

THE BUCKEYE
Harness Horseman

MAY 2025 | VOLUME 55 | NUMBER 2

The Official Publication of the
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

Remembering
Hunter Myers



Get Ready to Get Lucky

Over **2200** Gaming Machines

THE
HOTTEST
GAMES
WITH
THE BEST
VARIETY

2 Gaming Patios

4 Restaurants

Live Entertainment every weekend

Live Harness Racing in season

Award-Winning Player Services

Miami Valley
GAMING



Must be 21 to gamble. Problem Gambling? Ohio
Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-589-9966) or visit
org.ohio.gov. Ready to take a break from gambling?
Visit timeoutohio.com to learn how.

Table of Contents

- 4 Remembering Hunter Myers
- 6 Looking to Repeat History
- 8 Odds On Hialeah & Aunt Laura Off to Great Start in Ohio Sires Stakes
- 9 Beating the Odds
- 11 Buckeye Stallion Series Gets Underway
- 12 James K. Hackett Memorial Finals
- 13 Little Rocket Man Takes Another Pacey Mindlin Memorial/ Noble, Carter Win Miami Valley Titles
- 15 Much-Deserved Recognition
- 17 Future Stars Look to Next Generation
- 18 Let the Party Begin!
- 19 Track Notes
- 21 20 Questions with Kenny Livengood
- 22 Don't Tell Boytown that He's Blind
- 23 Drive in Style
- 24 OHHA Welcomes New Staff Members
- 25 Be There/97th Annual Ohio FFA Convention
- 26 OHHA Awards 14 Scholarships to Outstanding Students
- 28 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors/Ohio Breeders Award Requirements/Condolences
- 29 Minutes of the OSRC Meeting – January/February/March

July 24, 2025 – OHHA 3rd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, General Session Meeting 11:00 a.m. Eldorado Scioto Downs, Three Diamonds Room

Office Staff

Executive Director Frank Fraas
Office Administrator Cheri Johnson
Assistant to the Executive Director Kim Poma
Project Coordinator Susan Schroeder

Public Relations, Outreach Assistants
Video Production & Media Content Coordinator
Multimedia Specialist

Ashley Dailey
Wesley Mayberry

Matt Clark

Stephen Taylor

Track Representatives

Miami Valley, Scioto Downs & Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway
Brett Merkle

Northfield Park
Amy Hollar

OHHA Board of Directors **President** Scott Mogan **Vice President** Randy Haines

2026 Breeders
Randy Haines
Joe McLead
Ayers Ratliff, Sr.

Owners By District
(1) Charlie Myrick
(4) Keith Gisser
(7) Steve Bateson

Trainer / Driver
Brian Brown
Scott Mogan
Chris Page

2027 Breeders
Senena Esty
Dr. Laurie Gallatin
Brad Wallace

Owners By District
(2) John Ryan Melsheimer
(5) Steve Zeehandelar
(8) Rusty Vorhees

Trainer / Driver
Ryan Holton
Hank LeVan
Mark Winters, Sr.

2028 Breeders
Kelsey Grose-Brinkman
Scott Hagemeyer
Jacob Mossbarger

Owners By District
(3) Mary Jo Rini-Bross
(6) Randy Leopard
(9) Kent Saunders

Trainer / Driver
Jim Arledge, Jr.
Chris Beaver
Roy Burns

Track Directors
Miami Valley Gaming
Mike Polhamus
MGM Northfield Park
Brian Loney

Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway
Mike Polhamus

Eldorado Gaming Scioto Downs
Hugh "Sandy" Beatty, Jr.

Advisory Committee Active; Past Presidents
Steve Bateson
R. Kevin Greenfield
Donald "Skip" Hoovler
John Konesky, III
Steve McCoy
Dr. John Mossbarger

CHANGE OF ADDRESS If your mailing address has changed or is changing, please contact the OHHA at 614-221-3650 or 800-353-6442. Without an updated mailing address, you will not receive OHHA publications and delivery of breeder's award checks may be delayed.

The Buckeye Harness Horseman 120-850 (ISSN 0194-7842) is published four times annually by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, OH 43123. Phone 614-221-3650 or 800-353-6442. Single and back issues, if available, \$2.50. Periodical postage paid at Columbus, OH. Postmaster, send address changes to OHHA, 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, OH 43123.



THE BUCKEYE HARNESS HORSEMAN

The Official Publication of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
2237 Sonora Dr. Grove City, OH 43123
614-221-3650 | 800-353-6442 | (f) 614-221-8726
www.ohha.com | Facebook: OhioHarnessHorsemensAssociation

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



Photo Credit: Heather Wilder Photo

Remembering Hunter Myers

BY BOB ROBERTS

Many of their heads were bowed in an exacta of shock and sorrow. Slowly, they made their way — the wrong way — around the wind-whipped clubhouse turn at Northfield Park.

The route is the traditional clockwise journey that horses and drivers travel when they retrace their steps to the winner's circle.

The March 23 procession at sunset on a cold and windy Sunday night would eventually end in the limestone crescent where victory is celebrated. But not this evening. Not at this moment.

Those gathered — family, friends, and fellow horsemen and horsewomen — were there to mourn the loss of Hunter Myers. It had been just three days since he died from injuries suffered in a March 19 race at The Meadows. Silence was substituted for applause at his home track situated between Akron and Cleveland.

Months later, the stabbing pain of his loss somewhat lessened, and those who knew Myers best spoke freely and fondly of the young man who is gone at 27.

“He was a kid, about 19, when he moved up here,” said Amy Hollar, the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association representative at Northfield Park. “His mother (Kelly), being protective of her son, would send me messages asking me to make sure he does ‘this and that’ and to ‘keep an eye on him.’”

Myers was from Pickaway County’s Williamsport, Ohio, located south of Columbus and west of Circleville, with a population of about 1,000.

“I’m from central Ohio, too, so it was easy for us to bond,” said Hollar. “He drove for us (Amy’s husband is trainer Calvin Hollar) and had numerous wins. We had a filly (Prettygirl

Dragon) who won five in a row this year, and Hunter drove her for four of those wins.”

Myers drove for 12 years, his first winner coming at the lines of Uptown Dreamer on July 11, 2014, at the Jackson County Fair in Wellston. He was 16 years old. The trainer of Uptown Dreamer was his father, Mike.

An owner-trainer combination that played a significant role in Myers’ development was Sam and Jodi Schillaci, a married couple and veterans of many seasons at Northfield.

“When he first started coming around, he was driving up here every night from central Ohio, driving a horse, here and there,” said Sam Schillaci. “I got to know Hunter, and after a year or so, he moved here. I started using him on some horses. He was an extremely talented young man.”

Schillaci’s opinion would become fact.

Myers would drive 2,451 winners. His most successful year was 2022 when he won 464 races, ranking seventh in North America. Last year, he drove 455 winners, good for ninth among the top performers on the continent.

“He was really good,” said Hollar. “But I didn’t see him on the Grand Circuit because he enjoyed his homelife. Traveling around the country for three or four months would have taken him away from Chloe (his fiancée) and Hayden (their son), and he wouldn’t have liked that. He was a country boy.”

On and off the track, Myers’ best friend was fellow driver Chris Lems.

“We were pretty close,” said Lems. “His fiancée and my fiancée are best friends. We were always joking around. One thing I’m going to miss for sure is that he could impersonate anybody. It didn’t matter if it was the way they talked, the way they walked, or the way they laughed. He could do all of it.”

Hollar says Myers was always the life of the paddock party.

“You are basically together for six hours every night, and Hunter wanted everybody around him to have a good time,” she said. “He would find these goofy YouTube videos that were the most childish and dumbest, and he would sit there and laugh and laugh. If you walked by him, he’d say, ‘Look at this, look at this!’”



Myers wins the \$100,000 Moni Maker with Allegiant

Lems, 11 years older than Myers, remembers watching his backstretch buddy mature as a driver.

“Like a lot of young kids, he was too aggressive, all run and gun,” said Lems. “I think going over to The Meadows helped him. Speed doesn’t carry as well over there as it does at Northfield. You have to trip your horses out, and Hunter learned to do that from Ronnie Wrenn and Mike Wilder. Those guys helped him mature as a driver.”

Hollar recalls Myers being supportive of rival horsemen.

“He was always upbeat, one of the first to congratulate somebody for a milestone or a big win. I’m trying to think of a time when he was upset, but he was never one to take out his disappointment on someone else. But he could be a smartass.”

Schillaci had such confidence in Myers that he looked upon him as vital to his operation.

“He became like a second trainer for me,” said Schillaci. “I got to rely on him a lot. I kind of turned the whole stable over to him as far as driving. He was turning into a really good driver. He had determination.”

Schillaci offered the ultimate compliment to Myers when he reflected upon his own life.

“Unfortunately, Jodi and I never had children. But if Hunter had been my son, I’d be very proud of him.”

Myers had cared deeply for the Schillacis. In an interview following his 2,000th victory last year, he reflected on the impact the couple had on him.

“They will never understand what they have done for me,” said Myers.

Myers’ last winner came at Northfield Park with Motor City Man, a 12-1 longshot, on March 18. It was the night before the accident at The Meadows that claimed his life.

It will be one of the good memories that will remain with Chloe Fisher, his fiancée and the mother of his son, Hayden.

“Thankfully, I was able to capture a lot of photos and videos of Hunter and Hayden for the short time they had together,” said Fisher. “Hunter was very loving. He wanted to take care of us.”



Myers scores 2,000th career victory at MGM Northfield Park
Photo: Raymond Lance Photo

Fisher, 24, first met Myers at Scioto Downs, where her father, Mike Dowdall, was a horseman.

“He was a typical teenage boy. I told him to get his stuff together, and he did. He became the right person at the right time. And he was a great dad. He changed diapers and got up in the middle of the night to care for Hayden.”

There was a sentence in Myers’ obituary that may best sum up his life. It read: “He truly never met a stranger.”

It turns out, a handful of strangers got to meet him. Myers was an organ and tissue donor. He lives on in death.

Myers Family Fundraiser

Oak Hill FFA Food Concession Jackson County Fair

Proceeds to benefit the family of Hunter Myers

**Visit the Oak Hill FFA Food Concession
on the backstretch!**

**Celebrate Hunter with his favorites
BOLOGNA SANDWICHES AND POPSICLES**
Additional food options will be available.



↓↓↓
**Wellston, OH
Friday, July 11th
6:30 Post Time**

ON-TRACK HORSEMEN’S MEMORIAL BEFORE POST

Looking to Repeat History By Frank Fraas

One of the hardest things to do in sports is to repeat as champion

In the past 60 years, only four teams have won back-to-back World Series titles.

Back-to-back Stanley Cup winners have only happened eight times in the NHL. There have only been nine repeat winners of the Super Bowl. The NBA has had the most repeat winners, as 12 teams were able to win the title the next year.

While winning back-to-back championships in the four major sports is difficult, it is quite the opposite when it comes to Ohio harness racing.

Since 1991 (that's as far back as our records go), 33 horses have been repeat champions. In most of those years, there was one repeat champion. Seven times, two champions were able to repeat.

The air gets thinner when you talk about three and four repeat champions in a year. Each has only happened once.

In 2019, Lane Of Stone repeated as the colt trotting champion, while Queen Of The Pride was the filly pacing champion and Only Take Cash was the filly trotting champion. That's the only time there have been three repeat champions.

Four repeat champions are just as rare. The only time it has happened was last year.

Clever Cody and Tennessee Tom were repeat winners in the colt divisions, while Seaside Diva and Sugar Instead repeated in the filly divisions.



Lt Loverboy winning the James K. Hackett Memorial Final for sophomore colt trotters.

This year, Lt Loverboy, Mocha Hill, Odds On Hialeah, and Sippinonsearoc will try to have lightning strike twice with four repeat champions.

Lt Loverboy, the 2-year-old colt trotting champion, has been the most active of the four, having made three starts by mid-May. Last year, the son of Long Tom hit the board in all 10 starts, winning six and earning over \$300,000.

Trained by Daren Harvey, Lt Loverboy has hit the board in all three starts, winning the James K. Hackett Memorial Final, finishing second in the Hackett elimination, and third in the first leg of the Sires Stakes.

Brett Miller has driven Lt Loverboy in the three races this year. "We got caught in a bad spot in the Hackett Elimination. In the final, I put him on the front, and he went a big mile."

Miller said in his last start, the horse was bothered by the hard track, but he did take away a positive from the race. "He was not very good, but he only got beaten by a length and a half. I still feel he is the best 3-year-old colt trotter in Ohio."

“We have to get her confidence back, but I think we are headed in the right direction.”
— Chris Page



Mocha Hill scores in the 5th leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes as a 2-year-old filly trotter in 2024.

Of the four, Mocha Hill, the 2-year-old Filly Trotter of the Year, is off to the slowest start. She has raced twice and has not hit the board in either race. Last year, she won six times with two seconds in nine starts.

“Some fillies come back good from their 2-year-old year, while others have a tough time,” said Chris Page, who has driven the filly in seven of her 11 lifetime starts.

In her first start, the Hackett Final, the daughter of What The Hill drew the outside on an off track and made a break, finishing seventh.

Her second start, the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes, wasn't much better as she finished well back in seventh.

Page drove Mocha Hill in the Sires Stakes and thought she was better than her first start of the year. “We have to get her confidence back, but I think we are headed in the right direction.”



Odds On Hialeah takes the opening leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes for sophomore filly pacers.

Odds On Hialeah will try to become the fourth filly pacer in a row to repeat as champion. Sea Silk went back-to-back in 2021-2022, while McSeaside did it in 2022-2023, and Seaside Diva accomplished the feat in 2023-2024.

The Lather Up filly picked up where she left off last year, winning her first start of the year in the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes. “I eased her out of the gate, and when I moved her, she was awesome,” said Brett Miller. Odds On Hialeah won in 1:50.3, and Miller said she did it easily.

Last year, the filly won seven of eight starts, and Miller says Odds On Hialeah matured over the winter. “She filled out a bit. She looks a little bigger than last year, but it's her maturity level. She feels like an old racehorse now. She feels very strong and alive.”



Sippinonsearoc earns his first seasonal victory as a 3-year-old colt pacer in the Buckeye Stallion Series.

Sippinonsearoc, the 2-year-old Colt Pacer of the Year, has two starts under his belt this year.

In the first start, the Downbytheseaside colt finished third in the Hackett finals. He rebounded in the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series, making it look easy, winning in 1:49.4 with Page in the bike. “I have all the faith in him. He was a bit stale in the Hackett, but he came back sharp.”

Only time will tell if the seven-year streak of a repeat divisional winner continues.

Keep Ohio Harness Racing **STRONG**

Harness racing in the Buckeye State supports about 20,000 jobs, pumping millions of dollars into the state's economy and putting food on the tables of Ohio families.

P.A.C.E.R (Political Action Committee for Equine Racing) keeps Ohio harness racing heading towards the future by supporting legislative initiatives that positively impact the industry.

To donate call 614-221-3650



For more information visit OHHA.com

Odds On Hialeah & Aunt Laura Off to Great Start in Ohio Sires Stakes

Champions as 2-year-olds, Odds On Hialeah and Aunt Laura opened their title defenses with victories in the first leg of the 2025 Ohio Sires Stakes.

At Eldorado Scioto Downs, Odds On Hialeah, the Ohio 2-year-old Filly Pacer of the Year in 2024, won the first of two \$65,000 divisions for 3-year-old filly pacers in a lifetime-best 1:50.3. After patiently sitting fourth along the rail, Brett Miller guided the 3-5 betting favorite first up to take the lead at the three-quarter pole. The Lather Up filly went unchallenged down the stretch, claiming victory over Rose Run Aimee and Downthejerseyshore.



Odds On Hialeah, 2024 Ohio 2-year-Old Filly Pacer of the Year, sets a lifetime mark in 1:50.3. **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Odds On Hialeah is trained by Virgil Morgan Jr. and owned by Let It Ride Stables and Odds On Racing.

In the second division of filly pacers, Dan Noble drove Odds On Chesapeake to victory in a lifetime-best 1:51.1. Trained by Morgan Jr., the Downbytheseaside filly led wire to wire, winning by a head over Skywalker Sea as The Word Is Out finished third.

Odds On Chesapeake is owned by Odds On Racing.



Aunt Laura looks to repeat as a sophomore filly trotter, winning in 1:56.3. **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Aunt Laura, the 2024 OSS 2-year-old filly trotting champion, won the second of two divisions for 3-year-olds in 1:56.3. Miller took the Uncle Peter filly to the lead just past the quarter pole and held off a

late charge from Rose Run Allison along the rail for the win. Chrome Trim finished third.

Morgan Jr. trains Aunt Laura for owner Joyce McClelland Stable.

In the first filly trotter division, Tyler Smith drove Dream Something to the win in a lifetime-best 1:53.3 over Mega Money and Travel Nurse. Dream Something rode the pocket until just past the halfway mark when she raced past Mega Money for the lead at the three-quarter pole with a 27-second third quarter. The Uncle Peter filly held the lead from there and won by a length.

Dream Something is trained by Miles Wollam, who co-owns the filly with Julie Ann Sweet.

The opening leg of the 2025 OSS continued at MGM Northfield Park with two divisions each of 3-year-old colt trotters and pacers.



Colt trotter Vekna scores his first OSS victory in 1:56.3. **Photo:** Wise Photo.

Vekna, driven and trained by Kayne Kauffman for owner Natalie Kauffman, won the first division of sophomore colt trotters in 1:56.3. The Enterprise gelding sat third through the first three fractions before moving to the outside to challenge the race leader. Vekna surpassed What A Buckeye down the stretch for the half-length victory. Rose Run Alex finished third.

In the second division of colt trotters, Battle Hill and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. led gate to wire, winning in 1:56.3. Scrapyps Love was second followed by Lt Loverboy.

The gelded son of Marseille, Battle Hill is trained by Matthew Burkholder for owner William Hartt.



Fear The Hate produces the fastest colt pace division in 1:52.4.
Photo: Wise Photo.

Driven by Chris Page, Fear The Hate won the first division of colt pacers in 1:52.4. The son of Fear The Dragon took the lead at the

quarter pole and went virtually unchallenged for the remainder. Pants On Fire finished second with Twin B High Tide in third.

Fear The Hate is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Emerald Highlands Farm. The colt is three for three in 2025.

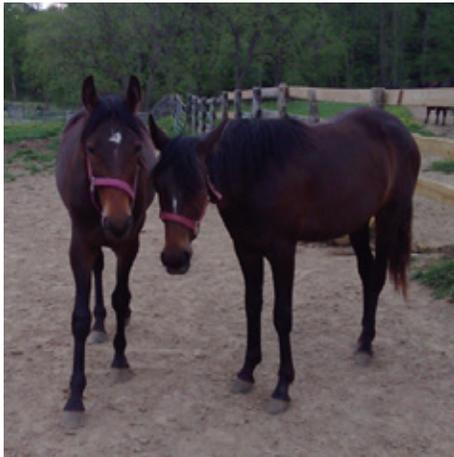
The second division of colt pacers went to the Burke-trained Rick Wink in 1:53. The Bit Of A Legend N colt took the lead going to the halfway mark and remained in front, scoring by a length over Down-bythewater. Z's Said finished third.

Rick Wink is owned by Burke Racing Stable, RAS Racing, Knox Services, and J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby.

The first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes for 2-year-olds is scheduled for July 12 at Eldorado Scioto Downs with filly and colt trotters. Freshman pacers will kick off their opening leg at MGM Northfield Park the following day, July 13.

Beating the Odds By Wes Mayberry

Having celebrated their first birthday earlier this year, twin trotting fillies Jurassic Venus and Jurassic Serena continue to defy the odds.



“They’re growing and are doing just fine,” owner Jerry Welch said. “They love each other and are basically inseparable.”

Born January 30, 2024, at the Andy Burkholder Farm in Homesville, Ohio, to Welch-owned mare Call Them Over, the Long Tom twins faced dim prospects for survival. According to Dr. Marco Coutinho da Silva, the Clinical Theriogenology and Reproductive Medicine Section Head at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, it’s rare to have an outcome where twin foals are born naturally without assistance and experience no complications.

“Having a normal delivery of two foals is rare, and to have the two foals healthy and

thrive is not the norm,” he said. “Only about 2% of twin pregnancies end up having that outcome.”

Dr. Coutinho da Silva says twin foals are typically small and weak and show signs of being premature. Thankfully, that wasn’t the case for Jurassic Venus and Jurassic Serena. Though somewhat on the smaller side, they were born completely healthy and were getting up on their own by the second day.

During the mare’s pregnancy, Welch noticed that Call Them Over was abnormally large, and a veterinarian noted the possibility of twins during an initial pregnancy check. However, it was later thought that the second embryo was a cyst. It wasn’t until the actual day of the birth that Welch officially learned that his mare was indeed having twins. When Andy Burkholder contacted Welch with the news, the owner’s immediate concern for the health of the mare and foals was quickly put at ease.

“My first question was, ‘Are they alive?’” Welch said. “But he told me that they were doing great.”

Now more than a year old, the twins are still at Burkholder’s farm with their mother but will eventually be transported to Welch’s farm in Waterford, Ohio. There have been no issues with their ongoing development.

“They’ve grown up just like any other foals,” Welch said.

Like human twins, Jurassic Venus and Jurassic Serena share a special bond and are always together. Welch uses the markings on their foreheads to help tell them apart and has noticed that they have slightly different personalities.

“One is more dominant and outgoing, and the other isn’t as bold,” he said.

Named after twin tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams in combination with the Welch-associated Jurassic prefix, the twins marked the 10th and 11th foals for the now 21-year-old Call Them Over. Five of her previous offspring have raced, boasting nearly \$330,000 in lifetime earnings, highlighted by Neely Spring and Abequa with over \$100,000 each.

Welch says the plan is to start training the twins, and while he has fielded inquiries about purchasing them, he has no intention of separating the duo.

“They would have to be together – they’re a package deal,” he said.

No matter what the twins’ futures hold, Welch is happy to have a pair of fillies that have overcome long odds to live healthy lives.

“Most twins do not survive, and these two have developed like normal foals, so they beat all the odds,” he said. “I just hope they both end up racing – it would be really fun to see them race together.”



WE ARE RACING

2025 STAKES SCHEDULE

OHIO SIRES STAKES

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Sun. July 13
- 2 Scioto Downs Sat. July 26
- 3 Northfield Park Sat. Aug. 9
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 23
- 5 Scioto Downs Sat. Sept. 6

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Sat. July 12
- 2 Northfield Park Wed. July 23
- 3 Northfield Park Sun. Aug. 10
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 23
- 5 Scioto Downs Mon. Sept. 1

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Sun. July 13
- 2 Scioto Downs Fri. July 25
- 3 Northfield Park Sat. Aug. 9
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 23
- 5 Scioto Downs Sat. Sept. 6

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Sat. July 12
- 2 Northfield Park Sun. July 20
- 3 Northfield Park Sun. Aug. 10
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 23
- 5 Scioto Downs Mon. Sept. 1

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Sat. May 17
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. June 7
- 3 Scioto Downs Sat. July 5
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. July 26
- 5 Northfield Park Wed. Aug. 27

3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Northfield Park Sat. May 17
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. June 7
- 3 Scioto Downs Sat. July 5
- 4 Northfield Park Sat. Aug. 9
- 5 Scioto Downs Sat. Sept. 6

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Scioto Downs Fri. May 16
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. June 7
- 3 Scioto Downs Sat. July 5
- 4 Northfield Park Sun. Aug. 10
- 5 Scioto Downs Sat. Sept. 6

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Fri. May 16
- 2 Northfield Park Sat. June 7
- 3 Scioto Downs Sat. July 5
- 4 Northfield Park Sat. Aug. 9
- 5 Scioto Downs Fri. Sept. 6

BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Sat. July 19
- 2 Scioto Downs Fri. July 25
- 3 Urbana Mon. Aug. 4
- 4 Scioto Downs Fri. Aug. 22
- 5 Delaware Wed. Sept. 17

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Bucyrus Wed. July 16
- 2 Scioto Downs Thurs. July 24
- 3 Northfield Park Wed. Aug. 13
- 4 Scioto Downs Tues. Aug. 26
- 5 Delaware Tues. Sept. 16

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Mon. July 14
- 2 Northfield Park Wed. July 23
- 3 Urbana Mon. Aug. 4
- 4 Scioto Downs Thurs. Aug. 21
- 5 Delaware Sun. Sept. 14

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Thurs. July 10
- 2 Northfield Park Mon. July 21
- 3 Scioto Downs Tues. Aug. 12
- 4 Northfield Park Sun. Aug. 24
- 5 Delaware Mon. Sept. 15

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

- 1 Scioto Downs Sat. May 24
- 2 Northfield Park Sun. June 8
- 3 Northfield Park Sun. July 6
- 4 Scioto Downs Sat. Aug. 16
- 5 Delaware Thurs. Sept. 18

3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

- 1 Scioto Downs Fri. May 23
- 2 Northfield Park Mon. July 9
- 3 Northfield Park Mon. July 7
- 4 Scioto Downs Fri. Aug. 15
- 5 Delaware Tues. Sept. 16

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

- 1 Northfield Park Sun. May 18
- 2 Scioto Downs Fri. June 20
- 3 Scioto Downs Fri. July 4
- 4 Northfield Park Sun. Aug. 17
- 5 Delaware Thurs. Sept. 18

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

- 1 Northfield Park Tues. May 20
- 2 Scioto Downs Thurs. June 19
- 3 Scioto Downs Wed. July 9
- 4 Northfield Park Mon. Aug. 11
- 5 Delaware Mon. Sept. 15

Championships & Consolations



\$400,000 SCARLET & GRAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

2- & 3-Year-Olds

September 26-27, 2025

Hollywood Dayton Raceway

\$85,000 VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS

4-Year-Olds & Up

August 30, 2025

Eldorado Scioto Downs



\$75,000 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

2- & 3-Year-Olds

Saturday, October 4, 2025

MGM Northfield Park

\$25,000 CONSOLATIONS

2- & 3-Year-Olds

Sunday, October 5, 2025

MGM Northfield Park



2237 Sonora Drive | Grove City, OH 43123

P: 614-221-3650 | 800-353-6442

OHHA.COM

Buckeye Stallion Series Gets Underway



The first leg of the 2025 Buckeye Stallion Series for 3-year-olds featured 25 total divisions. Colt pacers led the way with eight divisions, while there were six divisions each for colt trotters and filly pacers, and five divisions for filly trotters.

The fillies opened the action on May 18 and 20 at MGM Northfield Park followed by the colt and gelding races on May 23 and 24 at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

In the first BSS event of the year, Bubbles Out took a three-length win over Mandys Rottenapple in 1:53.1, marking the fastest time of the 3-year-old filly pacing divisions. Driven by Chris Page, the daughter of Downbytheseaside completed the first quarter in :27.4 and never looked back for a gate-to-wire victory. Seven Sisters finished third. Bubbles Out is trained by Trish Foulk and owned by Foulk Stables.

Also notching opening-leg wins for 3-year-old filly pacers were Euphoria Rising (Brett Miller) in 1:54.2, Four Carat Rock (Dan Noble) in 1:55.4, Guard The Fire (Cameron McCown) in 1:55.2, Maddie's Delite (Aaron Merriman) in 1:54, and Pink Jammies (Justin Irvine) in 1:56.1.



10-1 Pelican Hanover produces the fastest mile among sophomore filly trotters. **Photo:** Wise Photo

Pelican Hanover posted the fastest time among the five divisions for sophomore filly trotters. At 10-1, driver Kurt Sugg settled Pelican Hanover in fifth as 9-5 betting favorite Iwillmakeuproud As led the way. Pelican Hanover moved first up, but it was a late surge that powered her across the finish in a lifetime-best 1:57.4. Iwillmakeuproud As finished second, followed by Freedom Hill. The daughter of Uncle Peter, Pelican Hanover is trained by Miles Wollam and owned by Cool Cat Racing and Bob Troyer.

The remaining four filly trotter division winners were In The End (Noble) in 1:58.2, Up (Tyler Angus) in 2:00, Sweet Rose' (Merriman) in 1:59.1, and Wild As You (Tyler Smith) in 1:59.1.



Tommy Count, the reigning BSS 2-year-old colt trotting champion, looks to do it again in 2025. **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Tommy Count, the reigning BSS 2-year-old colt trotting champion, won his division for sophomores in 1:56. Trevor Smith drove the Steve Carter trainee wire-to-wire, posting fractions in :28.4, :58.4, and 1:27.2 in the gelding's first seasonal win. Shoot Some Hoop was second followed by Long Highway. The gelded son of Long Tom, Tommy Count is owned by Jeff Fought Racing, Adam Friedland, and Brian Carsey.

The fastest division of colt trotters went to Vandy Lane in 1:54.3 for his first win in 2025. Sitting third at the :27.3 opening quarter, Miller drove the What The Hill gelding to the front by the halfway point in :55.2. The Scott Cox trainee led the rest of the way en route to a three-length victory. Vandy Lane is owned by David Vanderhyde and Cody Vanderhyde.

The other four divisions were won by Born To Trot (Page) in 1:56, I Stand Alone As (Tony Hall) in 1:57.3, Jet Wings (Miller) in 1:55, and Rose Run Ari (Austin Hanners) in 1:55.1.

Sippinonsearoc, Ohio's 2024 2-year-old Colt of the Year, dominated his BSS division. The Ron Burke trainee settled in third off the gate and moved first up to take the lead, crossing the halfway mark in :54.2 after a blazing :26.4 second quarter. Page drove the Downbytheseaside colt unchallenged the remainder of the mile, winning by three lengths in 1:49.4. Odds On Valhalla was second followed by Southern Rockfest. Sippinonsearoc is owned by Burke Racing, Weaver Brusceci, RAS Racing, and Knox Services.

The winners in the remaining 3-year-old colt pace divisions were Accuracy By Volume (Page) in 1:54.1, Harrisburg Heist (Page) in 1:50.1, House of Brix (Trevor Smith) in 1:52, Ohohoh Im On Fire (Hanners) in 1:50.4, Swingtown (Page) in 1:50.3, South Sea (Page) in 1:52.1, and Woodrow Blue Chip (Noble) in 1:52.3.

The first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series for 2-year-olds is scheduled for mid-July. Freshman filly trotters kick off their series on July 10 at Eldorado Scioto Downs, while filly and colt pacers will head to MGM Northfield Park on July 14 and 19, respectively. The opening leg for 2-year-old colt trotters will be hosted by the Crawford County Fair in Bucyrus on July 16.

James K. Hackett Memorial Finals

One race came down to a photo finish as Miami Valley Raceway crowned champions in the four \$75,000 divisions of the James K. Hackett Memorial.



Driven by Dan Noble and trained by Christi Noble, Up Again won the 3-year-old colt pacing division, besting Harrisburg Heist (Aaron Merriman) and Sippinonsearoc (Chris Page) as all three crossed the finish line in 1:50.4. Up Again settled in fifth as the field blazed to the opening quarter in :26.3. The gelded son by Lather Up pulled first up, challenging the leader, Sippinonsearoc. The pair battled down the final stretch as Harrisburg Heist rallied from fifth to draw even as they crossed the line together.

The victory marked a lifetime best for Up Again. He has hit the board in five of six seasonal starts with three wins and \$71,660 in earnings.



The Word Is Out (Page), the 3-year-old filly pacing champion, also won a tight race, edging out Skywalker Sea (Austin Hanners) by a half-length in 1:52.4. The Ron Burke-trained filly took the pocket trip and stayed patient before finding room down the Lightning Lane. The daughter of Well Said dug in through her final stride en route to her first seasonal victory. Anna Loves Bananas (Noble) finished third.



Lt Loverboy (Brett Miller) and Mega Money (Merriman) won the two trotting Hackett Memorial races.

Lt Loverboy came out on top amongst 3-year-old colt trotters in 1:53.1 ahead of Battle Hill (Chris Lems) and Hilltop Sonar (Page), marking his first win of the year. The Daren Harvey trainee posted fractions in :27.3, :56.2, and 1:25.2 before cruising across the finish line. The Long Tom gelding has hit the board in all 13 lifetime starts with seven wins and \$356,405 in earnings.



Mega Money won the 3-year-old filly trotting title in 1:56.1. The Chris Beaver trainee took the lead off the gate and never looked back, besting Triumph Over You (Noble) and Aunt Lilly (Tyler Smith). The Triumphant Caviar filly has hit the board in all four starts in 2025, recording three wins and \$66,000 in earnings.

Little Rocket Man Takes Another Pacey Mindlin Memorial



Little Rocket Man has become a regular atop a field of heavy hitters, recently winning the \$100,000 Pacey “The Wizard” Mindlin Memorial Invitational at Miami Valley Gaming.

Jeremy Smith drove Little Rocket Man to his second Mindlin Memorial victory in the three years the pacing event has been held. The winner of the inaugural Mindlin Memorial in 2023, the Ken Rucker trainee failed to hit the board in last year’s installment but found his way back to the top in 2025.

Little Rocket Man got away fifth as Saulsbrook Victor led the field to an opening quarter in :26.2. Little Rocket Man, the 1-5 heavy favorite, found himself first up at the :55 half-mile marker. Smith urged the gelding on while passing the three-quarters in 1:22.3. Despite sloppy

track conditions, Little Rocket Man responded with ease, stopping the clock in 1:49.3 with a length to spare. PJ Lou (Brett Miller) was second followed by Bythemissal (Chris Page).

The 9-year-old gelding by Rockin Image has three wins in four seasonal starts with \$82,260 in earnings. He has hit the board in 96 of 123 lifetime starts, securing 71 wins and \$1,764,289 in earnings.

Noble, Carter Win Miami Valley Titles

Dan Noble won the driving title, and Steve Carter took the training crown for the 2025 meet at Miami Valley Gaming.

Noble surpassed the Miami Valley earning record with \$2,774,393, recording 197 wins in 874 starts. This year marked his third Miami Valley driving title, previously winning in 2018 and 2021, and tied him with Brett Miller and Josh Sutton for the most all-time. Noble was the only driver with more than 800 starts this season, and his earnings total bested the previous record of \$2,497,149 set by 2024 champion Jeremy Smith.

Smith finished as the 2025 runner-up, recording 139 victories and earning \$2,123,462 in 751 starts. Chris Page took third place, winning 103 races in 712 starts.

On the training side, Carter won his second consecutive Miami Valley title after claiming his first-ever crown a year ago. He won 54 races with earnings of \$943,230. He sent 362 starters behind the gate, which was the most of any trainer at MVG this season.

Taking second this year was Antonia Storer, who finished the meet with 44 victories in 208 starts. Michael Hitchcock was third with 43 wins in 174 starts.





\$150,000 NEXT GENERATION

SATURDAY, JULY 5
POST TIME 5:45PM

FEATURING 4 DIVISIONS OF OHIO SIRE 2-YEAR-OLDS



@SciotoRacing



6000 S High St.



Visit Our Website

<https://www.caesars.com/scioto-downs>



Much-Deserved Recognition

While much of their work is done behind the scenes, caretakers play a vital role in the harness racing industry. That's why the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association wanted to do something to shine a spotlight on these dedicated people.

"The caretakers are the backbone of the racing world. Without their dedication to and love for our sport and the horses they take care of, there would not be a racing industry," OHHA Project Coordinator Susan Schroeder said. "We want them to know how much they are appreciated."

So, the OHHA staff got to work planning its first-ever Caretaker Appreciation Night. Held in the lounge in the new paddock at Eldorado Scioto Downs in mid-May, the event was proof that the hard work of these individuals doesn't go unnoticed. OHHA representatives were on hand to personally thank the nearly 100 caretakers in attendance that evening, giving each one a free cooler bag and offering some pre-race pizza. Complete with an opportunity to learn more about available insurance and retirement benefits, the evening was a big success in showcasing the industry's appreciation for those who work as caretakers.

Also known as grooms, caretakers assume a wide variety of tasks in the lives of Standardbred racehorses, including daily care and exercise, health monitoring, race day preparation, and equipment maintenance. The work can be physically demanding and often involves long, irregular hours. But it's a labor of love for many, such as longtime caretaker Steve Gibson.

"I've been doing this for about 35 years," Gibson said. "I grew up around horses, and I've been in California, Canada, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois, but my family lives here in Ohio, and I love the racing here."

Gibson paddocks for many trainers and said it felt good to be recognized for the work he does.

"The drivers' safety is in our hands, and we take care of the horses every day, so I was happy when I heard about the Caretaker Appreciation Night because what we do should be appreciated," Gibson said.

To top off the evening, he was eager to immerse himself in what he loves most — racing.

"For me, it's all about the racing," Gibson said. "I love taking care of the horses and then going to the races and watching them do well."



Caretakers gather in the lounge of the new paddock.



Samantha Mayhugh and Mackenzie Hess giving away caretaker cooler bags.



Attendees fill their plates with pizza during the OHHA's first-ever Caretaker Appreciation Night at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

Plan to join us!

There is nothing like being here in person to see history in the making!



2024 Champion – Captain Albano (Todd McCarthy) 1:50.1

Delaware, Ohio's Grand Circuit Events

----- Featuring The -----

80th Little Brown Jug (Thursday, September 18) and
the 55th Jugette (Wednesday, September 17)



Reserve Seats

Grandstand Seats (Thursday) – Starting at \$30 each

Box Seats (All Week) – Starting at \$80 each

Hospitality Tents – *Includes drinks, buffet lunch, TVs and more*

Backstretch Tent -- Jugette Day \$60 – Jug Day \$100

Top Of The Stretch Tent -- Jugette Day \$60 – Jug Day \$100

Pavilion Hill – Jugette Day \$180 – Jug Day \$265 – Both Days \$375

To purchase tickets, please call us at (740) 362-3851 or
(800) DEL-FAIR. Visit us at DelawareCountyFair.com
or LittleBrownJug.com for more information.

Future Stars Look to Next Generation

As 2-year-olds begin hitting the racetrack, owners and trainers dream about how good their horses can be. Training miles, a matinee here or there, some gate schooling, and qualifiers, they may still not know. It won't be until that first race that they will find out.

For some, it will be a fair race, others a start in the Buckeye Stallion Series, and then there are those that will make the Ohio Sires Stakes their first race. For a select few, they will take the chance and go big early, entering the \$150,000 Next Generation at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

Charlie May won the inaugural Next Generation race for 2-year-old colt pacers in 2020. Owner Don Tiger said early in the horse's training, they didn't know what they had.

"When he was training down, Steve Carter said he was a nice colt and was doing everything right," said Tiger. "The plan was to qualify Charlie May and then race him at Circleville."

Tiger asked Chris Page to qualify Charlie May. After the qualifier, Page told Tiger he had something special.

It was then that Tiger set his sights on The Next Generation. He was able to purchase a spot, and the rest is history. Charlie May won on his way to being named the 2-year-old Pacing Colt of the Year in Ohio.

"It was a lot of fun. There is a little bit of risk paying your way into the race," said Tiger.

This year, three entities have purchased slots in each of the four divisions of The Next Generation: Kathy Gorby, The Stable.ca, and

Weaver Brusceci. Four others — Chris Beaver, Greg Luther Racing, Hutchinson Harness, and Odds On Racing — have each purchased two entries.

Jeff Nisonger trains for Gorby and says he likes The Next Generation. "I go down south so my horses are ready a little sooner." He says he would rather race them when they are ready than wait until the end of the year. "Some people say the money is at the end of the year; I figure money is where I can get it."

Entry slots were available for \$8,000 if purchased by April 15. The price tag to enter increased by \$2,000 each of the following two months.

Nisonger sees the entry as an investment. "My owner bought one in each division. I'm not saying we are going to use them all, but there might be a chance to make some money if they can't use one of the entries ourselves."

What horses Nisonger may enter is still up in the air. "It's early, I wait until after qualifiers to make a decision on which horses I will enter."

Eldorado Scioto Downs Director of Racing Jason Roth is happy with how the event has developed.

"The race is unique, and we don't have enough unique things," said Roth. "For many, it is their first lifetime start, and it is great to see horses like Charlie May and Sea Silk go on to become the horses that they did."

This year's Next Generation is scheduled for July 5 at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

Colt Pacers	Filly Pacers	Colt Trotters	Filly Trotters
Hutchison Harness	Hutchison Harness	CT Stables	Greg Luther Racing
Greg Luther Racing	Odds On Racing	Kathy Gorby	Kathy Gorby
Odds On Racing	Kathy Gorby	Chris Beaver	Chris Beaver
Kathy Gorby	Lionel Construction	Richard McClelland	Richard Gutnick
Weaver Brusceci	Weaver Brusceci	WJ Donovan	Weaver Brusceci
Daniel Hale	The Stable.CA	Jeff Fought Racing	The Stable.CA
The Stable.CA		John Fielding	
Mike Hitchcock		Weaver Brusceci	
		The Stable.CA	

“The race is unique, and we don't have enough unique things.”
 — Jason Roth

Let the Party Begin!

By Wes Mayberry

The sport of harness racing in Ohio has major reason to celebrate, as Eldorado Scioto Downs recently opened its new 16-race paddock — a \$16 million project that was two years in the making.



“We broke ground last August, but we were in talks to do this two years ago, and now that final product is here. It’s great,” Scioto Downs Director of Racing Jason Roth said. “We’ve had racing here at Scioto Downs for 66 years, and getting rid of the barns that were basically falling down and building this beautiful paddock has been a long time coming.”

Caesar’s Entertainment Senior Vice President of Racing Joe Morris describes the new facility as the best-in-class in the country that incorporates several of the top attributes from other paddocks.

“It’s one-of-a-kind, what we’ve been doing,” Morris said. “Some of us have been doing this a long time, and we took the better attributes of the different paddocks that we’ve been in and built them into this place.”

Designed with input from the horsemen, the paddock features stalls for 16 10-horse fields with high-quality air flow and superior drainage, bath stalls, race offices, men’s and women’s locker rooms, and a snack and lounge area.

Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association President Scott Mogan appreciated Scioto Downs’ efforts in keeping the horsemen top-of-mind when designing the facility.

“It has gates with yokes, so the horses can’t get their heads together but can get their heads out. The bath stalls are amazing. They have arms like you see at a car wash, so the hoses can’t be on the ground and get stepped on like they do in other places,” Mogan said. “I’ve seen it from the ground up, and every time I walk into it, it just impresses me more. It’s a beautiful facility. I can’t say enough good things about it.”

Ohio State Racing Commission Executive Director Chris Dragone wholeheartedly agreed.

“I’ve been around harness racing for about 30 years, and I’ve never seen anything like this building,” he said. “It’s just spectacular.”

Most of the funding for the paddock came from American Electric Power, which had an access dilemma in supplying power to a Google facility north of the racetrack. AEP already had a 50-foot right-of-way on the back of the Scioto Downs property that didn’t include the land where many of the horse barns are currently located but needed a 150-foot right-of-way corridor. The power company ultimately reached an agreement with Caesar’s Entertainment, which owns and operates Eldorado Scioto Downs, that led to the construction of the new 461-foot facility located between the clubhouse and current paddock.



“Caesar’s, Joe, Jason — they’re such a great team,” Dragone said. “This has really been spectacular to watch, and everybody who’s involved in Standardbred racing has to be encouraged by it.”

The current paddock will remain and will continue to be used for qualifiers, but the project required the demolition of the two old dormitories behind it, which created space for truck and trailer parking. The wider right-of-way also involves seven barns that will need to be razed once racing is completed in September.

With the completion of the new paddock, Caesar’s has committed more than \$50 million into the Scioto Downs property over the last





four years. That level of dedication hasn't gone unnoticed by the horsemen, and the OHHA has pledged to assist this latest project over the next five years.

"I can't say enough good things about Caesar's Entertainment and the Carano family with Eldorado and the entire group there — (Senior Vice President and General Manager) Amy Ankerson, Joe Morris, Jason Roth, and his group," Mogan said. "They've again revitalized Scioto Downs to be the Ohio showplace of racing."

Scioto Downs celebrated the opening of the new paddock with a ribbon-cutting event in early May, just in time for the 2025 racing season. That was a huge first step in what promises to be a more than yearlong party culminating with welcoming one of harness racing's crown jewel events to Scioto Downs in October 2026.

"It's the beginning of a stretch that's going to take us through next year's Breeders Crown," Morris said.

"The party begins today," Roth added, speaking at the ribbon-cutting event. "We will work every day to try to make this the best season to date, and then 2026 will be the best season ever!"

Photos: Conrad Photo

Track Notes



Fearless Ginger lowers the track record to 1:50.1 for 4-year-old pacing mares.

marked a lifetime best for the son by Creatine. The Miles Wollam trainee has banked over \$80,000 in seasonal earnings.

At MGM Northfield Park, Tessa Koran scored her first career training victory with Desert Hayz. The 4-year-old daughter by Uncle Peter left no doubt, winning in gate-to-wire fashion in 1:57.3. The training win was not the only recent milestone for Koran. The OHHA would also like to congratulate Tessa and driver Chris Lems on their new marriage.

The conclusion of the 2025 meet at Miami Valley Raceway was marked by a series of record-breaking performances.

Fearless Ginger led the charge, lowering the track record to 1:50.1 for 4-year-old pacing mares. The daughter by Fear The Dragon was driven to victory in the Fillies and Mares Open by Sam Widger for trainer Ron Burke.

Trotters were not to be outdone. Jurassic Hattie won by six lengths in 1:50.4, equaling the all-age trotting track record. Brett Miller guided for Stacey Van Huizen. To date, the 4-year-old daughter by Volstead has won three of four seasonal starts with an additional second-place finish.

Guided by Dan Noble, No Nap Nash set the record for 4-year-old trotting horses in 1:51. The victory

NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES!

for the Blooded Horse Sales Company's

SUMMER MIXED SALE

THE CHAMPIONS CENTER • Springfield, Ohio

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

FEATURING A BLACK TYPE YEARLING SESSION



BLACK TYPE
YEARLING
ENTRIES
DUE
BY

JULY 15

One of our most popular sales of the year!

As the summer racing season approaches, racehorses will again be in demand as trainers will be restocking their stables.

This sale also features a "first stop" for buyers looking to purchase 2025 yearlings.

It's the perfect time and place to consign racehorses, racing prospects, breeding stock and yearlings at the sale that provides **proven** results year after year!

BONUS!

Selling with us gives your horses added exposure with our printed catalog and racelines posted on our website.

PLUS we never charge a commission for RNAs.



Enter online at www.bloodedhorse.com

ONLINE BIDDING
Powered By
proxibid

Send e-mail to Jerry Haws at: jhaws@bloodedhorse.com

JERRY HAWS • P.O. Box 187 • Wilmore, Kentucky 40390
Phone: (859) 858-4415 • Fax: (859) 858-8498
SHETLER & ASSOCIATES, Auctioneers

20 Questions with Kenny Livengood

As a youngster, what was your first memory of horses?

The first thing I remember is going to the OTB with my dad, watching the races on TV, and getting to go to Saratoga every summer.

Did you ever imagine that this would lead to a career in racing?

I always had the dream of wanting it to lead there, but I never actually thought I'd make it or ever have the opportunity to make it.

In your high school days, were you involved in any sport activities?

I was a varsity bowler for five years.

You're still active in bowling, aren't you?

I was up until the past 12 months or so. I went to Vegas for Nationals last year. Now with my schedule, it's tricky to find a league. I'm exploring options to get back into it because I do miss it.

After high school, did you go on to college?

I went to a community college for two years and studied business administration.

At that time, were you starting to think of an announcing career?

That's pretty much why I went to community college. I didn't know what else I wanted to do. There was nothing that inspired me except going to the track, so I was pretty committed to making it happen.

What did you do in those early days to get your career started?

I would call any race I could off the TV. I would pull up the racing form, write down the names of the horses and jockeys, and call the race. I must have called 10, 15, 20 races off the TV per day to practice after school.

Your first real big break was going out west to call some Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred racing, wasn't it?

Yes, Chippewa Downs in North Dakota. It was maybe 10 miles from the Canadian border. That was a thrill to have a job that paid me to announce and not just calling it off the TV. It was two summer meets for four weeks each year.

Did you have somebody that you looked up to as an idol, or somebody that you wanted to pattern after?

Growing up going to Saratoga, it was Tom (Durkin). He was the announcer at the track at the time, so I idolized him and tried to follow in his footsteps as best I could.

How did you branch out to harness racing?

At the bowling alley (in New York) where I worked at the time, a guy from the casino had heard that they were potentially looking for another backup announcer. So I reached out because I was interested in learning harness racing and was local. Mike (Sardella) was very open to the idea and taught me how to call a harness race because I really didn't know anything.

Did you also get the opportunity to call some other tracks out east?

I called at Freehold a few times. My buddy Rich Mattei worked there and was able to get me to come down and fill in. I filled in at Tioga and at Vernon.



When did you start thinking about the switch from Saratoga to Northfield?

As soon as I found out that the job was open, it was a no-brainer for me to at least apply. It was what I had always wanted to do, and I was going to get a full-time job to go sit at the racetrack and talk horse racing every day.

I understand that you're currently looking for a house, and something big in your life is going to occur in 2026.

I'm certainly ready to settle down here in Ohio. Kayla and I are going to get married in 2026, and we'll see if that leads to a family down the road.

Do you have a favorite sport to watch on television?

Baseball, without a doubt. My favorite team is the Yankees.

Do you ever golf?

I like to play golf. I'm not the greatest at it, but it is very, very fun.

Do you have a favorite restaurant you like to go to?

I really like Barrio Tacos. We don't have a place like that in New York.

Over your life, you've probably seen a lot of movies. Is there one movie that sticks out as your favorite?

I'm sure I'll get a lot of flak for this one, but Major League is my favorite movie. I could practically quote the whole movie. It's so funny to me.

Do you have a favorite TV show?

I don't watch a lot of TV shows, but probably Friends.

A lot of people have a bucket list. Is there one thing that you want to do that you haven't done?

Probably go to Italy for the Italian food and gelato.

Do you have something on the bucket list career-wise?

Yes, call a Breeders' Cup race, or call the Travers. Probably the Travers at Saratoga just because that's where I grew up. That one would hit home a little more just being able to go from the fan sitting by the paddock there calling the biggest race of the summer.

Don't Tell Boytown that He's Blind

Shared by *New Vocations*



he didn't really want to ride in that little English saddle or a heavy western one. An Australian saddle is a little different, but we saddled him up, and my husband got on the mounting block and mounted. Well, that didn't go so well, as the saddle slipped completely underneath Boytown with my husband lying on the ground. Not really knowing the horse yet, I hurriedly grabbed the reins and started undoing the girth as my husband was getting out from underneath him. Here I have a very big green riding off-track Standardbred, and I was waiting for him to take off. To my surprise, Boytown didn't move a muscle. He was almost like, "Really? What are you humans doing underneath me?" His big, calm, and kind personality really showed through that evening.

"Boytown had a slight cloudy spot in one eye when he came to us, but it never seemed to bother him. However, over time, he experienced recurrent uveitis, and the spot gradually grew. Eventually, the cloudiness developed in his other eye. I could tell he was having sight issues, so I started making everything routine for him. I also started using the same words for things so he would understand what I was asking. It was fortunate that he was familiar with his paddock, stall, indoor arena, and, of course, his BFF Standardbred, Wilbur, who became his pasture eyes.

"Boytown is now completely blind, but don't let him know that. I believe his calm Standardbred demeanor has really helped. He is so trusting and seems to have a carefree attitude. If he gets nervous from a really windy day or a noisy neighbor, once he hears my voice, you can almost see the stress leave his body.

Boytown has been a star since his Grand Circuit-winning Pennsylvania Stallion Series Champion days at 2 years old through his competitive open trotter days at 7. He earned \$433,140 in 140 starts racing much of his career at The Meadows for owner/breeders Richard Gillock and Barbara Richardson, and later for owner/trainer Chelsey Faurot. In 2016, Bret and James Baucher and HBC Racing Stable from Celina, Ohio, purchased Boytown and raced him successfully throughout the state before selling him to Dan Kennedy of Kennedy Sports Corp. where the classy gelding finished his career at Northfield Park.

Dan and trainer Clair Umholtz appreciated Boytown's kind and accommodating disposition. They sent him to New Vocations, where they thought he would excel as a family pleasure mount. Boytown has certainly done that. The war horse, with his "been there, done that" attitude, transitioned to a riding horse like a true professional. He was subsequently adopted by Janet Tallon in Indiana, who was looking for just that.

She shares her journey with Boytown.

"I had always been a Thoroughbred girl. I had adopted two Thoroughbreds from New Vocations, and I was aware they also had Standardbreds. I was looking for a husband-safe, lesson-type horse, so I thought I would take a look at Standardbreds. I adopted Boytown in February 2019. I thought he would make a good riding horse for my husband with the bonus that I could drive him as well.

"I started riding Boytown, and wow, what a big, beautiful trot. After about a week, my husband wanted to try him. We bought an Australian saddle because





Boytown and adopter Janet Tallon. **Photos:** Addie Veith



“Boytown continues to live a very full, productive life. I ride and drive him several times a week, and he gives a few driving lessons every month. One of his favorite students is only 8 years old. I always use Boytown in a lesson for a new student because he has so much experience. He loves to drive, and there is no silly business. He does exactly what you ask.

“Some students get a little nervous when I tell them that Boytown is blind and they are his eyes. But after a couple of laps around the arena, they forget they are driving a blind horse at all. Boytown knows the indoor arena very well and will trot on the rail all day long if you ask.

“Boytown is truly a very happy and productive, yet fully blind, horse. He is all class — versatile, adaptable, and he still loves having a job. He and I have become advocates to educate and answer questions regarding his disability. We are part of the Blind Horse Project and did a podcast and video to show that blind horses still have the same abilities they did as sighted.

“Just like his caretakers from the past, I adore this horse. I cannot imagine my life without him and what he has taught me. He and I have such a special bond.”



Drive in *Style*

‘Jug’ License Plate Available Soon

It’s been a long time coming, but Little Brown Jug fans will soon be able to show their support of the race with a new Ohio license plate.

Little Brown Jug officials expect the plate to be available later this summer after a few modifications to the design. State Senator Andrew Brenner (Delaware) originally introduced the bill to create the plate in 2011.

“For 80 years, the Little Brown Jug has brought thousands of people from around the world to Delaware on one Thursday every year,” Senator Brenner said. “From the economic benefits of the Jug to the opportunities available from the events during Jug week, this license plate gives Ohioans a chance to give back to this iconic event.”

Fans of the Little Brown Jug can support the event by purchasing a license plate for \$30, \$20 of which will go to the Little Brown Jug Society to assist in maintaining and operating the Little Brown Jug. The remaining \$10 is a service fee to the BMV for processing purposes.

The Little Brown Jug is part of harness horse racing’s Triple Crown and one of the largest harness horse racing events in North America. Officially established 80 years ago in 1945, the Little Brown Jug has been running every year on the third Thursday after Labor Day.

OHHA Welcomes New Staff Members

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association recently welcomed two new full-time staff members and an intern to its team.



Left to Right: Wes Mayberry and Stephen Taylor

Wes Mayberry and Stephen Taylor joined the OHHA staff this spring as the outreach and marketing assistant and multimedia specialist, respectively. Samantha Mayhugh is assisting the organization as an intern.

A native of Ashville, Ohio, Mayberry currently resides in Grove City and joined the OHHA after serving as the director of athletic communications at Otterbein University. Prior to Otterbein, he worked in the athletic communications departments at Wittenberg University and Ohio Northern University after spending eight years as an editor

and writer at four different newspapers throughout the southeastern U.S. He is a 2013 graduate of Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and a 2023 graduate of Bowling Green State University with a master's degree in sport administration.

As a multiple-award-winning writer, Mayberry is eager to help enhance the OHHA's written coverage of harness racing while utilizing his marketing experience to aid in the association's mission of promoting the sport throughout Ohio and beyond. An admitted harness racing novice, he is looking forward to getting ever more engrossed in the sport.

"With my only prior exposure to harness racing being some trips to Scioto Downs with my dad, I joined the OHHA knowing nothing of the intricacies of the sport. But I brought a desire to learn as I applied my writing and marketing skills in an exciting, new environment," Mayberry said. "I want to thank Executive Director Frank Fraas and everyone on the OHHA staff for giving me this opportunity, and I am excited to continue meeting everyone associated with Ohio harness racing while telling their stories and those of their horses in a variety of ways."

Taylor is a United States Marine Corps veteran, having served four years as a Marine bandsman in Hawaii. As part of his service, he worked on the video and live production teams with the Marine Force Pacific Band. A native resident of Commercial Point, Ohio, Taylor is a 2024 graduate of Capital University with a bachelor's degree in film and media production.

"I am excited to apply my skills to help promote the harness racing industry," Taylor said. "I am also looking forward to learning more and more about harness racing and want to thank Frank Fraas and everyone at the OHHA for this opportunity."

A native of Circleville, Ohio, Mayhugh is a 2024 graduate of Logan Elm High School entering her second year at The Ohio State University. She is majoring in agricultural business and applied economics with a minor in equine studies. She hopes to have a career working in media and/or broadcasting to promote harness racing and educate others about the sport while continuing her family's Mayhugh Stables operation for generations to come.



"I'm honored and excited to join the OHHA. Coming from a harness racing family, I've always had a deep passion for the sport and always wanted to get more involved in the business side of the industry," Mayhugh said. "I'm looking forward to learning, gaining experience, building connections, and helping play a role in promoting the future of harness racing."

Happy
RETIREMENT
We wish you joy and relaxation in
this exciting new chapter!

**LINDA
NANCE**
Benefits
Administrator

After **21** Years
OF HARD WORK & DEDICATION

Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON



The State of the Union is healthy and strong. That certainly can be said of harness racing in the State of Ohio after the first four months of the year. Racing season has just started at Eldorado Scioto Downs, and MGM Northfield Park has concluded a third of its season as well.

The numbers for both drivers and trainers show that racing in Ohio is the strongest in North America. There are no stats for owners available, but you would think they would carry over as well.

The most dominant category is in purse earnings for trainers, where 15 are listed in the top 50.

That group, as usual, is led by Ron Burke, who competes at all Ohio venues. Burke, who has led the nation for several years, has earnings of \$4,688,980. Two others made the top 10 as well, with Steve Carter at \$1.1 million and Cory Kreiser at \$826,303. Trainers Antonia Storer, Michael Hitchcock, Virgil Morgan Jr., Anette Lorent-

zon, Jason Brewer, Christi Noble, and Jeff Smith are in the top 25. Five others made the top 50, including Sam Schillaci, Chris Beaver, Edward Miller, Deborah Swartz, and Keith Kash Jr.

Fifteen drivers are in the top 50 in the U.S. and Canada. Ohio drivers are led by second-place Dan Noble with earnings of \$3,311,500. Also making the top 10 are Jeremy Smith, Aaron Merriman, Chris Page, and Brett Miller. Five others — Ronnie Wrenn Jr., Tyler Smith, Trevor Smith, Austin Hanners, and Sam Widger — are in the top 25. Chris Lems, the late Hunter Myers, Kurt Sugg, Justin Irvine, and Anthony MacDonald made the top 50 group.

The win statistics show four Ohio drivers in the top 10, seven in the top 25, and 14 in the top 50.

Merriman is second nationally with 302 wins in 2025. However, the hottest driver in the Buckeye State is Noble, who was the leading driver at the concluded meet at Miami Valley and early leader at Scioto Downs, with 244 wins in 2025.

The other top 10 drivers are Wrenn Jr. with 229 and Jeremy Smith at 162.

Page, Lems, and Myers are in the top 25. Seven others made the top 50, including Brett Miller, Tyler Smith, Sugg, Irvine, MacDonald, Trevor Smith, and Tyler Angus.

Trainers total 10 of 50 early this year, led by Burke with 280 wins. Also in the top 10 is Kreiser with 103 for the fourth spot.

Five others — Carter, Storer, Hitchcock, Schillaci, and Edward Miller are in the top 25. In the top 50 are trainers Kash Jr., Brewer, and Morgan Jr.

All of these figures are extremely important to the many owners and breeders in the Buckeye State who are benefiting from higher purses as a result of Ohio once again leading the nation in harness racing.

Yes, we are healthy and strong.

Be There!

97th Annual Ohio FFA Convention By Samantha Mayhugh

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association brought harness racing to the 97th Ohio FFA Convention. Held in Columbus, this annual event brings together thousands of FFA members from across the state to celebrate achievements, build connections, and explore agricultural career opportunities. The OHHA promoted Standardbreds to a new generation, educating high school students about the sport and what the industry has to offer.

For two days, the OHHA outreach team shared the excitement of harness racing. The virtual reality bike put FFA members right into race action, while bone identification was a favorite among students hoping to become future veterinarians. Harness racing trivia was a hit, and the leg wrapping station turned into a fun competition between friends to see who could wrap the fastest. Overall, the booth

was a great success, engaging with students to grow the harness racing industry.

The FFA is a national organization that prepares youth for leadership and careers within agriculture fields. The Ohio FFA Association currently has 29,089 members and 329 chapters.



Above photo: Linde's Livestock Photography



OHHA Awards 14 Scholarships to Outstanding Students

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is awarding 14 scholarships, totaling \$20,000, to college students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The OHHA Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and students enrolled in a degree or certificate program. Graduate students are eligible if they are enrolled in a harness racing-specific graduate or professional-level program. The scholarships are based on academic merit and must be used towards the cost and expenses related to coursework and a degree being pursued at a college or university. In addition, the applicant or a family member must be an OHHA member.

This year's recipients are Savannah Barnard, Garrett Bateson, Christopher Beaver, Hannah Dingledine, Adam King, Ryan King, Mason Konesky, Dakota Manson, Samantha Mayhugh, William McLead, Alexa Nisonger, Kyra Suleski, Lexi Twaddle, and Camryn Welch.



Savannah Barnard of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Canon-McMillan High School going into her fourth year at Penn State Beaver. The daughter of Robert Barnard and

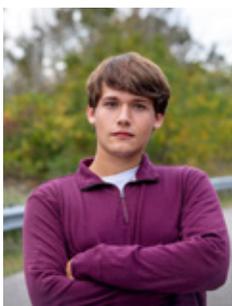
Tina Gelly, she is majoring in business and accounting. She bought her first racehorse in the fall of 2024 and currently holds a trainer's license and groom's license. While she hopes to pursue a career unrelated to horses, Savannah would like the opportunity to train and ride horses on the side.



Garrett Bateson of Rudolph, Ohio, is the son of Steve and Terri Bateson. He is a graduate of Bowling Green High School and is entering his second year at Ohio University majoring in

sports management. A member of the Sports Business Association at OU, Garrett hopes to use his education to make a meaningful contribution to the sports industry, including harness racing. He is currently involved in

the sport through assisting with the many responsibilities at his family's track.



Christopher Beaver of Columbus, Ohio, is a graduate of Buckeye Valley High School and the Delaware Area Career Center. He is currently attending The Ohio State University majoring

in chemical engineering. With a passion for power generation, he is tailoring his career to work on various types of reactors and processes with the goal of lowering the cost of electricity while devising sustainable and economical solutions for society's energy demands.



Hannah Dingledine of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, is the daughter of Randy and Amy Dingledine. She is a graduate of Mechanicsburg High School going into her second year at Wright State

University, majoring in biological sciences with a pre-veterinary concentration. A member of the WSU women's bowling team, Hannah is pursuing a career as a veterinarian, as she loves being around animals and caring for them. She is actively involved with the harness racing industry through supporting the OHHA at various events.

Adam and Ryan King of Troy, Ohio, are the sons of Zachary and Connie King and graduates of Troy High School. Adam plans to attend The Ohio State University in the fall and major in business, and Ryan is currently studying animal science at Ohio State. The King family has a long history in the harness racing industry, and both Adam and Ryan



hope to use their education to assist their father's equine veterinarian practice in the future.

Adam wants to help run the practice in some capacity. "I want to put my family in a position

to give back to the harness racing industry," he said.



Going into his third year at OSU, Ryan plans to pursue veterinary school to become an equine veterinarian with a focus on track medicine. "I have seen firsthand how much racing can bring people

together and create strong bonds with one another, which is a big reason why I want to be more involved in the racing industry after I graduate," he said.



Mason Konesky of Bowling Green, Ohio, is a graduate of Bowling Green High School. The daughter of Patrick and Wesley Konesky, she plans to study biochemistry at Purdue University and later pursue a

doctoral degree in research or as a medical specialist. Mason is an eight-year member of the United States Pony Club and hopes to continue mentoring youth in horse management and growing as an equestrian throughout her college career.



Dakota Manson of Troy, Ohio, is the son of Jason and Abby Manson. A graduate of Troy High School, he plans to attend Ashland University in the fall and major in business while playing football. He

is pursuing a career in the sports industry where he can combine his passion for athletics with his strong leadership and business skills. He is currently an active OHHA member and has fractional ownership in two horses.



Samantha Mayhugh of Circleville, Ohio, is a graduate of Logan Elm High School. The daughter of Sean and Regina Mayhugh, she is entering her

second year at The Ohio State University majoring in agricultural business and applied economics with a minor in equine studies. She hopes to have a career working in media and/or broadcasting to promote harness racing and educate others about the sport while continuing the Mayhugh Stables operation for generations to come. She currently works with her father and sister as owners of two racehorses and has been working for Thomas Litt Stables for four years.



William McLead of Delaware, Ohio, is the son of Joseph and Patty McLead. A graduate of Rutherford B. Hayes High School, he plans to attend the University of Cincinnati in the fall and major in

business. William has been involved with harness racing for most of his life and has assisted with responsibilities on his family's Sugar Valley Farm. He hopes to use his degree to help his dad with the business side of the family farm in the future.



Alexa Nisonger of Lebanon, Ohio, is a graduate of Lebanon High School. The daughter of Jeff and Stacey Nisonger, she plans to attend Otterbein University in the fall to study allied health while playing

basketball. Nisonger wants to use her education to pursue a career as a physical therapist, helping individuals recover from injuries, manage chronic conditions, and improve their overall physical well-being. Her parents own and train a small stable of horses, and she assists in the horses' daily care, training, and preparation for races.



Kyra Suleski of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, is the daughter of Ted and Sherri Suleski. A graduate of Lenape High School, she is going into her second year at the

University of Tampa majoring in international business with a focus in marketing. Kyra plans to use her education to pursue a career working within the intersection of global commerce and creative strategy where she can combine her analytical mind and artistic appreciation for nuanced communication and cultural understanding.



Lexi Twaddle of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Canon-McMillan High School. She is entering her fourth year at Walsh University pursuing a degree in biology

with minors in psychology and business. She has a passion for healthcare and currently works as a Patient Care Technician. Her involvement in harness racing includes helping her dad with various tasks around the barn, running the social media for Twaddle Stable, and having part ownership in a colt.



Camryn Welch of Zanesville, Ohio, is the daughter of Ron and Erin Welch. A graduate of West Muskingum High School, she is entering her third year at the University of Virginia majoring

in psychology. Also minoring in German and general business, she is pursuing a career in marketing with a particular interest in how marketing blends psychological principles with statistical analysis to create impactful strategies. She will also continue sharing the lessons she's learned from her family's involvement in harness racing with others.



Join us at an Ohio county fair this year.

Pick up your Ohio County Fair Harness Racing Passport at the OHHA broadcast location. Get a sticker at each fair you attend.

We'll have great prizes at the end of the summer.

Fastest Ride at the Fair!

OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

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

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2020	Membership Required
Yearling 2021	No Membership Required
2 & 3-year-old 2022, 2023	No Membership Required

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Joan Arn • John Martin • Harold Moore
William Myers • Richard O'Donnell
Anthony "Tony" Tesso

Thank You to our 2025 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

OHHA Pacesetters as of 5/30/25

Thomas Aldrich	Steven & Brenda McCoy
Christopher Allen	Joe McLead
Ernie Ayers	Brett Merkle
Steve Bateson	Edward Miller
Andrew Beachy	Jerry Miller
Marion Beachy	John Miller
Donald Bean	Marvin Miller
Christopher Beaver	Dean Miller
Raelee Beecher	Scott Mogan
Lucinda Belcher	Tre Morgan
Brian Boring	John & Kyle Mossbarger
Kris Brechler	Jay Mossbarger
Robert Brooks	Libby Myers
Brian & Jennifer Brown	Joe Nesselroad
Jim Buchy	John Oliverio
Ron Burke	Jenna Otten
Micah Burkholder	Dennis Owens
Roy Burns	Craig Polydoros
Betty Clegg	Powerplay Racing
Stacy Currie	Marvin Raber
Joseph & Fran Darmofal	Ayers Ratliff
Patricia Davis	Pamela Riedeman
Tommy Dawson	Travis Rinehart
Jeff & Senena Esty	Robert Schmitz
Kari Lynn Fagan	Susan Schroeder
Frank Fraas	Lisa Schwartz
Harvey Fried	Robert Schwartz
Keith Gisser	Bret & Robin Schwartz
Kevin Greenfield	Dave Scott
Holly Guastalli	Robert Shafer
Scott Hagemeyer	Randal Smith
Randy Haines	Christopher Spellmire
James Hassel	Emanuel Stoltzfus
Robert Hershberger	Susan Tackett
Calvin & Amy Hollar	Brent Tartar
Aaron Hollar	Charles Taylor
Carson & Joe Hollar-Kale	Ben Taylor
Ryan & Holly Holton	Daryl Tilford
Donald & Tamara Hoovler	B. Clair Umholtz
Cheryl Houck	Dan & Cheryl Venier
Ronald Hunwick	Allen & Ann Vorhees
Steven Hurley	Florence Wallace
Roger Huston	Brad Wallace
Vickie Jennings	Mark Weaver
John Konesky	William Webb
Randy and Tia Leopard	Gabriel Wengerd
Dr. Louis & Megan LeVan	Larry Wills
Anette Lorentzon	Mike & Becky Woebkenberg
Lainey Luther	Atlee Yoder
Greg Luther	Jacob Yoder
Tim & Denise Maier	Alvin Yoder
Kathy Martin	Steven Zeehandelar
Wayne Mast Jr	

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

- (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 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 and Greg Simpson were present. Madam Chair thanked the prior chair, Scott Borgemenke, for his many years of loyal service. The Chair and Commissioners thanked him for his leadership and dedication to the commission, especially during this time of change in the industry. Due to his leadership, the Commission stands on a firm foundation and is in a good position.
 - (3) Approval of Minutes from the December 17, 2024, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the December 17, 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Winters asked whether the conditions attached to the previous month's meet request had been met and was informed that they had been completed. Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
 - (4) Ratification of Executive Director Approvals: Commissioner Winters moved to ratify the Executive Director's approvals and Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
 - (5) Resolution 2025-01: Casino Tax Revenue Distribution. Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the resolution, and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
 - (6) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson updated the Commission on horse racing and training fatalities at the pari-mutuel tracks in Ohio. Through January 21, 2025, there have been two Standardbred fatalities and 2 Thoroughbred fatalities. The total number of horse fatalities in Ohio to date is 4. In 2024, the total was 35. Thoroughbreds had 27 fatalities, which was 1.31/1000 starts on all surfaces. The 2024 thoroughbred safety record was 99.82%.
 - (7) Monthly Financial Report: Revenues are commensurate with last year's revenues; however, costs have increased by 4%, mostly due to the Commission having spent \$105,000 more on post-race testing than what we have taken in, and there are increased IT and contractor costs. Tax revenue is down 6% from last year, and last year it was down 13% from 2023.
 - (8) Committee Reports
 - A. Medication: The Chair said that Commissioner Dan McCarthy will be heading the Medication Committee.
 - B. Safety: Commissioner Simpson commended Miami Valley on their excellent security in the paddock.
 - C. Standardbred: Commissioner Winters mentioned that he was planning to call the new executive director of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association.
 - (9) Commissioners Comments: There were no comments.
 - (10) Public Comments: There were no public comments.
 - (11) Executive Session: Commissioner Winters moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel and pending legal matters. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The commission went into executive session at 10:20 to discuss personnel and pending legal matters. The Chair advised there would be no additional business after the executive session is over.
 - (12) Adjournment: Commissioner Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.
- Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center

Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2025

- (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on February 18, 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 Dan McCarthy were present. Madam Chair thanked Bud Teeters, who recently retired as Northfield's Presiding Judge after 25 years of being with the OSRC.
- (3) Approval of Minutes from the January 21, 2025, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the January 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 Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (5) OSDF 2025 Requests: The three-part request of budget, rules and schedule were bundled as one motion. Frank Fraas, Executive Director of the OHHA, spoke. Commissioner Winters moved to approve the bundled request, and Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (6) Resolution 2025-02: Rule revision chapter 2: Deputy Director Tanya Boulmetis explained that this rule revision was conducted to be compliant with the recently passed H.B. 238. Commissioner Winters moved to approve the resolution, and Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (7) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson updated the Commission on horse racing and training fatalities at the pari-mutuel tracks in Ohio. Through February 18, 2025, there have been three

Standardbred fatalities and three Thoroughbred fatalities. The total number of horse fatalities in Ohio to date is 6. Thoroughbreds have a safety record of 99.78%. Dr. Robertson commented on the effect of winter weather on the Thoroughbred track and the early year increase in Standardbred catastrophic fatalities. Michael Colacarro from Northfield Park advised that their track is closely monitored.

- (8) Monthly Financial Report: Due to the increased Casino Revenue Distribution, the financials are looking better than this time last year. January is the strongest month for licensee fees, as all licenses expire on December 31 of the prior year. Revenue from licensee fees increased by approximately \$30,000 compared to 2024. The

Commission is in a good fiscal position to hire more personnel.

- (9) Committee Reports
 - A. Medication: There were no comments.
 - B. Safety: Commissioner Simpson commented on the possibility of flooding at Belterra Park due to its location on the Ohio River. Ashley Holliday from Belterra Park advised that the Casino was most likely going to be closed due to flooding on the roads leading to and from the casino, but they were hopeful there would be no damage to the property or racing surface.
 - C. Standardbred: There were no comments.

- (10) Commissioners Comments: There were no comments.
- (11) Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- (12) Executive Session: There was no executive session.
- (13) Adjournment: Commissioner Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center

Minutes of the Ohio State Racing Commission Meeting Tuesday, March 18, 2025

- (1) The Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) held its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 18, 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 Dan McCarthy were present.
- (3) Approval of Minutes from the February 18, 2025, Commission Meeting: Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the February 18, 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. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (5) Resolution 2025-03: 5-year rule review on chapters 6 and 16: Deputy Director Tanya Boulmetis explained the process of this 5-year rule review. The entire process takes 8 months to a year, and draft amendments are circulated to stakeholders. Once their input is received and considered, any revised amended rules are circulated through all stakeholders again. Once feedback is satisfied, draft rules are sent to the Commissioners for their review. After they are voted on, the rules are sent to CSI for their review, and upon their approval they are filed with JCARR. Commissioner Simpson moved to approve the resolution,

and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- (6) Meet Requests: Each meet request was considered separately.
 - A. Belterra Park: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the meet request with the amendment of pending receipt of outstanding items. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
 - B. Thistledown: Commissioner Winters moved to approve the meet request with the amendment of pending receipt of outstanding items. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- (7) Update on Horse Fatalities: Dr. James Robertson updated the Commission on horse racing and training fatalities at the pari-mutuel tracks in Ohio. Through March 18, 2025, there have been three Standardbred fatalities which occurred during races. There were four Thoroughbred fatalities: three racing and one training. The total number of horse fatalities in Ohio to date is 7. Thoroughbreds have a safety record of 99.86%. In 2024, the overall safety rate for all thoroughbred tracks combined was 99.87%. There was discussion about HISA's report and how the published numbers could have been calculated.
- (8) Monthly Financial Report: Assistant Executive Director Holly Chandler read the fiscal officer, Sherry White's, report

into the record. The casino revenue timing illustrates how important it is to the budget. The month it is received, there is net income, but in the other two months there is a loss. There was a \$63,000 loss in February. The OHHA received their overpayment back after February 24 controlling boards meeting's approval. The Commission has hired an investigator.

- (9) Committee Reports
 - A. Medication: There were no comments.
 - B. Safety: Commissioner Simpson commented on Miami Valley doing a good job of keeping the track in good shape, especially considering the difficult weather they have had.
 - C. Standardbred: Commissioner Winters commented on the recent sanctions by the USTA and commended them for their actions.
- (10) Commissioners Comments: There were no comments.
- (11) Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- (12) Executive Session: There was no executive session.
- (13) Adjournment: Commissioner Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Winters seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote, and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1948 Riffe Center.

HAMBLETONIAN 100

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

**26
JUL**



Seafood Fest & Eliminations

- MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK, EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ
- FREE ADMISSION ⌚ 5 PM
- Seafood spectacle with food trucks galore and a themed Pink buffet
- \$70K Hambo Elims; \$35K Hambo Oaks Elims
- Harness Racing Post Time 6:20 p.m.

TUESDAY

**29
JUL**



Hambletonian Post Position Luncheon

- CHATEAU GRANDE, EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ
- FREE ADMISSION ⌚ 2 PM
- Post position draws for the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks
- Streaming on Meadowlands Facebook Live

WEDNESDAY

**30
JUL**



THURSDAY

**31
JUL**

Farm Tours and Brunch

- SOUTHWIND FARM, BURKE RACING STABLE, NANCY TAKTER STABLE, SVANSTEDT STABLE
- FREE ADMISSION ⌚ TBD
- Enjoy a continental breakfast and tours at our industry's top farms

FRIDAY

**1
AUG**



A Morning of Education & History

- GOSHEN, NY
- FREE ADMISSION ⌚ 9 AM
- View the sport's greats with a visit to the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame
- Lunch at Blue Chip Farms
- Continuing Education Seminar Wet Labs

FRIDAY

**1
AUG**



Hambletonian Homecoming Party

- MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK, EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ
- BY INVITATION ⌚ 6 PM
- Kickoff Hambletonian Weekend in style
- \$50K Muscle Hill [3CT]; \$30K Continentalvictory [3FT]; \$10K Hambletonian Amateur Race
- Harness Racing Post Time 6:20 p.m.

SATURDAY

**2
AUG**



HAMBLETONIAN 100

- MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK, EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ
- \$5 ADMISSION ⌚ 10 AM
- 100th Anniversary of the Hambletonian!
- \$4 Million in undercard races
- Harness Racing Post Time 12 Noon
- Follow QR for full event info & tickets



hambletonian.com/100

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
- Ophthalmology
- Radiation Oncology
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Surgery & Lameness
- 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 cardiology, integrated oncology & more!
- Full-size Pharmacy & Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories

Performance Evaluation Arena features:

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



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

614-292-6661
vmc.vet.osu.edu/equine
Caring. Down to a Science.