she was at,” Clemens said. “Things have all worked out well.”



OHHA Director Senena Esty (left) and connections of Jailhouse Pearl

“As a 2-year-old, we didn’t know whether we should stake her, but we continued to train her, and we found out that she really likes to pass.”

— Casey Clemens

Racing Rebel

2025 Aged Horse & Gelding Pacer of the Year By Wes Mayberry



RACING REBEL

2025 Aged Horse & Gelding Pacer of the Year

RACING HILL - AWAKENING - FEELIN FRISKIE

1:48.2F

\$232,610

Owners: Burke Racing Stable (Fredericktown, PA), Weaver Bruscelli (Canonsburg, PA), Chris Page (Delaware, OH), Marjorie Polhamus (Ludlow Falls, OH)

Breeder: Marjorie Polhamus (Ludlow Falls, OH)

Trainer: Ron Burke

Caretaker: Stephanie Turley

Racing Rebel is a particularly special horse to Marjorie Polhamus.

“Rebel has always had a special place in my heart because he was born on my granddaughter’s birthday,” she said.

He’s also been a standout on the racetrack.

“He’s the best one I’ve ever had,” Polhamus said.

Polhamus bred Racing Rebel and co-owns him with Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscelli, and Chris Page. After recording a combined eight wins in 2023 and 2024, the 4-year-old son of Racing Hill out of Awakening had his best season yet in 2025 with a record of 9-4-3 and \$232,610 in earnings in 25 starts. The season included wins in six Open-level events and the #SendItIn Invitational and runner-up finishes in the Myron Charna President’s Pace and the Ohio Sires Stakes Veteran’s Championship. He also bested his

lifetime mark by a full two seconds, pacing in 1:48.2 at Eldorado Scioto Downs on Aug. 2. It all added up to Racing Rebel being named Ohio’s Aged Horse and Gelding Pacer of the Year for 2025.

“He has won several awards, but this one is pretty special,” Polhamus said.

Trainer Ron Burke described Racing Rebel as a “complete surprise.”

“We bought him thinking he’d be a nice horse, and he turned out to be a great horse,” he said.

Polhamus credited the horse’s success to Burke and Page, who served as the primary driver.

“They’ve done an amazing job with him,” she said.

Racing Rebel has hit the board in 38 of 58 lifetime starts with 17 wins and earnings of \$471,342.

“He’s a little horse and is just the nicest, sweetest horse to be around. He’s a nice all-around racehorse that gives it his all. I’m really proud of him,” Polhamus said. “I think I’m going to breed a mare to him, so we’ll see if he’s any good at that. I hope he can continue on with what he’s doing and have a good season again next year.”



Connections of Racing Rebel

Rose Run Zoom

2025 Aged Horse & Gelding Trotter of the Year By Wes Mayberry



With 40 starts, Rose Run Zoom displayed impressive stamina during the 2025 season. He hit the board in 22 of those starts en route to being named Ohio's Aged Horse and Gelding Trotter of the Year.

Rose Run Zoom closed the 2025 season with a record of 11-6-5 and \$176,340 in earnings. Trained by Cory Kreiser, the 4-year-old Uncle Peter gelding out of Loconotion won five Open-level events, all at MGM Northfield Park.

Bred by Rose Run Farm and owned by Thunder Racing Stables and Cory Kreiser Racing, Rose Run Zoom made nine starts as a freshman and 27 as a sophomore. He has hit the board in 49 of 76 lifetime starts with 23 wins and \$377,330 in earnings and owns a lifetime mark of 1:53.3, set at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway on Dec. 13, 2024.

"He's a tough horse both on and off the track," said Rose Run Farm corresponding officer Alvin Yoder. "It took a little extra work to get him to where he is today, but he's consistently tough and is still racing well."



Jessica Otten (center) and connections of Rose Run Zoom

ROSE RUN ZOOM

2025 Aged Horse & Gelding Trotter of the Year

UNCLE PETER - LOCONOTION - CRAZED

1:54.1H

\$176,340

Owners: Thunder Racing Stables (Brecksville, OH), Cory Kreiser Racing (Northfield, OH)

Breeder: Rose Run Farm (Sugarcreek, OH)

Trainer: Cory Kreiser

“He’s a tough horse both on and off the track.”
— Alvin Yoder

Bath Bomb

2025 Aged Mare Pacer of the Year By Wes Mayberry



Photo: Amanda Stephens

Bath Bomb was no stranger to the winner's circle in 2025.

"She's professional when it comes to the races," trainer Per Engblom said. "She can take any type of trip and still manage to finish up front most of time."



OHHA Director Joe McLead and Chase McCown

Bred by Mark Smith and owned by Morrison Racing Stables, the 4-year-old Lather Up mare out of Sangaal hit the board in 16 of her 18 starts in 2025 with 12 victories to go with two seconds, two thirds, and earnings of \$375,950. The standout season earned her honors as Ohio's Aged Mare Pacer of the Year.

"Morrison Racing is incredibly honored and grateful that Bath Bomb was selected Aged Pacing Mare of the Year," said Matthew Morrison, of Morrison Racing Stables. "This recognition means so much to our entire team, from the grooms and trainers to everyone behind the scenes who puts their heart into our sport every single day."

After not racing as a 2-year-old, Bath Bomb had modest success as a sophomore with a record of 3-3-3 and earnings of \$109,860 in 15 starts. In what proved to be her breakout season, she raced primarily in Kentucky and had such highlight wins as the Kentucky Sire Stakes Final events on May 11 and June 24. She recorded a lifetime mark of 1:49.1 on Aug. 18 at The Red Mile and has hit the board in 25 of 33 lifetime starts with 15 wins and \$485,810 in earnings.

BATH BOMB

2025 Aged Mare Pacer of the Year

LATHER UP - SANGAAL -
REAL DESIRE

1:49.1M

\$375,950

Owner: Morrison Racing Stables
(Indiana, PA)

Breeder: Mark Smith
(Lexington, KY)

Trainer: Per Engblom

"Bath Bomb has shown exceptional talent, determination, and consistency, and this is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and teamwork that make moments like this possible," Morrison said. "We are proud of what she has accomplished and thankful to be part of such a special journey."

Jurassic Hattie

2025 Aged Mare Trotter of the Year By Wes Mayberry



JURASSIC HATTIE

2025 Aged Mare Trotter of the Year

VOLSTEAD - HIGH GEAR
SAHBRA - STRIKING SAHBRA

1:50.4F

\$224,130

Owner/Breeder:

Jerry Welch (Waterford, OH)

Trainer:

Stacey Van Huizen

Jurassic Hattie has always stood out to breeder and owner Jerry Welch.

“She’s been special from when she first showed up at the farm as a foal and has always excelled at everything she’s ever done,” he said. “I feel really honored to own her. She’s been a great horse.”

The 4-year-old Volstead mare out of High Gear Sahbra added to the success she had in her freshman and sophomore campaigns with a record of 6-5-2 and earnings of \$224,130 in 18 starts as a 4-year-old in 2025. Trained by Stacey Van Huizen and driven by Brett Miller, she recorded a lifetime mark of 1:50.4 at Miami Valley Raceway on April 30, matching the track record. Other highlight wins included the Ohio Sires Stakes Veterans Championship and the Ohio Breeders Championship Aged Trot, and she finished second in the Dayton Oaks Derby.

“This year has been awesome,” Welch said. “It’s been an exciting year because she took the next step up and showed she could compete with anybody.”

The special season was capped with Jurassic Hattie being named Ohio’s Aged Mare Trotter of the Year.

“I appreciate everyone who voted for her. She’s been a lot of fun and is deserving of this recognition,” Welch said. “She’s always had a fan club out at the races, and it’s always meant a lot to me that people really like to watch her, and they know that she gives 110% every time.”

While she might appear uncoordinated when she first takes the track, Jurassic Hattie knows how to dial in once released from the starting gate.

“If anybody has watched her when they introduce the horses before a race, you’d think she was going to trip over herself when she came out on the track. I always nicknamed it the ‘Hattie Shuffle,’” Welch said. “But when she goes out to race, it’s all business for her. She’s a professional — she does her job and takes it seriously.”

The proof is in the numbers. Jurassic Hattie has a career record of 15-13-2 in 38 starts with \$665,994 in earnings.

“It’s exciting every time I go to the races,” Welch said. “When she’s on the track, all she thinks about is everybody following her.”

Welch has nicknamed the horse “Bratty Hattie” for her inclination to remove items from people’s pockets when they’re around her. But it’s all in good fun, and he can’t wait to see what 2026 has in store.

“Next year, we’re probably going to move her up a step,” he said. “We’ve been discussing maybe going over east to some of the bigger stakes to see how things go.”



Northfield Park Track Representative Amy Hollar (left) and connections of Jurassic Hattie

Ohio State Wooster Equine Center

2026 Stallion Line Up



Bring On The Beach

P, 3, 1:53.0S (\$12,001)
Mach Three - Wheres The Beach -
Beach towel
Stud Fee: \$1,500

What The Hill

T, 2, 1:54.4M; 3,1:51.4s (\$1,263,864)
Muscle Hill - K T Cha Cha-
Angus Hall
Stud Fee: \$4,000

Traceur Hanover

P, 2, 1:49.2S (\$1,130,207)
Western Ideal - Transference-
Camluck
Stud Fee: \$2,500

Nvestment Bluechip

P, 5, 1:49.0M (\$701,864)
Shadow Play - Haze's Zure Bet -
Bettors Delight
Stud Fee: \$2,000

Call For Justice

T, 5, 1:52.4F (\$768,619)
Justice Hall (i) - Mika's Mazurka-
SJ's Caviar
Stud Fee: \$2,500





WE ARE RACING

2026 STAKES SCHEDULE

OHIO SIRES STAKES

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Sat. July 11
- 2 Northfield Park Mon. July 20
- 3 Scioto Downs Thurs. Aug. 6
- 4 Northfield Park Mon. Aug. 17
- 5 Scioto Downs Thurs. Aug. 27

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Sun. July 12
- 2 Scioto Downs Sat. July 25
- 3 Northfield Park Sat. Aug. 8
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 22
- 5 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 29

3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Miami Valley Sat. May 2
- 2 Scioto Downs Mon. May 25
- 3 Scioto Downs Sat. June 13
- 4 Northfield Park Sun. July 12
- 5 Northfield Park Mon. Aug. 24

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Miami Valley Sat. May 2
- 2 Scioto Downs Mon. May 25
- 3 Northfield Park Sat. June 20
- 4 Northfield Park Mon. July 6
- 5 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 29

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Sat. July 11
- 2 Northfield Park Mon. July 20
- 3 Scioto Downs Thurs. Aug. 6
- 4 Northfield Park Sun. Aug. 16
- 5 Scioto Downs Tues. Aug. 25

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Mon. July 13
- 2 Scioto Downs Fri. July 24
- 3 Northfield Park Sat. Aug. 8
- 4 Scioto Downs Tues. Aug. 18
- 5 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 29

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Miami Valley Sat. May 2
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. May 30
- 3 Scioto Downs Thurs. June 18
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. July 4
- 5 Northfield Park Wed. Aug. 26

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Miami Valley Sat. May 2
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. May 30
- 3 Northfield Park Sat. June 20
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. July 4
- 5 Scioto Downs Fri. Aug. 28

BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Tues. July 14
- 2 Scioto Downs Thurs. July 23
- 3 Urbana Mon. Aug. 10
- 4 Northfield Park Wed. Aug. 19
- 5 Delaware Tues. Sept. 22

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Wed. July 15
- 2 Scioto Downs Fri. July 24
- 3 Northfield Park Sat. Aug. 15
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 22
- 5 Delaware Wed. Sept. 23

3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Sat. May 9
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. June 6
- 3 Northfield Park Mon. June 15
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. July 18
- 5 Delaware Tues. Sept. 22

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Scioto Downs Sat. May 9
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. June 6
- 3 Scioto Downs Sat. June 27
- 4 Northfield Park Sun. July 19
- 5 Delaware Thurs. Sept. 24

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Scioto Downs Fri. July 17
- 2 Scioto Downs Thurs. July 23
- 3 Urbana Mon. Aug. 10
- 4 Northfield Park Mon. Aug. 17
- 5 Delaware Sun. Sept. 20

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Tues. July 14
- 2 Bucyrus Wed. July 22
- 3 Northfield Park Sun. Aug. 9
- 4 Scioto Downs Thurs. Aug. 20
- 5 Delaware Mon. Sept. 21

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Northfield Park Sun. May 3
- 2 Scioto Downs Thurs. June 4
- 3 Northfield Park Mon. June 22
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. July 18
- 5 Delaware Mon. Sept. 21

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Sun. May 3
- 2 Scioto Downs Fri. June 5
- 3 Northfield Park Sun. June 21
- 4 Scioto Downs Fri. Aug. 7
- 5 Delaware Thurs. Sept. 24

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Northfield Park



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Hollywood Dayton Raceway

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2- & 3-Year-Olds
Friday, October 2, 2026
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An 'extra special' honor

Huston Receives Hagemeyer Significant Contribution Award

By Wes Mayberry



Roger Huston (center) with family and friends and OHHA Director Scott Hagemeyer (left)

Legendary track announcer Roger Huston's induction into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame and Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame undoubtedly hold great significance. But he points to a more recent honor that is just as meaningful.

"This is probably the No. 1 award that I've received in my lifetime," Huston said, referring to his recognition as the 2025 recipient of the Maynard and Stella Hagemeyer Significant Contribution Award.

His reason is simple.

"It's because of Stella and Maynard," he said. "Hall of Fames are nice, but this award is extra special because I've known the Hagemeyer family my entire life."

Huston, 83, worked especially close with Stella Hagemeyer when he began calling

races in 1960, as she was the clerk at most of the county fairs he went to at the time.

"I'd go to the county fair about two hours early just to help Stella with her clerk's job," Huston said. "Those were the days when we had eligibility papers for horses that had to be filled out by hand, and entries were taken over the phone since there were no computers. To understand the process, I always arrived early to work with Stella, recording payments, driver changes, and scratches. We worked together for so many years."

The award named in the Hagemeyers' honor recognizes an individual who possesses a passion and advocacy for Ohio harness racing and has made significant lifelong contributions to the sport in the Buckeye State. Huston embodies every word of that description. Entering year 67 behind the

mic, he has called over 184,000 races all over the world and has long been known as "The Voice." He has announced at 37 different county fairs in Ohio, working between five and 17 each year, and called the Little Brown Jug for 58 years. Some of his favorite calls include Wiggle It Jiggleit defeating Lost For Words in the 2015 Little Brown Jug, Falcon Seelster setting a world record at Delaware in 1985, and Dragon's Lair defeating Nihilator to win the Breeders Crown at The Meadows in 1984. He's had a blast every step of the way.

"I have never worked a day in my life," he said. "I have been criticized that I call every race like it's the Jug, but any given race may be as close to racing in the Jug that the connections have, so they deserve the best of me."



Roger Huston interviews Ron Burke at the 2017 Little Brown Jug.

Huston was formally introduced to calling harness races through his uncle, who started announcing at Lebanon Raceway in 1953.

“In high school, when I should’ve been home studying, I went to Lebanon Raceway three or four nights a week to watch the races,” he said.

However, perhaps without realizing it, his own career as an announcer started even earlier.

“My parents told me that when I rode a tricycle, I called out horse’s names that I’d heard at the county fair in Xenia, so I guess I was an announcer way before my uncle,” he said. “When I was a sophomore in high school, I wanted a motorcycle, but my

parents got me a horse. I jogged that horse at the Greene County Fair and announced horse races like we were in the Hambletonian or Little Brown Jug. It’s just something I really love.”

But there comes a time when even legends like Huston recognize that they need to slow down. In September, he notified Little Brown Jug officials that he wanted to step back and call fewer races during Jug week beginning in 2025.

“With this big of a decision, I started thinking about it two or three years ago. After the Jug in 2024, I thought it was time for me to move on from the Jug and give Jason Settemoir the chance to do some more races at Delaware,” he said. “At 83 years old, the pressure is probably too great for a major stake, and I just thought that 2025 would be the year to hand it over to somebody younger.”

Moving forward, Huston has made it clear that he’s not retiring. He’s already gearing up for a busy 2026.

“I’ll continue to announce as many races as I possibly can, which will be about 65 or 70 a year,” he said. “I have fun doing what I’m doing and have no plans for retirement.”

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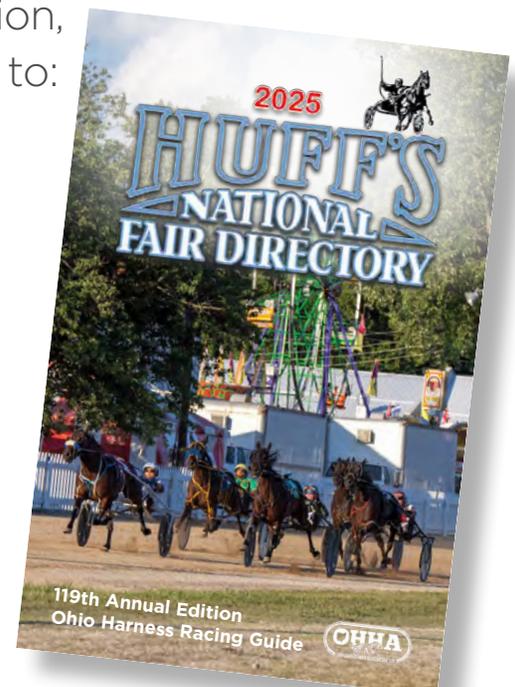
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'Great People'

Darmofals Honored with Brandt Extra Effort Award

By Wes Mayberry



Fran and Joe Darmofal with OHHA Directors Rusty Vorhees (left) and Hank LeVan (right)

A few years ago, Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Director Rusty Vorhees took notice of some social media posts on X published by the husband-and-wife team of Joe and Fran Darmofal. Not long after formally introducing himself to the couple, Vorhees learned just how much they have done for the sport of harness racing. Those efforts ended up earning the Darmofals the 2025 Dick Brandt Sr. Extra Effort Award.

"The Dick Brandt Award is a perfect way to repay their generosity and to give thanks for helping county fairs succeed in Ohio," Vorhees said.

Named for Dick Brandt Sr., who served as OHHA president in 1984 and 1985 and was a past member of the United States Trotting Association's Board of Directors, the award recognizes individuals, local horsemen's associations, and matinee clubs that have demonstrated a commitment to county fair racing. The award is based on involvement with their local fair board, local matinees, and community as well as improvements to racing and barn areas and assistance with racing programs during the fair week.

Hank LeVan, who owns several horses with the Darmofals, has seen their dedication and generosity firsthand and can't think of anyone more deserving of the Extra Effort Award.

"I'm really happy they were chosen for this award," he said. "They're great people who really love the sport of harness racing, and they do

a lot throughout the year to help bring new people in and stimulate interest, especially at the county fair level."

Over the past few years, the Darmofals, of Sylvania, Ohio, have donated to various fairs throughout the state in the form of trophies, grandstand entertainment, funding for the Ladies Pace events, and other worthy causes. Joe Darmofal said the couple's involvement had modest beginnings as a blanket sponsor before growing into something more.

"We started sponsoring the entire day of races at fairs, and since there's so much lag time between races, we started hiring entertainment for in between races so the crowd wouldn't drop off," he said. "We also sponsor a number of different races with the purse and a matinee in Bucyrus in May, so it's a diversified effort."

Joe admits that he and his wife were only "casual fans" of harness racing up until a few years ago, when, at the age of 70, they wanted to try something new in the form of ownership. Then came the philanthropic efforts.

"We're trying to do our share to keep the interest level up at the fairs," he said.

LeVan knows what an important endeavor that is.

"A very broad spectrum of our industry is recognized at the county fair level — it's like the grassroots of our business. Without people training young horses, it would be a challenge to fill the box with racehorses later on in life," he said. "It's an opportunity for everyone to be involved at a different level. It's good people and good racing."

Joe Darmofal described county fairs as the epitome of the Americana that he and his wife love so much. They enjoy the down-home, family-type atmosphere embodied by county fair racing and remain committed to helping it succeed. Earning the Extra Effort Award only emboldens them to continue their efforts.

"Fran and I are very appreciative of this award and feel very honored to receive it because we're being recognized by the industry for our efforts to both promote and, more importantly, popularize the sport of harness racing because we need to bring a lot of new people into the sport," Joe Darmofal said. "We've noticed a lot of things that we feel need improvement to keep people in the stands and get young people involved, so we've made every effort to do so. Every year, we try to build on what we did in the past by making improvements and adding new initiatives, and we're planning a lot of new things for 2026."

"I'm really happy they were chosen for this award."

- Hank LeVan

Dingledine Awarded OHHA Future Equine Career Scholarship

By Wes Mayberry



Hannah Dingledine and Northfield Park Track Representative Amy Hollar

A standout student, 19-year-old Hannah Dingledine is eyeing a future as an equine veterinarian. She's well on her way to that destiny, aided by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association.

In January, the OHHA awarded Dingledine the Future Equine Career Scholarship. Now in its second year, the scholarship is awarded annually to an applicant of at least 16 years of age pursuing vocational or academic training in a field related to the equine industry.

Dingledine, a native of Mechanicsburg and a 2024 graduate of Mechanicsburg High School, is currently attending Wright State University in Dayton pursuing a degree in biological sciences.

"My primary goal is to earn my bachelor's degree so I can begin the path toward becoming a veterinarian for large animals," she said. "I chose to major in biological sciences at Wright State University because the program will allow me to complete my degree efficiently and move on to veterinary school sooner."

Dingledine is currently classified as a sophomore but is on track to graduate a year early, in May 2027, after having completed degree requirements through the College Credit Plus Program. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA while balancing involvement in a variety of extracurriculars, including the University Activities Board, College of Science and Math Dean's Circle, Biological Sciences Association, Commuter Student Association, NCAA women's bowling team, and Pre-Veterinary Club. After graduating, she plans to attend an accredited veterinary college to earn a doctorate in veterinary medicine.

"I am committed to a career dedicated to the equine industry, particularly in harness racing, and this scholarship will play a crucial role in helping me reach that goal," she said. "Veterinary school is a significant financial commitment, and receiving this support will help relieve financial pressure, allowing me to fully focus on academics, hands-on learning, and professional development opportunities that prepare me to best serve the equine community."

Dingledine was first introduced to harness racing through 4-H and has several familial connections to the industry. Her late uncle, James "Bill" Dailey, was a highly accomplished trainer and driver, and her aunt, Kimberly Dailey, trains around 20 horses each year at the Dailey Stable. Another uncle, Richard Dingledine, is a current driver and contributes to the stable's success.

Dingledine has been involved in the sport through a club she co-founded in 2020 that focuses on helping youths discover their own interest in harness racing, which is a project that has continued to grow. She has also supported the OHHA by volunteering at Charity Night at the Races promotions and representing the mascot, Willie Winit, at local events and racetracks. Looking ahead, she hopes to help the horsemen and women of her home county as an equine veterinarian.

"Since horses make up a major portion of large animal veterinary work, becoming involved with the harness racing industry is a natural fit for me," she said. "With the current shortage of large animal veterinarians, especially in rural Ohio, my long-term goal is to return to Champaign County and provide essential veterinary services to local trainers and horse owners."

“I am committed to a career dedicated to the equine industry, particularly in harness racing.”
— Hannah Dingledine

Outstanding Grooms

Steck, Hershberger Honored at OHHA Banquet

By Wes Mayberry



Katie Hershberger (left) and Parker Steck (right) with Roger Huston

Often cited as the unsung heroes of the harness racing industry, grooms are highly dedicated individuals who sacrifice lots of time for the betterment of the horses under their care. They perform a wide variety of essential tasks to ensure their horses are fit and ready for training and racing. While most of their work is performed behind the scenes, the spotlight shone on a pair of worthy women — Parker Steck and Katie Hershberger — as Outstanding Groom Award winners at the 2025 Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Awards Banquet.

'An extreme passion for horses'

While her family has longstanding ties to harness racing, Steck was initially looking to take her career in another direction.

"I actually went to school for nursing," she said.

But after graduating from Ashland University with a nursing degree, she returned to her family's training facility in Delaware, Ohio, to groom for her parents, Ron and Kila. She has worked as a full-time groom for the past three years, taking on such responsibilities as transporting horses to and from the races and paddocking them.

"Parker works in the barn every day and goes to the races pretty much every day as well," Kila Steck said. "If she does not go to the races, she organizes who is going in her place. She has all the equipment for each horse ready to go, and if she doesn't, her two-tiered wagon has exactly what she needs along with anything else for someone who needs something extra they may have forgotten."

It certainly makes for a busy schedule. But Steck wouldn't have it any other way.

"You get your babies in right after the sales in October and November, and it's go, go, go from there until about May," she said. "But it's the thrill of a lifetime."

The Steck family's involvement in harness racing goes back generations, meaning Parker was raised in the business and has worked in the barn since she could walk. However, after graduating from high school, she decided to pursue nursing. She attended Ashland during the Covid-19 pandemic, and since many of her clinicals were online, she was nervous to go directly into the nursing profession upon receiving her degree.

"It was an easier decision to just go back to the barn and get involved there, and now that I'm in it full time, I think I made the best choice for myself because this is what I'm happiest doing," she said. "I absolutely love nursing, but this is what I personally love to do. Nursing would be more like a job whereas this is more of a passion."

That passion has not gone unnoticed by those she works for.

"She sometimes takes a lot of heat from people because she chose to 'just do horses' instead of becoming a nurse, but I could not be prouder of her decision because of how lucky she is to be able to do what she loves every day," Kila Steck said of her daughter.

Longtime family friend Gary Condit agreed.

"It is noteworthy that after passing the nursing exams, she has chosen to take care of horses over an alternative career in nursing. That is a testament to her passion for her work as a groom," he said. "Parker is an outstanding individual with an extreme passion for horses. She treats every horse like it is her own, and, as an owner, it is always comforting to know that Parker is looking after our horses. Over the years, I have had a multitude of grooms taking care of my horses, and there has simply been none that are in the same league as Parker."

Steck said it meant a lot to have all her hard work recognized in the form of the Outstanding Groom Award. Looking ahead, she has loved working with the horses so much that she envisions nursing as a fallback career.

"I want to continue to work for my dad as long as he continues to train. I work very closely with him, and he's taught me pretty much everything I know. If it takes me to becoming a trainer, I would probably pursue that," she said. "I have an emotional attachment to a lot of my horses — they're like my kids. I just love being with the horses and going to the racetrack with them and seeing them progress."

'An absolute dream employee'

Hershberger has worked for trainer Rosy Weaver for three years at her stable in Beach City, Ohio, and has quickly established herself as a notable name among grooms.

“Katie is an absolute dream employee,” Weaver said. “She takes tremendous care of her horses and understands each individual horse and how to handle them, which is a big reason I am as successful as I am.”

Weaver closed 2025 with 116 seasonal victories and earned the leading trainer title in the fair circuit with a record-breaking 102 wins. She said she couldn’t think of anyone more deserving of the Outstanding Groom Award than Hershberger.

“Katie is an absolutely amazing girl. I consider myself extremely lucky to have her working in my stable,” she said. “She is always ready to do anything I ask her to help with, without hesitation, and she is great with the horses.”

Hershberger was appreciative of not only the recognition but also of Weaver’s mentorship.

“I am very grateful to receive this award, and I want to thank Rosy for being very patient with me and teaching me basically everything I know,” she said. “She has helped me more than I can explain.”

Weaver says Hershberger cares for between eight and 10 horses and jogs them on occasion.

“I like to keep it at eight, but every year when I have new horses come in, I ask her which ones she wants to give up, and she never wants to give any up,” Weaver said. “She’d rather take care of 13

than eight just because she loves them that much. That tells you how good she is and how much she likes her job.”

Horse owner Dave Jury also pointed to the passion and dedication Hershberger has for her job.

“Katie is so involved in her grooming job that she has little time for outside activities. She gives up a significant portion of her personal life to ensure her horses receive 24/7 care, often working long, demanding hours, including weekends and holidays,” he said. “She seems to know each horse’s personality, which allows her to handle even the most difficult horses calmly and patiently. I have never seen her get upset or mishandle a horse — she treats them all as if they were her own.”

Hershberger said the horses deserve as much.

“None of this would be possible if not for the outstanding, wonderful horses that we get to work with,” she said. “They don’t owe us anything, but they show up every day and always try their best. So why not show up and give our best to them as well?”

That’s an outlook that will take Hershberger far in the industry, Weaver says.

“Katie could do anything in my barn — I could go on vacation and put her in charge, and I wouldn’t worry about a thing,” she said.

Page, Burke Continue Reign as Kaltenbach Honorees

By Wes Mayberry



Chris Page, Mickey Burke (accepting for Ron Burke), and Dick McClelland, of the Ohio Standardbred Development Fund

For the seventh straight year, driver Chris Page and trainer Ron Burke captured Ohio’s Kaltenbach titles in 2025.

The Jerry Kaltenbach Memorial Trophies were established in 1988 and are awarded annually to the driver and trainer who earned the most dollars competing in Ohio Sires Stakes (OSS) events in a single season.

Page started in 102 OSS events, winning 24 races, finishing second 14 times, and adding

17 third-place finishes with earnings of \$1,467,100.

“It means a job well done,” Page said of earning another Kaltenbach honor. “When I was a young man, my parents always told me to surround myself with good people and smart people, and it would rub off on me, and that’s what I try to do.”

Brett Miller finished second with \$912,200, recording 13 wins, 10 second-place finishes, and six third-place finishes in 71 starts. Dan Noble was third with \$812,500 in earnings and a record of 19-9-11 in 74 starts.

A total of 46 drivers participated in the 2025 OSS events with 41 garnering at least one purse check. Sixteen had earnings of \$100,000 or more, with 10 amassing earnings over \$300,000.

Burke totaled 130 starts in the 2025 OSS. He finished with 28 wins, 20 second-place finishes, and 20 third-place finishes with earnings of \$2,291,300.

“This one means a lot,” Burke said of his latest Kaltenbach recognition.

Virgil Morgan Jr. finished second among trainers with \$837,900 in earnings and a 12-12-6 record from 48 starts. Chris Beaver was third with earnings of \$506,350 and a record of 5-9-16 in 62 starts.

A total of 91 trainers participated in 2025 OSS events with 21 earning over \$100,000.

In the 36 years the Kaltenbach trophies have been awarded, Page leads all drivers with 10 trophies followed by David Miller with seven. David Hawk and Brett Miller have three each. On the training side, Burke has captured the title eight times followed by Morgan Jr. with six, and Jim Dailey with four. Only two horsemen have won the Kaltenbach in both the training and driving categories — Sam “Chip” Noble III and Dave Rankin.

'A True Passion'

Mayhugh Earns Terry Holton Youth Award

By Wes Mayberry



Samantha Mayhugh helps OHHA mascot Willie Winit with the Backstretch Buddies program at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

As both a horsewoman and an intern with the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, 20-year-old Samantha Mayhugh has demonstrated plenty of promise.

"Samantha has done it all — she has trained horses and driven them to the track. In the meantime, she has also been an intern at the OHHA. She has the desire to make this sport grow," said former Ohio State Representative Jim Buchy.

Buchy, along with members of the Holton family, were proud to recognize Mayhugh with the 2025 Terry Holton Youth Award. Now in its 23rd year, the award is given to an Ohio horseman or woman between the ages of 13 and 19 who has actively participated in harness racing during the year as a driver, trainer, groom, breeder, race office/publicity assistant, or track maintenance crew member or has provided outstanding service to the sport. The award is named for Terry Holton, of Newark, Ohio, who won over 1,700 races in his career and was inducted into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2005. Mayhugh was appreciative of the recognition.

"I am very thankful and honored to receive the Terry Holton Youth Award," Mayhugh said. "The Ohio harness racing industry has given me so many opportunities, and being recognized for my involvement is truly meaningful."

Mayhugh, a native of Circleville, is a 2024 graduate of Logan Elm High School currently in her second year at The Ohio State University majoring in agricultural business and applied economics with a minor in equine studies. She hopes the combination of her education and practical experience will lead her to a career working in media and/or broadcasting to promote harness racing and educate

others about the industry while continuing her family's Mayhugh Stables operation for generations to come.

"Sam has a true passion for the sport of harness racing," said her father, Sean. "Ever since she was a young child, she has been actively involved with the sport, from walking the broodmare out to the paddocks to helping me clean stalls, jogging, training, and now hauling the horses to Cleveland on her own to race the family horses."

Thanks to her family ties, Mayhugh has been involved in harness racing her entire life. When she was 10, she started working at the Ohio State Fair educating other children about harness racing, and she has dressed as Willie Winit, the OHHA mascot, at Northfield Park on special race nights. She paddocks for different stables that have raced at Scioto Downs and has assisted with the race program at the Pickaway County Fair, doing everything from handling blankets in the winner's circle to selling programs, running checks, and delivering saddle pads to the next fair in Wilmington. For the past three years, she has assisted with the yearling sales at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds and in Springfield. She truly loves the sport and everything it entails, especially the sense of family and tradition it carries.

"It's an industry where generations work together, everyone supports one another, and you feel connected to both the people and the horses," she said. "I especially love being able to work with my dad and sister in the barn, making memories and sharing the passion for the sport."



Samantha Mayhugh (right) with former Ohio State Representative Jim Buchy, Hunter Holton, and Ryan Holton

At OSU, Mayhugh has focused her learning on what she can bring back to the racing industry and on spreading the word about the sport. She has focused many of her assignments and presentations on harness racing to help raise awareness of the sport and has

brought friends to Scioto Downs to experience the excitement of racing firsthand.

Additionally, as part of her internship with the OHHA, Mayhugh spearheaded the development of the Backstretch Buddies children's program that now has more than 100 members. She worked on the planning, organization, and outreach to launch the program, focusing on creating fun, educational opportunities that introduce youth to the harness racing industry. Since initiating the program, she has worked to increase membership through developing new activities and materials, mailings, and social media content that aims to make a positive impression on young fans across Ohio and beyond.

"The Backstretch Buddies program is important for the future growth of harness racing because it introduces youth to the sport at an early age and helps build a lifelong connection," Mayhugh said. "By educating kids about the horses, people, and behind-the-scenes aspects of racing, the program creates informed and passionate fans. It also encourages family involvement and helps preserve the traditions of the industry by inspiring the next generation to appreciate, support, and potentially become involved in harness racing."

While Backstretch Buddies is her main charge, Mayhugh has helped the OHHA with numerous other responsibilities. Some of her favorites include assisting with fair broadcasts, participating in outreach and promotional events, and working on a variety of projects within the office to gain hands-on, behind-the-scenes experience that has allowed her to better understand the many roles involved in supporting and growing the harness racing industry.

"I've developed a wide range of skills and gained valuable knowledge of the harness racing industry and its operations that I plan to use in my future career," she said.

There's no doubt Mayhugh is one to watch in the future of harness racing. Her father perhaps summed it up best when describing why she embodies everything the Terry Holton Youth Award represents.

"Her heart belongs to harness racing and the growth of the sport for the future," he said.

“She has the desire to make this sport grow.”
— Jim Buchy

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OHHA Hands Out Special Recognition Awards

By Wes Mayberry

The Ohio-based connections of 2025 Breeders Crown champions Always B Naughty, Miki And Minnie, and Sippinonsearoc earned Special Recognition Awards from the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association for their contributions to the betterment of harness racing in Ohio.



Connections of Always B Naughty

The Breeders Crown champion in the Open Mare Pace, Always B Naughty scored a victory for Ohio three times over with driver Austin Hanners (Frankfort), trainer Todd Luther (Commercial Point), and owner Greg Luther Racing (Blacklick). The 5-year-old Always B Miki mare won by five lengths in 1:48.1, setting a new stakes record while giving Hanners, Todd Luther, and Greg Luther their first-ever Breeders Crown titles. She closed 2025 with six wins while earning \$289,583 in 23 starts. She has 18 career victories and earnings of \$901,212.

"This was a pretty special racehorse," Greg Luther said. "We've won some big races, but the Breeders Crown was pretty special. I'm excited about what's going on in Ohio this year, and hopefully we can get us another one."



Miki And Minnie connection Bob Mondillo with Northfield Track Representative Amy Hollar

Bred and owned in part by Bob Mondillo, of Delaware, Ohio, Miki And Minnie scored a second straight Breeders Crown title in 2025, doing so in the 3-Year-Old Filly Pace division in a dead heat with The Last Martini in 1:49.2. It was just the second time in the 41-year history of the Breeders Crown that there was a dead heat for win. The Always B Miki filly gave Mondillo his first Breeders Crown trophy in 2024, and she became the 57th horse, and 27th pacer, to win two Breeders Crown titles. She hit the board in all 15 starts in 2025, recording 13 wins and two seconds to go with \$1,123,824 in earnings en route to being named the Dan Patch 3-Year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. She has hit the board in all 26 career starts with 19 wins and earnings of \$1,957,910.

"I never expected to be in a position where I'd be accepting this kind of award, let alone two years in a row," Mondillo said. "Miki And Minnie has represented the state of Ohio very well."



OHHA Executive Director Frank Fraas (left) with Sippinonsearoc connections Kris and Amy Brechler

Ohio-bred Sippinonsearoc won the 2025 Breeders Crown title in the 3-Year-Old Colt Pace division in a stakes-record 1:47.3. The Downbytheseaside colt has several connections to the Buckeye State. He was co-bred by Alesha Binkley (Lebanon) and is owned in part by RAS Racing (Powell) and Knox Services (Mt. Vernon). He hit the board in 12 of 15 starts in 2025, recording seven victories and bankrolling \$792,375. He has 13 career wins and \$1,360,375 in earnings.

"I want to thank the Burke Brigade and all the drivers for everything they did with this horse. They deserve all the credit," said Kris Brechler, of Knox Services.

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Wrenn Jr. Named 2025 Winner's Circle Award Recipient

By Jay Wolf



Ronnie Wrenn Jr., one of the Buckeye State's best reinsmen, was selected as the Winner's Circle Award recipient for his outstanding 2025 season by the Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association.

This is the second straight year Wrenn Jr. has won this award, which recognizes outstanding achievement during the past year.

Wrenn Jr., the 39-year-old Michigan native, was second in wins (341) and UDRS (.388) at Hollywood Gaming at The Meadows. He had 547 wins and \$9 million in purse earnings in 2025.

The highlights of his 2025 campaign included his Grade 1 victories in the \$740,000 North America Cup and \$500,000 Little Brown Jug with Louprint and the \$700,000 Breeders Crown Final with 2-year-old filly pacer Loua Dipa. The win was Wrenn Jr.'s second in that lucrative series.

Wrenn Jr. also scored wins in the \$464,400 James Doherty Memorial with Atlantic Summer, \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Final with Seaside Shuffle and \$103,500 Old Oaken Bucket with Cheers Hanover.

Bud Teeters Receives Rambling Willie Award

By Amy Hollar



Bud Teeters (left) and Northfield Track Representative Amy Hollar

Longtime driver, trainer, and racing official Lester "Bud" Teeters was honored for his years of dedicated service to the sport as the recipient of the 2025 Rambling Willie Award, presented by the Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association.

The Rambling Willie Award recognizes the Ohioan who has done the most for harness racing over the past two decades.

"I never thought being a judge was a position where you could win an award — it always seemed to me more like a thankless job. But that makes the award that much more special to me, and I want to thank everyone who made this happen," Teeters said in his acceptance speech during the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Awards Banquet. "If I was able to do my duty as a judge and still have the respect of the horsemen, then I'm grateful."

In 1999, Teeters hung up his driving colors and transitioned to the judges' stand, beginning as an associate before being appointed presiding judge at MGM Northfield Park in 2005 — a role he would hold for the next 20 years. Over those two decades, Teeters earned a reputation for fairness, a peaceful demeanor, and a softspoken approach in his dealings with both horsemen and patrons.

Former Northfield Park executive Tom Aldrich, who first hired Teeters as an associate and later worked beside him in the stand, often marveled at his ability to navigate tense situations during horsemen's hearings, field calls from disgruntled gamblers, and maintain unwavering composure throughout. Track Representative Amy Hollar, who sat in on many of those hearings, appreciated not only his professionalism but also the many "off-the-record" conversations they shared — not just as representative and judge, but as two people whose lives were deeply rooted in horses.

"Always calm, always cool, always professional — that was Bud Teeters," Hollar said.

Teeters is currently enjoying retirement with his wife, Denise, and son, Tad, in Canton.

Adding to the Family Legacy

Luke Hanners Named Hunter Myers Memorial Award Winner

By Wes Mayberry



Luke Hanners (center) with family of Hunter Myers

There is lots of harness racing talent in the Hanners family.

“We’ve been involved in harness racing for several generations, and everyone has been pretty successful,” 25-year-old Luke Hanners said.

The son of Alicia and the late Brad Hanners, Luke is continuing his family’s legacy, as he was recognized as the 2025 recipient of the Hunter Myers Memorial Award by the Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association following a career-best season as a driver. Given to a young Ohioan viewed as an up-and-coming star among harness horsemen, the Hunter Myers Memorial Award was formerly known as the Peter Haughton Memorial Award. The Ohio Chapter of the USHWA recently voted to approve the name change and formally recognized the latest recipient at the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association Awards Banquet in January.

“I want to thank all the owners and trainers and horses — it couldn’t be done without all of them,” Hanners said in his acceptance speech.

Luke is the third person in the Hanners family to receive this award, joining his father and older brother, Austin.

“All of us have won that award now, which is pretty special,” he said.

Brad Hanners recorded 4,887 wins and over \$41.5 million in earnings during his career, and Luke and Austin, 26, ended 2025 with a combined 1,990 career victories and over \$26.5 million in earnings.

Alicia, meanwhile, closed last year with 140 lifetime wins and nearly \$1.6 million in earnings as a trainer.

The 2025 season was a special one for Luke, as he recorded career-highs in wins (249), earnings (\$3,386,919), and starts (1,996) while adding 211 runner-up and 213 third-place finishes. His previous best season was 2022, when he won 221 races and earned \$2,458,838. Last year also saw him notch his 1,000th career victory, doing so on Oct. 4 with Virgil Morgan Jr. trainee Travel Nurse in the Buckeye Stallion Series Final at MGM Northfield Park.

“That was special,” Hanners said. “It definitely made it better that my thousandth win came in a bigger race, and it was pretty cool to do it with one of Virgil’s horses since my dad drove a lot for him.”

A resident of Chillicothe, Hanners scored his first-ever win at the Champaign County Fair in Urbana on Aug. 9, 2017, with Save Me A Place. He closed 2025 with 1,092 career victories and over \$12 million in earnings in 9,494 starts. He’s come a long way in those eight years, learning to be more patient as he’s matured as a driver.

“For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be like my dad and drive. The first time I trained a horse, I was probably under 2 years old on his lap, and that’s all I’ve ever wanted to do,” he said. “I’ve gotten a lot of opportunities from a lot of people, and that helps for sure. Moving to different places and watching different drivers and learning from what they do has definitely helped. I just take it one race at a time and try to do the best I can.”

Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame 2026

Billy Herman



Billy Herman surrounded by family and friends

Billy Herman, noted Grand Circuit driver and trainer, was elected as the 52nd member of the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame by a vote of the members of the Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association.

“Over the years, I’ve had a lot of luck and met a lot of good people, and I enjoyed it so much,” Herman said during his acceptance speech at the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association Awards Banquet.

Herman was born on Feb. 21, 1940, in Frankfort, Ohio, and grew up in Good Hope. He developed a love for horses at a young age while riding his pony to school and cleaning stalls at the Washington Court House fairgrounds. His passion for harness racing led him to compete at Ohio fairs and raceways, where he honed his skills and gained valuable experience.

In the 1970s, Herman left his hometown and moved to New York to pursue his career at Roosevelt and Yonkers raceways. In 1972, he relocated to southern Florida to work as the second trainer for renowned horseman George Sholty. When Sholty was injured in 1976, Herman took over as the primary driver for the stable and continued to achieve success. He also worked for the John Simpson Stable.

He moved to Ben White Raceway to train for Hanover Shoe Farms before branching out with his own stable.

During his career, Herman trained and drove numerous champion horses, winning the Kentucky Futurity with Noble Rogue and

Texas. He won the Kentucky Filly Futurity three times and the Hambletonian Oaks with Cora T. He also claimed victories in the Woodrow Wilson and the Jugette, and he won top races with Scarlet Skipper and Franz Hanover.

Herman is probably best remembered for the great filly Toy Poodle, a multiple Dan Patch award winner. As this year’s Proximity Award winner Bill O’Donnell recalls, “He had some really great horses, but the first that comes to mind is Toy Poodle. She had to race against the boys a lot of the time — and she beat them.”

Records for at least the first two decades of his career were not documented, but as a driver, Herman amassed well over 1,400 career wins and earned exponentially more than the \$10 million in purse that is reflected in his USTA statistics.

Throughout his career, Herman was known as an all-around horseman, respected trainer, and skilled driver who left a lasting impact on the harness racing community. As Chuck Sylvester sums up, “We all wanted him to drive our horses. He was a very good driver — very easy on a horse, and incredibly patient. That really stood out.”

Written by Keith Gisser

Shaws Enshrined into Ohio Immortal Hall of Fame

By Michael Langer



Ammon Hershberger (left) with the family of Red and Betty Shaw

John “Red” and Betty Shaw, recognized by industry peers throughout the Midwest for their over 40 years of involvement in racing, were elected as Hall of Fame Immortals by the Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association in January.

Red was raised on a farm in Newcomerstown, was a member of 4-H, and worked showing cattle in New Philadelphia, Sunbury, and Mt. Vernon, where he met and married Betty, a partnership that lasted 50

years, coinciding with Red’s new business, John Red Shaw Auctioneer, which he operated for 52 years.

It was in Knox County where Red and Betty formed a liking for harness racing, which started at the local county fairs and led to attending and purchasing at horse sales throughout the region. It is said that Betty had a “good eye” at the sales and enjoyed spending time on the family farm with those that she had picked, many of whom went on to successful racing careers.

The family was growing with daughter Brenda and sons Tim and Andy, and so was the size of their racing stable. While their great trotter, Victory Is Coming, was their most successful and popular horse, over the course of 35 years the Shaws’ stable owned or bred over 325 horses. They raced all over the Midwest and were recognized by their peers not only for their talent in and around racetracks, but equally as some of the nicest,

hardworking people in the industry.

Red passed away in October of 2020 at the age of 81, and Betty passed away in April of 2023 at the age of 84. At the time of their passing, the family had grown to include three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Their contributions to harness racing were significant and everlasting.

Brenda accepted the award on behalf of the family during the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association Awards Banquet.

“They were a hard-working couple who loved their horses. If you wanted to spend much time with them, you knew you had to be at an auction or the racetrack or in the barn with the horses if you wanted to visit,” she said. “From the entire Shaw family, we would like to thank each and every one of you for this opportunity and the recognition of their friendships, hard work, and dedication.”

Victory Is Coming Inducted into Hall of Fame

By Jay Wolf



Dana Limbach, Virgil Morgan Jr., and Ammon Hershberger

Victory Is Coming, a three-time Ohio Sires Stakes champion, was selected as the latest Standardbred to be enshrined into the Ohio Hall of Fame by the members of the Ohio Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association.

Her sophomore season saw 16 wins in 23 starts and another runner-up finish in the OSS Final.

Victory Is Coming won back-to-back-to-back OSS Finals as an aged trotter in 2014-2016.

A tough open-level trotter who often raced against the boys, Victory Is Coming won seven straight races in 2016 as a 9-year-old.

Victory Is Coming retired from racing in 2017 with 68 wins in 163 starts, earning \$711,159.

As a broodmare, she produced six foals, including Johnnyreds Victory, who has made over \$124,000.

The Victory Sam mare out of Norse Comer was bred by Success Acres. She was purchased as a yearling for \$13,500 by John “Red” and Betty Shaw of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and was trained for most of her career by Ammon Hershberger.

“I’d like to thank everyone who put her into the Hall of Fame,” Hershberger said in accepting the recognition on behalf of the horse’s connections. “We are greatly honored to receive this honor for her.”

As a 2-year-old, Victory Is Coming won half of her 10 seasonal starts and finished second in the Ohio Sires Stakes Final.



Photo: Brad Conrad

Meet the New Director: Jeff Nisonger

By Wes Mayberry



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

Nisonger was introduced to the sport of harness racing through a family friend when he was younger and has held many roles in the sport.

"I started as a groom, and then I wanted to become a trainer. Then I started driving my

own when I was able to," he said. "You only have so much of a shelf life in driving horses, so I'm falling back onto more of the training aspect of it."

Nisonger, 45, closed January with 3,985 wins and \$15.1 million in earnings in his driving career and 670 victories and \$4.5 million in earnings as a trainer.

"I've been happy with it — it's probably better than I expected and more than I deserved," he said, reflecting on his career thus far.

In 2025, Nisonger hit the board in 236 of 436 driving starts with 81 victories and over \$481,000 in earnings. He had 47 wins and bankrolled over \$473,000 as a trainer. Last season also saw him sweep the top driving and training titles in the Ohio Colt Racing Association courtesy of his 65 driving wins and 38 training victories in the circuit. While he likes racing at pari-mutuel tracks, fair racing is his favorite.

"I like changing venues and seeing new people," he said. "It's not just the same old grind all the time."

When not driving and training horses, Nisonger enjoys spending time with his family and hunting. A native of Greenville, Ohio, he currently lives in Lebanon with his wife, Stacey, and two daughters, Alexa and Abby.

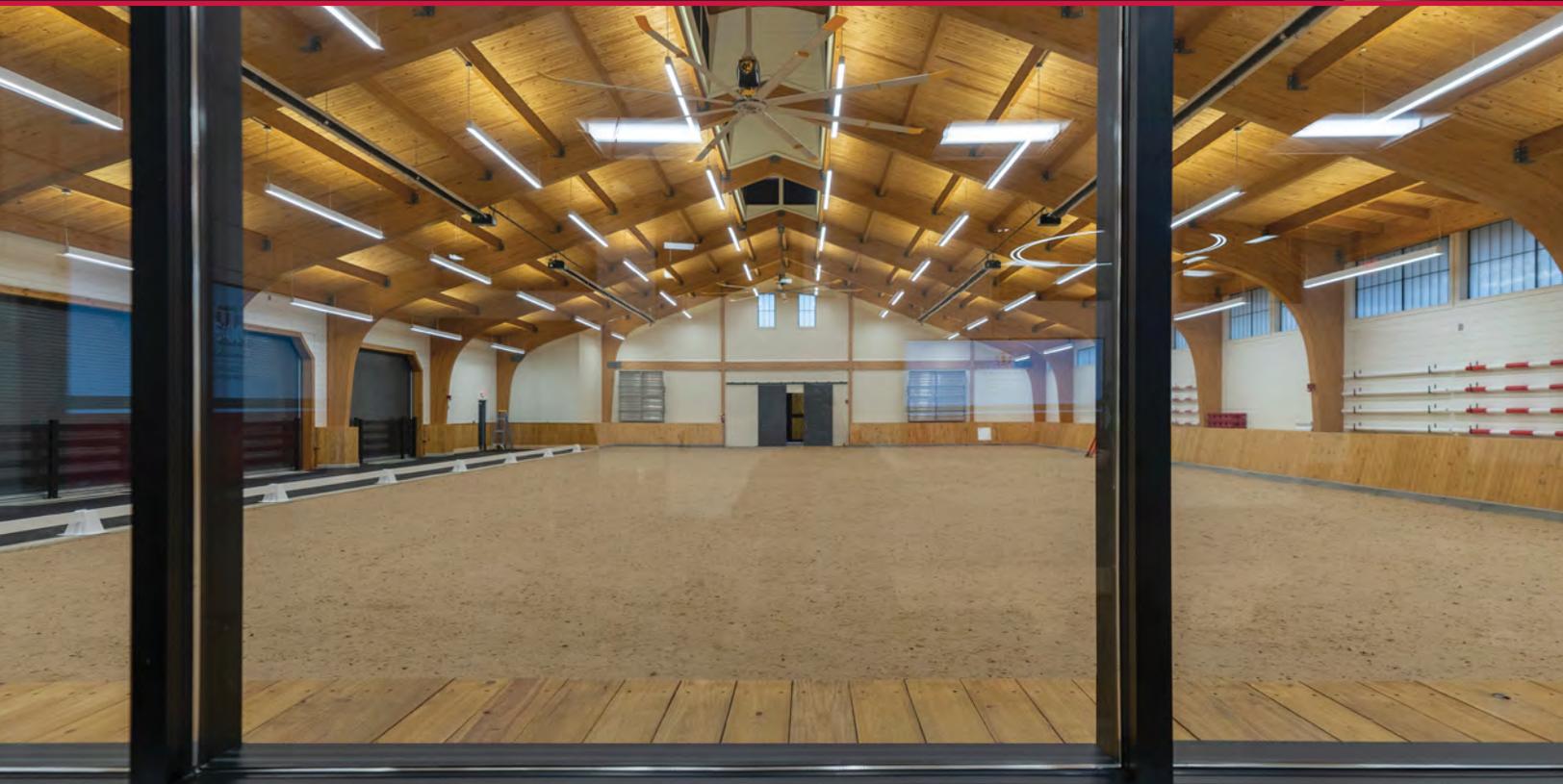


Quick Questionnaire

- Q:** How do you feel about joining the Board of Directors?
A: I have mixed emotions about it, but you can't complain unless you try to fix things.
- Q:** What can be done to improve the sport of harness racing?
A: Probably use more common sense. But it's the same way with the whole world. There are a lot of things that would be so much easier if you just do it the way it makes sense to. Instead, we try to make things hard, and that's been the biggest downfall in this business forever.
- Q:** What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?
A: If you read and listen about Hawthorne Race Course and Illinois, it doesn't sound good. We just need to work together on bettering the industry. It definitely needs to get better to stay alive.
- Q:** What is your favorite harness racing memory?
A: When trainer Gene Riegler won the Little Brown Jug with Life Sign in 1993.
- Q:** What is on your harness racing bucket list?
A: Being able to retire and have something to show for it.
- Q:** What is your favorite Ohio fair?
A: The Darke County Fair – that's my hometown fair.

Ohio State Galbreath Equine Center

Our equine champions
are here for yours. 24/7/365



The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center Ralph Rogan Equine Performance Evaluation Arena

Galbreath Equine Center Veterinary Medicine & Surgery Services:

- Anesthesiology & Pain Management
- 24/7 Emergency & Critical Care
- Internal Medicine & Neonatology
- Radiation Oncology
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Surgery & Lameness
- Upper & Lower Respiratory Care
- Theriogenology & Reproductive Medicine
- Ambulatory primary & specialty services
(Columbus, Ohio and surrounding communities only)

Additional services available on-site:

- Advanced diagnostics including nuclear scintigraphy, 3 Tesla MRI, 128-slice CT, Ultrasound, digital X-ray
- Access to on-site specialists in ophthalmology, cardiology & more!
- Consults & therapeutic shoeing by a certified journeyman farrier

Performance Evaluation Arena features:

- 12,000 sq. ft., all-weather, multi-surface performance evaluation arena
- Can accommodate all sport horse disciplines
- Under saddle examinations with tack storage area
- Full diagnostic imaging capabilities on site



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

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Caring. Down to a Science.

Equine Health Spotlight:

Rose Run Ulysses holds a special place in trainer Kim Dailey's heart. Affectionately known as Big Red, the 10-year-old gelding is one of the last horses that she bought with Hall of Fame husband James "Bill" Dailey before he passed away in 2018.

"He'll never leave my home," she said. "He has raced since he was 2, and he doesn't owe me anything. He's been a good horse."

Dailey, of Mechanicsburg, has fond memories of the day in 2017 when she and her husband purchased Big Red.

"We went to the sale and I texted my husband, 'Hey, you need to come look at this horse,'" she said. "He walked around the corner as I was texting him, and he looked in and said, 'No, he's red. I'm not buying a

red horse.' But then he looked at him and said, 'Oh, I've got to have him.'"

Big Red has been nothing but a joy for the Dailey family ever since. As January came to a close, he boasted a lifetime record of 28-30-39 and over \$500,000 in earnings. He raced in the Ohio Sires Stakes as a freshman and sophomore and developed into a regular

in open-level competitions. He has recorded 30-plus starts in five of his nine seasons, including a high of 52 as a 5-year-old in 2021. The next year proved to be his best, as he posted an 8-8-4 mark and over \$129,000 in earnings in 47 starts. He made 41 more starts in 2023, which was highlighted by a victory in a lifetime-best 1:50.2 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. But that year also saw him suffer an injury that has impacted the latter stages of his career.

"He was sitting on the top of the race at Scioto Downs coming in the first turn, and Kayne Kauffman was driving him, and the bike collapsed underneath him. It broke right in two at the seat. I think that's when the problem started," Dailey said. "We gave him a little time off, but probably not enough. I brought him back, and he just wasn't the same horse, and he's still really not the same."

Following the incident at Scioto, Dailey consulted with several veterinarians to try to determine a diagnosis. They concluded that Big Red had cracked his pelvis, an injury that created several questions in Dailey's mind.

"Was he done? Will he come back?" she remembers thinking.

Amidst the uncertainty, Dailey knew Big Red needed lots of rest, and he took nearly a year off from racing.

"Stall rest was really it — no movement, just letting him stand in a stall and heal," Dailey said. "It was a long process, but he was a champ about it. He never carried on in the stall."

Dailey tried several forms of therapy to aid in the recovery process and found Magna-Wave to be particularly effective. However, while Big Red has returned to racing, the effects of the injury continue to linger.



Owner and trainer Kim Dailey tends to Rose Run Ulysses at Scioto Downs in 2021.

Bone Injuries

By Wes Mayberry



Rose Run Ulysses in the winner's circle at Scioto Downs on Sept. 10, 2025. **Photo:** Conrad Photo

"I think something still bugs him — with the way he stands in his stall, he kind of props himself up on the gate to try to relieve pressure in spots," Dailey said.

Coming off the injury, Big Red made just eight starts in 2024. In 2025, he hit the board 11 times with one win in 34 starts. He closed January 2026 having made two starts on the year. It's tough to say what the horse might have accomplished if not for the injury, but Dailey knows that retirement is likely on the horizon.

"I was hoping to get another year or so out of him, but he may retire here shortly," she said. "He races OK but not like he used to. He's 10 years old, so his age may be catching up with him along with the injury."

Bone Injuries

Big Red is certainly not alone in experiencing a bone injury. In fact, according to

Dr. Maureen Kelleher, Trueman Chair in Equine Clinical Medicine at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, these injuries are very common in racehorses.

"Bone bruises are the most common injuries that occur in racehorses, with fractures happening less frequently but not uncommonly," she said.

Kelleher explained that the high frequency of these injuries is due to the fact that regular training and racing stresses the skeletal system. Without proper identification and care, what may begin as a bone bruise that causes the horse to be mildly lame could progress into something more serious, such as a microfracture or stress fracture.

"Bones are constantly remodeling to meet the impact of training placed upon them, to make them stronger, to meet the demands of impacting the ground, and propelling the horse forward," she said. "The issues arise when the remodeling processes are not as fast as the traumatic forces stressing the bone. Over time, the bone weakens, eventually leading to a fracture. If we miss the signs of microfractures or stress fractures, or we return the horse to work before the bone has healed completely, a complete fracture can occur."

As it was for Big Red, diagnosing bone injuries is difficult, Kelleher says, as they often can't be detected on x-rays. Generally, diagnoses must be made using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT). However, the best way to detect bone injuries is through a bone scan or positron emission tomography (PET) scan.

"The PET scan is much more sensitive than the bone scan but is restricted to the limbs, from just above the knee or hock to the foot. The bone scan can image the entire body, including the spine and the pelvis," Kelleher said. "With the PET scan, the horse can come to the hospital and leave the same day. However, with the bone scan, the horse needs to stay at least one night in the hospital."

Once a horse is diagnosed with a bone injury, the best form of treatment is rest. Kelleher recommends a couple months of paddock or pasture rest for mild injuries and up to a year of stall rest for significant injuries. Other forms of treatment, depending on the situation, include shockwave therapy, laser therapy, or surgery.

With proper care and rest, most horses have a good prognosis for a full recovery from bone injuries, Kelleher says. However, the timetable for that recovery varies.

"For horses with chip fractures, removal of the fracture fragment is highly recommended, and their ability to return to racing will depend on how much damage was caused by the fragment in the joint," Kelleher said. "For horses with a complete fracture, return to racing depends on the location and type of fracture."

While it's difficult to avoid bone injuries altogether, prevention efforts should focus on finding a balance of pushing the horse to the point of strengthening bones at a pace that is equal to the rate of bone remodeling, Kelleher says.

"Know the balance point and train for the longevity of the career you want the horse to have," she said.



Rose Run Ulysses leads the way in an Ohio Sires Stakes race at Scioto Downs en route to his first lifetime win. **Photo:** S.F. Johnson

PAYMENTS DUE

One list and one check keeps your horses

2-YEAR-OLD TROTTING COLTS & GELDINGS

ARDEN DOWNS No. 70

\$40,000 in 2025
-\$200-

To race Friday, July 24 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows and to remain eligible to the 3-year-old-race in 2027.

Entrance Fee: \$400

BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40

\$700,000 USD Guaranteed in 2026
-\$400-

To race Friday, October 23 at Scioto Downs
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 16
Schedule For Future Payments:

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500

4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$600

Entrance Fee: \$5,000

To race as a 3-Year-Old in the 2027 BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40
-Future Eligibility: \$500-

CURRIER & IVES No. 53

\$94,890 in 2025
-\$150-

Open. To remain eligible to 2027 race at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows

DEXTER CUP STAKES 2027

\$115,500 in 2025
-\$400-

Open. To remain eligible to 2027 race at The Meadowlands

HAMBLETONIAN® No. 102

A Triple Crown Event
\$1,000,000 Estimate
-\$500-

Open. To remain eligible to 2027 race at Track TBD

PETER HAUGHTON MEMORIAL

-\$400,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$400-

2-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Trot
A Breeders Crown *Win & You're In* Event
To race Friday, September 18 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
Top Dollar Format

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,250

4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$1,600

Entrance Fee: \$2,500

HOOSIER STAKE No. 90

\$21,619 in 2025
-\$50-

Colts & Geldings only.
To race Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair
Final Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$100
Entrance Fee: \$200

HORSEMAN No. 118

\$31,189 in 2025
-\$75-

SUPPLEMENTAL NOMINATION: \$300

Open. To remain eligible to the 2027 race at the Indiana State Fair

KEYSTONE CLASSIC (Early Closer)

\$46,550 in 2025
-\$200-

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event for 2-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Trotters
Colts & Geldings only. To race Thursday, September 17 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$400

LANDMARK STAKE (Early Closer)

\$8,000 in 2026
-\$150-

Open. To race Sunday, July 5 at Goshen Historic Track
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$250
Entrance Fee: \$300

LIBERTY BELL (Early Closer)

-\$60,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event for 2-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Trotters
To race Thursday, October 29 at Harrah's Philadelphia
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$400

MADISON COUNTY (Early Closer)

-\$80,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$300-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
Top Dollar Format
2nd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500
3rd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$500
Entrance Fee: \$750

MATRON SERIES (Early Closer)

\$115,000 Est. in 2026
-\$300-

To race Thursday, November 5 at Bally's Dover Downs
Top 8 Format
2nd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$400
3rd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$500
Entrance Fee: \$1,000

NEW OAK GROVE TROTTING NEW* DERBY IN 2027

-\$500,000 Guaranteed in 2026-
-\$250-

To remain eligible to the 2027 race at Oak Grove

PENNSYLVANIA ALL-STARS (Early Closer)

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Old Early Closing Event for Colt & Gelding Trotters
Colts & Geldings only. To race Saturday, July 4 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$200

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (Judge Moore)

-\$70,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$300-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Friday, September 11 at Tioga Downs
Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300
Entrance Fee: \$500

JOHN SIMPSON SR. MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (Super Bowl)

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Tuesday, October 13 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$400

TOMPKINS-GEERS (Early Closer)

-\$50,000 CAD Est. in 2026-
-\$300 USD-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Friday, July 17 at Woodbine Mohawk Park (Canada)
Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300 USD
Entrance Fee: \$500 USD

RALPH WILFONG No. 89

-\$37,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

Open. To race Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair
One heat only
Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$600

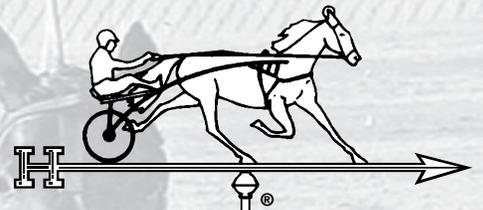
MGM YONKERS TROT 2027

\$300,000 in 2025
-\$300-

Open. To remain eligible to 2027 race at Yonkers Raceway

MARCH 15

eligible to these top events.



The Hambletonian Society, Inc.
Supporting and encouraging the breeding of Standardbred horses for over 101 years

2-YEAR-OLD TROTTING FILLIES (FILLY DIVISION)

ARDEN DOWNS No. 70

\$60,000 in 2025
-\$200-

To race Friday, July 24 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows and to remain eligible to the 3-year-old-race in 2027.

Entrance Fee: \$400

BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40

\$700,000 USD Guaranteed in 2026

-2nd Sustaining Fee: \$400-

To race Friday, October 23 at Scioto Downs
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 16

Schedule For Future Payments:

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500

4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$600

Entrance Fee: \$5,000

To race as a 3-Year-Old in the 2027 BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40

-Future Eligibility: \$500-

CURRIER & IVES No. 53

Filly Division - \$51,940 in 2025
-\$100-

To remain eligible to 2027 race at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows

DEXTER CUP STAKES 2027

Lady Suffolk - \$45,000 in 2025
-\$200-

To remain eligible to 2027 race at The Meadowlands

JIM DOHERTY MEMORIAL

-\$350,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$400-

2-Year-Old Filly Trot

A Breeders Crown *Win & You're In* Event

To race Friday, September 18 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
Top Dollar Format

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,250

4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$1,600

Entrance Fee: \$2,500

HAMBLETONIAN® No. 102

Hambletonian Oaks
\$500,000 Estimated
-\$250-

To remain eligible to 2027 race at *Track TBD*

HOOSIER STAKE No. 90

\$24,368 in 2025
-\$50-

To race Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair
Final Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$100
Entrance Fee: \$200

HORSEMAN No. 118

\$27,614 in 2025
-\$75-

SUPPLEMENTAL NOMINATION: \$250

To remain eligible to the 2027 race at the Indiana State Fair

KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT TROT (Early Closer)

2-Year-Old Filly Trot

-\$200,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$500-

To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
Top Dollar Format

Schedule for Sustaining Payments:

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500

4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$1,000

Entrance Fee: \$1,500

KEYSTONE CLASSIC (Early Closer)

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event
For 2-Year-Old Filly Trotters

\$42,350 in 2025
-\$200-

To race Wednesday, September 16 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$400

LANDMARK STAKE (Early Closer)

-\$6,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$75-

To race Sunday, July 5 at Goshen Historic Track

2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$125

Entrance Fee: \$150

LIBERTY BELL (Early Closer)

-\$60,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event for
2-Year-Old Filly Trotters

To race Thursday, November 5 at Harrah's Philadelphia

2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400

Entrance Fee: \$400

MATRON SERIES (Early Closer)

\$115,000 Est. in 2026
-\$300-

To race Thursday, November 5 at Bally's Dover Downs
Top 8 Format

2nd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$400

3rd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$500

Entrance Fee: \$1,000

NEW OAK GROVE TROTting *NEW* OAKS IN 2027

-\$300,000 Guaranteed in 2026-
-\$250-

To remain eligible to the 2027 race at Oak Grove

PENNSYLVANIA ALL-STARS (Early Closer)

Pennsylvania-Sired 2-Year-Old Early Closing Event for Filly Trotters

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

To race Tuesday, July 14 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania

2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400

Entrance Fee: \$200

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (The Meda)

-\$70,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$300-

To race Friday, September 11 at Tioga Downs

Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300

Entrance Fee: \$500

JOHN SIMPSON SR. MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (Davidia Hanover)

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

To race Tuesday, October 20 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania

Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400

Entrance Fee: \$400

TOMPKINS-GEERS (Early Closer)

-\$50,000 CAD Est. in 2026-
-\$300 USD-

To race Thursday, July 16 at Woodbine Mohawk Park (Canada)

Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300 USD

Entrance Fee: \$500 USD

MGM YONKERS TROT 2027

New York New York Mile - \$120,000 in 2025
-\$150-

To remain eligible to 2027 race at Yonkers Raceway

*May transfer to open race at Declaration Time

PAYMENTS DUE

One list and one check keeps your horses

2-YEAR-OLD PACING COLTS & GELDINGS

THE DELVIN MILLER ADIOS No. 61

\$435,000 in 2025

-\$400-

Open. To remain eligible to the 2027 race at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows

ARDEN DOWNS No. 70

\$40,217 in 2025

-\$200-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Saturday, July 18 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
Entrance Fee: \$400

BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40

\$700,000 USD Guaranteed in 2026

-2nd Sustaining Fee: \$400-

To race Friday, October 23 at Scioto Downs
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 16

Schedule For Future Payments:

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500

4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$600

Entrance Fee: \$5,000

To race as a 3-Year-Old in the 2027 BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40

-Future Eligibility: \$500-

CANE PACE 2027

\$227,350 in 2025

-\$400-

Open. To remain eligible to the 2027 race at The Meadowlands

THE ELEVATION (Early Closer)

-\$100,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$300-

To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park

Top Dollar Format

2nd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500

Final Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$500

Entrance Fee: \$750

FOX STAKE No. 100

-\$55,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$250-

Open. To race Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair

One heat only

Final Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$450

Entrance Fee: \$1,200

HOOSIER STAKE No. 90

\$19,319 in 2025

-\$50-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Wednesday, August 12 at the Indiana State Fair

Final Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$100

Entrance Fee: \$200

HORSEMAN No. 118

\$27,674 in 2025

-\$75-

SUPPLEMENTAL NOMINATION: \$300

Open. To remain eligible to the 2027 race at the Indiana State Fair

KEYSTONE CLASSIC (Early Closer)

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event

For 2-Year-Old Colt Pacers

\$60,100 in 2025

-\$200-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Thursday, September 17 at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows

2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400

Entrance Fee: \$400

LANDMARK STAKE (Early Closer)

-\$13,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$150-

Open. To race Sunday, July 5 at Goshen Historic Track

2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$250

Entrance Fee: \$300

LIBERTY BELL (Early Closer)

-\$60,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$200-

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event for 2-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Pacers

To race Thursday, October 29 at Harrah's Philadelphia

Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400

Entrance Fee: \$400

MATRON SERIES (Early Closer)

-\$115,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$300-

To race Thursday, November 5 at Bally's Dover Downs
Top 8 Format

2nd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$400

3rd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$500

Entrance Fee: \$1,000

MGM GRAND MESSENGER STAKES 2027

\$250,000 in 2025

-\$300-

Open. To remain eligible to the 2027 race at Yonkers Raceway

PENNSYLVANIA ALL-STARS (Early Closer)

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event For 2-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Pacers

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$200-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Monday, July 6 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania

2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400

Entrance Fee: \$200

PROGRESS PACE 2027

\$344,720 in 2025

-\$300-

Open only. To remain eligible to the 2027 race at Bally's Dover Downs

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (Solicitor)

-\$70,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$300-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Friday, September 11 at Tioga Downs

Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300

Entrance Fee: \$500

JOHN SIMPSON SR. MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (Bret Hanover)

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$200-

Colts & Geldings only. To race Monday, October 19 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania

Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400

Entrance Fee: \$400

TOMPKINS-GEERS (Early Closer)

-\$50,000 CAD Est. in 2026-

-\$300 USD-

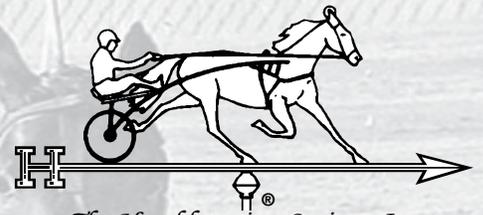
Colts & Geldings only. To race Friday, July 17 at Woodbine Mohawk Park (Canada)

Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300 USD

Entrance Fee: \$500 USD

MARCH 15

eligible to these top events.



The Hambletonian Society, Inc.

Supporting and encouraging the breeding of Standardbred horses for over 101 years

2-YEAR-OLD PACING FILLIES (FILLY DIVISION)

THE DELVIN MILLER ADIOS No. 61

The Quinton Patterson Adioo Volo - \$113,370 in 2025
-\$200-

To remain eligible to the 2027 race
at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows

ARDEN DOWNS No. 70

\$40,000 in 2025
-\$200-

To race Saturday, July 25
at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
Entrance Fee: \$400

BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40

\$700,000 USD Guaranteed in 2026
-2nd Sustaining Fee: \$400-
To race Friday, October 23 at Scioto Downs
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 16
Schedule For Future Payments:
3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500
4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$600
Entrance Fee: \$5,000
To race as a 3-Year-Old in the 2027 BREEDERS CROWN® No. 40
-Future Eligibility: \$500-

CANE PACE 2027

Shady Daisy - \$95,650 in 2025
-\$200-

To remain eligible to the 2027 race
at The Meadowlands

HOOSIER STAKE No. 90

\$24,022 in 2025
-\$50-

To race Wednesday, August 12
at the Indiana State Fair
Final Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$100
Entrance Fee: \$200

HORSEMAN No. 118

\$27,593 in 2025
-\$75-

SUPPLEMENTAL NOMINATION: \$250
To remain eligible to the 2027 race at the Indiana State Fair

KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT PACE (Early Closer)

2-Year-Old Filly Pace
-\$200,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$500-

Top Dollar Format
To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park
Schedule for Future Payments:
3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500
4th Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$1,000
Entrance Fee: \$1,500

KEYSTONE CLASSIC (Early Closer)

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event
for 2-Year-Old Filly Pacers
\$48,500 in 2025
-\$200-

To race Wednesday, September 16
at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows
2nd & Final Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$400

LANDMARK STAKE (Early Closer)

-\$7,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$75-

To race Sunday, July 5 at Goshen Historic Track
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$125
Entrance Fee: \$150

LIBERTY BELL (Early Closer)

-\$60,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event for
2-Year-Old Filly Pacers
To race Thursday, November 5 at Harrah's Philadelphia
Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$400

MATRON SERIES (Early Closer)

-\$115,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$300-

To race Thursday, November 5 at Bally's Dover Downs
Top 8 Format
2nd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$400
3rd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$500
Entrance Fee: \$1,000

MGM GRAND MESSENGER STAKES 2027

Park MGM Pace - \$100,000 in 2025
-\$150-

To remain eligible to the 2027 race
at Yonkers Raceway

PENNSYLVANIA ALL-STARS (Early Closer)

Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event
For 2-Year-Old Filly Pacers
-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

To race Sunday, July 12 at Pocono Downs
at Mohegan Pennsylvania
2nd Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$200

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (Lorraine)

-\$70,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$300-

To race Friday, September 11 at Tioga Downs
Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300
Entrance Fee: \$500

JOHN SIMPSON SR. MEMORIAL (Early Closer) (Razzle Hanover)

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-
-\$200-

To race Saturday, October 17 at Pocono Downs
at Mohegan Pennsylvania
Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$400
Entrance Fee: \$400

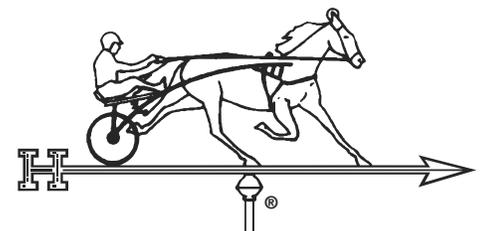
TOMPKINS-GEERS (Early Closer)

-\$50,000 CAD Est. in 2026-
-\$300 USD-

To race Thursday, July 16 at
Woodbine Mohawk Park (Canada)
Sustaining Fee, May 15: \$300 USD
Entrance Fee: \$500 USD

*NOTICE U.S.T.A. Rule 12.04 provides: "Failure to make
any payment required by the conditions constitutes
an automatic withdrawal from the event."*

*The Hambletonian Society, Inc. will construe payment
to require that cash or check duly honored upon
presentation be received at the time specified
in U.S.T.A. Rule 12.02*



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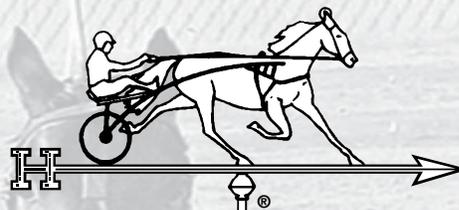
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3-YEAR-OLD EVENTS

<p>BALMORAL PARK (Early Closer) <i>Previously BALLY'S RANDY</i> -\$50,000 Est. in 2026- -\$300- All divisions to race Friday, November 20 at Harrah's Hoosier Park Entrance Fee: \$300</p>	<p>BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL TROT (Early Closer) -\$100,000 Est. in 2026- -\$300- To race Saturday, May 16 at Plainridge Park Casino Entrance Fee: \$200</p>	<p>BREEDERS CROWN® No. 39 Each of the four 3-year-old finals will be guaranteed \$600,000 USD in 2026 -\$800 (all payments in US Funds)- To race Saturday, October 24, at Scioto Downs Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 17 (A February 15th 3-year-old payment was necessary) 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$900 For more information about supplements and regular entries, please contact the office Entrance Fee: \$7,500</p>	<p>HAZEL PARK (Early Closer) <i>Previously CATHOLIC COWBOY SERIES</i> -\$50,000 Est. in 2026- -\$300- All divisions to race Friday, November 6 at Harrah's Hoosier Park Entrance Fee: \$300</p>
<p>CIRCLE CITY (Early Closer) -\$50,000 Est. in 2026- -\$300- All divisions to race Friday, October 23 at Harrah's Hoosier Park Entrance Fee: \$300</p>	<p>COLONIAL TROT/COLONIAL OAKS (Early Closer) *NEW VENUE* -\$40,000 Est. in 2026- -\$300- To race Saturday, September 12 at Harrah's Philadelphia Entrance Fee: \$500</p>	<p>CROSSROADS OF AMERICA (Early Closer) For 3-Year-Old Filly Trotters -\$140,000 Est. in 2026- -\$750- Top Dollar Format To race Friday, October 30 at Harrah's Hoosier Park 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,000 Entrance Fee: \$1,500</p>	<p>CARL ERSKINE (Early Closer) -\$200,000 Est. in 2026- -\$1,000- Top Dollar Format Open. To race Friday, October 30 at Harrah's Hoosier Park 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,000 Entrance Fee: \$2,000</p>
<p>DELMONICA HANOVER (Early Closer) Top Dollar Format -\$250,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #1: \$125,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #2: \$75,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -\$1,000- To race Saturday, August 22 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,500 Entrance Fee: \$2,000 Consolation #1 Entrance Fee: \$1,000 Consolation #2 Entrance Fee: None</p>	<p>EARL BEAL JR. MEMORIAL (Early Closer) Top Dollar Format -\$300,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #1: \$200,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #2: \$100,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -\$1,250- To race Saturday, August 22 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,500 Entrance Fee: \$3,000 Consolation #1 Entrance Fee: \$1,500 Consolation #2 Entrance Fee: \$750</p>	<p>JAMES LYNCH MEMORIAL (Early Closer) Top Dollar Format -\$250,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #1: \$125,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #2: \$75,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -\$1,000- To race Saturday, August 22 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,500 Entrance Fee: \$2,000 Consolation #1 Entrance Fee: \$1,000 Consolation #2 Entrance Fee: None</p>	
<p>JENNA'S BEACH BOY (Early Closer) For 3-Year-Old Colt & Gelding Pacers -\$125,000 Est. in 2026- -\$750- To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$750 Entrance Fee: \$1,500</p>	<p>KEYSTONE CLASSIC (Early Closer) For Pennsylvania-Sired 3-Year-Olds \$224,350 Total 3-Year-Old Purses in 2025 -2nd & Final Sustaining Fee: \$400- To race at Hollywood Casino at The Meadows 3-year-old Filly Pace on Friday, September 18 3-year-old Colt & Gelding Pace on Fri., Sept. 18 3-year-old Colt & Gelding Trot on Thurs., Oct. 1 3-year-old Filly Trot on Friday, October 2 Entrance Fee: \$400</p>	<p>LANDMARK STAKE (Early Closer) -\$36,000 Est. total in 2026- -\$250 Colts/\$125 Fillies- All divisions to race Saturday, July 4 at Goshen Historic Track Entrance Fee - \$500 Colts/\$250 Fillies</p>	<p>LIBERTY BELL (Early Closer) -\$60,000 Est. in 2026- -\$400- Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event for 3-Year-Olds to race at Harrah's Philadelphia 3-year-old Colt & Gelding Trot on Friday, Oct. 30 3-year-old Filly Trot on Friday, November 6 3-year-old Colt & Gelding Pace on Sunday, Nov. 1 3-year-old Filly Pace on Sunday, Nov. 8 Entrance Fee: \$400</p>
<p>MATRON SERIES (Early Closer) \$575,100 Total 3-Year-Old Purses in 2025 -2nd Payment \$600- To race at Bally's Dover Downs on Thursday, November 12 Top 8 Format 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$750 Entrance Fee: \$1,500</p>	<p>MAX HEMPT MEMORIAL (Early Closer) Top Dollar Format -\$300,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #1: \$200,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -Consolation #2: \$100,000 Guaranteed in 2026- -\$1,250- To race Saturday, August 22 at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,500 Entrance Fee: \$3,000 Consolation #1 Entrance Fee: \$1,500 Consolation #2 Entrance Fee: \$750</p>	<p>MONUMENT CIRCLE (Early Closer) -\$200,000 Est. in 2026- -\$1,000- Top Dollar Format Pacing Colts & Geldings only. To race Friday, October 30 at Harrah's Hoosier Park 3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,000 Entrance Fee: \$2,000</p>	<p>*NEW* OAK GROVE TROTTING *NEW* DERBY/OAKS -\$500,000 Guaranteed in 2026 (Colts/Geldings)- -\$300,000 Guaranteed in 2026 (Fillies)- -\$500- To race Saturday, May 16 at Oak Grove Elimination heats, if necessary, will race Saturday, May 4 2nd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$500 Entrance Fee: \$1,500 Colts Entrance Fee: \$500 Fillies</p>
<p>PAUL REVERE PACE (Early Closer) -\$100,000 Est. in 2026- -\$300- Open. To race Saturday, May 2 at Plainridge Park Casino Entrance Fee: \$200</p>	<p>PEGASUS SERIES (Early Closer) -\$50,000 Est. in 2026- -\$300- All divisions to race Friday, October 16 at Harrah's Hoosier Park Entrance Fee: \$300</p>	<p>PENNSYLVANIA ALL-STARS (Early Closer) -\$75,000 Est. in 2026- -\$400- Pennsylvania-Sired Early Closing Event for 3-Year-Old Pacers & Trotters To race at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania 3-year-old Filly Pace on Monday, May 11 3-year-old Colt & Gelding Pace on Saturday, May 9 3-year-old Colt & Gelding Trot on Monday, May 18 3-year-old Filly Trot on Saturday, May 23 Entrance Fee: \$200</p>	<p>PHIL LANGLEY MEMORIAL Top Dollar Format -\$100,000 Est. in 2026- -\$1,000- Open. To race Friday, September 25 at Harrah's Hoosier Park Entrance Fee: \$1,000</p>

MARCH 15

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3-YEAR-OLD EVENTS

W.N. REYNOLDS MEMORIAL (Early Closer)

-\$220,000 Estimated in Total 3-Year-Old Purses in 2026-
-\$300-

To race at The Meadowlands:

3-year-old Colt & Gelding Trot on Saturday, July 4

3-year-old Filly Trot on Saturday, July 4

To race at Plainridge Park Casino:

3-year-old Colt & Gelding Pace on Monday, October 12

3-year-old Filly Pace on Monday, October 12

Entrance Fee: \$500

JOHN SIMPSON SR. MEMORIAL

(Early Closer)

-\$75,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$400-

To race at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania

3-year-old Colt & Gelding Pace on Saturday, September 26

3-year-old Colt & Gelding Trot on Saturday, October 17

3-year-old Filly Trot on Monday, October 26

3-year-old Filly Pace on Monday, October 26

Entrance Fee: \$400

POMPANO PARK (Early Closer)

Previously STAR DESTROYER SERIES

-\$50,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$300-

All divisions to race on Friday, November 13

at Harrah's Hoosier Park

Entrance Fee: \$300

THANKSGIVING CLASSIC SERIES (Early Closer)

-\$50,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$300-

All divisions to race Friday, November 27

at Harrah's Hoosier Park

Entrance Fee: \$300

TOMPKINS-GEERS (Early Closer)

-\$280,000 Est. Total 3-Year-Old Purses in 2026-

-\$300-

To race at The Meadowlands

3-year-old Colt & Gelding Trot on Saturday, July 25

3-year-old Filly Trot on Saturday, July 25

3-year-old Colt & Gelding Pace on Saturday, August 1

3-year-old Filly Pace on Saturday, August 1

Entrance Fee: \$500

USS INDIANAPOLIS MEMORIAL

(Early Closer)

Top Dollar Format

Early Closer For 3-year-old Filly Pacers

-\$125,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$750-

To race Friday, October 30 at Harrah's Hoosier Park

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,000

Entrance Fee: \$1,500

3-YEAR-OLD & UP EVENTS

BREEDERS CROWN® No. 38

For 3-Year-Old & Older Pacers & Trotters -

\$600,000 Guaranteed

To race Saturday, October 24, at Scioto Downs

Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced

Saturday, October 17

(A February 15th open payment was necessary)

-\$1,500-

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,500

Entrance Fee: \$10,000

BREEDERS CROWN® MARE TROT & PACE No. 38

For 3-Year-Old & Older Pacers & Trotters -

\$400,000 Guaranteed

To race Saturday, October 24, at Scioto Downs

Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced

Saturday, October 17

-\$1,000-

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,500

Entrance Fee: \$5,000

CAESAR'S TROTting CLASSIC (Early Closer)

For 3-Year-Old & Older Trotters

Top Dollar Format

-\$200,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$1,500-

Open. To race Friday, September 25 at

Harrah's Hoosier Park

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$2,000

Entrance Fee: \$2,000

CLARA BARTON DISTAFF PACE (Early Closer)

For 3-Year-Old and Older Mare Pacers

Top Dollar Format

-\$100,000 Guaranteed in 2026-

-\$1,000-

To race Sunday, July 19 at Plainridge Park Casino

Entrance Fee: \$1,500

DAN PATCH (Early Closer)

Top Dollar Format

For All Pacers

-\$300,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$1,500-

Open. To race Friday, August 14 at Harrah's Hoosier Park

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$2,000

Entrance Fee: \$2,500

DAYTON DISTAFF, OAKS, PACING AND TROTting DERBY (Early Closer)

For 3-Year-Old & Older Pacers & Trotters

Top Dollar Format

-\$250,000 Guaranteed each in 2026-

-Consolation \$75,000 Guaranteed-

-\$1,250-

To race Saturday, October 3 at Hollywood Gaming

at Dayton Raceway

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$2,000

Entrance Fee: \$2,500

Consolation Entrance Fee: \$750

HOOSIER PARK PACING DERBY (Early Closer)

For All Pacers

Top Dollar Format

-\$175,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$2,000-

Open. To race Friday, September 25

at Harrah's Hoosier Park

Entrance Fee: \$1,500

NEW ROCKIN NOLA (Early Closer)

For 3-Year-Old & Up Pacing Fillies and Mares

-\$100,000 Est. in 2026-

-\$750-

Open. To race Friday, August 14 at Harrah's Hoosier Park

3rd Sustaining Fee, April 15: \$1,000

Entrance Fee: \$1,500

SPIRIT OF MASSACHUSETTS TROT (Early Closer)

For 3-Year-Old and Older Trotters

Top Dollar Format

-\$250,000 Guaranteed in 2026-

-\$1,500-

To race Sunday, July 19 at Plainridge Park Casino

Entrance Fee: \$2,500

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OSU Introduces World-Class Agricultural Educational Facility

By Wes Mayberry

Exterior Rendering - credit to Ohio State College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Representatives of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) didn't let the cold temperatures of a late January morning stop them from celebrating a momentous occasion — the ribbon-cutting of a new world-class facility.

“More than 270 people joined CFAES for the ribbon-cutting of the Multispecies Animal Learning Complex on January 29,” said Graham Cochran, CFAES associate dean for operations. “The wide range of attendees from students, faculty, and staff to donors, industry partners, and leaders in government show the excitement in the agricultural community for this new state-of-the-art facility.”

Located across from the Innovation District at Ohio State, the MALC at Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory is aimed at bringing people and animals together while supporting education for students at the university, in grades K-12, and across the lifespan. It will facilitate education in essential STEM fields and foster workforce development for the diverse range of careers related to working in animal agriculture. Inside, students will have opportunities to gain hands-on experience with swine, equine, poultry, and ruminants, and the public will be able to view the

workings of modern livestock production and handling facilities.

“We’re excited about the opportunities it will unlock for Ohio State students and public engagement in learning about animal agriculture, which is Ohio’s No. 1 industry,” Cochran said. “It will house class labs for our CFAES majors in areas like Animal Sciences and will bring in other Ohio State students and K-12 students to learn about animal agriculture.”

The new \$60 million complex broke ground on Jan. 30, 2024, and measures 154,600 square feet, including 45,300 square feet of arena space, 11,500 square feet of teaching and meeting space, and barn space totaling 51,000 square feet housing up to 2,200 animals. A new dairy, which sits south of the MALC, measures 25,000 square feet in size.

“The opening of the Multispecies Animal Learning Complex and dairy is an exciting milestone for our college and for Ohio agriculture,” said Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. “The MALC gives our students unparalleled hands-on learning opportunities while strengthening our ability to engage the public and prepare the next generation of leaders who will sustain life and serve our communities.”

The complex furthers the CFAES’ goal for Waterman as a place that enhances research, teaching, and outreach initiatives relevant to industry and people across the world. Of particular interest to those in the equine industry, the MALC is designed to host class labs for instruction in horse handling, nutrition, and reproduction. Students interested in the equine field may enroll in a course even with limited experience working with horses.

“The hands-on opportunities at the MALC can develop and enhance the skills needed to safely and humanely work with equine within the industry,” said Kelly High, CFAES equine manager.

Beyond course learning, there are internship, research, and employment opportunities as well.

“These opportunities offer a more student-centered approach that can be designed around learning interests and needs of students, providing greater opportunities for learning in equine behavior and handling, nutrition, and breeding and reproductive management,” High said. “We are also always looking for industry partners interested in working with our students in various ways, including internship opportunities or activities hosted at Ohio State.”



Ribbon-cutting ceremony
Photo: Brooke LaValley, Ohio State College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

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20 Questions with Cameron McCown



1. What was your very first knowledge of any type of horse?

I grew up having pleasure horses, saddle horses. I didn't grow up with Standard-breds, but I've had horses all my life.

2. Were you involved in any sports in school?

I played football and tried out for basketball but didn't make the team. I also played some hockey. I got into rodeo my junior and senior years of high school.

3. Why did you get into rodeo?

We had cows, and it just struck an interest. I always wanted to try to do it, and once I did it, I kind of got addicted.

4. Were you riding bulls in the rodeos?

Yes, it was bull-riding. I started in Waynesville, Ohio. We went there every Saturday, and it took off from there.

5. Was it an easy transition from riding bulls to getting involved in harness racing?

Going to a rodeo, you don't know which bull you're going to draw that day. For harness racing, you know what you're going to drive that day, so you can plan a little more.

6. Your first win was at Bucyrus. Do you remember the horse?

Yes, it was Count On Anna.

7. Do you remember your first pari-mutuel win at Dayton with Grandpaslildragon? You were starting to really like this profession once you got that first win under your belt, weren't you?

Yes, but it was hard. Once you get the feeling of it, you want it all the time.

8. You have 1,128 career wins. Is there any one of those wins that stands out among all the others?

It has to be the Veteran's Sires Stakes Championship win with My Pal Sparky. That was really cool.

9. Do you have a preference between half-mile or five-eighths-mile tracks?

I like the bigger tracks. I like to be able to come from behind, and it always seems like you have to be up front at the half-mile tracks.

10. When you're getting ready for a race, do you plan what you're going to do?

I look at the program, and I pick out the horses I want to follow. But Plan A doesn't always work out, so you have to have a lot of backup plans. You're at the track every day, so you pretty much watch these horses every week and you know what horses are doing well and which trainers and drivers to follow. For horses that you've never driven, you go back and watch replays and see how they like to be driven.

11. Is there another driver that's been important in your career?

The guy I look up to most is Brett Miller. But there are a lot of people at Miami Valley that can drive horses, so there are a bunch of them I look up to.

12. Do you prefer working with young horses or older ones?

We started getting more into the young horses, and we had a good year last year. The horses that we bought and broke all made it to the races, and we were very successful.

13. How many young horses do you have this year?

We have seven this year. I'd like to have more in the future, but we're building a little bit at a time. Last year, we had five.

14. You and your wife, Jessica, are raising young children. How do you manage the youngsters' lives and your harness racing life?

It's very hard. If I didn't have Jess, it would be a mess. She definitely takes on a lot with the kids. You're at the track every day, and by the time you get home, the kids are in bed getting ready to go to school the next day. But they all understand the kind of business we're in.

15. Do your kids show an interest in harness racing?

They both show interest. I just hope that if they do decide to do this that we still have the opportunity to make the money that we make right now.

16. Do you have a favorite restaurant?

We like to go to the Old Dog in Delaware.

17. Are you able to go on vacation as a family?

The horses take up a lot of our time. You definitely need to do something to keep your mind off of the everyday stuff, but we don't normally do vacations.

18. Do you have a favorite TV show?

I like Landman.

19. Do you go to any sporting events?

We've been to watch the Columbus Blue Jackets two times this year so far. We definitely like hockey.

20. What race would mean everything in the world to you to win?

As an Ohioan, winning the Little Brown Jug would be awesome.



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Braving the Cold By Bob Roberts

Winter racing at MGM Northfield Park **Photo:** Diane Wise

There are no chestnuts roasting on an open fire inside the paddock at the top of the hill at MGM Northfield Park. But Jack Frost is nipping at the noses of those in white pants and detailed helmets.

Driving pacers and trotters in the winter months in Ohio is challenging. And downright cold.

“The first race of the night is the worst,” said Justin Irvine. “Once you get the burning sensation out of your hands, you kind of get acclimated, and it doesn’t bother you as much.”

Keith Kash Jr., a veteran of many winters at Northfield, takes the cold in stride.

“I’m not complaining,” he said. “We did sign up for this. Plus, winter colors have gotten better over the years. They pretty much keep you warm out there. Not cheap though. They cost about \$700 a set.”

Clair Umholtz, who has been in the sulky for 48 years, is no fan of cold weather racing, but what he hates even more is a wet track.

“You get clods coming back on your face and glasses,” he said. “Mud is a bigger problem for me. As for cold, it doesn’t seem to bother you, especially when you’re doing well.”

Umholtz recalls a night at the races in the 1980s when it was 0 degrees with a wind chill of minus-25.

“The first thing to go are the hands,” he said.

Chris Lems battles the winter elements at Northfield with his fellow drivers with memories of when things were much colder north of the border.

“It’s been years, but the coldest I’ve been was at Rideau Carleton (in Ottawa, Canada),” said Lems. “It was a very cold place. Being Canada, they do temperature readings in Celsius (instead of Fahrenheit). I couldn’t keep track of it, but it was cold. There were a lot of days when it didn’t get above freezing. The only way to fight it was to layer up. Lots of layers. Hands and feet were always the worst. But as soon as they got frozen, it wasn’t too bad.”

Lems is originally from South Dakota, so he knows a lot about cold.

“Yes, but I spent a couple of winters racing in Florida, so I got spoiled,” he said.

As for Irvine, he’s dressed for both success and survival on the most frigid of Northfield nights.

“I’ll wear two fleece turtlenecks, two pairs of leggings and heavy winter colors, headband, face mask, and ear muffs. And Lasix gloves under winter gloves helps. They trap the heat in. Last winter, it was zero (degrees) for a couple of nights in a row. It was so cold that if you sprayed your bike in the paddock, it would be frozen before you left.”

Then there are the Merrimans, father Lanny and son Aaron. They are the Abominable Snowman and Sasquatch rolled into one.



Driver Chris Lems and trainer Ariel Alvarez in the winner's circle on a snowy evening at MGM Northfield Park **Photo:** Diane Wise

"Cold doesn't bother me," said Aaron. "I don't wear a mask out there, or do I cover my ears. And there is nothing special about the gloves that I wear for winter racing. Now, rain is another matter. I don't like driving in a cold rain."

Papa Merriman takes it a step further. He laughs in the face of freezing temperatures.

"The cold doesn't mean a thing," he said. "You can get accustomed to it. I remember racing here one night, probably 20 years ago, when the wind chill was 40 below. All I wear are cloth gloves (they resemble gardening gloves). And when I go out and come back inside the paddock or the barn, I throw them on the floor because if you handle the horse wearing gloves, and the horse is steamy, he will put moisture in them and you'll get cold again. I do wear winter colors, but not long johns."

Paul Holzman, who trained Southwind Amazon, the winningest horse in North American harness history (139 wins), warms up his pupils, but does so with a cold shoulder.

"How do you stay warm? You don't," said Holzman. "You just put up with it. What makes it worse for me is that I went to Florida to race for 35 years. I've got thin blood. So, I wear long johns, and I cover my head. I also use toe warmers. They're like hand warmers and they stick to your socks and do a good job."

None of the Northfield Park drivers interviewed said they'd be willing to try what Thoroughbred jockey Terry Houghton says is the

best weapon against the winter winds and cold. In a 2015 interview, Houghton told the Youngstown Vindicator that he wears "women's thermal tights with the feet. They're great."

One of the coldest wintertime ovals in North America was Lebanon Raceway, actually the Warren County Fairgrounds. Its assigned dates were annually into the teeth of winter, and it was not unusual for the southwestern Ohio track to conduct races in sub-freezing temperatures.

Two racetrack junkies, Jerry Connors, secretary of the United States Harness Writers Association, along with the author of this article, filled a night before the annual Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association's banquet in Columbus with a trip down I-71 to Lebanon.

"It was the mid-1980s, and it was very cold," recalled Connors. "I think it was around zero (degrees)."

My recollection was several degrees below zero, so cold that the horses were fitted with mufflers over their noses to warm the air they were pulling into their lungs. They all had to wear them. Otherwise, a horse could win not by a nose, but by a muffler over a horse not wearing one.

It didn't matter if the adventurous duo, warm and cozy in the Lebanon grandstand, made money at the betting windows that night. They were runaway winners in the track's icy parking lot — their car started.

No Satin Intended Continues to Thrive a Decade After Final Race

By Dot Morgan



Rocky Fork Headley Hunt Centennial Blessing of the Hounds
Photo: Crow Photo



No Satin Intended and Laura Brentlinger with the Rocky Fork Headley Hunt **Photo:** John McKean

No Satin Intended raced lightly over six years, never making too many starts and never competing in a claiming race. He was a family favorite from the beginning, having been one of the first horses born and raised on Jim Arledge Jr.'s farm. When the gelding was no longer competitive, there was never a question of where he would go — they simply brought him home.

“He was always special to us. We liked having him around,” Arledge Jr. said. “But he really didn’t need to spend the rest of his life in the field. We thought it would be nice for him to be a riding horse.”

And so, in the winter of 2015, No Satin Intended was sent to New Vocations.

Stellar adopter and 4-H advisor Debbie Schiff immediately saw the potential in the beloved gelding and selected him to join her small herd of Standardbreds that she shared with the kids in her club. Standardbreds are Schiff’s passion, and promoting their versatility has long been her mission. If a horse-crazy young person wanted to join her club but didn’t have a horse, Schiff made sure the youngster had one to ride. No Satin Intended — better known as Butterbean in reference to his substantial girth — filled that role perfectly.

“Butterbean loved the kids and tolerated the adults,” Schiff said with a laugh.

Though he was a steady, reliable partner on the trails and enjoyed running barrels with her husband, Paul, Butterbean was truly in his element with the kids.

He attended the Pickaway County Fair for several years, winning plenty of ribbons along the way. Arledge Jr. trains at the same fairgrounds and would stop by to see him during the fair. He was delighted that Butterbean was thriving in his new role. Butterbean was also ridden by several different kids in demonstrations at the Kentucky Horse Park and at Ohio Standardbreds and Friends shows.



Addison Stevens and No Satin Intended at the Pickaway County Fair

“Our granddaughter and grandson rode him often in the arena here at our home with our other horses — practicing, they called it, but it was more like racing each other,” Schiff said. “Once the grandkids got jobs and moved away, and I retired from my 4-H club, Butterbean was no longer being ridden. He was just too nice of a horse to stand.”

Determined to do what was best for him, Schiff conscientiously rehomed Butterbean with another family.

“I know he has the best home,” she said. “He does foxhunting and gets to hang out in beautiful fields at his new farm.”

That farm belongs to Laura Brentlinger, who lives with her family on a picturesque property in Sunbury and has been an avid foxhunter since 1992. She is a longtime member of the Rocky Fork Headley Hunt.

Brentlinger hunted regularly, but her daughter, Emily, did not share the same passion and only occasionally rode Butterbean at home. After a couple years, Emily became more interested in riding four-wheelers, and Laura’s mare began experiencing health issues. Butterbean was called into action.

“It took me a little time to feel confident riding his huge trot, but we soon found our cadence together,” Laura said.

One of their early outings was a joint weekend with the Camargo Hunt in Kentucky.

“At one point there was a hound running circles under Butterbean, and he stood like a statue through the whole incident,” she recalled. “That’s when I knew he was something really special.”

Last fall, the pair hunted 10 times during the informal cubbing season with Rocky Fork Headley Hunt. Laura hopes to enjoy some nice days out hunting during the winter and make the trip back down to Kentucky to hunt with her Camargo friends.

Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON



The months of November, December, and January feature hopes and dreams for the future in harness racing in looking at sale catalogs to find the right one to fulfill your hopes for the coming year.



Rosy Weaver with Docs Last Wish

This column is devoted to the late Dan Wilson DVM. In 2024, he told Rosy Weaver that he wanted to partner with me on a yearling. I first met the former State Veterinarian at Northfield when he retired.

I truly got to know this kind-hearted man through a podcast when I was working full-time for the OHHA in 2020. So when his trainer called and told me of his wishes, the immediate answer was yes. That led to the purchase of the In Range yearling Eckert Hill Brady.

Last year was the most enjoyable year for me as a horse owner, especially after an undefeated season at nine county fairs.

This past November, Dan and his wife, Barbara, went to Glory Meadows to see his 14 horses in training for 2026.

At lunch, Doc told Rosy that Hip #40 at the upcoming Springfield sale checked all his boxes and thought it would be a good purchase. Rosy pointed out that she thought they had enough babies for next year. Doc laughed it off and replied, "I guess you're right."

Four days later, on Nov. 17, Dan Wilson passed away with his dog on his lap while he was watching races at Northfield.

The sudden passing was a devastating loss for his family and all that knew Doc. So many fellow partners, caretakers, owners, and friends were sharing the family's grief.

The day after his passing, Rosy got a feeling she should go take a look at Hip #40. So the next morning she went to the sale in hopes of purchasing the filly in Doc's memory. Her initial assessment was that the filly by Triumphant Caviar out of I Like Stephanie would bring from \$10,000 to \$12,000, as she had a scar on her knee from an earlier incident at the farm. She was assured by connections that there was no injury to the knee.

Halfway through the bidding, Rosy got into it at \$27,000, then \$29,000 with the thought of a name change to Docs Last Wish. Her next bid was \$31,000 as others took it to \$34,000. The final hammer came down after her bid of \$35,000. Another owner at the sale, Dave Jury, and friend Marion Beachy wanted a part of the filly.

Within minutes, the name of Hip #40 was changed. On the way home, Rosy called Barb Wilson to report the purchase and name change. To say the least, Barb was in tears of sadness but joy as well.

When I heard the story, I contacted Rosy to be a part of the ownership but was told that they already had the 100%. I asked if she would talk to Barb, Dave, and Marion to get 5% each for me to own a part of the filly. I was fortunate to be accepted, so we now have five, including Rosy, all at 20%.

The next problem developed with the USTA, as the rule says no more than four owners. That problem has been solved, however, as Barb and I have now formed a partnership as "Wilson Huston" much like "Weaver Brussemi."

Docs Last Wish is now in training at McGhees' Mile in Aiken, South Carolina.

By the way, her stable nickname is "Angel."

Be There!



Delaware County Fair Stakes Payments



Due March 16, 2026

Little Brown Jug #82 & Jugette #57

3-year-old colt & filly pace

\$500 Little Brown Jug Sustaining Payment

\$400 Jugette Sustaining Payment

To Be Raced in 2027 - Foals of 2024

Old Oaken Bucket & Buckette #75

3-year-old colt & filly trot

\$300 Old Oaken Bucket Sustaining Payment

\$200 Buckette Sustaining Payment

To Be Raced in 2027 - Foals of 2024

Standardbred #87

2-year-old colt & filly trot & pace

\$400 Colt Events Sustaining Payment

\$300 Filly Events Sustaining Payment

To Be Raced in 2026 - Foals of 2024

Due May 15, 2026

Little Brown Jug #83 & Jugette #58

3-year-old colt & filly pace

\$50 Nomination Payment

To Be Raced in 2028 - Foals of 2025

Old Oaken Bucket & Buckette #76

3-year-old colt & filly trot

\$25 Nomination Payment

To Be Raced in 2028 - Foals of 2025

Thanks to support of the Ohio Harness Horseman's Association, all foals registered by May 15, 2026 by Ohio registered stallions, will have their yearling nomination paid to the above Grand Circuit races.

Standardbred #88

2-year-old colt & filly trot & pace

\$25 Nomination Payment

To Be Raced in 2027 - Foals of 2025

Due April 15, 2026

Stallion Nomination – Ohio Breeders Championships #42

Nominate your stallion to make his foals eligible to the

\$1.2 million (est.) Ohio Breeders Championships

Nomination fee of one half of the stud fee charged for the year of conception (2024), minimum of \$300.

This year's payment will cover foals for 2025 to be raced as 2-year-olds in 2027, and 3-year-olds in 2028.

Complete conditions for these stakes are available in the USTA Stakes Guide or on ustrotting.com.

Payment forms are on LittleBrownJug.com and should be mailed to:
Delaware County Fair, Attn: Tom Wright, PO Box 1560, Powell, Ohio 43065

OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Mares registered in 2021 (Foals of 2022)

Mare registration date 11/30/21

Foal Born 2022 Membership Required

Mares registered in 2022 (Foals of 2023)

Mare registration date 11/30/22

Foal Born 2023 Membership Required

Mares registered in 2023 (Foals of 2024)

Mare registration date 11/30/23

Foal Born 2024 Membership Required

Mares registered in 2024 (Foals of 2025)

Mare registration date 11/30/24

Foal Born 2025 Membership Required

Mares registered in 2025 (Foals of 2026)

Mare registration date 11/30/25

Foal Born 2026 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.

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Jeffrey Joe Miller

Thomas (Tom) Eugene Miller

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Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

- (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on October 21, 2025, at the Vern Riffe Center, Room 1948, 19th floor, 77 S High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
- (2) Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Beth Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners Tom Winters, Greg Simpson, and Jeff Slyman were present. Chair Hansen thanked Governor DeWine and LT Governor Tressel for providing us with our 5th commissioner Jeff Slyman. Commissioner Dan McCarthy arrived at 10:04 AM after roll call during the approval of 2026 racing permits.
- (3) Approval of Minutes from the September 16, 2025, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the September 16, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (4) Ratification of Executive Director Approvals: Commissioner Simpson moved to ratify the Executive Director's approvals and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. Executive Director Dragone wanted to note the stewards at Belterra Park did not follow proper procedures during the last week of their meeting, regarding failure to provide hearing & due process, and disciplinary action has been taken against each individual steward to ensure that will never happen again. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (5) Approval of 2026 Racing Permits: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the 2026 live date applications from Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning, Belterra Park, Jack Thistledown, Miami Valley, Scioto Downs, Northfield Park, and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. Assistant Executive Director Holly Chandler explained the permits give permit holders the authorization to do live and simulcast pari-mutuel wagering and gives the OSRC the authority to license & regulate. Commissioner Winters wanted to confirm that the horsemen's associations have agreed with the permits. Frank Fraas stated the OHHA agrees to the permits on the standardbred side, and Dave Basler stated that all the thoroughbred tracks agree. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (6) Resolution 2025-11 - Casino Revenue Distribution: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. Fiscal Officer Sherry White stated that it was the final one for this year, and the quarter horse repayment will be paid out later once resolved. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (7) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson was unable to attend in person but was available on the telephone. Deputy Director Boulmetis spoke on his behalf. As of October 20, 2025, the total number of racing and training fatalities for both thoroughbred and harness in Ohio is 38. At all thoroughbred tracks, there have been a total of 28 racing fatalities - 19 racing and 9 training. There have been 12,603 thoroughbred racing starts with 19 fatalities. This calculates a racing fatality rate of 1.5/1000 starts with a corresponding safety record of 99.835%. At all Ohio harness tracks, there have been a total of 44,184 harness starts with 10 racing fatalities - 7 catastrophic breakdowns and 3 sudden deaths. The aggregate harness racing fatality rate is 0.23/1000 starts with a corresponding safety record of 99.98%. Commissioner Slyman questioned the 10 fatalities in July. Dr. Robertson answered via telephone that a spike in fatalities at Thistledown was the primary cause and was addressed with a pause in racing to fix the racetrack surface.
- (8) Monthly Financial Report: Fiscal Officer Sherry White referenced the \$24,000 fiscal year gain, the casino revenue difference, and a greater licensing revenue thus far this year as well as fines & fingerprint revenue being up. Payroll is up by 22% as two positions were added and there was a pay increase in July for all employees. Costs that have been down for the month are testing, legal services, and IT expenses. Commissioner McCarthy questioned as to why the licensing revenues are up so much, White explained it was how the timing of the fiscal year falls.
- (9) Paul Russell Adjudication: Commissioner Winters moved to hear the adjudication for Paul Russell, and Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The Commission listened to the comments of Assistant Attorney General Todd DeBoe. Mr. Russell did not file an objection, nor did he attend the commission meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to confirm and approve the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation denying Mr. Russell's owner/ trainer application.
- (10) Commissioners' Comments: Chair Beth Hansen appreciates the OHHA's partnership with the Ohio State Racing Commission. Commissioner Winters commented on Northfield Park's potential sale and how it is believed to take between 90-180 days to process as it is a three-party sale.
- (11) Public Comments: Dave Basler from Ohio HBPA wanted to publicly thank Executive Director Dragone and the staff of the commission, and the executive director's willingness to work together.
- (12) Executive Session: Commissioner Winters moved to go into executive session to discuss pending legal matters. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The Commissioners went into executive session at 10:26 a.m. Commissioner Winters moved to conclude executive session. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion.
- (13) Adjournment: Commissioner Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Slyman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting: Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1920 Riffe Center

Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting Thursday, November 20, 2025

- (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on November 20, 2025, at the Vern Riffe Center, Room 1920, 19th floor, 77 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
- (2) Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Beth Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Commissioners Tom Winters, Greg Simpson, Dan McCarthy, and Jeff Slyman were present.
- (3) Approval of Minutes from the October 21, 2025, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the October 21, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (4) Ratification of Executive Director Approvals: Commissioner Simpson moved to ratify the Executive Director's approvals and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. Executive Director Dragone had no notes for the approvals but commented on Mahoning Valley's combined simulcast purse fund which needs to be completed by the 15th of the month for audit purposes. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (5) Approval of 2026 Meet Requests:
 - a. Northfield: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the 2026 meet request. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. All paperwork was correct and in order. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
 - b. Mahoning: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the 2026 meet request. Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. All paperwork was correct and in order. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
 - c. Miami: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the 2026 meet request pending receipt of fire inspection to be completed prior to opening day on January 4th, 2026. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. Commissioner Winters questioned why Miami Valley had two permits. Ken Rambo from Miami Valley mentioned they have done it that way for the past 10 years. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (6) Resolution 2025-12 - Delegation of Authority: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Slyman seconded the motion. Chair Hansen affirmed this is for passing the authority from the chair and the commission to the executive director and senior staff for the ordinary ministerial requests. Deputy Director Boulmetis confirmed that it is correct. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (7) Resolution 2025-13 -Casino Tax revenue Redistribution: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Slyman seconded the motion. Chair Hansen clarified that this redistribution was tabled from the previous meeting and that it is \$50,000 in purses for quarter horse racing. Executive Director Dragone confirmed that it is correct and there were no quarter horse races run at Belterra Park in 2025, and the Quarter Horse Association was reassured that they would be getting \$50,000 set aside for 2026. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (8) Resolution 2025-14- Amended 3769-4-50 and 5-year rule review on Chapter 9: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. Executive Director Dragone spoke on the pre-race exam portion being put in for the thoroughbreds. If one of the thoroughbred tracks were to drop out of RISA, the pre-race exam cost will be absorbed by the permit holders at those tracks. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (9) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson updated the commission on horse racing and training fatalities at the parimutuel tracks in Ohio. As of November 20, 2025, the total number of racing and training fatalities for both thoroughbred and harness in Ohio is 40. At all thoroughbred tracks, there have been a total of 30 fatalities - 21 racing and 9 training. There have been 13,655 thoroughbred racing starts with 21 racing fatalities for a racing fatality rate of 1.54/1000 starts, with a corresponding safety record of 99.85%. At all Ohio harness tracks, there have been a total of 49,289 harness starts with 10 racing fatalities - 7 catastrophic breakdowns and 3 sudden deaths. The aggregate harness racing fatality rate is 0.203/1000 starts with a corresponding safety record of 99.98%. Commissioner Slyman questioned how these statistics compare with other tracks and other states. Dr. Robertson responded that we are looking at one track having a higher fatality rate due to track conditions. The national racing fatality rate for 2024 was around 1/1000 starts, but HISA reported a 2025 Second Quarter racing fatality rate of 1.24/1000 for HISA controlled tracks.
- (10) Monthly Financial Report: Fiscal Officer Sherry White reported that Fiscal Year 2026 had a gain of \$118,000 during October. October Fiscal Year 2025 had a gain of \$5,000 with the lower Casino Revenue distribution last year. Starting in January of this year the Casino Revenue distribution went up with the 10% set aside for the operating fund. The miscellaneous category shows an increase due to the liability insurance payment of just over \$4,000 to risk management for the state for the year. Overall, 24% increase in revenues for the FY and a 2% increase in expenses resulting in a positive \$142,860 for the year so far. The fund recap shows us with just over \$3 million for the operations of the commission.
- (11) Adjudication - Christopher Beaver: Commissioner Winters moved to hear the adjudication for Christopher Beaver, and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The Commission listened to the comments of Assistant Attorney General Todd DeBoe. Mr. James R Gallagher, Counsel for Mr. Beaver, spoke on his behalf. Beaver did not appear. Gallagher argued the test barn conditions and test barn staff. He asserted the horse could have been positive because of the unsterile environment. Commissioner Winters spoke on how they have looked at environmental contamination, but the fact there were no other violations that day denotes any outside contamination. Executive Director Dragone spoke on how there was no split sample done on the blood sample and emphasized there had been no similar positive tests in the prior year. The Commission voted unanimously to confirm and approve the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.
- (12) Commissioners' Comments: There were no Commissioners' comments.
- (13) Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- (14) Executive Session: Commissioner Winters moved to go into executive session at 10:59 to discuss pending legal matters. Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. The Commissioners went into executive session at 11:26 a.m. Commissioner Winters moved to conclude executive session. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion.
- (15) Adjournment: Commissioner Winters Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Simpson Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 11 :43 a.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center

Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting **Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

- (1) (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on December 16, 2025, at the Vern Riffe Center, Room 1920, 19th floor, 77 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.
- (2) Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Beth Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Commissioners Tom Winters, Greg Simpson, Dan McCarthy, and Jeff Slyman were present.
- (3) Approval of Minutes from the November 20, 2025, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the November 20, 2025, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Slyman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (4) Ratification of Executive Director Approvals: Commissioner Simpson 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 commented on better communication between horsemen and track management to ensure everyone is on the same page. Areas of concern were Mahoning Valley not having proper salt & plowing done on the backside after the recent snowfall per the horsemen. Dayton Hollywood Gaming GM (Tim Kelly) responded that he will call Mahoning directly after the meeting. Chair Beth Hansen also commented that this needs to be rectified and that this has been an unusually cold winter for Ohio thus far. Secondly, because Dayton's qualifiers occur after the race card with a 9:00 pm post, this causes horses to stay in the trailers due to an insufficiency of proper stalls in the paddock during the races. OHHA president Scott Mogan agreed on the complaints received at Dayton for qualifiers, proposing a stand-alone qualifying day and even temporary stalls put up for the horses. Chair Beth Hansen thanked the OHHA for the thought they have put in for looking for a solution to the qualifying issue. Assistant Director Holly Chandler reiterated that Thistledown imports are still needed, and all other tracks have already been contacted.
- (5) Approval of OTRF 2026 Requests:
 - (a) Budget: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the 2026 OTRF request. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Dave Basler, of the HBPA, spoke on the budget, advising that the HPBA will be covering the program expenses at the current level for the following year.
 - (b) Stakes Schedule: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the 2026 stakes schedule. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. All paperwork was correct and in order. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
 - (c) Rules: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the 2026 rules. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Assistant Executive Director Holly Chandler noted the turf races used to require 8 entries, now they will require 6 entries to stay consistent with entries on the dirt.
- (6) Approval of THHF Trustee Appointment Joe Poole: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the appointment. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Dave Basler, HPBA Executive Director, spoke about Mr. Poole's term as HPBA President for the past 6 years. Poole has been on the board for 15 years, and this will be his 2nd term as a THHF trustee.
- (7) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson updated the commission on horse racing and training fatalities at the parimutuel tracks in Ohio. As of December 12, 2025, the total number of racing and training fatalities for both thoroughbred and harness in Ohio is 40. At all thoroughbred tracks, there have been a total of 30 fatalities - 21 racing and 9 training. There was a fatality on December 13th that occurred on the horse path prior to training, HISA will be contacted to see if they would classify it as a training fatality. There have been 14,510 thoroughbred racing starts with 21 racing fatalities for a racing fatality rate of 1.45/1000 starts, resulting in a corresponding safety record of 99.85%. At all Ohio harness tracks, there have been a total of 2,934 harness starts with 10 racing fatalities - 7 catastrophic breakdowns and 3 sudden deaths. HISA reported a 2025 3rd quarter racing fatality rate of 1.02 fatalities/1000 starts for HISA controlled tracks. HISA rules apply to TB racing at 41 racetracks in 19 states. Dr. Robertson commented on cold weather racing, saying that in general, the horse is resilient in cold weather, due to the upper airway which warms the air prior to reaching the lungs. There is a new technology being tested by the AAEP regarding horses wearing sensors to capture horses' movements during highspeed events on track. This will allow for early detection of risk for musculoskeletal injury in the horses, as more studies are completed.
- (8) Monthly Financial Report: Fiscal Officer Sherry White reported being down \$100,000 on the Statement of Operation without any casino revenue. Revenues are up 21% due to greater Casino Revenue distributions with a 6% decline in tax revenue, and a 25% increase in payroll, which was expected due to the addition of extra positions. The gap between the testing fees collected and testing fees paid was about a \$100,000 difference which the commission has been absorbing for the past several years. Commissioner Slyman questioned why there was an issue with collections on testing fees. Fiscal Officer Sherry White and Chair Hansen explained that with the passing of resolution 2025-06 Drug testing costs, it was mitigating the gap that was occurring in amount collected vs. cost of testing. The projected budget for 2026 should improve throughout the rest of the year as some expenses are timing issues but ultimately end the fiscal year with a gain.
- (9) Adjudication - Justin Hite: Commissioner Winters moved to hear the adjudication for Justin Hite, and Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The Commission listened to the comments of Assistant Attorney General Todd DeBoe. Mr. Hite did not appear, nor did any counsel appear to represent him. The Commission voted unanimously to confirm and approve the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation.
- (10) Commissioners' Comments: There were no Commissioners' comments.
- (11) Public Comments: Dave Basler from the HBPA spoke about the ice and snow cleaning situation at Mahoning, and how he has been in constant communication with the director of racing. He said that horses cannot be falling on the backside, the track must do better and be safer.
- (12) Executive Session: Commissioner Winters moved to go into executive session at 10:32. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (13) Commissioner Winters moved to go out of executive session at 11:01 and Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (14) Adjournment: Commissioner Simpson 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 11:02 a.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center

POWERPLAY FARMS 2026 STALLIONS

WHEELING N DEALING

CANTAB HALL - QUICK CREDIT - CREDIT WINNER

T, 5, 1:54.0S \$913,975..... Stud Fee: \$3000

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DRAGON AGAIN - ARMBRO CINNAMON - WESTERN IDEAL

P, 3, 1:48.4S \$1,578,547..... Stud Fee: \$3000

SUNFIRE BLUE CHIP

AMERICAN IDEAL - SHOT TOGO BLUECHIP - CAM'S CARD SHARK

P, 3, 1:48.3F \$1,626,773..... Stud Fee: \$2500

DALI

REAL ARTIST - ARMBRO TEA - MATT'S SCOOTER

P, 3, 1:48.2F \$1,419,464..... Stud Fee: \$2000

SOMEWHERE IN VERONA

SOME BEACHS SOMEWHERE - NORTHERN DUCHESS - WESTERN TERROR

P, 3, 1:49.4F \$190,828..... Stud Fee: \$1500

WESTERN VINTAGE

WESTERN IDEAL - MAJOR HARMONY - ART MAJOR

P, 2, 1:49.4M \$402,478..... Stud Fee: \$1500

MCERLEAN

MCARDLE - IGOTTWOWORDSFORYOU - CAM'S CARD SHARK

P, 4, 1:49.1F \$1,039,646..... Stud Fee: \$1500

HEAVENLY SOUND

ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN - FRANKIE'S DREAM - MCARDLE

P, 3, 1:50.0M \$373,933..... Stud Fee: \$700



POWERPLAY FARMS
Powerplay Racing 87 LLC

7000 Wadsworth Rd. Medina, Ohio 44256

Phone: Cheryl Houck (740) 710-3057
Thomas Houck (330) 952-3507

Email: powerplayracing87@gmail.com

Hagemeyer Farms 2026 STALLIONS

10698 Wilmington Rd. • Clarksville, Ohio 45113 • www.hagemeyerfarms.com
 scott@hagemeyerfarms.com • 513-304-9263 phone



Stud fee
\$2,500

Conrad photo

Heart OF CHEWBACCA



p,2,1:51.1f; 3,1:48.4f (\$409,690)

Bring On The Beach – JT's Chewbacca – Four Starzzz Shark

We are excited to see his first crop race in 2026.

Trainers have been pleased with the muscle tone and build of his foals!

Multiple National Season's Leader is by the ONLY full-brother to the immortal SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE.

At 2, **HEART OF CHEWBACCA** won 5 of 7 starts, incl. OBC at Delaware, and two OhSS legs, set the track record (1:51.2h) at Northfield and established a National Season's Record (2CP).

At 3, **HEART OF CHEWBACCA** raced against the some of the best pacers in the country, defeating **CHARLIE MAY** on several occasions and set a track record (1:48.4f) at Scioto and equaling a (3CP) National Season's Record (1:50.4h) at Northfield.

BRANQUINHO

p,3,1:50.1f; 4,1:49.2f (\$292,599)

Somebeachsomewhere – Wild West Show – Western Hanover

Multiple stakes placed at two, he came back at three to post victories in the PA All Stars in his 3-year-old record of 1:50.1f as well as a leg of the Pennsylvania Stallion Series. He also finished second in the \$300,000 Art Rooney Final and an Adios elim, and third in the Liberty Bell.

By the great sire of sires, Somebeachsomewhere.

He is a full brother to World Champion and Dan Patch 2yo Pacing Colt **HUNTSVILLE p,3,1:47.4 (\$1,704,242)**

the leading money-winning sire of 3-year-old pacers in 2025.

His dam is the 100% producer Wild West Show p,3,1:53.3f (\$44,569), she a half-sister to Cigars And Port p,1:50.1f (\$526,790).

Third year at Stud!

\$2,000



Curtis Salonick photo

Branquinho's **FIRST CROP** hit the ground in 2025 and possess good size and very nice conformation.

Breeders were happy with their foals, with many breeding back again!

Rocknroll Hanover - Southwind Vanna - Artsplace

\$1,500



Rodeo Romeo

p,3,1:50.3; 1:49.2f (\$366,804)

Open & Invitational Pacer

Half-brother to millionare stallion CHECK SIX

From his first two small crops, RODEO ROMEO is making his mark in OHIO.

From 27 foals of racing age, 19 starters (70%) averaging \$21,494 per foal, including:

- RODEO'S JULIET p,3,1:51.2f-'25 (\$40,225); RODEO JET p,3,1:56.2h-'25 (\$72,072);**
- RODEO COWBOY p,3,1:51.3f-'25 (\$41,515); MOONLIT ROMANCE (M) p,3,1:53.1f-'25 (\$47,680);**
- RODEO DANCER (M) p,2,1:54.2f-'25 (\$51,700); ROMEO'S LEGACY p,2,1:54.3f-'25, etc.**

Paced 11 sub-1:50 miles, incl. BBT 1:48.2

In 55 starts from ages 3–6, finished 35 times 1-2-3.

His dam has produced 9 winners from 13 foals, with 7 in 1:55 and 2 sub-1:50 pacers.