The quest for a third straight 1,000-win season for driver Aaron Merriman literally went down to the wire. In his second to last drive of the year, Merriman took Some More Prince, the 3-5 favorite, to the lead and never looked back on the way to the victory.

The win capped a wild last day of the racing season for Merriman in his quest to reach his goal. Merriman started the day by winning three races at The Meadows. Then following a two hour and 15-minute drive to Northfield Park, Merriman found the winner’s circle four times.

“No one appreciates this more than I do, I promise you that” said Merriman. “It’s a lot of hard work, a lot of family love and everybody helps me a little bit.”

Merriman is the fourth driver to notch 1,000 wins, but the first to not only do it twice, but now do it a third time. Walter Case won 1,077 races in 1988, Tony Morgan had 1,004 in 2,006 and Tim Tetrick set the all-time single season mark with 1,189 wins in 2007.

The 41-year-old Merriman won 1,095 races in 2017 and won 1,143 last year. Merriman says it means a lot to win 1,000 for a third time. “You are setting a bar. Chris Page said it best, he said “you have to be insane to do what you do.” Ronnie (Wrenn Jr.) and Ryan (Stahl) those guys think I’m crazy.”

“I love driving horses. I don’t love driving my car, it’s wearing on me” said Merriman.

If a fourth straight year of 1,000 wins is to be, Merriman says it might be with fewer starts. “I had less starts this year and probably will again. If it’s a few hundred starts a year, I don’t know. I don’t want to make any predictions. I guess doing something first is always cool.”

Merriman dedicated the season to his best friend, Barry Langley, who passed away earlier this year. “He would much rather me have 999, only for the shock factor” Merriman said with a smile. “Bless him, I dedicate this to Barry.”
The drivers from both Northfield Park and Hollywood Dayton present a check for $30000 to Carrie Dalrymple, Community Relations Program Officer for the Dayton Foundation, which administers the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund. (L to R, Team Northfield, Chris Lems, Kurt Sugg, David Lake, Greg Grismore, Aaron Merriman (kneeling), Director of Racing Jason Bluhm, Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman, , starter Mike Woebkenberg, Dalrymple, OHHA Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator Frank Fraas, OHHA Executive Director Renée Mancino, OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston, OHHA Track Representative Brett Merkle, Team Dayton Raceway Brett Miller (kneeling), Kayne Kauffman, Josh Sutton, Tyler Smith (kneeling) and Jeremy Smith.

The three-hour trip south for the team from Northfield Park was well worth it as they took home top honors in the first-ever Buckeye Battle. The Battle pitted five drivers from Northfield Park against five from Dayton Raceway with each team donating their Battle winnings to the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund.

“It is just wonderful that people who weren’t affected by the devastation keep coming together to help those that were,” said the Dayton Foundation’s Carrie Dalrymple. “We can’t thank the horsemen enough for choosing to make a positive difference in total stranger’s lives tonight. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway and the Ohio Harness Horsermen’s Association are to be commended for creating this fun event to raise awareness that this is a long-term relief project that will take years to finish, and more help is still needed.”

Kurt Sugg and Greg Grismore led the way, they each won two races as Team Northfield won 507-445. Drivers were awarded points for where their horses finished in the eight-race competition.

Aaron Merriman picked up the fifth win for Team Northfield won 507-445. Drivers were awarded points for where their horses finished in the eight-race competition.

Aaron Merriman picked up the fifth win for Team Northfield, which won five of the eight races.

Tyler Smith, Jeremy Smith and Josh Sutton collected wins for the Dayton Raceway team.

Sugg was the overall points leader by collecting 130 points, while Grismore was second with 119.

Merriman says it’s great to be able to give back, “Anytime you can do something for charity, it makes you feel good. To be able to do what we do and give back is awesome.”

Team Dayton Raceway (L to R) Tyler Smith, Brett Miller, Jeremy Smith, Kayne Kauffman and Josh Sutton

Breedings for Sale to Top Sires for 2020

If you are looking for trotting or pacing mares or have a mare to sell, Call me!

Book early to avoid a shutout.

TROTTERS
Muscle Mass
Creatine
Royalty for Life
Uncle Peter
Enterprise

Muscle Massive
Trixton
Bar Hopping
Cantab Hall
Southwind Frank

Conway Hall
Kadabra
Father Patrick
Volstead

PACERS
Sunshine Beach
Well Said
Courty Choice
Betting Line
Western Vintage
Stag Party

Rockin Image
Sweet Lou
American Ideal
Fear The Dragon
Rocking Amadeus
Jimmi Freight

Bettors Delight
Shadow Play
Pet Rock
Tellitlikeits
JK Endofanera

Claude Brault, Equine Agent, Breeding Consultant (905) 520-3941
Email for complete list: cbrault2@cogeco.ca
Ohio Sires Stakes Stallions Shine in 2019

By Kimberly Rinker, OSDF Administrator

Progeny of Ohio-based stallions who participated in the 2019 Ohio Sires Stakes earned a total of $7,100,000 in purses. Stallions must be registered with the Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) during the year of conception for their foals to be eligible to Ohio Standardbred Development Fund (OSDF) events such as the Ohio Sires Stakes (OSS), Ohio Breeders Championship (OBC) and Ohio Fair Stakes (OFS), among others.

Twenty-eight pacing stallions were represented by youngsters and older horses in this past season’s OSS contests who earned a total of $3,450,000, with ten of those laterally-gaited studs siring the winners of $103,000 or more.

Pet Rock was the leading sire among those 28, with his OSS performers earning $612,800. Yankee Cruiser was the next most prolific stallion, with $542,850 in foal earnings, while McArdle sired the winners of $457,650 in 2019 OSS races. The ill-fated Dragon Again saw his foals earn $391,400, while Nob Hill High had foal earnings of $252,800; Big Bad John $244,150; and Mr. Apples, $200,000.

Eight pacing stallions standing in Ohio sired foals who earned between $15,500 and $79,500 in 2019 OSS events, while four had starters who earned between $3,750 and $6,000.

Pet Rock, who stands at Midland Acres in Bloomingburg, OH, had 19 foals represented among the 2- and 3-year-olds in OSS contests, with 12 freshmen and seven sophomores.

2019 Divisional Horse of Year Honors

Three World Champions and Ohio Triple Crown Winners highlight the top Ohio Pacers and Trotters for 2019. Winners in the 2-year-old, 3-year-old and Aged Divisions will be honored at the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association and United States Trotting Association’s District 1 Annual Awards Banquet January 18, 2020 at the University Area Marriott in Columbus.

Ninety-four different horses received votes in the ten categories.

PACERS

World Champion and Ohio Triple Crown Winner Looksgoodinaromper is the 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year. Owned by Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Bruscemi LLC, Looksgoodinaromper established a new world record of 1:52.3 on a half-mile track at Northfield Park during the Ohio Sire Stakes. Looksgoodinaromper won five of 12 starts for trainer Ron Burke.

The 2-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year is World Champion and Ohio Triple Crown winner Elver Hanover. Owned by Burke Racing Stable, Bridgette Jablonsky, Jason Melillo, J&T Silva - Purnel & Libby, Elver Hanover won all nine of his starts. Elver Hanover’s 1:48.3 equaled the world record for 2-year-old pacers and set a new record for 2-year-old colts.

Queen Of The Pride is the 3-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year in Ohio. Owned by Frank Chick, Queen Of The Pride started 19 times winning eight on the way to earning $385,597.

The 3-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year is Bllack Hole. Bllack Hole was a top-two finisher in all seven races in 2019, winning six, for owner-trainer Clarence Foulk and L&L Stable.

The Aged Pacer of the Year is Sectionline Bigry. Sectionline Bigry, owned by Harold Lee Bauder, won 12 of 20 starts, earning $222,420 in 2019.

TROTTERS

World Champion and Ohio Triple Crown winner Action Uncle is the 2-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year in Ohio. Action Uncle hit the board in all six races, winning three to earn $225,575 for owner Kenneth A. Sommer Trust. Action Uncle set his world record at the Ohio Breeders Championship at the Delaware County Fair, winning in 1:54.0.

Kikimora won three times and finished second three times as she was named Ohio’s 2-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year. Owned by Sandra Burnett and trainer Chris Beaver, Kikimora earned $210,196 in 2019.

The 3-Year-old Trotting Colt of the Year is Lane Of Stone. Lane Of Stone won 11 races in 15 starts for owner Harry Horowitz, earning $295,279 in 2019.

Only Take Cash hit the board 12 of 13 times to be named the 3-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year. Only Take Cash earned $462,708 for owners Robert McIntosh Stables LLC, Dave A. Boyle and Mardon Stables.

The Aged Trotter of the Year is Mission Accepted. Mission Accept-ed raced at 11 different tracks in two countries, winning five times on the way for owners Burke Racing Stable LLC, Knox Services, David B. Wills and Weaver Bruscemi LLC.
JAZMIN ARNOLD named USHWA 2019 National Amateur Driver of the Year
by John Manzi, USHWA National Amateur Driver of the Year Committee

After a spectacular season in the sulky, Jazmin “the Little Flower” Arnold was unanimously named the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA) Dan Patch Amateur Driver of the Year. She now joins “Hurricane Hannah” Miller as the second woman to earn this prestigious harness racing honor.

In her first full season driving harness horses, to say that the diminutive miss posted excellent numbers would be a gross understatement. Currently with 59 trips to post, Jazmin has 23 wins, 10 seconds and five thirds for a spectacular .512 Universal Driver Rating System (UDRS).

“I’m tremendously honored with the award, but it wasn’t anything that I was seeking when the season started,” Jazmin related. “But after success at the Ohio Fairs, I was approached by Steve Oldford who was seeking members for the Billings Series, and I was quick to jump aboard. It turned out to be absolutely fabulous for me.”

Arnold is a member of a harness racing family and a veteran of the Woodland Run Equine Veterinarian Clinic in Columbus, Ohio. Being an accomplished barrel-racer, she was urged by her boyfriend, Adam Short, to try her hand at driving. And after a few victories, she was hooked.

After mainly driving around the Ohio county fairs for her dad, Larry Finn, and Short, she then met veteran trainer Herman Hagerman whom she admits was instrumental in helping her along in her burgeoning career by offering her a chance to drive some good raceway stock.

“He was the easiest man in the world to drive for,” she said. “He is low-keyed and easy-going, and he taught me a lot about handling and driving a harness horse.”

Once she joined the Billings Series, she was a terror on the racetrack. She recently won 12 races against accomplished Billings drivers at Delaware, Ohio and at pari-mutuel racetracks in the Midwest. And on November 3rd she had a driving-double, winning both Billings Trots at Northfield Park.

Her talent and dedication has gained respect from all in the industry, and the sky’s the limit for Jazmin Arnold.

When the members of the United States Harness Writers Association host their annual Convention and Awards Banquet in Orlando in late February, “the Little Flower” will be in full bloom when she accepts the 2019 Dan Patch Amateur Driver of the Year Award.

OHHA Honors Award Winners

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association has announced the recipients of their 2019 annual awards.

The Defiance County Area Horsemen Association is the recipient of the Dick Brandt Sr. Extra Effort Award. The award is named for OHHA past president Dick Brandt Sr. and is presented to local horsemen’s associations and matinee clubs that have made a commitment to county fair racing.

The DCAHA was formed in 2010 to save harness racing at the Defiance County Fair in Hicksville, Ohio. The Association was responsible for conducting harness racing at the fair from 2011 through 2016.

The Defiance County Area Horsemen Association believes being active in all aspects of harness racing in cooperation with the Defiance County Fair Board shows a “team effort” is the best way to display county fair racing to the public.

Conley Newberry of Beavercreek, Ohio is the winner of the Terry Holton Youth Award. The award is named for Terry Holton, a 2005 inductee into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

Newberry, a senior at Beavercreek High School, is heavily involved in harness racing. He has worked for the Mike Polhamus Stable in Troy, Ohio.

The 2019 Outstanding Groom Award recipient is Ben Lindsey of Chillicothe, Ohio. Lindsey has worked for the Steve Carter Stables for over five years, caring for ten horses as well as performing maintenance at the Carter Stables.

The Maynard & Stella Hagemeyer Significant Contribution Award recipient is Robert Schmitz. Schmitz has an extensive knowledge of harness racing. He has been an owner and breeder of Standardbreds since 1983. Schmitz served two terms on the Ohio State Racing Commission. He lobbied for the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association and served on the Standard Development Fund board.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association also named the recipients of two Special Service to Harness Racing Awards, Julie Amstutz of Pandora, Ohio and Gene Wiley of Richwood, Ohio. Amstutz will be honored for her forty-seven years of service as a clerk of course and a charter. Wiley will be honored for his service as a race official.
Meyers and Travis Receive Groom Appreciation Award

Joyce Meyers and Mary Jane Travis have received Groom Appreciation Awards at Dayton Raceway.

Meyers contributes to the Steck Stable, working tirelessly seven days a week.

Travis is a long-time staff member at Virgil Morgan Jr.’s stable.

Nominate your grooms. Nomination forms can be found at OHHA.com or by contacting your track representatives Amy Hollar or Brett Merkle.
Roll Call, all Commissioners present except Commissioner Patmon. Commissioner Winters left following Dr. Robertson's Report.

In normal business for the Commission, the Executive Director's Approval items were introduced, and the November 25, 2019 Minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance.

The Executive Director's Report included fine money expenditure requests, requests to decouple entries, a request from MGM Northfield Park to amend their live schedule, and a Mandatory Pick 6 payout. The MGM Northfield Mandatory Pick 6 payout took place the day before Thanksgiving. The Pick 6 had a $306,000 carryover, and over $460,000 in the pool was distributed to 75 winners with each receiving approximately $5,900 each. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval items and November 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Consideration to approve the Thoroughbred Race Fund (TRF) for 2020 was discussed by Greg Veit, the Fund Administrator. The Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund's Advisory Committee met and recommended changes to the existing "Best of Ohio" program. They voted to omit the $150,000 single-days of racing and instead offer a "Best of Ohio Series", comprised of five $100,000 stakes races to be hosted at each of the three Thoroughbred racetracks. The Fund will contribute $15,000 to each hosting racetrack to promote the Series event. The Fund will also provide $100,000 to the Ohio State University for research and $20,000 to the Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners for advertising and promotion. The TRF has projected a $3.4 million deficit amount, which has been guaranteed by the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA). The deficit was due to a significant increase in the Fund's expenditures in 2019, $3.378 million came from VLT supplemental contributions from the HBPA fund. In 2020 the fund's projected deficit will be $3.5 million. That will come from the the Thoroughbred Horsemen's VLT supplemental contribution. The Racing Commission requested a monthly report on the Thoroughbred Race Fund to be included with the Racing Commission's financial packet. Commissioner Hansen requested a discussion regarding potential changes in the Fund.

Consideration to approve the Standardbred Development Fund. The Standardbred Development Fund is carrying a $1.369 million balance into 2020. Amendments to the 2020 program included Standardbred Development Committee-ratified changes. The base-purse structure will remain the same for each leg: (1) the $300,000 guaranteed 2 and 3-year-old “Super Night Finals” per division will be at host location, Eldorado Scioto Downs on Saturday, September 5, 2020. (2) The 2 and 3-year-old “Consolation Finals” will remain $75,000 at host location, MGM Northfield Park on Saturday October 17, 2020. (3) An increase in the Veterans Championship 4-year-old and up Pace and Trot purses to $85,000, with all Veterans Finals held on Friday, October 16, 2020 at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway. (4) Condition changes included Detention Barn restrictions when an OSS race (whether Consolation, Veterans, or otherwise) has a final purse of $100,000 or more. (5) A $100,000 donation for equine-related research to The Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine. (6) Proposed promotional and advertising budget decreased to $185,000 from $200,000 to include $100,000 for the Standardbred Development Fund for advertising and promotions, $50,000 to Eldorado for Super Night advertising and promotion, $25,000 for advertising and promoting the Consolation Finals night at MGM Northfield, and $10,000 to advertise and promote the Veteran Championships at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified proposed modifications 1-5 and tabled item (6) for further discussion and review.

In other business, the Racing Commission considered the appointment of the 2020 Simulcast Collection and Settlement Agent for Jack Thistledown's. Jack Thistledown applied to continue to handle their own collection and settlement. In November the Racing Commission had deferred approval, pending sale and transfer of the real property to VICI Properties, Inc. The Racing Commission unanimously approved Jack Thistledown's Settlement and Collection request for 2020.

There was no monthly status update on the Permit Holder and Horsemen's Agreement Negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA).

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to December 18, 2019 was provided by Racing Commission Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. It was noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training-related and racing-related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during or 72 hours after a race. From last month's report there were three Thoroughbred and one Standardbred fatality. Year-to-date total catastrophic losses are thirty-six Thoroughbred fatalities and four Standardbred racing-related fatalities statewide. There was discussion related to catastrophic-loss necropsy and the post-necropsy review conducted at Penn Gaming racetracks. As represented, the program is useful as a good uniform model and is particularly helpful to identify issues with repeat offenders. There was added discussion about states that have voided claiming rules and the scope of responsibility for the State Veterinarian in that process.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Revenue shows an increase of 68% for this month year-over-year, however that is due to adding the track fine account monies to the Commission's reporting and an IT refund the prior month. Overall revenue for the fiscal year is up 8% with expenses up 3%, year-over-year.

Commissioner Hansen provided a summary of the progress with the Medication and Testing Committee. With Resolution 2019-07 passed, the Medication and Testing Committee's focus has been on deploying the pre-testing regime. The next Committee
Meeting is likely to be scheduled in February 2020.

Commissioner Simpson provided detail on the Safety Committee. The Committee made good progress in last month’s meeting. There were discussions regarding racetrack paramedic and physician protocol, loose-horse warning systems, jockey concussive protocols, and other safety initiatives. The Safety Committee had a meeting scheduled immediately following the Racing Commission meeting in Room 1920. The agenda topics included safety helmets and vests, safety reins, and yearly eye exams or physicals for jockeys and drivers.

Chairman Borgemenke offered comments regarding a future initiative that will look at and examine what is going on with the advertising and promotion of racing statewide. Also on the horizon is a look at the fine account monies, evaluating how those monies are being spent, and how to best use the fine account monies.

The Racing Commission adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. There was no further business to be conducted after the Executive Session, so the motion and vote was taken to adjourn into Executive Session and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting, contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is January 22, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Riffe Center, Room 1948, 77 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio.
OHHA ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The Buckeye Harness Horseman
The official publication of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association is published four times a year. Deadline for the Spring issue is February 14th. For more information e-mail: publications@OHHA

Top Of The Stretch Podcast
Hosted by OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston, the Top Of The Stretch podcast will look at harness racing in the Buckeye State. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information e-mail: podcast@OHHA.com

Racing with the Stars
The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association is on location at county fairs across Ohio educating the public about harness racing and engaging fans with contests and more. Engage your business with thousands of Ohioans. For more information contact Frank Fraas at ffraas@ohha.com

Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

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<tr>
<td>Yearling 2018</td>
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<tr>
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Mares registered in 2017 (Foals of 2018) mare registration date 12/31/17

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Mares registered in 2018 (Foals of 2019) mare registration date 11/30/18

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

Registrations received from 12-1-19 to 12-30-19 must be accompanied by a $100 per-mare late fee in addition to mare registration fee.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foal Born 2020</td>
<td>Membership Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Registration Fee: $20 per mare

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 required to join as Associate Members.

Mare Residency: Mare must be Ohio resident, foal in Ohio and remain in Ohio for 187 consecutive days.