CATCH THE FIRE
Wins the 54th Adios
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Cover photo: Frank Fraas
Catch The Fire Wins the 54th Adios

BY FRANK FRAAS

For the connections of Catch The Fire, reality is starting to set in that they won the Delvin Miller Adios on August 1st. “Pretty Tickled” is the way trainer John Ackley described the feeling. For driver Mike Wilder, it is a dream come true. For Charles Taylor, the owner of CT Stables, and his wife Vanessa, he’s not sure it will ever sink in.

The story of Catch The Fire is one that almost didn’t happen. As Taylor tells it, the purchase at the 2018 Lexington Sale is a funny story, “We had looked at him several times in the barn, but we didn’t think we could afford him. We thought he would go for a lot more money than what we paid.”

Catch The Fire was headed to the sales ring and Taylor had just purchased another horse about 20 minutes earlier. “We had no food, we were tired and hungry, and John said, ‘let’s go get something to eat.’ I told him I was going to stick around to see what he went for.”

They thought Catch The Fire would go for about $70,000 - $100,000. Taylor said the bidding stalled so he jumped in and the next thing he knew he had bought the horse for $15,000.

“We had him ranked fifth and we didn’t think we would have a chance to get him since we spent our money on other horses. He was a little small, but we loved the conformation and the breeding.”

Before the start of the two-year-old season, Taylor says they thought they had something special. “We knew in February or March he was a little different. We had a couple of other nice two-year-olds that couldn’t pace with Catch The Fire. They just couldn’t go with him.” Taylor says the horse is so mature “That’s the biggest thing he has shown us. He has the mind of a six-year-old. He loves what he does. He doesn’t get tired and has a big heart.”

Catch The Fire has been heavily staked as a two and three-year-old. “People were shocked at how heavily we staked him. That should tell you how early on we knew how special he was. We staked him to everything as a two-year-old and a three-year-old.”

The son of Captaintreacherous-Dream Outloud won his first career start at Eldorado Scioto Downs in June. Two races later, he won in the Pennsylvania All-Star series. He added a win in the Kentucky Sires Stakes before winning the $300,000 Kentucky Sires Stakes Finals.

This year, Catch The Fire placed third in this first outing of the year. Next up was the Meadowlands Pace, where he finished seventh in an elimination race and then sixth in the finals. Despite the finishes, Taylor said they aimed for the Adios. “He didn’t get a chance to race in the Meadowland Pace. We just didn’t get the trip,” said Taylor. “I don’t think the horse got used in either race. He’s very durable. We felt it wasn’t going to hurt him. If he had gotten used in the Pace, we would have sat out the Adios.”

The decision to enter the Adios is one Taylor, Ackley and Wilder will never regret.

After winning one of the three eliminations, Catch The Fire was tabbed as the morning line favorite with Papi Rob Hanover out of the finals due to injury.

“I was kind of surprised we were the favorite,” said Wilder. “After Papi Rob Hanover was scratched, obviously they would list us or The Greek Freak as the favorite.”

Wilder says he thought Catch The Fire deserved to be the favorite but was not too thrilled being the top choice. “I hate being targeted as the favorite; you get all the hype. I had a lot of confidence in my horse and then to go off as the favorite means everybody thought the same thing, but you still have to get the job done.”

One of the perks of winning an elimination is the opportunity to choose post position. That choice went to Catch The Fire, which won a drawing with The Greek Freak since Papi Rob Hanover was out. Wilder made the choice to start from the three hole.

“It’s kind of a disadvantage to be down in the one or two hole at The Meadows. I took the three hole rather than the four hole because I didn’t want The Greek Freak underneath me. He has great gate speed and knowing he had a pick I wanted to pick under him. I was pretty sure he wouldn’t take the one or two hole.”

As for the race, both Wilder and Ackley said it played out like they planned.

“I thought Captain Barbosa might leave and go forward. I wasn’t surprised to see the Burke horses out front early in the fight,” said Wilder.

Elver Hanover was sent to the lead, followed by The Greek Freak. Catch The Fire dropped in third as they passed the quarter-pole.

Ackley says he left it up Wilder to retake or set and Wilder decided to retake the lead. “I didn’t want to be first up, but once I landed third, I took my shot and it paid off,” said Wilder.

Catch The Fire got to the top easily after the first quarter in :26.3. Wilder says his horse reacted very well being on the engine, “I looked over at the half and saw 54.1 and we were in the slop. It felt like he was getting to the half in a minute, but he was floating on air. He was doing it so easily.”

Catch The Fire lost the lead just before the three-quarter pole but dug deep to retake for the last quarter. “No Losing came at us...
hard and got about half, three-quarter of the way by me, but that was by choice," said Wilder. "I didn't want to go toe to toe with him because we were pacing so fast.”

At that point, Taylor thought Catch The Fire was done. “Truthfully, I thought that was it. I thought the 1.21.1 at the three-quarter pole had put him away,” Taylor said he was watching Wilder’s hands “with Mike being the professional he is, he knew what he was doing. He popped the plugs, tapped him a bit and he took off.”

Wilder says he was saving a little for the stretch. “I could have gone toe-to-toe but I didn’t think it was the thing to do. I was going to save as much as I could. Catch the Fire paces the turns so well and when No Losing tailed off, I hit the gas and had enough to get home.”

As the field headed down the stretch, it became a free-for-all. Elver Hanover made a bid on the inside while The Greek Freak went to the other side of Catch The Fire. As Catch The Fire hit the wire, they were seven-wide with Chief Mate on the far outside charging hard.

“I was pretty sure I was the winner,” said Wilder. “I didn’t see Scott Zeron, he was flying with Chief Mate.”

Wilder said he took a peek before it all hit. “When we hit the wire, I looked right and left and I could tell my horse had him, he was out far enough. It was so crazy. The first thing that popped in my head was, ‘I won the Adios.’ It is so hard to believe.”

After thinking it was lost, Taylor rooted home Catch The Fire. “I thought we had it at the wire. When we put Elver and the Greek Freak away I thought we had it, but I didn’t see Chief Mate flying on the outside.”

Taylor said he was relying on the call of track announcer Jeff Zideck.

For Taylor’s wife Vanessa it was nerve racking watching the race and her husband. “I know we don’t have any defibrillators in the house, but at least I know CPR. He was about to have a heart attack. It was so exciting.”

Unfortunately for the Taylors, they could not celebrate at The Meadows, as they did not travel for the race. “It was disappointed not to travel for the race. “It was disappointing not to celebrate at The Meadows, as they did so exciting.”

He savored the trip to the winner’s circle. “Everybody was screaming, from the people in the paddock and the people on the hill. I wanted to go down and be with by my wife, daughters, and friends.”

Wilder gave credit to the entire CT Stables team for the victory. “It’s a team effort. It takes a special horse to win a race like the Adios and it takes connections that have that horse. The owners, the trainers, the caretakers to make that happen for me.”

Wilder says that the rest of the crew spends hours and hours doing all the work. “I get five minutes with that horse any time I sit behind him. I just have to do my job and hopefully the horse is in the right place at the right time, and he was in the race.”

Taylor agrees with Wilder, especially when it comes to his trainer. “I wouldn’t be in the business without him. John’s been my trainer since the start. He’s been with me from the moment we could barely pay the bills for the stables, all the way to the good times.”

“People will see he is one of the best baby trainers in the business. I have never had a problem getting the babies to the races and that is a testament to John,” said Taylor.

As for Catch The Fire, Ackley says it’s great to have an animal compete at this level and win. “Catch The Fire is pretty sharp and knows what his job is. He always has his head up to see what is going on. He knows how good he is. He’s a little cocky.”

Wilder also had high praise for his partner. “He’s very strong and to withstand the pressure he was getting and hold on to win, it’s amazing.” Wilder says if you watch him race, he is flawless with no wasted motion. “He’s not very big, but he has a heart of gold. His determination and his gait go hand in hand.”

Next up for Catch The Fire is the Carl Milstein Invitational at MGM Northfield Park, which is special for Taylor, “It’s exciting to be mentioned in the conversation for a race like the Milstein.To have someone invited to race at their track is a first for us.”
Charlie May provides his connections some fireworks on the fourth of July, despite a sloppy track and steady rain.

The two-year-old son of McArdle out of the Western Hanover mare Stipple Hanover overtook I'm Sorry Man in the stretch and held off the late charge of Odds On Pick Six to win the $150,000 Next Generation 2-Year-Old Pace.

Starting from the 7th post position, Dan Noble settled Charlie May into the fifth spot as they passed the grandstand for the first time. Heading to the half mile pole, Noble began his move as the first half went in 0:57.1. He pulled the Steve Carter trained colt to the lead briefly at the three-quarter pole only to have I'm Sorry Man stick his head back in front.

As the two leaders hit the top of the stretch, it was I'm Sorry Man by a head, but Charlie May charged back to take control and pulled away to win by a length and three-quarters over Odds On Pick Six. I'm Sorry Man finished third.

For owner/breeder Don Tiger, entering Charlie May into the Next Generation was not the original plan.

“When he was training down, Steve (Carter) said he was a nice colt doing everything right, and he was ready to qualify him,” Tiger said they were making plans to race him at Circleville after we qualified him.

“I’m good friends with a lot of the drivers so I asked Chris Page to qualify him,” said Tiger. “After he qualified, Chris called and told me I had something special.”

After qualifying in 1:58.4, next week Dan Noble was in the bike for a second qualifier. This time, Charlie May qualified in 1:55.2 and Tiger got the same message from Noble that he had a special colt on his hands.

“At this point, I didn’t have a spot in the race so I started to scour around and looked at the Next Generation.” May says he really likes the concept of the Next Generation, “It’s a lot of fun. There is a little bit of risk paying your way into a race.”

Tiger says he was lucky that he hooked up with Blue Streak Stable and Bill and Mike Roth, which sold him their spot in the race at cost. “I told them if we did well, they would get a Christmas card. They’ll be getting a card with a little kicker in it.

“It was a great experience. I keep pinching myself and saying ‘ouch’ so it must be real.”

Since winning the Next Generation, Charlie May won his next two starts, the first two legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes, and finished second in the third leg. In four lifetime starts he has three wins and earned $127,500.

Tiger says even though he lives in Pennsylvania, he feels he is an Ohio transplant when it comes to racing and sports. “I just love what they do in Ohio. I have three standardbreds racing right now and they are all Ohio-breds. They have a great fair program. I think Ohio has the best driver colony as well.” Tiger says he likes the fact that the state does it the right way. “I’m as close to an Ohioan as you can be without living in the state.
Winella Hanover Captures Filly Next Generation

When the first crop of foals from Racing Hill hit the track, it did not take long to record the first stakes winner. That honor went to Winella Hanover, the winner of the Next Generation for fillies at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 4th.

Winella Hanover, with Chris Page, started from the fifth post and settled behind the early speed of Sophie’s Candy and Ronnie Wrenn Jr., who bolted to the lead from the nine hole. Sophie’s Candy controlled the tempo until the three-quarter pole when Page, who was sitting three-wide, kicked it into gear with Winella Hanover.

As the fillies hit the top of the stretch, Winella Hanover pulled even with Sophie’s Candy and the two battled until Winella Hanover was able to stretch it out and win by a length.

The Ron Burke trained filly blistered the last quarter in 27.3 to win in 1:55.0 for owners Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Bruscemi, Jason Melillo and J&T Silva-Purnell Libby.

Winella Hanover with Chris Page wins the Next Generation Filly Pace
Be There!  BY ROGER E. HUSTON

Covid-19 has affected all of us in many ways, especially with the stoppage of racing in late February to late May. Many protocols were put into place to stop the spread of the coronavirus in our community of racing. Those included only essential people permitted at the tracks and face coverings. New guidelines for the operation of the Paddock and barn areas at the tracks were also instituted: Temperature checks, face masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing and forms to be filled out. It was a bit overwhelming.

The Racing Commission mandated that owners were not permitted to attend qualifiers. To fill that void, Trot and Pace Marketing was hired to video the many qualifiers that were to be conducted and we attempted to make these video presentations with commentary as well.

The next step on the return to racing was coverage of races at Eldorado Scioto Downs by way of Facebook Live. These shows had viewership in excess of 5,000, sometimes as high as 10,000. There still remained the question of county fair racing, which was approaching in June. The same protocols were put in place and it was decided by the OHHA that we should cover as many fairs as possible.

Trot and Pace Marketing and Don Holden would handle the broadcast, with OHHA staff led by Frank Fraas and Susan Schroeder, along with Thom Pye and Keith Gisser, to provide commentary during those two to four-hour transmissions. There were a few technical glitches, but a large group of owners and fans of harness racing tuned in for each show from all over the state of Ohio. Features were added, such as “Getting to Know” and “How To Read a Program.” Thom did numerous features on the communities where we were racing. The Features meant many hours of time in producing a one to three-minute segment.

During the month of July, our Facebook Live broadcasts reached over 300,000 viewers, with the single most coverage on June 30th from Marion. The audience has covered 25 states and nine countries around the world. The shows are usually shared by 15 to 20 people on their facebook pages. In the comment segment they range from 75 to 200 per broadcast. Just how many are owners, fans or new viewers to our sport is undetermined.

Covid-19 has given us the opportunity to promote our sport to a vast new audience. We must take advantage of that opportunity and put on a good show for those that may be watching for the first time.

Some things must change as we look to the future of this endeavor. To the trainers, the reporting of drivers to officials must improve; not knowing who the driver will be until the post parade must stop. The post parade is so significant. The viewer wants to see the horses in the best manner. Parading out of order and with major distance between horses is not acceptable. Also, no one should ever be on the track without full colors, and the horses should have their saddle pads on when warming up. We can now get racing programs to the viewer, and the pads are so important.

These are just a few little things that can be corrected but we must have your help if we want this type of broadcast to continue. Who knows what the future holds? You are an important part of our future in broadcasting.
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The annual Ohio State Fair Stakes were held at Eldorado Scioto Downs on July 30-31 and August 1st. Purses for the two-and three-year-old Trotters and Pacers totaled $917,800 for the 15 races.

The two-year-old colt trotters saw Winning Ticket by Triumphant Caviar out of Lotto Winner, score in 1:57.3 with Aaron Merriman for Chris Beaver, turn in the best time. The colt is owned by Beaver, Steven Zeethandelar, Tim Homan and Jim Burnett. Peter’s Royalty was a winner for Josh Sutton and Beaver in 1:59.4. Mary McLaughlin and Debra Garland own the Uncle Peter-Dream Of Royalty gelding. The third winner was Lockbox, owned by Burke Racing Stable, Purnel & Libby, J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby and Weaver Bruscemi. The colt, by Wishing Stone out of Springaround, was a winner in 2:00 with Chris Page and Ron Burke.

The two-year-old filly trotters were led by Merry Ann in 1:59 for Page and Burke. The filly is by Southwind Spirit-Witty Girl and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services and Weaver Bruscemi. My Jazz with Anthony MacDonald and Jason McGinnis came home in 1:59.1. The My MVP-Loving Jazz filly is owned by Thestable My Jazz Group. The last winner was Celebrate With Me with Kurt Sugg and Marty Wollam in 2:00.3. Wollam and Toni Dean own the Full Count-Glisten Hanover filly.

There were two divisions of the three-year-old filly pace with the fastest being Artful Dancer, with Dan Noble and Steve Carter in 1:52.4. She is sired by Yankee Cruiser out of Dancin Caroll and is owned by Tammy Carter, Jay Mossbarger, Rich Lombardo Racing and Josh Green. The other split went to Hoochie Girl in 1:53.1 for Kurt Sugg and Ryan Miller. The Mister Big out of Silverhill Princess filly is owned by Miller Racing Stable, Chris Gilbert, Chad Howell and James Hartley.

Guinevere Hall, with Peter Wrenn for Melanie Wrenn was a winner in 1:54.3. She is owned by MT Pockets Stable and David McDuffee and is by Cash Hall out of Garbo Hall.

On Saturday August 1, the spotlight was shared by the 2CP, 3CT and 3CP. There were three divisions of two-year-old Pacers, who were led by Heart Of Chewbacca in 1:54.3 for Dan Noble and Ron Burke. The Bring On The Beach-JT’s Chewbacca colt is owned by Dennis Owens and Norman Rae Racing. Home Team with Ronnie Wrenn Jr for Brian Brown was a winner in 1:52.2. The gelding by Pet Rock out of Diligent Prospect is owned by James McLaughlin and Gabe Prewitt. The other division went to He’s A Dickens for Trevor Smith and Kris Hinchcliff in 1:54.3. The Well Said-Northern Cameo gelding is owned by Elliot Misshula.

The featured three-year-old colt trot was won by Action Uncle with Brett Miller and Virgil Morgan Jr. in 1:52.4. The colt remained undefeated 5-5 for owners Carl Howard, Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills. The Uncle Peter-Action Broadway colt has now earned $367,075 lifetime.

The other featured event was the three-year-old colt pace, which saw Ocean Rock make it 4 of 6 this season with the win in 1:49. Christi and Dan Noble train and drive for owner Sandra Burnett. The gelding by Rockin Amadeus out of Ocean Pearl has now won $285,677 lifetime.
Three legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes are in the books and one two-year-old and a pair of three-year-olds are perfect through the first three legs.

Herculisa, the daughter of My MVP, has four career triumphs in as many starts, three of the wins in the Ohio Sire Stakes Series.

She got her first win July 3rd going wire-to-wire for Brett Miller and trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. in 1:58.1. Herculisa took her OSS test in the same fashion she captured Leg 1, with a front-stepping effort in 1:56.2, just two fifths of a second off the track record. She won the third leg in easy fashion, grabbing the lead after the quarter-pole and coasting to the win in 1:56.1. She is owned by the Jesmeral Stable.

In the three-year-old division, Guinevere Hall and Action Uncle are also three for three in the Ohio Sire Stakes.

Guinevere Hall raced on the front end nearly every step of the way, with Peter Wrenn driving for his wife, trainer Melanie Wrenn, winning in 1:55 to win the first leg. In the second leg, Guinevere Hall was victorious in a new lifetime clocking of 1:54.1. In the third leg, she set a new MGM Northfield Park track record and a world record for a 3-year-old filly on a half-mile track, winning in 1:53.0. The former track record of 1:54.0 was set in 2018 in an Ohio Sires Stakes by Looking For Zelda. Guinevere Hall is owned by the M T Pockets Stable and Dave McDuffee.

Action Uncle is also a perfect three-for-three in OSS action. The son of Uncle Peter set a new Northfield Park track record for 3-year-old trotters of 1:53.2, with a perfect steer from driver Brett Miller in the first leg. In the second leg, the Virgil Morgan Jr. trainee easily won with a new lifetime mark of 1:53. In the third leg, Action Uncle cruised to a four-length victory for owners Carl Howard, Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills.

Merry Ann cruised to an impressive 1:57.4 triumph for driver Chris page and trainer Ronnie Burke. The daughter of Southwind Spirit is owned by Burke Racing, Knox Services and Weaver Bruscemi, and picked up her first career victory with the OSS win.

In the third leg for the two-year-old filly trotters, Merry Ann trotted to a track record performance and also equaled the world record for a 2-year-old trotting filly on a half-mile oval as she trotted to a 1:56 clocking. The 1-9 favorite used a front-stepping performance with Chris Page in the sulky for owners Burke Racing, Knox Services and Weaver Bruscemi.

My Jazz cruised to a front-end victory for driver Anthony MacDonald and trainer Jason McGinnis in 1:57.1, a new lifetime mark. The daughter of My MVP is owned by Thestable My Jazz Group

In second leg action for two-year-old colt pacers, Charlie May set a national season’s mark on July 25 at MGM Northfield Park. The youngster was clocked in 1:53 for driver Dan Noble and trainer Steve Carter. The son of McArdle is owned by breeder Don R. Tiger.

Laughagain Hanover received a perfect steer by driver Peter Wrenn, timed in 1:55. The son of McArdle is trained by Laura Searway for owners Michael Cimaglio, William Richardson and Rhonda Gilmartin, and also captured leg one of this series on July 11 at Scioto Downs.

I’m Sorry Man rallied to win in 1:53.2. Driven by Kayne Kauffman for breeder-owner Matt Rowe, the Mr Apples gelding claimed his first career victory.
Remain Perfect In **Sire Stakes**

In the third leg for the two-year-old colt pacers, Heart of Chewbacca led from the start for driver Dan Noble and trainer Ronnie Burke, never looking to score in a blistering 1:51.1 (equaling the track record and setting a national seasons mark for a 2-year-old pacing colt on a five-eighths mile oval). The son of Bring On The Beach is owned by Dennis Owens and Norman Rae Racing.

Hardt At Work and driver-trainer Mike Micaleff clocked in a new lifetime mark of 1:52.2 getting up in the final strides for the victory. The son of Manhardt is owned by Brett Boyd Racing and Anthony Formosa.

In the second leg for the two-year-old filly pacers, Summer Touch left no doubt she was the best. Trained by Ronnie Burke, the daughter of Well Said stopped the timer in 1:54.2 for driver Chris Page. The homebred Summer Touch is owned by Burke Racing, Knox Services, Slaughter Racing and Weaver Bruscemi.

 touching Real Desire was given a perfect steer by Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. to notch his second victory in this series, clocking in at 1:50.1. The son of Nob Hill High, who is trained by Brian Brown for Robert Mondillo, Richard Lombardo, Hen-Shaut Stable and Lightning 5 Racing, was second in leg 1 and captured leg 2.

Ocean Rock devastated the Eldorado Scioto Downs track record with a 1:48.4 performance for driver Dan Noble. The son of Rockin Amadeus broke the record set in 2000 by Gallo Blue Chip of 1:50. Ocean Rock is owned by breeder Sandra Burnett and trained by Christi Noble.

In the third leg, Stanford Court enjoyed a front-stepping steer by Ronnie Wrenn, Jr. to notch his second victory in this series, clocking in at 1:50.1. The son of Nob Hill High, who is trained by Brian Brown for Robert Mondillo, Richard Lombardo, Hen-Shaut Stable and Lightning 5 Racing, was second in leg 1 and captured leg 2.

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TWO-YEAR-OLDS
Legs 1 & 2

July 1st Eldorado Scioto Downs
2-Year-Old Filly Trot
Aaron Merriman guided Charming Nancy to her first career win in her first lifetime start, grabbing the lead early and never looking back, winning in 2:00.2. The Uncle Peter–Caviar Forthe Lady filly is trained by Chris Beaver. Beaver also owns Charming Nancy, along with Joe Sbrocco, Mary McLoughlin and Michael Carter.

July 2nd Eldorado Scioto Downs
2-Year-Old Colt Trot
Peter’s Royalty wasted no time getting his first career win. The son of Uncle Peter–Dream of Royalty had Josh Sutton in the bike and held on down the stretch to win for trainer Chris Beaver in 2:00.1. Peter’s Royalty is owned by Debra Garland.

Buckeye Stallion Series Winners
Smothastenesewisky

July 13th MGM Northfield Park
2-Year-Old Colt Pace
KB Mac picked up his first career win, as driver Ryan Stahl grabbed the lead at the top of the stretch on the way to winning in 1:55.3. The son of McArdle–Randy’s Girl is trained by Dan Venier. KB Mac is owned by Ken and John Saunders.

Aaron Merriman and Twig grabbed the lead past the quarter pole and paced to an easy win in 1:53.3 for trainer Mike Polhamus. The Mr. Apples-Western Mandy colt is owned by Julie Farley.

Imagine It, with Peter Wrenn in the bike, took command before the half-mile pole and held the field at bay to win in 1:54.3 for trainer Kent Wilcox. The gelded son of IF I can Dream–Codie’s Sure Shot is owned by Richard Copp.

Chris Page sat in the pocket with Illini Duke until the top of the stretch before pulling out to win by a length in 1:56.3. The son of Well Said–Specially Awesom is trained and owned by Brian Roebuck.

He’s A Dickens, with Tyler Smith in the bike, won his lifetime debut in 1:55.2. The Well Said–Northern Cameo colt was fifth entering the stretch and thundered to the line to win by a nose for trainer Kris Hinchcliff. He’s A Dickens is owned by Elliott Misshula.

Kurt Sugg took Brighter Days to the lead and never looked back, going wire-to-wire to win in 1:55.2. The son of Woodstock–Rhiannon is owned and trained by Mike Polhamus.

Weekend Pass was a winner in his first career start. Dan Noble took the son of Big Bad John–Kay’s Yankee Lou wire-to-wire to win in 1:55.2. Weekend Pass is trained by Christi Noble and owned by Brent Hopper, Kyle Gray and Jerry Scheve.

Apple Soozy and Andy Shelter got away quickly but sat in the pocket until the stretch drive, winning by three-quarters of a length in 1:55.1. The Mr Apples-Sidewalk Sleeper filly is trained by Dan O’Mara and owned by Marjorie Polhamus.

Chris Page picked up his third BSS win of the night as Heavenissofaraway went wire-to-wire in her first career start to win by two lengths in 1:54.1. The daughter of Racing Hill-Best Babe is owned and trained by Anette Lorentzon.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Margin of Error got away fifth but rallied down the stretch to win by a head in 1:57.4 for trainer Chris Beaver. The Racing Hill-Margin Blur Chip filly is owned by Beaver, Donald Robinson, David Meola and RGH Ventures.

Andy Shelter and trainer Dan O’Mara combined for a second BSS win of the night when Rainy Day Chic went wire-to-wire to win in 1:55.3. The daughter of Rockin Amanda is owned by Marjorie Polhamus.

Chris Page made it a four-bagger on the night behind Free Thinker. He guided the daughter of Western Vintage–Live the Extreme to a wire-to-wire win for trainer Ron Burke in 1:54.4. Free Thinker is owned by the Burke Racing Stable, Jason Melillo, J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby, and Weaver Bruscemi.
July 15th MGM Northfield Park
2-Year-Old Filly Trot

Chris Lems and WF Fire went wire-to-wire for her first career win in 1:59.4. The daughter of Deja-mbro-Capri Hall is trained by Herman Hagerman. Hagerman and Terrance Smith co-own the filly.

Charming Nancy with Aaron Merriman made it two-for-two in the BSS, grabbing the lead after the quarter-pole and never looking back, winning in 2:00.4.

July 22nd Crawford County Fairgrounds
2-Year-Old Colt Trot

Cellular and Sandy Beatty were forced wide around the first turn, settling in the fourth spot before charging down the stretch to win by a nose in 2:03.4 for trainer Scott Mogan. The son of Uncle Peter-Fire In The Cell is owned by Mogan, Green Wave Racing and Carol Cramer.

Ryan Stahl had Dontforgetlittlman (Don'tyouforgetit-Gutsy Hall) stalking the leaders for most of the race and went three-wide on the final turn, catching the leaders on the way to a three-quarter of a length victory in 1:54.4. Dontforgetlittlman is owned and trained by Deborah Swartz.

Alex Hawk took Newsboy to the lead and they never looked back, holding off a late charge to win in 1:52.3 for trainer Charles Vigneron. The Winning Fireworks-Lady SJ colt is owned by Cheryl Vigneron.

Worldstonecold AS picked up his first career win as Elliott Deaton caught the leaders at the top of the stretch to win by a length for trainer Anette Lorentzon in 1:55.0. The son of Lionhunter-Tropical Breeze AS is owned by ACL Stuteri AB.

July 23rd Eldorado Scioto Downs
2-Year-Old Filly Pace

Sister Said came from well off the pace to catch and overtake the leaders down the stretch to win the first division of the 2-year-old filly pace for driver trainer Derrick Flowers. The daughter of Well Said -Sister Pippa covered the mile in 1:53.3 for owner Henry Trimble.

In the second division, Smothastenesewisky with Chris Page made it back-to-back BSS wins as she rallied down the stretch to win by a nose in 1:54.4.

Anthony MacDonald waited until after the three-quarter pole to make his move with Well N Down on the way to winning the third division. The Well Said filly out of D J Cameo covered the mile in 1:56.1 for trainer Jason McGinnis and owners Thestable Well N Down Group.

Lovely Munro stalked the leader until the top of the stretch and battled to the wire to win by a neck in the fourth division. Aaron Merriman drove the Brian Brown trained daughter of McArdle-Modern Connection to the mile in 1:55.1. Lovely Munro is owned by Ameer Najor.

Dan Noble and Pompatuse of Love (Mr. Wiggins-Big Time Blaire) took the lead before the half-mile mark and never looked back to win in 1:55.1 for trainer-owner Kim Dailey.

2-Year-Old Colt Pace

Brett Miller and Rocks Fantasy got away slow, but with a late close got up at the wire to win in 1:56.4 for trainer Steve Carter. The Pet Rock-Favorite Fantasy colt is owned by Tammy Carter, Jay Mossbarger and Peggy Carter.

Heart of Chewbacca went wire-to-wire for Dan Noble to score his first career win in 1:52.3. The son of Bring On The Beach – JT’s Chewbacca is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Dennis Owens and Norman Rae Racing.

Open My Eyes also picked up his first career win for driver Tyler Smith and trainer Dan O’Mara, covering the mile in 1:53.1. The Rockin Amadeus-Awakening colt stalked the leaders the entire race and caught them at the wire to win for owner Marjorie Pohlman.

Ryan Stahl had the lines again as KB Mac picked up his second BSS win in as many legs with a thrilling stretch drive to win by a head. KB Mac tripped the wire in 1:55.3.

Twig made it back to back BSS wins as Aaron Merriman took the favorite to the lead early and never looked back, pulling away to win by four lengths in 1:54.1.

The team of Imagine It and Peter Wrenn won a BSS leg for the second time. Imagine It went wire-to-wire in 1:55.0 for the win.

THREE-YEAR-OLDS

Legs 2 & 3

June 30th Eldorado Scioto Downs
3-Year-Old Colt Trot

Lucy Stormin and Josh Slater made it two-for-two in the BSS as the gelded son of Stormin Normand-Fef Fef For Sure went wire-to-wire in 1:55.0 for the win. Lucy Stormin is trained by Elpidio Bernardi Jr. Slater and Bernardi are co-owners.
Northmedo Broadway, with Chris Page driving, charged down the stretch to win by three-quarters of a length in 1:55.4. The gelded son of Broadway Hall-Medoland Miracle went off at 90-1. Northmedo Broadway is trained by Mike Medors and owned by Robert Sidley and Tina Sutermaster.

Gabby’s Wild Child sat near the back of the pack until Brett Miller asked him to go. The gelded son of Triumphant Caviar-Gabby’s Creditcard charged from sixth to first down the stretch to win in 1:57.0 for owner-trainer Chris Beaver. Joanna Beaver and Steven Zeeland also own the colt.

Look In My Eyes (Lionhunter-Guilt Free) and Elliott Deaton bounced back in the second leg of the BSS to win by a head for owner trainer Anette Lorentzon in 1:56.0.

Jeremy Smith and Mission Voyage (Manofmanymissions-Bon Voyage) grabbed the lead just past the quarter-pole and cruised to a three-length victory for owner-trainer Mike Sowers in 1:55.1.

**July 1st Eldorado Scioto Downs**

**3-Year-Old Filly Trot**

Lights Down Low and Tyler Smith went off as the favorite and didn’t disappoint as she claimed the lead at the top of the stretch and pulled away to win by two lengths in 1:55.3. Trained by Trent Stohler, the daughter of Uncle Peter-Swing Anna Cash is owned by the Trent Stohler Stable, Tim Graber, and Benjamin Graber.

Suzy Star picked up her first win of the year as Ryan Stahl guided the daughter of Uncle Peter-Sister Star to a two-length victory in 1:58.0 for trainer Norman Robbins. The filly is owned by Susan Robbins.

It was a dream for Fred’s Dream Girl as Greg Grismore grabbed the lead at the top of the stretch and won by three-quarter of a length in 1:56.1. The Team Six-Balata filly is trained by Dale Ewards and owned by Linda Polk.

Easy Victory (Uncle Peter-Bradway Victory) had just that, an easy victory, as Chris Page drove the filly to a two-length victory in 1:55.4 for trainer Brett Boyd and owner Mike Dimmers.

**July 6th MGM Northfield Park**

**3-Year-Old Filly Pace**

Odds on Athens and Peter Wrenn grabbed the lead early and went wire-to-wire in 1:52.2 for trainer Melanie Wrenn and owners Odds on Racing. The daughter of Pet Rock-Southern Magnolia set a lifetime mark in the win.

The Wrenn combination picked up their second BSS win of the night behind Odds on Greenville. Odds on Greenville picked up her first win of the year, going wire-to-wire in 1:53.3. The Yankee Cruiser-Silk Purse filly is owned by Odds on Racing.

Hoochie Girl and Kayne Kaufman went off as the favorite and didn’t disappoint as they notched a hard-fought victory by a neck in 1:53.4. The daughter of Mister Big-Silverhill Princess is trained by Ryan Miller and owned by the Miller Racing Stable, Chris Gilbert, Chad Howell, and Janie Hartley.

Corner Pocket with Dan Noble driving made it two-for-two in the BSS this year with a wire-to-wire victory in 1:53.2. The Art Official-Cornerstand filly is trained by Christi Noble and owned by Stephen Sexton.

Chris Page drove Arya Again to an easy wire-to-wire two length victory for trainer Kent Sherman. The Dragon Again-Medoland Kendall filly tripped the wire in 1:55.0 for owner David Miller.

**July 8th Eldorado Scioto Downs**

**3-Year-Old Colt Pace**

Snowmoon and Tyler Smith made it look easy, going gate-to-wire in 1:52.1 for a seven-length victory. The gelded son of Mr. Wiggles-Milky Way Hanover is owned and trained by Jessica Smith.

Shawn Barker II and MC Cam went wire-to-wire to pick up the easy win in a lifetime best 1:53.2. Trained by Kyle Ater, the son of McCardle-Delightfully Cam is owned by Russell Hundley.

Medoland Bosa and Chris Page made it two-for-two in the BSS. The gelded son of The Panderosa-Jodie Lynne Tup took the lead before the half-mile pole and held on down the stretch for trainer Mike Medors in 1:52.1. Medoland Bosa is owned by Tamara Hoovler and Hutchison Harness.

Brady Brown drove Elite Machine to his first win of the year, winning by a length in 1:53.1 for trainer Brady Brown. The son of Western Vintage-Jemma Machine Baby is trained and owned by Donald Lark Jr.

**July 14th Eldorado Scioto Downs**

**3-Year-Old Filly Trot**

Muskimgum and driver-trainer Sandy Beatty came from the back of the pack to catch the leaders at the top of the stretch and pulled away for a seven-length victory in 1:57.2. The Triumphant Caviar-Abbey Craig filly is owned by Beatty, Larry Riffe, William Joachim, John Johnson II and Ray Thacker Jr.

Lights Down Low with Tyler Smith picked up her second BSS victory in a row when she took the lead past the half-mile pole and battled down the stretch to win by three-quarters of a length.

Lightning Belle, with Ryan Stahl on the lines, picked up her second BSS win of the season for trainer Scott Cox in 1:58.0. The Dejarmbro-Deborah Maroon filly went wire-to-wire for the victory. She is owned by G. Peters.

Susie D and Jeremy Smith also won her second BSS leg as she rallied down the stretch to win by a head. The daughter of Uncle Peter-Minor Skirmish is trained by Bryan Weaver and owned by Donna Anderson.
3-Year-Old Colt Trot

Breakout the Gold with Tyler Smith entered the stretch in third place and drove to the finish line to win by a length in 1:56.1. The Break the Bank K-Lady Sierra colt is trained by Norm Parker and owned by Robert Key.

Ryan Stahl and Rose Run Valor got away second, took the lead after the quarter pole, and led the rest of the way to win in 1:56.4 for trainer Eric Hamlet. The gelded son of Uncle Peter-Donven Promise is owned by David Van Dusen and Michael Osborne.

Enforce The Law picked up his second BSS win in as many tries as Ronnie Wrenn Jr. rallied him down the stretch to win by a neck in 1:56.2. Enforce The Law (Triumphant Caviar-Shez Jailbait) is trained and owned by Joseph Karp.

Wrenn picked up his second BSS win of the night behind Exhibit Class. The son of Triumphant Caviar-Classic Blaze was third at the top of the stretch and battled to win by a neck in 1:56.1. Exhibit Class is trained by Sean Smithpeters and owned by Marion Beachy.

Luckey Stormin and Josh Slater made it three-for-three in the Buckeye Stallion Series. Luckey Stormin finished second but was placed first when Gabby’s Wild Child was disqualified for racing inside the pylons in the final quarter.

July 17th Eldorado Scioto Downs 3-Year-Old Filly Pace

Trevor Smith and Violets Rainbow (Art Official-Angels N Demons) grabbed the lead at the top of the stretch and cruised home in 1:53.3 for trainer Mark Wagner and owner Stephen Sexton.

Crowntimerockette, the daughter of Pet Rock-Crown Time Keeper, went wire-to-wire with Kayne Kauffman in the bike to win in 1:51.4 for trainer Pricilla Mooney and owner Ken James.

Odds On Athens picked up her second BSS victory in a row in 1:53.4. Ronnie Wrenn Jr. had the favorite grab the lead down the stretch and win by three-quarters of a length.

Tyler Smith and Narina Hanover picked up their second BSS win in three tries. The daughter of Yankee Cruiser-Natural Paradis went wire-to-wire for trainer Clarence Foult and owners the Foulk Stables and William Harry.

July 20th MGM Northfield Park 3-Year-Old Colt Pace

Snowmoon and Tyler Smith picked up their second straight wire-to-wire win in the Buckeye Stallion Series to win by three-quarters of a length in 1:51.2.

MC Cam won his second straight BSS leg, this time with Kurt Sugg in the bike. Sugg and MC Cam grabbed the lead before the half-mile pole and held on down the stretch to win in 1:53.3.

Bargain Shopper and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. took the lead just before the half-mile mark and held on for a head length win in 1:54.4 to pick up his second BSS win in three tries. The Big Bad John-One Stop Shopping gelding is trained by Christi Noble and owned by Chuck Grubbs.

Noble picked up her second BSS win of the night as Chris Page drove Ubuntu to the win. Ubuntu charged down the stretch to win by a nose in 1:53.3 for Norma Rae Racing.
FAIR RACING UPDATE

**Preble County August 2, 2020**

Jeff Nisonger and Justin Irvine stole the show as Nisonger picked up five wins on the 17 race card while Irvine collected four wins.

Imagine It made it five wins in a row, and six of the last seven for driver Trevor Smith and trainer Kent Wilcox.

Bad Ms Johnson also made it five in a row for driver-trainer Hank LeVan.

**Wood County August 3, 2020**

The big story of the day was driver Anthony MacDonald, who has a large number of Ohio breds racing from his Canadian stable. He raced six with five going to the winner's circle. MacDonald said “It has been a long time since I won five races on a card.”

T Degengold was a winner for Jeff Nisonger. It was the three-year-old filly’s fourth straight win.

**Columbiana County August 3, 2020**

It was the 175th edition of the Columbiana County Fair.

Don Irvine Jr. scored a driving double on the card. One of the wins was with Dontyoujustlovemeb in the 3-year-old filly trot.

The fastest time of the day belonged to Miss Yambol and Justin Irvine. The 3-year-old filly pace went in 2:03.

**Columbiana County August 4, 2020**

It was a record day for day two from Lisbon.

Kurt Sugg and Dontyousayit equaled the track record for trotters, going in 2:05. The record was set by Lady Messenger in 1997. It was Dontyousayit’s sixth win in 12 starts this year. Sugg led all drivers with three wins on the nine-race card.

A special presentation was made by Speed Superintendent Paul Lease and Elwood Woolman to Jason Thompson for his many years of devotion to racing at the Columbiana County Fair.

**Wood County August 4, 2020**

Three drivers: Cameron McCowan, Art McIlmurray and John Moody each scored driving doubles on the 12-race card.

McCowan had the best time of the day for two-year-old colt trotters as Omyheart was a winner in 2:06.1.

**Auglaize County August 4, 2020**

The first of two days of racing at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds featured a ten race program.

Woo Said and Allen Woolums made it five straight, going wire-to-wire to win the first division in the two-year-old colt pace.

Feelin Western was also a wire-to-wire winner for Beau Brown. The win was the third in four starts for the son of Western Terror.

The fastest time of the day was in the first division of the two-year-old filly pace as Susy Finn rallied down the stretch for Jeff Nisonger to win in 2:01.2.

**Greene County August 5, 2020**

It’s was Dan Noble’s day at the Green County Fair in Xenia. Noble won five of the seven races on the card. All seven races were for two-year-olds.

Noble guided Ocean Blue to the win in 1:59.4 in the fastest time of the day.

The 2-year-old colt trot was won by Dontforgetlittlman with Noble. The Dontyouforgetit gelding picked up his third win of the season in six starts in 2:04.2. Dontforgetlittlman hit the board in the other three starts as well.
Justin Irvine continued with the hot hand as he scored a triple in the final day of racing from the Auglaize County Fairgrounds. Justin Belanger, Jeff Nisonger and Hank LeVan each had two winners.

In the second division of the three-year-old colt pace, Irvine made it back-to-back wins behind Nvrpoptdaplug as he drove the gelded son of Big Bad John to victory in a near track record of 1:56.4. The track record is 1:56.1 set by Mystical Rock in 2018.

Bad Ms Johnson continued to dominate as she won for the sixth straight time for driver-trainer Hank LeVan in the three-year-old filly pace.

Greene County August 6, 2020

It was another good day for Dan Noble as he had three wins on the seven-race card, including career win number 6,000 behind Ubuntu in the three-year-old colt pace.

The other three-year-old colt pace went to Snowmoon and Jason Beattie. It was the fourth win in a row for Snowmoon.

The Spring Haven Ladies Pace was won by Kacey Burns behind Bad Secret. It was the four-year-old gelding’s first win of the year, giving Burns a nice 23rd birthday present.

Athens County August 7, 2020

Due to Covid-19 and no fair in Athens County, the races were moved to the Morgan County Fairgrounds in McConnelsville.

Alex Hawk scored a triple on the eight-race card. He guided Rockin Moon to the winner’s circle for the first time in five starts after three seconds and a third.

Cody Hanover and Derek Watiker clocked the best time of the day; 1:57.2 in winning the three-year-old colt pace.

Athens County August 8, 2020

Day two of the Athens County races were also held in McConnelsville.

Drivers Derek Watiker and Brad Clemens each had three wins as trainer Eric Nesselroad had four winners on the seven-race card.

Ross County August 9, 2020

Ten different drivers collected wins on the 17-race card. Jeff Nisonger led the way with six wins, while Scott Cisco and Hunter Meyers each collected two.

Nisonger drove T Degengold to her fifth straight win in the three-year-old filly pace in 2:00.0.

The best time of the day was recorded by Wiggle This. Ronnie Gillespie went wire-to-wire with the three-year-old colt in 1:59.4.

The upset of the day was in the two-year-old colt and gelding pace. Amour Cruiser and Dustin Bothman grabbed the lead at the three-quarter pole and cruised home to victory. The win snapped the five-race winning streak for Woo Said, who challenged early but faded and finished fourth.

Richland County August 9, 2020

Day one of racing from Mansfield featured an 11-race card.

Driver Kurt Sugg picked up the triple while Crist Hershberger collected a pair of wins.

The fastest mile of the day 2:01.4 was paced by Rockin Farrri for Sugg. The three-year-old filly was a winner by 8 ½ lengths.

Designer Specs made it six-for-six to begin her racing career. The two-year-old filly trotter was a winner by 5 ½ lengths.

Richland County August 10, 2020

Three drivers: Don Irvine Jr., Justin Irvine, and Cameron McCown each had two wins on the 11-race card.

The best time of the day was recorded by Big Bad Whamo. McGowan took the three-year-old colt wire-to-wire in 1:59.1
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GREAT LAKES AMATEUR DRIVING ASSOCIATION DONATES TO OHHA

The Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association (GLADA) has donated $1,000 to the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association’s Benevolent Fund. The organization made the check presentation on Summit County Fair Day at MGM Northfield Park on July 31st.

Drivers in the Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association race every week, but because they are amateurs they donate their driving commission to the organization, which distributes the funds to charities.

President Steve Oldford says the group is made of non-professional drivers that enjoy the sport. “Most of us have day jobs. We are businessmen, lawyers, insurance guys that just love harness racing.”

Oldford says the mission is to race and give money away. “With the difficult times we are in, it is important to give back to help the horsemen. We are trying to help in any way we can.”

To be a member of the Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association, drivers must have a P license and have not driven professionally in ten years. For more information about the GLADA contact Steve Oldford at steveoldford@oldford.biz

NOBLE COLLECTS WIN 6,000

It was a special homecoming for Dan Noble, when he returned to the Greene County fair in Xenia. Noble picked up his 6,000th career win behind his homebred Ubuntu. The three-year-old gelding by Pet Rock was a winner in 1:55.4. Before the day was over, Noble added three more wins at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

Noble began his driving career in 1999 and has current lifetime earnings of $38,657,084.00.

In 2011 he was the leading driver in North America with 773 wins. His top money earning year was in 2018 when he earned more than $5.2 million dollars.

Photo credits: Brad Conrad
The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association is awarding eight scholarships, totaling $15,000, to college and post-graduate students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The OHHA Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and students enrolled in degree or certificate programs. 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 financial need, and must be used towards the cost and expenses directly related to coursework and a degree being pursued at a college or university. In addition, the applicant or their parent must be an OHHA member.

This year’s recipients are: Case Bateson, Lyndsay Hagemeyer, Kaitlin Hartman, Colin Newberry, Peyton Poling, Brett Sugg, Brooke Sugg, and Meadow Twaddle.

Case Bateson of Rudolph, Ohio is the son of Steve and Terri Bateson and a graduate of Bowling Green High School. He is enrolled to begin classes at the Ohio State University ATI-Wooster this fall, pursuing a degree in Equine Production and Management. Bateson’s father Steve is the current president of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association. The family currently owns or has partnerships on several horses.

Currently Bateson is interning at the Jason Brewer Stable, where he is learning about the care and training of twenty horses. He says his ultimate career goal is to own his own stable and drive and train horses for a living. “I love the sport and want to continue the racing tradition, and help standardbred racing succeed long into the future.”

Lyndsay Hagemeyer of Clarksville, Ohio, is currently studying veterinary medicine at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and is scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2021. She is the daughter of Scott and Cindy Hagemeyer. Her parents are the owner operators of Hagemeyer Farms, a breeding farm in Clarksville.

Hagemeyer is a 4th generation horseman. Her great-grandfather Maynard Hagemeyer was a groom, trainer, driver, breeder, and owner. Lyndsay’s grandfather Mel Hagemeyer was the general manager and program director at Lebanon Raceway.

After graduation, Hagemeyer says she will pursue a one-year equine exclusive internship, which will allow her to completely focus on all aspects of equine medicine. She has become known as the vet student that loves foals. “I understand they are challenging and have their own medical quirks, but I have learned to accept the challenge. It is so rewarding to see a foal who had a rough start during the neonatal period go on to have a successful career.”

Kaitlin Hartman of Tarlton, Ohio is a 2018 graduate of Logan Elm High School and is currently enrolled at Ohio University in Athens, studying Music Education with the goal to teach high school choir at a low-income school. She is the daughter of William and Tami Hartman.

Hartman comes from a long line of horsemen. Her grandfather Bill Hartman owned Billy Jack Stable, where her father worked. Upon Bill Hartman’s death, Kaitlin’s father took over and renamed the stables Hartman Stables. Her mother’s side of the family is also heavily involved in the horses. Her grandfather, Kenny Appleman, owned and trained horses. Kaitlin’s mother went into business with her grandfather and they own and train horses together.

After losing interest in the horses around middle school, Hartman says towards the end of high school she started helping around the barn and it rekindled her interest. “I have worked for my dad and am learning how to train horses. I hope to learn more so I can continue my family’s long tradition.”

Matthew Newberry of Beavercreek, Ohio is a graduate of Beavercreek High School and will be attending Sinclair Community College this fall, with the goal of becoming a mechanical engineer. He was the recipient of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association Terry Holton Youth Award in 2019. Newberry is the son of Matthew and Kelly Newberry.

Newberry’s family has been involved in harness racing for many years, including owning horses.

Newberry has worked at the Polhamus Stable, where he groomed, jogged and harnessed horses. In 2019 he obtained his fair/qualifying license, winning his first race at the Auglaize County fair. “Driving racehorses has always been a dream of mine. There is no better feeling in the world than going up behind the starting gate.”

Payton Poling of Lebanon, Ohio is a graduate of Lebanon High School and is currently attending Sinclair Community College with the goal of becoming a nurse. She is the daughter of Eddie and Jenny Poling.

Poling credits her father with instilling a work ethic and passion for horse racing. “He gave me my first lesson on the skills of caring for a racehorse, preparing it to perform and helping me understand the dedication it takes to succeed not only with horses, but in life.”

Because of the complications from an injury Payton suffered playing high school soccer, she realized that becoming a nurse she could make a difference in people’s lives by being the best part of someone’s worst day.
Brett Sugg of Deshler, Ohio is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School and will be attending the University of Toledo in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science. He is the son of Duke and Lisa Sugg.

Sugg is a fourth-generation horsemen, following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, Ralph, grandfather Ivan, and his father Duke. The family has owned and trained horses from Illinois to New York and into Canada. Sugg, a high school valedictorian, says being around the horses has given him a work ethic. “At the county fairs, I would help as much as I could, whether it was fetching water or scrubbing dirty equipment. I have always enjoyed the energy at the county fairs.”

Brett Sugg, Brett’s sister, is also a recipient of an OHHA scholarship. Brooke is currently enrolled at Bowling Green State University studying Dietetics pursuing a career as a Registered Dietician.

Sugg says working with her father and her grandfather in harness racing is her passion. “My plan is to continue to help groom and train horses with my father, as well as train my own horses in the future.”

Brooke Sugg, Brett’s sister, is also a recipient of an OHHA scholarship. Brooke is currently enrolled at Bowling Green State University studying Dietetics pursuing a career as a Registered Dietician.

Also receiving an OHHA scholarship is Meadow Twaddle. Twaddle, of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania is a graduate of Canon-McMillan High School and will attend Washington and Jefferson College, studying to become a Physician Assistant. She is the daughter of Timothy and Sophia Twaddle.

Twaddle was born into a harness racing family. “My grandfather, father and uncle have been involved in harness racing for over 30 years. My father built his stable from the ground up and my family and I are proud of that accomplishment.” Twaddle says being around the barn she realized that even the smallest of jobs are meaningful.

Hershberger Trains Both Winners of Dead Heat

It was a rare afternoon for Crist Hershberger at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, Ohio, Thursday, August 13. Hershberger was the trainer-driver for one of the two horses involved in a dead heat, and trained the other winner.

Hershberger had the reins for Sheza Witch, while Kurt Sugg drove Rose Run Wassup in the two-year-old filly race.

Hershberger took Sheza Witch to the lead and held the lead wire-to-wire. Sugg and Rose Run Wassup stalked her stablemate the entire race, getting up at the wire for the dead heat in 2:08.0.

“I’ve never had a dead heat for a win,” said Hershberger, who has been involved in dead heats for place and show.

Hershberger was disappointed he did not win the race outright, “I should have gotten a little more out of the one I was driving, and it wouldn’t have been a dead heat.”

Unfortunately for Hershberger, he doesn’t have a winner’s circle picture to remember the race. “I thought Kurt got me at the wire and I had to head back to the barn to get ready for the next race, so I didn’t go to the winner’s circle.”
20 questions with Chris Beaver

How long has your family been in the business?
My grandfather owned horses in the 50’s and Dad got into the business in high school and college. He started a training stable after being in the meat packing business for a while.

What is your first recollection of harness racing?
Dad owned some horses that he raced at the fairs and in Cleveland. Billy Walters would drive, and I remember going to the track when I was very young, 6 or 7.

How did you get started in the business?
I was leaning towards Vet School and I bought a trotting filly named Raising Samantha, who did well. We made a lot of money with her. My parents told me that you couldn’t make a living in the horse business, so I was thinking of doing it for fun.

Did you want to be a driver?
I loved it but I didn’t like the pressure and I was too big to be a driver.

How big is your stable?
The last four years around 50 horses but this year we had nearly 70 which is the most I have had. I have about 60 right now.

Do you train at the farm or at the track?
I have a farm about 10 miles north of the Delaware County Fairgrounds, but I make a lot of trips to Delaware for training miles.

Do you have a preference: trotters or pacers?
I train a lot of trotters and that’s where I made my mark in the business. I like pacers also; it seems they take less time and energy.

How much time is spent deciding where to race?
With 50 horses, I spend a lot of time entering them. It takes a lot of time figuring which ones belong in the upper levels, like the Ohio Sire Stakes, or those for the Buckeye Stallion Series.

What about the decision on who to use as a driver?
There is a lot to consider. Sometimes the owner will want a certain driver. I can usually get the best for the stake races. I have used Aaron Merriman a lot over the years.

Where else do you race besides Ohio?
Mostly in Ohio, but I have had a lot of luck in Indiana. It is much more difficult to race in Pennsylvania over the last couple of years.

Do you have a favorite horse over the years?
I have had some favorites, including Raising Samantha and Triumphant Caviar. We had a lot of fun with Triumphant Caviar over the years, especially the world record at Delaware.

Do you venture south in the winter?
We send the older horses to Florida, along with the 2-year-olds that are turning three. I train my younger horses at home during the winter.

Are your parents still involved in racing?
Mom and Dad own and breed a few and will train some during the winter, and then I take them in the summer.

Where else do you race besides Ohio?
Mostly in Ohio, but I have had a lot of luck in Indiana. It is much more difficult to race in Pennsylvania over the last couple of years.

Do you have a favorite sport?
I love Italian food and pasta.

What was the last book that you read?
I used to read a lot, but I don’t have the time now. Maybe when things slow down and I get older, I’ll read more. When I was youngster I would read all the time.

Your choice: Stakes or Overnights?
Definitely stakes horses by far, it’s where you can make a lot more money.

What was your biggest setback in racing?
I have a couple that ring in my mind. Triumphant Caviar finished second to Muscle Hill in the elimination of the Hambletonian. I trained him before the final and he went into A-Fib and that set us back three months. This year, I had the best trotting colt in the state, and he broke a coffin bone in a training mile. I was looking forward to the Grand Circuit and the Breeders Crown with him.

Do you usually sell the horses after the 3-year-old stake season?
I usually sell around 90% and keep some to be broodmares. I keep a few older horses if they are exceptional and I’ll keep those that are injured to race back the next season.
Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 22ND
4th Quarter Board Meeting
Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association
OHHA Office, 2237 Sonora Dr.,
Grove City, OH

RACING SCHEDULE
MGM Northfield Park
Current through December 30

Eldorado Scioto Downs
Current through September 5

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway
September 8 – December 30

TRACK NOTES

Southwind Amazon continues to roll. On July 11 the ten-year-old gelded son of Camluck set a new personal best of 1:48.3 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. Southwind Amazon has won 11 of 18 starts this year.

Guinevere Hall remained undefeated in 2020 and posted a new track record at Eldorado Scioto Downs for 3-year-old trotting fillies. The daughter of Cash Hall was a winner in 1:53.0 in the fourth leg of the Ohio Sire Stakes.

Rosemary Rose was a winner at Scioto Down on July 11 for trainer Ron Burke. Rosemary Rose gets extra credit for the win. She is in foal to Sweet Lou.

Charlie May, the winner of the Next Generation, set a national season’s mark in the second leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes for 2-year-old pacing colts at Northfield Park on July 25. The youngster was clocked in 1:53 for driver Dan Noble and trainer Steve Carter.

OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Burnell D. “Nellie” Johns. Johns passed away July 2nd at the age of 86. He was born in Sherwood, Ohio and served in the Korean conflict. The family asked those remembering Burnell to make memorial contributions to the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association.

Richard “Gibby” Betts. Betts passed away at the age of 97. He was born in Quaker City, Ohio and served in World War II and was decorated with two bronze stars and a purple heart. He trained Standardbreds including former world record holder Travailon Tom and stakes winning mare Adios Corinne, named after his beloved wife. He is buried at Friends Cemetery in Quaker City. Military honors were given by the Guernsey County Veterans Council.

OHHA Office, 2237 Sonora Dr.,
Grove City, OH

MGM Northfield Park
Current through December 30

Eldorado Scioto Downs
Current through September 5

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway
September 8 – December 30

Southwind Amazon
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 next issue is July 14th.
For more information e-mail: publications@OHHA.com

Racing At The Fair
The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association is continuing its live coverage of racing at the county fairs. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information e-mail Frank Fraas: ffraas@ohha.com

Saturday Night at the Races
The Ohio Harness Horsemen will present Saturday Night at the Races for Super Night from Eldorado Scioto Downs. Commercials are available through the production which will be streamed live on Facebook. For more information e-mail Frank Fraas: ffraas@ohha.com

2020 OHHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Please Print, * Fields Required)

*Name ______________________________________________________ *Address ____________________________

*City __________________________ *State ___ *Zip __________ *County __________________________

*Phone __________________ Alternate Phone __________________ *E-mail __________________________

Active Membership includes free sulky coverage up to $3,000 (wheels & discs excluded). NOTE: The sulky owner(s), driver, trainer & all owners of the horse involved must be OHHA members and sulks must be registered. Stables/Business Entities require an Associate Membership. All affiliates of any Stable/Business Entity must be full active members.

Active $65 ____ Associate $25 ____ Please check one: ☐ Owner ☐ Driver/Trainer ☐ Breeder ☐ Groom

Check here if you were a member the previous year _____ USTA# __________________ Date of Birth ___________

THE OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN’S ASSOCIATION
2237 Sonora Dr., Grove City, OH. 43123 | 1-800-353-6442 | 614-221-3650 | Fax 614-221-8726 | www.ohha.com

OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Mares registered in 2016 (Foals of 2017) mare registration date 12/31/16

Foal Age Membership Requirement
Bred 2016 Grace Period, No Membership Required
Foal Born 2017 No Membership Required
Yearling 2018 No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2019, 2020 Membership Required

Mares registered in 2017 (Foals of 2018) mare registration date 12/31/17

Foal Age Membership Requirement
Bred 2017 Membership Required
Foal Born 2018 Membership Required
Yearling 2019 No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2020, 2021 Membership Required

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

Foal Age Membership Requirement
Bred 2018 No Membership Required
Foal Born 2019 Membership Required
Yearling 2020 No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2021, 2022 Membership Required

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 No Membership Required
Yearling 2022 No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2023, 2024 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.

Member ID # _______________________________
Nomination for the Terry Holton Youth Award

The 20th Annual Terry Holton Youth Award, is awarded to youth between the ages of thirteen and nineteen who have actively participated in harness racing during 2020, as a driver, trainer, owner, groom, breeder, official, race office/publicity assistant, track maintenance crew or any capacity that has provided outstanding service to harness racing. You can include up to one more sheet of additional information if needed. Please be thorough, the more comprehensive the nomination is, the better chance your nominee has of being chosen. **DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2020**

I. Please fill out the following information about the person being nominated:
   a. Name:
   b. Location:
   c. Age:
   d. If in school, grade, and name of school attending:

II. Explain the role this person has had in the harness racing industry in 2020.

III. How long have they been involved in harness racing? How did they get started?

IV. What other activities is the nominee involved in?

V. Any additional information you would like to share:

Nomination by:
Name:
Email:
Phone:
Nomination for the Dick Brandt, Sr. Extra Effort Award

The 19th Annual Dick Brandt, Sr. Extra Effort Award is being offered for the 2020 racing year to expand the OHHA’s commitment to county fair racing. Local Ohio horsemen’s associations and matinee clubs that have given the most to their county fair or local community are encouraged to apply. The award is based on involvement with their local fair board, participation in local matinees, community involvement, improvements to track and barn areas and assistance with the racing programs during fair week. The more information you can provide for your nominee will help the committee to make a more informed decision. DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2020

1. Please fill out the following information about the association being nominated:

   Name:

   Location:

   How many years has the association been in existence?

2. Tell us about the association. Include activities the association participated in during 2020. Include any community involvement, harness racing promotional activities, county fair involvement, relationship with the county fair board, track and barn improvements and involvement in the county fair’s racing program.

3. Any additional information about the horsemen’s association.

Nomination by:

Name:

Email:

Phone:
Nomination for the Ohio Outstanding Groom Award

Grooms are that special group of people who underpin the success of our entire sport, ever present but rarely in the spotlight. The Ohio Outstanding Groom award seeks to highlight a groom who really goes above and beyond for their horses and the sport of harness racing in Ohio. You can include up to one more sheet of additional information if needed. Please be thorough, the more comprehensive the nomination is, the better chance your nominee has of being chosen.

DEADLINE OCTOBER 1, 2020

I. Please fill out the following information about the person being nominated:
   Name:
   Location:

II. Explain the role this person has had in the stable.

III. How long have they been involved in harness racing? How did they get started?

IV. What other activities is the nominee involved in?

V. Any additional information you would like to share:

Nomination by:
Name:
Email:
Phone:
# Ohio Breeders Awards Program Form

(For Mares Bred in 2020)

1. **Initial Mare Registration**: Due November 30th of Year Bred

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. INITIAL MARE REGISTRATION: Complete 1 for Initial Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broodmare Information: <em>One Mare Per</em> <a href="#">List two only if Embryo Transfer-List Recipient and Donor Form. Mare.</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mare's Registered Name: (If ET note Recipient or Donor Mare)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. 187 DAY RESIDENCY: Complete 1, 2, &amp; 3 for Final Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location of Mare for Foaling and 187 Day Residency (Include: Start and End Dates)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If Mare is a Permanent Resident at this Location Check the Box ☑️*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. CERTIFICATION: Please read, Initial, and Sign. Each applicable section must be completed in its entirety by the deadline stated. Any deficiencies will be considered an incomplete submission.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I hereby state that all information provided herein is true and correct. I further certify if the mare leaves reason I will notify the OHHA within 72 hours of return, complete and return the separate “Emergency Form”. I understand that any false or fraudulent statements made by me or on my behalf may result in removal from the Breeder’s Awards Program and may be punishable under Ohio Law. <strong>Initial</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For verification purposes I consent to the OHHA entering upon the property, farm, or other residence and permit them to inspect any veterinary records or breeding or billing records, validate the mare’s presence at the location provided, and status. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless in law and equity the OHHA for any action that causes any damage to the OHHA, or any agent acting on behalf of the OHHA.

| Initial |

Failure to submit this form within the timeframe outlined in each section may result in the Mare or Breeder’s automatic removal from the Breeder’s Awards Program. The severity or frequency of any failure(s) may result in a bar and preclude future participation.

| Initial |

The Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association reserves all rights including the ability to make changes to the program or abolish the program in its entirety in their complete and unfettered discretion. Program rules for the program year are included by reference herein. All decisions made by the OHHA on all matters concerning the Breeder’s Awards Program is Final. Upon remittance, the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association shall be completely held harmless and indemnified in any dispute, claim, or loss incurred by any party and specifically by the Breeder listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration. Any subsequent action or claim arising from the Breeder’s Awards Program must first be arbitrated prior to initiating any claim in Court or with any Administrative Agency. At law, the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County, Ohio has exclusive jurisdiction over any claims.

| Initial |

Authorized Signature:  

Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)

|  

Include the Initial Registration Fee - Payable to the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association + $20

|  

Include applicable OHHA Membership Fees for all Breeders (per USTA Breed Registry)  
$65-Full Active Individual Membership, $25-Business Entity Only

| Total Remitted: |

Attach any additional documentation as outlined in each section and a completed W-9. Return to the OHHA: Via Fax: 614-221-8726, Via E-mail: breedersawards@ohha.com, or First Class Mail (Postage Pre-Paid)  
2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, Ohio 43123. The official Post Office Postmark or receipt time stamp at the OHHA office (whichever is earlier) will be recognized as the date of receipt.
**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form is intended to be used for all submissions except in the case of the mare being removed from the State of Ohio for an Emergency during the 187 day contiguous residency period. If the mare leaves the state for any reason during the 187 day contiguous residency period you must report that to the OHHA on the separate “Emergency Exception Form” within 72 hours of return. Each Section must be completely filled out by the November 30th deadline in the year the Mare was bred. The complete initial registration form and money to be paid must be postmarked or received (file stamped upon receipt) by the OHHA Office on or before the deadline date.

**Section 1:** This is the Initial Registration for the Mare. **ONE MARE PER FORM** unless you are breeding a mare via embryo transfer only. If utilizing embryo transfer, please provide BOTH the Donor Mare and the Recipient Mare’s information in the space provided, use the Recipient Mare’s information for Residency. All Membership Fees and $20 Registration Fee shall be paid at Initial Registration. The Membership and/or Registration Fees will not be refunded or carried over to subsequent years.

**Section 2:** The Mare’s 187 Day Residency Verification is the location the Mare will reside for the contiguous 187 Day mandatory residence in the year of foaling. If the expectation is that the Mare will split her time between two Ohio locations provide the details and expected start and end date that the Mare will reside at each location. If utilizing artificial insemination without moving the Mare back-and-forth, note that here. If the mare is a permanent resident at this location, check the box.

**Section 3:** Certification and Signature Box: Please initial each box to the right of the certifications acknowledging that you have read and accept the terms outlined in each section of the Certification. **Any time** a submission is made the Certifications must be initialed. The Breeder (as designated by the USTA’s official Breed Registry) listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration shall sign the Forms each time they are submitted. Assumption of risk for signature by anyone other than the Breeder listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration is borne entirely by the Breeder listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration. Upon remittance, the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association shall be completely held harmless and indemnified in any dispute, claim, or loss incurred by any party and specifically by the Breeder listed First on the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Registration.

**Remittance Amount:** The total amount for Registration per Mare due with each form is $20. Beginning with mares registered and bred in 2018 (foals of 2019, forward), **All Breeders** (as designated by the USTA’s official Breed Registry) are required to be Members of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association in the year of foaling only. The membership requirement applies to all Breeders and extends to any business entity or stable-Breeders and all affiliates/members of the business entity or stable as reported by the entity’s United States Trotting Association’s record. By way of example, Super Breeder, LLC is the Mare’s United States Trotting Association’s Breeder of Record for the Mare bred in 2020 that will foal in 2021. Super Breeder LLC has six affiliates/members. Super Breeder LLC must include its $25 Membership fee and the six affiliates/members of Super Breeder, LLC must each pay the $65 full-active Membership fee, the total remitted shall be $435 ($20 Mare Registration Fee + $25 Super Breeder LLC Associate Membership + $65 x 6 for affiliates of Super Breeder LLC).

**Ohio Breeder’s Award Program Complete Rules**

(A.) A portion of the discretionary funds that are paid to the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association (the “OHHA”) by the Standardbred permit holders from the video lottery terminal wagering will be used to pay breeder’s awards to the owners of the dams of Standardbred horses that were born in 2013 and thereafter and are sired by a stallion that was registered as a Standardbred stallion with the Ohio State Racing Commission for the applicable breeding season. Breeder’s awards will be paid beginning with the 2016 racing season. No Later than December 31 of each year beginning in 2016, the OHHA will establish the total sum that will be paid as breeder’s awards with respect to races conducted during the next succeeding calendar year. “Breeder” is defined as any person(s), entity or entities listed as the Breeder on the registration certificate.

(B.) All horses born in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 that meet the requirements of subsection (A) will be eligible to earn breeder’s awards for the Breeder(s) of the foals without their dams being registered pursuant to subsection (C).

(C.) For mares bred in 2018 with foals of 2019 and thereafter, in addition to the requirements of subsection (A), the following eligibility requirements will apply:

1. The horse must be born in the State of Ohio and the dam must reside in the State of Ohio during the year of foaling for a continuous period that is not less than one hundred eighty-seven (187) days. Continuous residency is subject to exceptions for acts of God, medical emergency, or participation in an out-of-state public sale for a period of up to fourteen days. Valid exceptions must be reported on an Exception Waiver Form to the OHHA no later than 48 hours after moving the mare out-of-state and must provide full details for the exception to apply.

2. The dam of the horse must be registered with the breeder’s award program with the OHHA between September 1st and November 30th of the year or breeding. All forms necessary will be provided by the OHHA by request and will be available for download from the OHHA website. Beginning with mares bred in 2018 and thereafter, the breeder(s) of each horse must be members of the OHHA in the year of foaling. Validly executed Assignments of Interest for Breeders Awards are accepted if signed by the Breeder(s) and only if the Breeders Award and the Breeder(s) are in good standing, with active Memberships at the time of Assignment on the Interest.
3. The information that is provided at the time of registration of the mare shall include the name and tattoo number of the mare, the name of the Ohio-registered stallion that the mare was bred to, the location in the State of Ohio where the mare resides or will reside during the year of foaling, the date when the mare began residency or is expected to begin residency in the State of Ohio, and the names and addresses of the Breeder(s) of the mare at the time of registration with the program. The form shall include a sworn verification-certifying residency pursuant to Paragraph 1, for the mare. At the time of registration of the mare the Breeder(s) shall also provide a completed I.R.S. W9 Form and Full Waiver and Consent to enter onto the resident mare’s property for residency verification purposes.

(D.) For mares bred in 2019 with foals of 2020 and thereafter, the dam of the horse must be registered with the breeder’s award program with the OHHA between September 1st and November 30th of the year of breeding. Any registration received at the OHHA office from December 1st to midnight December 31st shall include an additional $100 late-registration fee. If not automatically accompanied by the late-registration fee you will be invoiced, nonpayment of the late registration fee will result in a failure to register the mare for that year’s Breeder’s Awards program. All mare registrations must be received by the OHHA office by midnight December 31st. All forms necessary will be provided by the OHHA by request and will be available for download from the OHHA website.

1. A registration fee of $20.00 per mare will be charged, payable to the OHHA at the time of registration, together with the OHHA membership fee if not previously paid, and any late-registration fee.

(E.) Ohio breeder’s awards shall be paid only for two and three-year-olds racing in 2016 forward. Breeder’s awards will be payable for the following eight categories:

1. The Ohio stake races that will be counted in calculating breeder’s awards consist of:
   (a) Legs, finals and consolation of the Standardbred Development Fund Races the, “Ohio Sires Stake” races,
   (b) Legs and finals of the, “Buckeye Stallion Series” races
   (c) The Ohio State Fair Stake races
   (d) The Ohio Fair Championship
   (e) The Ohio Breeders Championship Stake Races
   (f) Any other Ohio Breeder’s stake races
   (g) All stake races conducted by county agricultural societies and independent agricultural societies with purse money provided in whole or in part by the Ohio Fair Funds
   (h) Any other Ohio stake races that are approved by the OHHA no later than December 31st of each year beginning in 2016 for foals born the following year.

2. The award earned by each horse will be based on the purse dollars earned by that horse in Ohio stakes races each year compared to the total purse dollars earned by all of the horses in its category in Ohio stake races that year that are eligible to earn breeder’s awards, expressed as a percentage. The OHHA Board will establish the total amount of breeder’s awards for each category each year by December 31st. That percentage will be multiplied by the total dollars that are allocated to breeder’s awards for the horses in that category, with the result rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Any breeder’s award that calculates to less than $50.00 will be treated as $0 earned and not be paid. If there are multiple Breeders, the Breeder’s Award check will be issued to the Breeder listed first on the Registration. If any or a portion of the Breeder’s Award remains unpaid due to the failure of the Breeder to supply all information requested by the OHHA upon request or the OHHA is unable to ascertain the whereabouts of the Breeder or his Beneficiary after sending a registered letter, return receipt requested to the last known address, and further diligent effort to ascertain the Breeder or his Beneficiary’s whereabouts, 1 year from the date the Breeder’s Award was payable, the Award shall be forfeited in its entirety and revert-back to the Administrative Account used for the administrative expense of the program.

(F.) For mares that are registered with the breeder’s award program as described in subsection (C), the OHHA shall be entitled to visit the farm where a mare was reported to reside on one or more occasions to confirm the mare’s residency at that location during the year of foaling. If access to the farm or mare is denied, or if the mare is not residing at that farm and is not otherwise confirmed as residing in or has not resided in the State of Ohio during that time, the foal that is delivered by that mare with respect to that year of registration will not be eligible to the breeder’s award program.
Roll Call, all Commissioners present.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director William Crawford’s Report and Approval items were introduced, and the June 24, 2020 minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director’s approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. Information provided included submissions on changing officials, modifications of post times, race dates, and host-guest calendar changes. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director’s Approval items and June 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

In other business, the Racing Commission considered the 2020 Dayton Raceway live racing approvals. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway, submitted requests to (1) Waive their surety bond for 2020 race meets, (2) Approve list of officials, (3) Approve the number of races and wagering format, (4) Approve post times, (5) Approve their simulcasting schedule, and (6) Approve their letter to the Fire Marshall. No discussion on any submissions after enumerating the list as normal and customary, and no documents were provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all requests.

Discussion and Approval of Resolution 2020-14 Second Quarter Casino Revenue. The Casino Commission for the quarter of $152,148.51 was discussed as being distributed to an Emergency Fund via Resolution 2020-09.

The Racing Commission unanimously ratified Resolution 2020-09.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to July 5, 2020 was provided by Racing Commission Executive Director, William Crawford. It was noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club’s reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From last month’s report there were no Standardbred, and five thoroughbred fatalities. Year-to-date total catastrophic losses are, fifteen Thoroughbred fatalities and two Standardbred racing related fatalities statewide.

There was no discussion on Belterra Park’s extension for closing on the real estate sale for Boyd Gaming and Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI). There was no status update on the permit holder and horsemen’s agreement negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA).

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. The fiscal year ended. Fiscal year revenue was down 12% for the year overall. The fiscal year expenses were down 8%, or $34,000. Year-over-year comparison for fiscal years shows a 40% drop in casino tax and 50% drop in other taxes. It is difficult to gauge the impact at this juncture. The Racing Commission revenue fund balance is $2,266,000.

Director Crawford supplemented the financial report with a June year-over-year wagering summary. All racetracks were down on live wagering except Eldorado, but the live racing locations trended up on simulcast handle. Locations that were not live trended down on simulcasting handle. Belterra was down on live 21% and up 10% on simulcast with an overall average of $725,000 wagered per-day. Jack Thistledown was down 9.7% on live and up 5.4% on simulcast with an overall average of $920,000 per-day. Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley was down 25% on simulcast. MGM Northfield was down 10% live and up 6.5% on simulcast with an overall average of $1,000,000 per-day. Eldorado Scioto was up 40% on live and up 25% on simulcast with an overall average of $820,000 per-day. Miami Valley Gaming was down 13.7% on simulcast. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton was down 12% on simulcast wagering.

Chairman Borgemenke provided detail that a financial meeting would be held in a few weeks to take an in-depth look into the finances of the Racing Commission related to the cost savings and directives regarding Ohio’s budget deficit.

Commissioner Hansen provided a summary of the progress with the Medication and Testing Committee. The committee would like to move to the next phase of meetings to discuss environmental contaminates and out-of-competition testing. However, the preference is for in-person meetings versus virtual meetings. Commissioner Hansen provided detail that virtual meetings will occur if the in-person shutdown occurs throughout the summer.

The Racing Commission provided an opportunity for Permit Holder and Horseman’s Groups’ Public Comment. Eldorado Scioto Downs’ Joe Morris provided details on the merger of Caesars and Eldorado having completed after all regulatory approvals were obtained. The new entity is comprised of 6 racetracks and 55 gaming properties. Mr. Morris also provided detail on the new LED lights arriving for the infield tote board, new saddle pads, and a future initiative being investigated to move to an HD signal for the broadcast. In response to Commissioner Winter’s questions regarding grandstand plans, Mr. Morris provided
details on a new plan in the works that he has seen, but no concrete plan on the grandstand demolition as-of yet.

Thistledown outlined new plans in the works to bring people to the facility. Facebook Live, Direct Web, YouTube and replay initiatives were in the works. Best of Ohio day on Saturday August 8th with $100,000 purse races for the Ohio bred thoroughbreds.

Ohio Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA) Executive Director Dave Basler discussed OSRC COVID-19 protocol implementation and bi-weekly policing with physical inspections. OHHA’s Executive Director Renée Mancino discussed the pari-mutuel racetrack and county fair racing, COVID-19 compliance, and HD digital broadcast of the qualifying races at all post-COVID re-start locations and county fair live racing. Specific discussion centered around the livestream capture rates of 4-5,000 hits on the feed with an average watch time of one-hour. Between-race promotional pieces and contests were drawing viewers from international locations and in many states throughout the U.S. The Association has been very happy with the popularity of the digital campaign, which has been well received. Plans are in the works to livestream at least 80 of the 141 live fair racing days, it is a labor of love for the outreach team and they have worked hard to entertain and provide information throughout a difficult time of transition.

No Executive Session was needed, so the motion and vote was taken to adjourn and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is August 26, 2020. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission’s website at, http://www.racingohio.net.
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