Buckeye Harness Bulletin

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OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

'Hopefully We Can Win One on Home Turf'



Tarapasta

Ohio Native Luther Brothers Aiming for Another Breeders Crown Victory

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Kissme Ifyoucan

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By Wes Mayberry

Trainer Todd Luther was ecstatic after Always B Naughty won last year's Breeders Crown Open Mare Pace.

"This is what dreams are made of," he said during an interview in the winner's circle.

His brother, Greg, of owner Greg Luther Racing, was just as thrilled.

"This is definitely the highlight of 36 years in this business," Greg said in his own post-race interview at Woodbine Mohawk Park in Ontario, Canada. "It's always great to be able to celebrate with family, and this has been just a wonderful experience for us."

That Breeders Crown championship marked the first for the Ohio natives. Now they're looking to add another this week as the Buckeye State hosts the 2026 Breeders Crown at Eldorado Scioto Downs in Columbus.

"Everything, really, especially on your home track," Todd says of what it would mean to win another Breeders Crown title. "When it was announced it was going to be here (at Scioto Downs), that's all Greg talked about. He said, 'I want to have a full card of Breeders Crown horses, and hopefully we can win one on home turf.' I've been here since I was a little kid, so that would be pretty cool."

This marks a historic occasion for Scioto Downs, as the venue is hosting all 12 Breeders Crown championship events for the first time ever. Greg is excited for what he hopes will be a successful two days (Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24) for his entries and all other Ohio-connected horses.

"The feel that we've seen in Ohio is everybody supporting everybody. I think it's going to be a big party," he says. "It would definitely mean a lot for our team, but just for the state in general, what a great showcase for us to have the Breeders Crown here at Scioto Downs."

Following last week's elimination races, the Luther brothers will have two chances at a second Breeders Crown victory courtesy of Ohio-breds Tarapasta and Kissme Ifyoucan. Both will be driven by Austin Hanners, of Frankfort, Ohio, who joined the Luthers in winning his first Breeders Crown race with Always B Naughty last year.

Tarapasta, a 6-year-old Downbytheseaside mare out of Pasta Blue Chip, drew post five for Saturday's Open Mare Pace Final. She enters with 22 wins and $845,320 in earnings in 109 career starts. She has a 3-8-2 record in 23 starts this season, banking $371,825. Her highlight victory of 2026 came in the $456,000 Grade 2 MGM Ursula McIntyre Series Final



Owner Greg Luther, trainer Todd Luther, and driver Austin Hanners stand in the winner's circle at Woodbine Mohawk Park after winning the Breeders Crown Open Mare Pace Final with Always B Naughty in 2025. It marked the first Breeders Crown championship for the Luther Brothers and Hanners, all of whom currently reside in Ohio. They are hoping to add to their trophy case in this year's Breeders Crown with Tarapasta and Kissme Ifyoucan. ***Credit:*** *Clive Cohen*

Scan the QR code for a video featuring the Ohio-connected horses in the 2026 Breeders Crown!

at Yonkers Raceway in May, taking the one-and-a-quarter-mile race in 2:23 as a 25-1 longshot.

"We bought Tarapasta as a yearling, and my brother developed her," Greg Luther says. "She won the Ohio Sires Stakes final at Scioto Downs as a 3-year-old and won the big race at Yonkers this year. She made enough money that she got a bye right into the final (of the Breeders Crown). I'm very excited about her."

Tarapasta last hit the board on Aug. 27, finishing second in the John Robinson Memorial at the Darke County Fair in Greenville. She has finishes of seventh, fifth, and seventh in three Open-level events since and will be competing against the likes of 2024 Dan Patch Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh, who has over $3.2 million in lifetime earnings, and 2025 Jugette winner Rodeo Drive Deo. Twin B Joe Fresh was a winner in 1:49.4 in last week's Breeders Crown eliminations.

The Luthers are also looking to score a victory with freshman filly trotter Kissme Ifyoucan. Greg Luther Racing purchased Kissme Ifyoucan for $160,000 from breeder Polly Hilliard at the Lexington Selected Sale in October 2025, and she has since impressed her trainer.

"We were looking through the videos last year, and I saw her before I even looked at the pedigree, and I said, 'She's got to come home no matter what.' And so far, it's worked out," Todd Luther says. "She's been great from day one. She's got a big set of lungs, and I think she can be something if not the best one we've ever had."

The daughter of In Range out of I Gotta Feelin advanced to the Breeders Crown Final after finishing fifth and being placed fourth in her elimination race last week, tripping the wire in 1:54 behind the top three of Blue Ranger (1:53.1), Nevis Peak, and Putitondad'stab. She has four wins and two seconds with $280,450 in 10 starts this season. Two of those victories came in the legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes, and she was the runner-up to Blue Ranger in the OSS Scarlet Championship. Her lifetime mark of 1:51.4 was set in August in the first leg of the Kentucky Championship Series at The Red Mile in Lexington.

"She's done very well this year," Greg Luther says. "She has a lot of talent and has done well, so I think she'll show up for the Breeders Crown."

She had an unfavorable draw for Friday's Breeders Crown Final for 2-year-old filly trotters and will leave from the far outside post nine. But Todd Luther believes she has the talent to earn a trophy for her connections.

"If she can stay healthy and sound, I think she has a pretty good chance at it," he says. "She already went a pretty big mile this year at Lexington, so she's been stretched out, and I think we have a good shot."

Ohio Has Major Presence in 2026 Breeders Crown

The Buckeye State is represented in 11 of 12 Breeders Crown finals by horses, trainers, drivers, owners, and breeders from Ohio.

2-Year-Old Filly Trot: Blue Ranger, Kissme Ifyoucan, Shes A Home Run

2-Year-Old Filly Pace: Cleveland Darby, Seaside Ubeaut, Tempting Flames

2-Year-Old Colt Trot: Carbon Fiber

2-Year-Old Colt Pace: Blazin Lou, Eastie Boy, Mr Bear, Night Surfer, Ocean Party

3-Year-Old Filly Trot: Setyoursightshigh, Victorianas Secret

3-Year-Old Colt Trot: Big Ranger, Captain Jordan

3-Year-Old Colt Pace: Brandon Blvd, Fragment, Gentleman's Club, Melillo

Open Mare Trot: Jurassic Hattie, Miracle Maven, Walspea, Yo Tillie

Open Mare Pace: Champagne Room, Rodeo Drive Deo, Tarapasta

Open Trot: Gimpanzee Dancer

Open Pace: Ken Hanover, Surreal Ideal, Women Layer

A Look Back at the 2026 Ohio Fair Season



Jeff Nisonger



Herman Hagerman

By Bob Roberts

EDITOR'S NOTE: For the second year running, Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association correspondent Bob Roberts, with a Huff's National Fair Directory in one hand and a set of results charts in another, reviewed each and every county fair stop on the Ohio circuit for 2026. There should have been 67 fair meetings, but three (Croton, Burton, and Montpelier) were completely washed out. Still, there were 1,600 winners, including a couple of dead heats.

In Ohio's rural counties, rich in corn and soybeans – and racehorses – fall has arrived. The crops have been harvested, the farm equipment has been serviced, and the mazes have been solved. Winter is about to set in. What to do after the cover crops and the winter rye have been planted? How about firing up the wood-burning stove and reliving a spring, summer, and fall of Buckeye county fair harness racing?

Here's a review of what transpired at the many stops in the Buckeye State that saw 28 track records broken (one of them twice), as well as six track record-equaling efforts. Jeff Nisonger, after a long battle with Hank LeVan, won the drivers' derby with 121 victories. On the trainers' side, Herman Hagerman, with 107 wins, held off defending champion Rosy Weaver and LeVan, both with 103 winners.

Pace yourself as we roll back the calendar pages, month by month. There were four fairs in June, 18 in July, 24 in August, 15 in September, and three in October.

June

Four fairs went to the post, and Weaver got her 2026 campaign off to a fast start with six winners on the two days at **Paulding**. Matching her with six wins in the sulky were Pierce Henry, Nisonger, and Braiden Rhoades. Weaver and Rhoades combined for the fastest mile with Captain's Dance clocked in 1:58 on opening day.

Circleville was the next stop, and the star of the show was Burnout. The 6-year-old gelded pacer crushed the track record with a 1:56 mile. He had matched the old mark of 1:57 last year. It was originally set by Newbegining in 2008 and matched by Medoland Bosa in 2020. LeVan and Carson Conrad dominated the driving competition, each registering six winners. Both would remain on an early season hot streak.

Henry continued in the groove at **Ottawa** with a five-bagger. Eddie Nine Toes spun the best mile of the meeting, timed in 1:57 for LeVan as trainer-driver.

Marion completed the month with 39 races in two days. Nisonger and LeVan wore a path to the winner's

circle. Nisonger drove 10 winners, nine of which he trained, while LeVan drove and trained eight. It was slow going at Marion, as none of the races broke two minutes.

July

With 18 stops, July was the second-busiest month of the five on the county fair racing calendar. The action kicked off with two full cards at **Wilmington** totaling 35 races. Fire The Dems, a 3-year-old gelded pacer, challenged the track record with a winning mile in 1:55. The standard remains 1:54.3, set in 2024 by Cyclone Union Jack. Nisonger and Ken Holliday dominated the second day of racing, each winning five races.

Gypsy's Brother was the star of the **Bellefontaine** fair, crushing the pacing track record by a full second with a 1:56.1 mile. The old mark was set in 2017 by Chance I Might. Emanuel Miller, who drove the sophomore gelding, had eight winners over two programs. Hagerman, who bred and owns Gypsy's Brother, also trains him, one of six winners at the meeting.

Cortland offered a pair of 10-race cards. The horses had to take a back seat to Rhoades as he won eight of the 20 races. The performance would launch the 21-year-old to a top-five year in the fairs' sulky derby.

Thunderstorms have canceled many a fair program over the years, but poor air quality? The first day of racing at **Wellston** was postponed and moved to create a second-day doubleheader because Canadian wildfires resulted in a poor air quality level. The horses may have sensed the iffy air. Not one of the 20 races was clocked in under two minutes. While sophomore filly trotter Tango L took her time (2:05.1), she won off by 16 and a half lengths.

Driver Clifton Bell was the standout at **Oak Harbor** as he registered seven winners. Five of them came in a row on the second day of the meet.

The doubleheader at **Hilliard** included a racing rarity – a dead heat for win. It was between Prolific Shark and Burning Spirit, a pair of sophomore filly pacers. The result helped driver Emanuel Miller and trainer Herman Hagerman each record five-baggers.

The bettors and horses were pretty much left in the dark at **Lebanon**, as the final two races on the 24-race program were run well after sunset with the Warren County Fairground lights not turned on. Proof can be found in the official charts for races 23 and 24. The chart-caller was also in the dark and only recorded the final finishing positions. Before nightfall, Holliday led the sulky parade with five winners.

When is a 2:00.3 mile an impressive performance? It was very much so at **Carrollton**, where soaking rains turned the track to slop, and the second-fastest mile was 10 lengths slower than what Ithaca Hanover posted in winning the meet's finale, a $1,000 free-for-all for trainer-driver David Young II. Rhoades drove six winners.

The racing was strong around the Fayette County fairgrounds in **Washington Court House** as a pair of horses made bids to break both the trot and pace track records set in 2022. Burnout and Austin Hanners paced in 1:55.2, missing the standard of 1:54.3 established by Nuclear Dragon. Lane Holding Court, with Nisonger in the bike, trotted in 1:59.1. The track record of 1:58.2 was set by Lane of Stone. Nisonger won nine at the meet, and Mark Winters trained five winners.

The trotting track record fell at **Bucyrus** when Lynn Range, a sophomore filly driven by Miller and trained by Hagerman, went wire to wire in 1:58. She shaved a fifth of a second off the old mark set by Wild Ride in 2013. LeVan was the sulky star, accounting for a six-pack of winners.

LeVan remained on a roll at **Piketon**, as he not only drove seven winners, he trained them all too.

They were flying at **Tiffin**, often a glib surface. Sophomore colt pacer The Ebony Dragon was swiftest, winning in 1:55.3, just two-fifths off the 2022 standard set by Toureg Seelster.

Gypsy's Brother set his second track record within two weeks when he rolled to a three and three-quarters length score at **Mount Vernon** in 1:55.2. Earlier on the card, I Am The Sea equaled the track record of 1:57, set by Mr I Am in 2012 and matched by Drinkinmybabygdby in 2024. While Gypsy's Brother broke the Bellefontaine record by a full second, he was even more impressive here, lowering the record by one and three-fifth seconds.

While it was a wet summer of fair racing, it was also raining track records, as another fell at **Marysville** when sophomore gelded pacer Fired Up Henry L, owned, trained, and driven by LeVan, stopped the



Ants Marching ***Credit:*** *Conrad Photo*

timer in 1:54.3, knocking a full second off Calvin L's record set in 2021. LeVan also trained and drove Calvin L.

Rhoades outshined everyone at **Painesville**, winning six of the 17 races.

Sidney was the scene of another track record, as Ants Marching, a 6-year-old gelding, strolled to a 12 and three-quarters length victory in 1:56. He took two full seconds off the record set by Crosswinds Cupcake in 2015 and matched by Bet On Loretta in 2022.

Three nights of racing at the **Ohio State Fair** at Eldorado Scioto Downs completed the July calendar.

August

With 25 fair programs, August was the busiest month of 2026. Scratch one, as rain forced officials to cancel the **Hartford** cards.

If you like the lazy, hazy (and long) nigh of summer, then the **Summit County** race program at Northfield Park was for you. Post time for the first race was 5 p.m., and the last of 20 races left the post at 11:51 p.m. Sam Widger and Justin Irvine dominated the action, each winning five races.

It was slow going at **Eaton**, as all 20 winners failed to shade two minutes. It mattered little to Austin Hanners. He drove five winners.

It's no secret that the racing oval at **Lisbon** has yet to yield a fast mile. The track record on the pace is 2:00, while it's a snail-like 2:04 on the trot. This year's 25 races all went in two minutes-plus. Rhoades found the stubborn surface just right, as he won eight times.

Rain forced the Wood County Fair at **Bowling Green** to move the opening day from Sunday to Wednesday. The results were worth the wait, as Widger won six races on the second program with a pair of seconds, and Hagerman rigged up six winners while Weaver won four. Macmorris Hanover missed the trotting track record by three-fifths of a second with a 2:00.3 mile.

Wapakoneta will be remembered as one of the most newsworthy meetings of the year. On night one, the track record on both the pace and trot were equaled while drivers Nisonger and LeVan accounted for all 11 wins, with Nisonger winning seven of them. Off The Rail, trained by Deborah Swartz and driven by Nisonger, won by 23 lengths and trotted in 1:59 to match the work of Four Wheelin (2023) and Vroom N Vonnie (2024). A half-hour later, Fired Up Henry L and driver-trainer LeVan paced in 1:56, same as the track record set by Dancinbytheseaside in 2023.

Holliday was the star at **Xenia**, not only driving five winners, but five winners in a row on the second night. He had three winners on the first card.

Rains caused the cancellation of the last seven races at **Athens**, but before the storm, track records fell in



Macmorris Hanover with trainer and co-owner Stacey Currie

back-to-back races. Gc's Legend, trained by Kevin Meade and driven by Christian Myers, paced his mile in 1:56.1, besting the 1:57 clocking by VH Volt in 2023. Just 20 minutes later, the Steve Carter-trained Out of Range won by 22 and a quarter lengths with Conrad in 1:59, easily besting the 2:00.4 trotting track record set by Uncle Joe in 2021 and repeated by Parkhill Lancelot in 2022.

The festival of speed continued at **Chillicothe** when sophomore pacing gelding Zumma World and trainer-driver Nisonger flew home to match the 1:56.2 track record set two years ago by Toureg Seelster.

The racing surface at **Mansfield** once again refused to yield fast times, as all 19 recorded times failed to break two minutes. That didn't stop Miller (six winners) and Hagerman (five winners) from enjoying big stands.

Rain continued to plague the fair calendar as two of the three days of racing at **Urbana** were scrubbed. The one evening of racing did feature Easter Bb, a freshman trotter driven by Chris Page who equaled the track record with a 1:57.1 mile.

The parade of track records made a stop in **Berea**, as the 33-year-old mark of 2:00 on the trot fell. Where Theres Smoke, a 3-year-old colt, went wire to wire in 1:59.4 to lower the standard. Trained by Weaver, he was driven by Widger, one of his six winners on the day.

There were no track records at **Jefferson**. In fact, just two miles shaded two minutes. The fastest race was the 1:59.1 posted by the Rhoades-driven and Weaver-trained Hunka Hunka.

At **Attica**, rainy weather forced a postponement of the opening day of racing to a second-day doubleheader. The track was rated slow but was just right for driver Miller (eight winners) and trainer Hagerman (seven winers). Ants Marching, who set a track record at Sidney, was the only winner to finish under two minutes with a 1:58 mile.

Track officials tried twice, but the races at **Croton** were washed away.

Ants Marching, trained by owner Phillip Groves and driven by Cameron McCown, picked up his second track record of the summer as he paced a 1:52.3 mile at **Celina**. The previous track record was 1:54, set by Hunchie in 2018.

Hunka Hunka was the star at **Zanesville**, spinning a 1:56 mile to destroy the 1:57.1 pacing track record set by MJ's Reflection in 2021. He is trained by Weaver and driven by Widger.

Nisonger led the way at **Troy**, driving eight winners over the two programs. He trained four of them.

Not only did the pacing and trotting track records fall at **Napoleon**, the trot mark fell twice in 90 minutes. Woodrow Blue Chip broke the pace mark with

a 1:56.3 clocking for driver LeVan and trainer Mark Winters. The old record was 1:56.4 by Tatler's Jet in 2005. The trot standard of 2:00.3, set by Simplyamission in 2018, was first erased by Flirtin Tomi, a sophomore filly, with a 2:00 mile. The record was gone five races later when Macmorris Hanover, a 10-year-old gelding driven by Marc St. Louis Jr. for trainer Stacey Currie, was timed in 1:59.3.

It was the Rhoades and Weaver show at **Rock Springs**, as Rhoades won nine races and Weaver scored a seven-bagger. They shared six of the winners.

Even the Darke County Fair at **Greenville** couldn't escape the persistent rain clouds that haunted the 2026 fair racing schedule. The final three races were lost on the third program of the meeting. There were a couple of sizzling miles as Shamwow won the $40,000 Gene Riegle in 1:53, and Woodrow Blue Chip took top honors in the $30,000 John Robinson Memorial in 1:52.4.

Macmorris Hanover kept rolling along. Despite being 10, he registered his second trotting track record of the season when he sped a mile in 1:58 at **Wellington** to erase the 1:58.4 standard set by Dream Rocker in 2017 and matched by Rising MVP in 2018 and Slim Jimmy in 2022.

Is the Fountain of Youth located in Ohio? Something must be in the water in the Buckeye State this year, as another old-timer broke a track record. This time it was 8-year-old Carbine who roared to a 1:54.3 mile at **Lima**, breaking the mark of 1:55.2 by Odysseus in 2003. Carbine is trained by Virgil Morgan Jr. and was driven by Austin Hanners.

The track records continued to tumble, including both the pace and trot marks at **Woodsfield**. Gc's Legend, who broke the track record at Athens, lowered Woodsfield's pacing mark of 1:55.4 set by Rockin Requiem in 2023 with a 1:55 spin. Out Of Range easily broke the trot mark of 2:00 set by Lets Go Bucks in 2022 when he went wire to wire in 1:59. It was his second track record of the year, having posted the new standard at Athens.

The meet at **Hicksville** featured a dominating two days of driving by Miller and training by Hagerman. There were 30 races programmed, and Miller won 13 of them. Hagerman rigged up 12 victories.

Rain turned the **Mount Gilead** track to slop and slowed the races, but it didn't interrupt the hot roll that Miller and Hagerman were on. They combined to win seven of the 19 races while adding a trio of runner-up finishes.

The busiest month of the season ended at **Caldwell** with another track-record performance as the sophomore filly Rubys Crème Brulee, driven by Alex Hawk and trained by John Hochstetler, trotted home in 2:00 to equal the mark set by Uncle Leroy in 2018 and repeated by Father Time in 2023.

September

The Stark County Fair at **Canton** presented 20 races this year. Only one of them was timed in under two minutes, and that lone effort resulted in a track record. Stoke The Fire, a 3-year-old gelding from the Scott Cox barn and driven by Crist Hershberger, raced home in 1:57, snapping the 1:57.2 standard set by E T's Camille in 2000 and matched by Beedis the following year and again by Jomary in 2003 and by Southwind Amazon in 2023. The latter is North America's all-time winningest horse with 139 scores.

There were no track records at **Van Wert**, but the victory by Diamond Popper, a freshman trotter, was one for the books. He not only went wire to wire to triumph, his winning margin was 39 and a quarter lengths.

The shootout between Nisonger and LeVan for the driving championship reached a fevered pitch at **Richwood**. Nisonger got the upper hand with seven winners, while LeVan fought back with a four-bagger. One of Nisonger's winners was the 3-year-old trotter Lane Holding Court, who missed equaling the track record by a fifth of a second with his 1:59.4 mile.

Holliday was the sulky standout at **Findlay** with seven winners, but he had to take a back seat to a pair of track record-setters, including one that he drove and trained. The sophomore Jefferson Hanover, trotting in 1:48.2 for Holliday, erased the 1:59.1 standard set by Uncle Petes Dream in 2024. The 8-year-old Carbine crushed the pacing mark with a 1:55.1 clocking. The previous record was 1:56.4 by Big Booty Rudy in 2021. Luke Hanners drove Carbine for trainer Morgan Jr.

The nagging rains of summer claimed another victim when the entire program at **Burton** was washed away.

You know you are on top of your game when the track record you break is the track record you held. Charlie

May, still going strong at age 8, spun a 1:51.1 mile at **Canfield**, eclipsing the 1:53.3 track standard that he matched in 2025 that was first posted in 2023 by Tan Man. Charlie May's effort took the headline away from Rhoades, who drove five winners in two days.

Macmorris Hanover became the first horse of 2026 to set three track records when he trampled the 1:58.1 trot mark with a 1:56.2 effort at **Wauseon**. The old record was posted by Rompaway Beau in 2009 and matched by Herecomescharlie last year. Macmorris Hanover, again driven by St. Louis Jr. for trainer Stacey Currie, who owns the 10-year-old gelding in partnership with Steve Bateson.

Lady Lena, a sophomore filly trotter, jumped on the track record chain when her 2:00.1 trot at **Marietta** broke the fastest mile marker set by Dink Adoo in 2002. She was driven by Clayton Pfeifer for trainer Steve Carter.

If you were at **Kenton**, you saw some of the best action of the fair season. The sulky derby between Nisonger and LeVan saw both start the meet with 95 winners, while the pacing and trotting track records both fell. The trot mark was demolished by Tango L. Trained and driven by LeVan, the sophomore filly won in 1:57. The old record was 2:00.1 set by Sweet Harmony in 2024. Heerzadiamondstud, a 3-year-old gelding, paced in 1:55.4 for trainer Jessica McCown and driver Cameron McCown, busting the 1:56.1 standard put in place by Robin's Art in 2024. As for the drivers' derby, Nisonger won seven races to LeVan's five and left town leading the seasonal standings 102 winners to 100.

The run of track records ended at **McConnelsville**, but LeVan added a winner to his total to move to within one of Nisonger.

The trot and pace caravan moved on to **Old Washington**, and it was the setting for LeVan to reclaim the lead in the drivers' derby with a four-bagger on the 14th. It moved his total to 105 winners, three more than Nisonger. The race overshadowed a great two days in the sulky for Brady Clemens, who scored six winners.

Wooster and Upper **Sandusky** were up next. Nisonger won once on the opening card at Upper Sandusky, his 103rd winner of the year, and then drove to Wooster to win the opener on the second day of racing for his 104th score of the season. He then drove 75 miles back to Upper Sandusky for its evening card and dominated with a five-bagger, retaking the drivers' derby lead over LeVan, 109 winners to 105.

The rain bugaboo struck again in Williams County where the full card at **Montpelier** was washed away. It was the third total fair racing cancellation of the summer.

At **Delaware**, Nisonger won six times to LeVan's single winner, raising Nisonger's total to 115 winners to LeVan's 106. Meanwhile, on the trainers' side of the ledger, Hagerman scored five times at Delaware to lift his season-leading victory total to 105, seven more than LeVan.

Ashland raced a doubleheader on Monday of Jug week, the 15 races staged in sloppy and muddy going. Rhoades relished the going, winning seven times.

Dover closed out the month as Weaver posted a five-bagger, giving her 96 training wins in 2026.

October

The 22-race card at the **Montgomery County Fair** was held at Dayton Raceway. Nisonger padded his lead in the drivers' derby with three winners, giving him 118 to LeVan's 106.

The track record on the pace at **Coshocton** is a stubborn standard — it bends but doesn't break. Ants Marching posted a 1:56 mile in the Signature Series Pace to equal the record set in 2003 by both Secret Harbor and Jomart and matched two subsequent times by Gerald N Sam (2007) and Beach Party (2023). It was the third time this season that Ants Marching had broken or equaled a track record. Weaver was the star trainer at Coshocton, sending out six winners and lifting her season total to 102, second only to Hagerman's 106.

Upholding a longstanding tradition in Ohio harness racing, the action at **Lancaster** concluded the 2026 fair season. The competition was fierce with both the trot and pace track records falling. Jefferson Hanover, a sophomore gelding trained and driven by Holliday, sped home in 1:59.2, shaving two-fifths of a second off the trot standard set by Workinitonbroadway in 2021. Later, on the second day of action, Carbine paced in 1:57, taking two-fifths of a second off the track record set in 2023 by Toureg Seelster.

2026 Buckeye Claiming Series Champions

3-Year-Old Colt Pace
Robinthecradle



Owner: Steve Moskowitz Racing **Breeder:** Levi Bontrager **Trainer:** Nathan Alexander **Driver:** Justin Irvine

3-Year-Old Filly Pace
Squaawww



Owners: Mark Herlihy, John Ackley, Danny Clark **Breeder:** Frederick Reed IV **Trainer:** Heather France **Driver:** Aaron Merriman

BUCKEYE CLAIMING SERIES

3-Year-Old Colt Trot
Uncle Danny



Owner: JMF Racing **Breeder:** Albert Miller **Trainer:** Cory Kreiser **Driver:** Justin Irvine

3-Year-Old Filly Trot
Lady Lena



Owner: Part Time Stable **Breeder:** Eli Weaver **Trainer:** Steve Carter **Driver:** Braiden Rhoades

Congratulations!



Disgruntled Carl scored his 30th career win on Oct. 18 at Northfield Park, taking the Open Handicap Trot in gate-to-wire fashion in 1:56. Justin Irvine drove the 5-year-old International Moni gelding for trainer Sam Schillaci and owners Schillaci Stables and Sam Bova Racing. Disgruntled Carl has hit the board in 24 of 32 seasonal starts with 13 wins and $176,085 in earnings. He has banked $332,745 in 96 starts during his four-year career.



Sam Schillaci (not pictured) notched his 2,000th career training win courtesy of a victory by the Justin Irvine-driven Mo Bay at Northfield Park on Oct. 18. Schillaci, 64, currently lives in Macedonia, Ohio. He got his first training win in 1991 and has $18,564,881 in career earnings. His driving totals include 3,391 victories and $14,608,148 in earnings. **Credit:** Diane Wise



Driver Kayne Kauffman surpassed $40 million in career earnings on Oct. 20 with a third-place finish with Tenille Towns in the sixth race at Dayton Raceway. A resident of Lebanon, Ohio, the 48-year-old Kauffman has 4,415 wins in 41,775 starts since beginning his career in 1994.