

# Pye on Racing

## 2019 Ohio Fair Column

By Thom Pye



## Paulding Powers up the 2019 Ohio Fair Season

For three days (June 10, 11, and 12) the fine folks of Paulding County finally had near pitch-perfect weather and horsemen were rewarded with an array of impressive miles over the half-mile oval.

With many of the juvenile trotters and pacers making their initial appearance in front of a crowd, it wasn't about the time but rather the performance beginning in the very first race on Monday when Johnny Kearns' two-year-old filly T Degenengold (by Pet Rock) with trainer/driver Jeff Nisonger dominated the OFRC field in 2:08.4h by 18 open lengths.

Ted Boschma of South Lyon, Michigan's Timestorm, a two-year-old trotting gelding by Stormin Norman, won by 31 ½ in 2:11.3h with trainer/driver Kent Hess in the sulky.

Herecomescharlie B (by Full Count) and 55-year-old breeder/owner/trainer/driver Dan Veneir of Pemberville, Ohio drew away from the rest of the OFRC two-year-old colt trotters in 2:12.4h by 13 and ¾ lengths.

22-year-old Pierce Henry got the seat behind owner/trainer Robert Brook's two-year-old filly McBrooke (by McArdle) and paced off to a

5-length win in 2:11h.

All these eye-poppers were done without a charted line in the book.

On Tuesday the hits just kept on coming as the Mike Conklin-trained Cousin Louie (by Big Bad John) glided to a mile in 2:07h by 9 over the other OFRC two-year-old pacing colts.

Several of the three-year-old colts had some tight and exciting finishes as a lot of them continued last year's form.

And a couple of the near-desperate punters finally got some of their money back.

"I didn't cash a ticket all day yesterday," bemoaned a two-dollar bettor who soon was chuckling a few races later after he picked several exactas in a row. "Who needs a 401K," he laughed as he counted his money, "when we can bet on harness racing!?! " ...a classic (and I've heard a lot of `em).

Wednesday's program had a few hard-fought and fast miles when The Le Van Stables Inc of Woodstock, Ohio's Rocking Megan L (by Pet Rock) with co-owner Hank Le Van rocked the three-year-old OFRC pacing fillies with a mile in 2:01.3h as Ron Randall's Officially My Way (by Art Official) took the second

division in 2:02.1h for Ed Greeno Jr. Suzanne Bates' I'm McCited (by McCardle) and Duke Sugg grabbed the 3rd OFRC division in 2:02.4h.

In a program highlighted by the Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series - which was won by Emily Hay with her 7-year-old mare Royal Delta - it was fitting that one of the Text Trivia questions was "how many horses have a lady's name in ITS name?"

As the crowd leafed through the 10-race program someone noted "that'll keep them busy for a bit."

Fifteen seconds later, just as we leaned back triumphantly in the chair to relax for a minute, the correct number was texted in: 18. ...how in Hambletonian history do they do it?

This was the first... of the many enjoyable and fun Ohio Fairs.

**See next page for photos and visit the OHHA Facebook page for even more photos:**

**OhioHarnessHorsemenAssociation**



When the photo flashed after the Paulding County FFA Pace was over it was The Le Van Stables Inc. of Woodstock, Ohio's class 9-year-old by Stand Forever Hanky L standing in the Winners Circle for the 52nd time in his career. Truly a family affair, he is trained by Herb Le Van and driven by Hank Le Van as he paced the mile in 2:00.4h.



The Stars came out for the premier 2019 performance of the Racing With The Stars fan contest.



And they're off! Trainer/driver/owner Tommy and Andrea Householder of Delaware, Ohio's two-year-old filly Majors First Lady (by Major Stone) in the first race at the first Fair with her first lifetime start. She finished... third in the 2:08.4 mile.



The start of somethin' good: first race of the 2019 Ohio Fair Season at Pauldin'.