

# DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER

# The Top 50 Stories of 2021

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# End of the Thoroughbred Season By Lindsay Bax



Patrick Husbands and Sir Winston gave the Valedictory speech

With a sensational – and in at least one case – emotional final card of racing, the thoroughbred season at Woodbine came to an end with a 14-race card on December 5.

It was a fitting result for Woodbine's leading trainer Mark Casse, as Sir Winston and Frosted Over went 1-2, respectively, in the Grade 3 \$155,700 Valedictory Stakes, which was the 11<sup>th</sup> race on the monster schedule.

Jockey Patrick Husbands guided the 8-5 choice, Sir Winston to a game score in the 1 ½-mile Tapeta test, edging stablemate Frosted Over by a hard-fought half-length to take all the spoils in the event for three-year-olds and upward. The race was timed in 2:31.51 for the mile and a half. Sir Winston, now a 6-year-old, won the Belmont Stakes in 2019, but this was his first added money victory since. The back story here is that, apparently, Casse had to talk Husbands into riding on the final day of the season.

"I had a hard week," Husbands told interviewer Jason Portuondo in the winner's circle. "I texted Mark around 11:30 on Wednesday night and Mark returned my call Thursday morning. I said, 'Mark, I'm done.' And he said, 'You can't do this, Patrick. You can't go out like this. You have to let Woodbine know that you are finished.' In my heart, I want to be here. I wanted to make today, right now, my last ride at Woodbine. Woodbine was great to me. But Mark told me I had the whole winter to think about it. I tip my hat off to Mark. He was there for me from day one. Everyone was there for me through my injuries. So, I will think about it through the winter."

Those who know Husbands understand what a difficult decision this will be. He'll be 49 in March, and has over 3,000 wins, but multiple injuries collected over his fantastic career may be catching up to him.

Whatever his decision, the Barbados-born champion rider, who has won some of Canada's biggest races, including the 2003 Canadian Triple Crown with Wando, will look back fondly on his Valedictory victory.

"From looking at the racing form, there's not really much speed in the race, and drawn so wide, I want to cut the first corner," said Husbands, who now has a record five Valedictory crowns. "I never had ridden him in my life yet and all the years riding at Woodbine, Mark never gave me instructions. He hired me to do a job and we've been successful all these years. So, I made sure I can get him out of there, cut the first turn and then play it by ear, and he relaxed right off the bat."

Husbands and Casse combined for 10 Stakes wins in 2021. We don't have an accurate number of the times the two have joined forces to take down big money events, but it's an awesome figure.

Bred and owned by Tracy Farmer, Sir Winston, a five-year-old son of Awesome Again, paid \$5.30 for the win. Kazushi Kimura earned his first Woodbine jockey crown – the first Japanese-born rider to achieve the feat – with 138 wins at the meet, while his mounts earned \$6,360,203. He scored 3 wins on the final Sunday.

"It's a special achievement, and it was one of my dreams," said the 22-year-old Kimura. "Everybody wants to be a leading rider, but it's not easy. We just need great riding skills and good horses, good support from the trainers and owners for the whole season to be able to get the title. This year, I'd say I improved, and I got good support from trainers and owners. I appreciate that help for me to get the riding title."

Born in Hokkaido, Kimura joined the Woodbine jockey colony as a 19-year-old apprentice in 2018 and made a strong first impression. He finished his first Woodbine campaign sixth in the standings with 89 wins and his mounts totaled more than \$2.3 million in earnings. His first victory came aboard 70-1 longshot Tornado Cat, and his first stakes win came aboard Speedy Soul in the Muskoka. The Eclipse Award winner as North America's outstanding apprentice, Kimura also won the Sovereign Award equivalent in both 2018 and 2019.

His Woodbine successes include Gretzky the Great (Grade 1 Summer Stakes) and Lady Grace (Grade 2 Royal North). Another local highlight was his second-place finish aboard Magnetic Charm, owned by Queen Elizabeth II, in the 2019 Canadian Stakes.

This year, Kimura won eight stakes at the Toronto oval, including Corelli in the Grade 3 Singpiel, Our Secret Agent in the Grade 3 Hendrie, Frosted Over in the Grade 3 Ontario Derby and Swinging Mandy in the Victorian Queen.

Let me know if you've heard this before – Mark Casse was the leading Woodbine Trainer for 2021 season. Mark Casse topped the trainer leaderboard for the 15<sup>th</sup> time,

courtesy of 110 wins. Martin Drexler took second spot in the standings with 56 wins, while Kevin Attard was third with 55 victories. Casse led all conditioners in purse earnings with \$8,189,186, followed by Attard and Josie Carroll.

Highlights were many for Casse, who recorded 27 Woodbine stakes victories – 19 more than his closest rival.

A lifetime winner of 3,226 races, the dual Hall of Fame horseman has plenty of reasons to be thrilled with his 2021 campaign, at Woodbine and beyond.

"For us, not just in Toronto, and all over, it's been a really good year. I'm excited because we have a lot of nice young prospects too, with God of Love winning the Grey and Cup and Saucer, Mrs. Barbara winning the Mazarine, Golden Glider – those kinds of horses. The horse I ran on Saturday at Woodbine, Sir for Sure, he's a maiden, but he's a really nice horse, and it will be fun to watch him going long next year."

Casse has high praise for his team at Woodbine.

"We have wonderful people that have been with us for a long time. They are very dedicated and passionate in what they do, day in and day out. A lot of people might not know, but our entire staff are all Canadians. This was a trying year for everybody because of the late start, but we made sure the horses were ready."

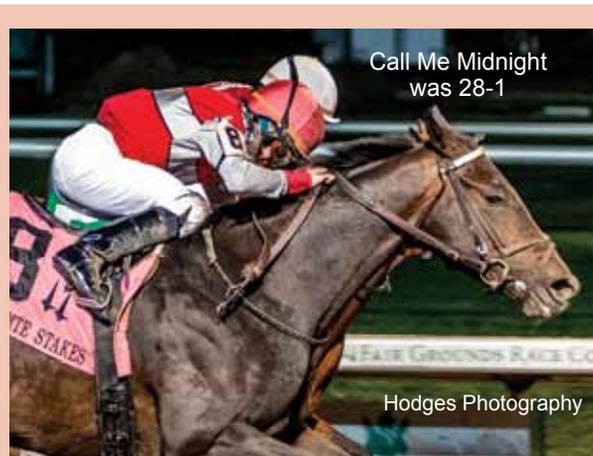
Before the start of the new season here, Casse, a 13-time Sovereign Award winner as Canada's outstanding trainer, will continue to speak highly of his attachment to Woodbine.

"Wherever I go, Woodbine and my name seem to go hand-in-hand. And that is something I am very proud of."

Gary Barber was the leading money-winning owner of the meet for the third straight campaign, followed by Live Oak Plantation and Ivan Dalos.

As for the bettors, those who play favourites may have tapped out before the 14<sup>th</sup> race. None of the first 10 winners on the last card went off as the lowest price on the board. In the 5<sup>th</sup> race, jockey Jodein Anderson got the head of Ethnic Soul on top just before the wire, defeating Silver Signature (Eswan Flores). It was a maiden optional claiming race at 7 furlongs and Ethnic Soul went off at 105-1, creating a \$2 win ticket worth \$212.10, the biggest win price of the year. And with a 38-1 shot coming second, the 3-9 exactor was worth \$2,780.40, which was also the largest exactor payoff of 2021 at Woodbine.

The other big number on December 5 was \$8,530,593, which is a record handle for the final day of racing at Woodbine.



Call Me Midnight was 28-1

Hodges Photography

## Derby prep shocker

The \$200,000 Lecomte Stakes at the Fair Grounds was one of the first Kentucky Derby prep races of 2022. This one offered just 10 Derby points to the winner (the Risen Star and Fountain of Youth coming up in a few weeks are each worth 50 points).

A field of 9 was asked to go a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> and there was a pair of 3-2 favourites – Epicenter (Joel Rosario) and Pappacap (Joe Bravo). Those two hooked up in mid-stretch and for several strides appeared to be determining the exactor, but in the last 8<sup>th</sup> of a mile, longshot Call Me Midnight was finding his best stride for James Graham. Call Me Midnight overhauled Epicenter just before the wire to win by a head in 1:44.36, a little more than 2 seconds off the track record. Call Me Midnight was winning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 7 races. The 3-year-old colt is trained by Keith Desormeaux and owned by Peter Cantrell. The win ticket was \$59.00.

# THE EDITOR DRIVES HOME HIS POINT



On Monday morning, January 17, southern Ontario woke up to a massive bump of snow – up to 60 cm. It was inconvenient for a few hours, but by the next day, all the highways were plowed, parking lots and driveways were cleared, children were playing in the massive piles of white stuff and our lives went on as we texted each other,

“Wow! That’s a lot of snow!”

Imagine what chaos there would be in Florida, Texas, or Arkansas after so much snow! It would be a massive and endless emergency. But not for us. We’re Canadian. We’re George Chuvalo. You can punch us, but we never go down.

The same principle applies to horse racing. This sport has taken so many potentially fatal hits, yet it refuses to crumble, awakens each day with optimism, and just keeps going around counterclockwise.

And thanks to that, we have another full paper of the remarkable, inspirational, exciting, and extraordinary accomplishments only perpetuated in horse racing. We are now into our 15<sup>th</sup> year of publishing, and the first issue of every year features the *Top 50 Stories of the Year* (pages 12-15). Without looking, can you predict the #1 story of the year?

How strong is harness racing in Ontario? Two big

stories (pages 8 & 24) provide the answer. The betting totals on the Mohawk Park product were higher in 2021 than any other standardbred track in North America. Perhaps because of noting that, the Hambletonian Society has awarded the Breeders Crown races to Mohawk for 2022. Upon hearing that excellent news, our Art Director, Gord Steventon, crafted a whimsical cartoon (page 9). Shortly after the cartoon was created, the OPP pulled over Sylvain Filion and had some serious questions for him.

On the inspirational side, read page 21, the story of the amazing love between owner/trainer Debi O’Brien-Moran and her wonderful pacer, Ciona Bromach, who raced 330 times.

It’s too cold for the thoroughbreds at Woodbine in January, but we filled 2 pages (10-11) with Canadians grabbing U.S. dollars at southern tracks. If you know Bill Tharrenos, Colebrook Farms, Michael Wright, Steve Chircop, Chantal Sutherland, Isabelle Wenc, Anderson Farms, Raroma Stable, Marty Drexler or Jim Ensom, tell them they got their props in *Down The Stretch*.

This paper is pretty good at documenting the work of the stars of the sport, but we’re also attracted to those just starting their careers, like driver Braiden Reibeling or trainer Emma Christoforou. On page 16, we report on the breakthrough victories of those two young people.

Our Thoroughbred Owner of the Month, Laure Krasauskaite (page 17) owns the 5-year-old filly, Silent Causeway. This horse won’t win a Sovereign Award this year, but she sure knows how to win when Krasauskaite needs it most.

George Millar is our Standardbred Owner of the Month (page 18). Not only is he lucky even to be alive and featured in this paper, but 3 of his horses are nominated for O’Brien Awards, Millar Farms is a candidate for the Armstrong Breeder of the Year, and Millar’s trainer, Nick Gallucci is up for Trainer of the Year.

We have often asked the question: Why is there not one lady race caller in North America? Turf Paradise announcer Craig Braddick asked, and the answer he got was England’s Dani Jackson, who flew to Arizona and proved a woman can call a race as well as a man (page 25).

After his unprecedented career, no horse deserved a comfortable retirement more than Pink Lloyd and if you read page 4, you’ll be pleased that the great sprinter will live out the rest of his life as befits an animal that gave us so many thrills.

I love to paint the rosier of pictures for horse racing. It’s a tremendous sport, filled with wonderful athletes, horses, men and women, but my rose coloured glasses sometimes overlook the difficult side. On page 6, Michael Beychok – a guy who made thousands betting the horses – tells us why he’s cutting back on his horse play.

We even have 2 book reviews in this issue. Ric Chapman is a regular contributor to this publication, but who knew that the Aussie horse fanatic wrote a book? It’s called *Why Not Sin* (page 19), and all I can say is that it takes you places you wouldn’t expect to go in a racing-themed novel.

Jennifer Morrison wrote *Run With a Mighty Heart*, the story of the one-eyed Queen’s Plate Champion and the people who care for him. What’s notable here is that the review (page 24) comes from the Paulick Report, and it puts Morrison’s book into high Stakes company.

A guy won over \$1 million in the Rainbow Pick 6 at Gulfstream. Read how he did it on page 22. And on page 27, we have another full page of Oddities & Entities – a breakdown of the weird, wacky, wonderful, and woeful things that can only happen in the world of horse racing.

When you pick up your copy of *Down The Stretch* at Mohawk, Woodbine, or Ajax Downs, make sure you tell your friends, relatives, neighbours, and that squeegee guy that a visit to the racetrack not only fulfills your need for excitement and entertainment, but it also gets you a free paper.

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# The People's Champ Finds His Forever Home

By Chris Lomon, Woodbine Communications



Luc and Frank Di Giulio help Pink Lloyd acclimatize to his new home at LongRun Retirement

It was a banner day, literally and figuratively, for the beloved champion and those who had gathered to welcome him to his new home.

The racing rock star received the warmest of receptions on a cloudy, chilly day at the expansive 100-acre farm in Erin, Ontario, the serene place where over 50 retired Thoroughbreds reside.

A banner heralding Pink Lloyd's arrival waved as the striking chestnut stepped off the van after the 50-minute trek from trainer Robert Tiller's barn on the Woodbine backstretch.

Over one of Canadian racing's most remarkable careers, "Pinky" made a lasting impression on those fortunate enough to watch him race and the many more who tracked his numerous exploits.

At his new home base with LongRun, one of the continent's most respected horse retirement and adoption organizations, and the first industry-funded adoption program in Canada, he made an impactful first impression on a new group of admirers.

"The second he walked off the trailer, he struck a pose," said Lauren Millet-Simpson, LongRun's farm manager. "He knows he's special. He's a true professional. He took everything in stride. He knows he's important, but at the same time, he's a gentleman. He likes the attention, but he's also super respectful. It will be really cool to work with a horse like that."

His entourage on that early December morning at LongRun included Frank Di Giulio Jr., one of Canadian racing's highest profile owners and lead member of Pink Lloyd's ownership group, Entourage Stable.

Seeing the nine-year-old son of Old Forester settle in nicely to his new surroundings was yet another special moment for Di Giulio.

"He received a great welcome. To see how he was welcomed, the support he's received the last few days, it's overwhelming that he's been so well loved from all over. It's nice to know he'll be at a place where he'll be well looked after, so appreciated, and be able to enjoy himself."

For Pink Lloyd's connections, it was yet another fairy tale ending for the future Canadian Horse Racing Hall of fame inductee.

Less than a week earlier at Woodbine, Pink Lloyd put the finishing touches on an outstanding career with a brilliant score in the Grade 2 Kennedy Road Stakes.

Charging hard down the lane, he roused the crowd to

its feet as they feted the decorated star with a chorus of cheers at the wire and then as he made his way to the winner's circle.

Smiles, tears and the highest of praise awaited Pink Lloyd.

"I think it's amazing," said Tiller in his Kennedy Road post-race interview. "You know, he's a legend. He proved today he was a legend. I didn't think he'd win today. It looked awful tough to me and the only thing I liked was all the speed in the race because I've been saying all along, and not too many people listened, but he loves to run at horses. I was just hoping Rafi [jockey, Rafael Hernandez] would get room. I said at the head of the lane, 'You know what? Here he comes.' We're blessed to win this race and it's a tremendous way to go out. You know he's been Woodbine's horse and he's been Canada's horse."

It was a fitting ending to a racing life that yielded 29 wins, 26 of them stakes, 3 seconds and 2 thirds from 38 starts, 2017 Canadian Horse of the Year honours, and over \$2.4 million (CDN) in earnings.

His numerous triumphs include four straight (2017-2020) champion male sprinter trophies and a pair of champion older male titles in 2017 and 2019.

In 2017, Pink Lloyd won all eight of his engagements, en route to his Horse of the Year title. He won four consecutive editions of the Vigil Stakes and Jacques Cartier Stakes, along with three triumphs in the Shepperton, Kenora and Kennedy Road.

Not bad for a \$30,000 purchase at the 2013 Canadian Premier Yearling Sale.

Bred by John Carey, Pink Lloyd's popularity isn't likely to wane even though his days of taking on the best sprinters in Canada are over.

The crowd-pleasing gelding will continue to draw big crowds on a new stage.

"I hope people take advantage of it," said Di Giulio. "I hope he is a nice attraction for LongRun and brings attention to what they do. It really is a win-win for everybody. He's so well loved. Even if people don't know a lot about horse racing, they've heard who Pink Lloyd is. Hopefully, he can attract new fans as well. To see him right up close – that's a rare chance for a lot of people." Photo opportunities with Pink Lloyd for those who visit LongRun won't be an issue for the sought-after celebrity.

"He stands for photos like he knows what he's doing," noted Di Giulio.

He's a picture-perfect horse for an organization that continues to play a major role in the welfare of retired Thoroughbreds.

"He is so relaxed and chill," said Millet-Simpson. "He's never been here before, and he doesn't know who I am. I'm holding him, his head is up and he's so proud. He just calmly looked around, took in his surroundings, checked out everything – you can tell how super intelligent he is in the way he looked around when he first got here, checking things out to see what was happening. To have a horse like him with us, it's just wonderful."

Pink Lloyd's connections, which also include assistant trainer Tom Lottridge and groom Michelle Gibson, might have to stand in line to reconnect with their beloved horse, but none of them perceive it as a negative.

Knowing that racing fans, young and old, new to the game or long-time supporters, can meet one of the sport's true talents face-to-face, is an honour for those closest to him.

"He's going to be here for many, many years to come," started Di Giulio. "I'm biased, but I think he's one of the greatest Canadian-breds ever, especially Ontario-sired. I'm proud of that, too. What he's accomplished, and his longevity, I think that's what makes any athlete great, is when they can do it over and over again. The Gordie Howes and the Wayne Gretzkys, that's exactly what they did. I think that makes him so special. Knowing he's going to be well looked after is really very comforting. I don't think we could have ended his career any better than the way he did. We got to race him for a long time and watched him accomplish so many great things, so now other people can have their chance to see what it's like to be so up-close with him."

"A rare opportunity," offered Millet-Simpson, "to make a connection, even for a brief moment, with a Canadian horse racing icon."

"Fans, they see these horses on the track, but now they get to see this beautiful horse and feed him a carrot. You don't get to do that very often. So, that personal interaction with a great champion, I think it's going to be very cool for people, something they will always remember."

Pink Lloyd completes his fairy tale ending winning the Grade 2 Kennedy Road Stakes at Woodbine and riding off into the retirement sunset. (Michael Burns Photo)

Luc and Frank Di Giulio help Pink Lloyd acclimatize to his new home at LongRun Retirement (LongRun)



On December 21, Standardbred Canada announced the finalists for the 2021 O'Brien Awards, which honour Canada's best in harness racing over the past season.

There are two finalists in each category which includes 12 divisional horse categories and five people categories. One of the divisional champions will be recognized as the Somebeachsomewhere Horse of the Year.

The winners will be announced at the Virtual O'Brien Awards Gala on **Sunday, February 6, 2022**, on [standardbredcanada.ca](http://standardbredcanada.ca).

Richard Moreau will be looking to add a record ninth O'Brien trophy to his mantle in the Trainer of the Year Category and is up against Nick Gallucci.

James MacDonald and Sylvain Filion, the top two money-earning drivers in the country, are the Keith Waples Driver of the Year finalists.

It was a good year for the glamour boys in the 3-Year-Old Pacing division. Bulldog Hanover and North America Cup champion Desperate Man will challenge the voters for supremacy.

Could a 2-year-old trotting filly upset the boys for Horse of the Year? Venerable won 9 of her 11 races and surpassed \$1.1 million in earnings.

Here are all the nominated horses and people:

#### **PACERS**

##### **Two-Year-Old Pacing Filly**

###### **Prohibition Legal**

Millar Farms, Stouffville, ON

###### **Silver Label**

Millar Farms, Stouffville, ON

##### **Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt**

###### **Betterhavemymoney**

Millar Farms, Stouffville, ON

###### **Stonebridge Helios**

John Fleischman, Ottawa, ON - Angie Stiller, Arva, ON - John Pentland, London, ON

##### **Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly**

###### **Scarlett Hanover**

Burke Racing Stable LLC, Fredericktown, PA - Frank D Baldachino, Harvey Cedars, NJ - Jandt Silva - Purnel and Libby, Ocean Ridge, FL - Weaver Brussemi LLC, Canonsburg, PA

###### **Voelz Delight**

Richard Berthiaume, Pointe-Aux-Trembles, QC

##### **Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt**

###### **Bulldog Hanover**

Jack Darling Stables Ltd., Cambridge, ON - Brad Grant, Milton, ON

###### **Desperate Man**

Kathy & John Cecchin, Arthur, ON - Nicole & Paul Davies, Arthur, ON

##### **Older Pacing Mare**

###### **Lyons Sentinel**

Threelyonsracing, Brantford, ON

###### **So Much More**

Don Beatson, Granton, ON - Kenn Beatson, Palgrave, ON - Cole England, Exeter, ON

##### **Older Pacing Horse**

###### **Warrawee Vital**

Blair Corbeil, Beaumont, AB - Yolanda Fellows - M&S Racing Stable Inc., Rockwood, ON

###### **Wheels On Fire**

Brad Grant, Milton, ON

#### **TROTTERS**

##### **Two-Year-Old Trotting Filly**

###### **Adare Castle**

Mark Etsell, Rockwood, ON - Robert Newton, Walkerton, ON - Graham Hopkins, Chesley, ON Peter Porter, Port Dover, ON

###### **Venerable**

David McDuffee, Delray Beach, FL - Melvin Hartman, Ottawa, ON  
Paul Bordogna, Fair Lawn, NJ - Steven Arnold, Purchase, NY

##### **Two-Year-Old Trotting Colt**

###### **Duly Resolved**

Bax Stable, Campbellville, ON - David Hudson, Dallas, TX  
Don Allensen, Wyoming, ON - Gaelic Stable, Sharon, ON

###### **Twin B Archie**

Scott McEneny, Puslinch, ON - Domenic Chiaravalle, Hamilton, ON  
Floyd Marshall, Jarvis, ON - Martwest Racing Stable, Mississauga, ON

##### **Three-Year-Old Trotting Filly**

###### **Donna Soprano**

Determination, Montreal, QC

###### **Up And Ready**

Al Libfeld, Pickering, ON - Marvin & Lynn Katz, Toronto, ON - Sam Goldband, Toronto, ON

##### **Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt**

###### **Fashion Frenzie**

Ecurie Francis Richard Inc., Becancour - Mario Bourgea, Stanbridge East, QC  
Pierre Guillemette - Sylvain Richard, Becancour, QC

###### **Logan Park**

Outofthepark Stable, Rockwood, ON - Reg Higgs, Strathroy, ON - Arpad Szabo, Bradford, ON

##### **Older Trotting Mare**

###### **Grandma Heidi**

Brad Grant, Milton, ON

###### **Power And Grace**

Hartel Maintenance Inc. - Lormer McClure, Guelph, ON

##### **Older Trotting Horse**

###### **Oney Hall**

Alan Leavitt, Lexington, KY

###### **Perfetto**

Gerald Haggerty, Camden East, ON

#### **PEOPLE AWARDS**

##### **O'Brien Award of Horsemanship**

Luc Blais, Campbellville, ON  
Mark Etsell, Rockwood, ON

##### **Armstrong Breeder of the Year**

Millar Farms, Stouffville, ON  
Winbak Farm, Inglewood, ON

##### **Driver of the Year**

Sylvain Filion, Milton, ON  
James MacDonald, Guelph, ON

##### **Trainer of the Year**

Nick Gallucci, Stouffville, ON  
Richard Moreau, Puslinch, ON

##### **Future Star Award**

Kyle Bossence, Arthur, ON  
Samuel Fillion, Mont-Joli, QC

# Famous horseplayer is leaving the game

By Bill Finley (This story appeared originally on [www.tdn.com](http://www.tdn.com), *Thoroughbred Daily News*)

Michael Beychok



Michael Beychok has been one of the most visible horseplayers in the sport for awhile. He's a winner of the National Handicapping Championship, a horseplayer advocate, and a public handicapper for the New Orleans Times-Picayune who has spent the better part of his life betting on the horses. Just not for much longer.

Beychok, who is the leading figure in a class-action lawsuit filed by gamblers who say they would have made money on the GI Kentucky Derby had it not been won by Medina Spirit, says he has grown so disillusioned by the sport that he will stop betting on a regular basis after attending this year's National Handicapping Championship. His future bets will be limited to the handful of times he attends live racing.

"I'm just fed up with the drug cheating," he said. "I'm fed up with the takeout. I'm fed up that we apparently can't get into a position to implement new and better drug testing. I have more outlets now to gamble. I live in

Louisiana, which was a state where up until last year, the only thing available was horse racing. Now there is daily fantasy sports, which I enjoy, and the takeout is much, much better. Soon we will have on-line sports betting. I'm a consumer. I have just found better products."

Beychok made headlines last year when filing a suit against Baffert, contending that he would have made more than \$50,000 on the Derby had the race been won by Mandaloun. Mandaloun finished second behind the Baffert-trained Medina Spirit, who tested positive for the banned race-day medication betamethasone. He wants the court to rule that Baffert must compensate gamblers involved in the suit who would have cashed if Medina Spirit did not win.

"My first motivation was as a gambler," he said. "I was kind of pissed off when it was announced he was positive for a banned race-day drug. Looking back on what had happened in the past with some of Baffert's positives in major races, I just knew that nothing was going to happen. I felt I had to do something because I didn't think anyone else would. I decided I wasn't going to take it anymore. I was going to do something not only for myself but for the more than 250 other bettors who have joined our class action. We're tired of being defrauded by Bob Baffert. In big races, his horses keep turning up positive."

Beychok insists this isn't about the money.

Any money I get from this lawsuit, I'm donating to Thoroughbred aftercare," he said. "I'm not putting a penny of this money into my pocket. Hopefully, I do get paid. But what I'm trying to do is raise the point that we cannot, in a

game of chance, on a game of gambling, let anybody, be it Baffert, Jason Servis, Jorge Navarro, defraud us as bettors."

Baffert's legal team has fought back and is seeking to have Beychok's suit thrown out. In a court filing in early January, Baffert said Beychok's allegations were libellous and called his actions a matter of a "tin foil conspiratorial premise."

"That was for public consumption," Beychok said. "That's all. I just laughed at it. The judge will look at the law and decide if it applies in this case or if it doesn't."

Beychok said he is not surprised that Baffert is putting up a good fight.

"Bob Baffert is very good at this, and he has a very good PR machine," he said. "He's good at it because he had to do it so many times over the last 15 years when his horses have tested positive. He's got to come up with an excuse, a PR campaign. He's good at this stuff and so are his lawyers."

Beychok said he would like to see Baffert issue a mea culpa.

My hope for this game that I do love is that he does what Lance Armstrong did," Beychok said. "At some point, he needs to come clean and tell the truth. That might preserve some of his legacy."

While about to step back, Beychok said he's willing to give horse racing another chance – that is if there are meaningful changes.

"I hope it changes because I love the game and the people," he said. "I hope everything changes and I can say I am back. If I ever feel this is a fair game, I will come back."

# 2022 AJAX DOWNS

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# Reward of Excellence

Reward of Excellence bonuses are paid to the breeder of record as follows:

- 1st place – \$25,000
- 2nd place – \$15,000
- 3rd place – \$10,000

\*Earnings based upon reports from the Jockey Club Information System records.



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### 2021 ONTARIO SIRED REWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Horse	Breeder
<b>TOP 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY</b>	
Ya Mar · 1st Place · by <i>Silent Name (JPN)</i>	Gabe Grossberg
Lois Len · 2nd Place · by <i>Hunters Bay</i>	Adena Springs
Thatsitthatsall · 3rd Place · by <i>Silver Max</i>	Daniel A. Mooney
<b>TOP 2-YEAR-OLD COLT/GELDING</b>	
Silent Runner · 1st Place · by <i>Silent Name (JPN)</i>	C. Scott Abbott Racing Stable
Bossy Holiday · 2nd Place · by <i>Ami's Holiday</i>	Tall Oaks Farm
Where's Neal · 3rd Place · by <i>Society's Chairman</i>	Linda Mason
<b>TOP 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY</b>	
Lorena · 1st Place · by <i>Souper Speedy</i>	Dr. Liam Gannon
Il Malocchio · 2nd Place · by <i>Souper Speedy</i>	Franco Meli
Miss Speedy · 3rd Place · by <i>Souper Speedy</i>	Linda Mason
<b>TOP 3-YEAR-OLD COLT/GELDING</b>	
Artie's Storm · 1st Place · by <i>We Miss Artie</i>	Sunrise Farm
Mason's Gamble · 2nd Place · by <i>Gamble's Exchange</i>	Ivan Dalos
H C Holiday · 3rd Place · by <i>Ami's Holiday</i>	Tall Oaks Farm

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# Breeders Crown Back at Mohawk

On January 13, Woodbine Entertainment announced that the \$6.7 million (USD) Breeders Crown will be held again at Mohawk Park in Campbellville, Ontario. The 12 divisions of the racing extravaganza will make the last weekend of October the richest two days in harness racing in Canada this year.

Eliminations, if necessary, for freshman races will be held Friday, October 21, with 3-year-old and older eliminations raced Saturday, October 22. Finals for 2-year-olds get underway the next Friday, October 28, with sophomore finals and open events following on Saturday, October 29. All Breeders Crown divisions are now guaranteed at \$600,000, except for the Open Mare Pace and Trot which have been raised to a minimum of \$350,000.

There are many strong reasons why the Hambletonian Society awarded these races to Mohawk. The last time this track hosted all 12 events was in 2019 and in the process, the bettors smashed handle and attendance records at the 7/8<sup>th</sup> mile track, with \$11.1M wagered over the four fall nights. The 2019 events were capped by a sensational victory in the Crown Trot by French star Bold Eagle, who retired with earnings of \$5,878,322.

The 2019 Breeders Crown at Woodbine Mohawk Park also initiated the successful and subsequent three-year sponsorship of the Libfeld-Katz Breeding Partnership, which was also responsible for creating and executing the Breeders Crown Charity Challenge. The Breeders Crown Charity Challenge, brainchild of breeder/owner Marvin Katz, has since raised over \$800,000 in three years, supporting numerous local charities in Crown host track communities.

Woodbine Entertainment has hosted more Breeders Crown events than any other venue at their tracks of Woodbine, Mohawk and Greenwood, for a total of 152.

Over the years, the Breeders Crown has been rotated among Mohegan Sun Pocono, Harrah's Hoosier Park and Mohawk. Thanks to the pandemic, Pocono had to drop out, though The Meadowlands was a good replacement.

"WEG has been a tremendous partner of ours," says Hambletonian Society COO Moira Sullivan. "Since 1984, the first year of the Breeders Crown, every year except for 1998 there has been at least one Breeders Crown at a WEG track. We knew they were there for us. We were so glad we could get things worked out. With the Mohawk Million and the great Stakes program they have, they're a great partner."

The ever-changing status of COVID and its various disguises still hangs over all racing plans like a dark cloud, but Sullivan, like a bettor boxing two heavy favourites, is feeling positive, based on Woodbine's excellent performance throughout the last two years.

"Woodbine, since 2020 has managed to get people and horses racing in a safe manner," she says. "We're hoping that by October this year, we're in a much better place."

Whichever drivers make it to Mohawk in October, they will all certainly be grateful that John Campbell won't be one of their competitors. During his driving career, Campbell won 48 Breeders Crown races. No one else is close. Now he's the President and CEO of the Hambletonian Society and from his point of view, Mohawk is the place where the most important races belong.

"Woodbine Mohawk Park is widely recognized as one of the top harness brands in the world," he says. "They have a stacked array of Stakes every year, but when they have the Breeders Crown, it just adds to that. It's a first class facility, a first class racetrack, a 7/8<sup>th</sup> racetrack. Most of the top trainers and drivers would rather race on a

bigger racetrack than a smaller one. It checks all the boxes in what a participant wants in a big race."

Campbell has had the pleasant experience, many times over, of winning a race at Mohawk. He says the configuration makes it so much more fair for every post position and allows horses to rally from off the pace easier than on a smaller track.

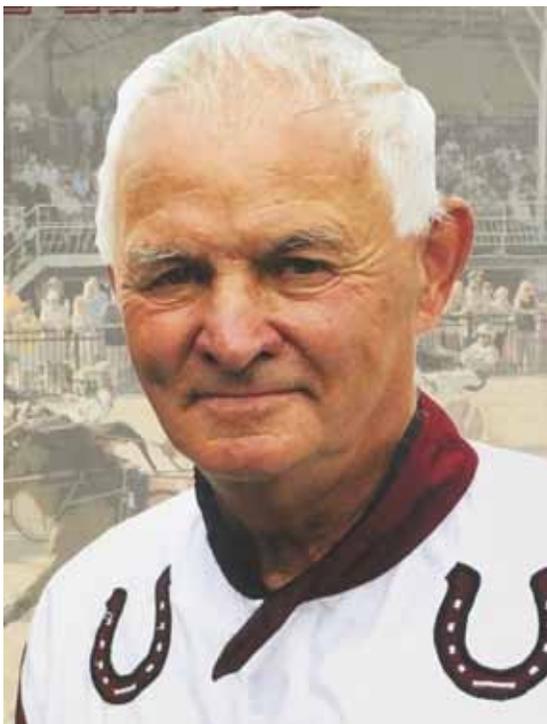
"The last turn at Mohawk is a big sweeping turn, so it really gives the closers a little better chance that they don't have to come 2 or 3-wide as they might on a tighter track," says Campbell. "It's really advantageous for horses that want to race off the pace."

"Woodbine is thrilled to welcome back the Breeders Crown to Woodbine Mohawk Park this October," said Jim Lawson, CEO of Woodbine Entertainment. "Hosting the Breeders Crown continues our commitment to a world-class racing product, and we're focused on once again producing an exceptional two-night event showcasing the very best in our sport."

The Breeders Crown series has typically crowned champions in every division for trotters and pacers and has been the deciding factor in Horse of the Year honours. A Breeders Crown title is one of the most coveted perks in harness racing.

The Hambletonian Society is a non-profit organization formed in 1924 to sponsor the race for which it was named, the Hambletonian Stake. The Society's mission is to encourage and support the breeding of Standardbred horses through the development, administration and promotion of harness racing stakes, early-closing races and other special events. For more information, visit [www.hambletonian.com](http://www.hambletonian.com).

## William "Bud" Fritz



**W**illiam "Bud" Fritz died at the age of 86 on Tuesday, January 18. His driving and training career began in 1949 and spanned the better part of 6 decades. Fritz drove almost 2000 winners and trained more than 1000 winning trotters and pacers. On three occasions – 1986, 1989 and 1990 – he won the O'Brien Award as Canada's Trainer of the Year. For a very long time, Bud Fritz was the King of the "B" tracks. He won driving titles at Hanover, Orangeville, Western Fair, Elmira and Owen Sound. A long-time fixture at Hanover Raceway, Fritz developed the brilliant trotter A Worthy Lad, whose perfect 30 for 30 career included wins at Barrie, Sudbury, Hanover, Flamboro, Kingston Park, Elmira, Sarnia and Mohawk. A Worthy Lad not only won all 14 OSS races he competed in, he also captured the 1990 Canadian Trotting Classic with Fritz in the bike.

Fritz's greatest moment came with Apaches Fame whom he drove to victory in the 1990 \$1 million North America Cup at Greenwood in front of a

near capacity crowd. With Fritz as his trainer and regular driver, Apaches Fame won 39 of 67 starts, earning \$1,763,740. Aptly named, Apaches Fame was inducted into Canada's Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Other noteworthy performers that emerged from the Fritz stable and contributed to his 1,068 victories and more than \$8.1 million in purse earnings include Silver Reign, Annie Ivy, Misty Silver, Tommys Becky, Queens Arms, Silver Wraith and Halos Girl.

Fritz was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2001.

In 2020, Hanover Raceway named its Rising Star Award after the respected horseman whose burgundy and white colours were a familiar sight at the track for more than 40 years.

The Fritz family has requested that as expressions of sympathy, donations to the Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society would be appreciated. Online condolences and donations may be made through [cameronfuneralhomes.com](http://cameronfuneralhomes.com).

# RACETRACK HUMOUR

## A random tweet [Pullthepocket@Pullthepocket](#)

Careful. I read on reddit that a side effect of the vaccine is you go inside and start hammering 63% takeout jackpot bets.

### Stupid Jockey Tricks

Like this makes sense: A jockey opens an on-line betting account. Foolishly he registers with his real name. He bets on horses to win – not the horse he’s on, but on the other horses in races he’s riding. Then, at least twice, he wins the race in which he bet on another horse.

The Pennsylvania Racing Commission has suspended rider Mychel Sanchez for 60 days after determining that he was placing wagers on horse races with TVG. The records indicate Sanchez was betting horses that did not have Mychel Sanchez as the jockey. The account was opened in December 2021 under the name of Mychel Sanchez.

Alan Pincus is the lawyer for Sanchez and in a statement, he said:

“He’s doing this, and fortunately TVG notices who it is and what’s going on and they alert the racing commission. It’s inexplicable. He had races where he actually bet against his own horse, then went out and won the race. One horse paid \$37 to win. In another race, he bet against himself and he won the race on a horse that paid \$27. He’s not pulling horses, he’s not doing it for evil purposes, he’s doing it for crazy purposes, inexplicable purposes. But obviously it is against the rules, and you can’t do that.”

It was Jakarta winning under Sanchez at Parx on December 28 and paying \$38.40. Sanchez delivered No Fooling Dude on December 29, producing a \$27.40 win ticket. There was no fooling the dudes in suits. TVG keeps extensive computerized records of all bets and who placed them. When the appropriate individual realized a jockey was betting against himself, the wagering company made the necessary call.

We don’t know if Sanchez has found an on-line bookie that will offer odds that other tracks are aware of his indiscretions.



Perry & Mooch



## Breeders Crown back at Mohawk



# Out of Town

## Gulfstream December 8:



Tharrenos doubled down with Rain

Adam Coglianese Photo

It was a great start in Florida for Woodbine trainer Bill Tharrenos. In the 8<sup>th</sup> race, he sent out **Strike The Top** to go a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> in a \$10,000 claim race on Gulfstream's new all weather track. Junior Alvarado was the jockey and he rallied Strike The Top from 6<sup>th</sup> down the backstretch to a 1 ¼ length win in 1:41. That time is significant as it set the track record. Strike The Top, a 4-year-old, won for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 10 races in 2021 and paid \$8.60. He was owned by Apple of Your Eye LLC but was claimed out of the race. Tharrenos had claimed the horse for \$20,000 from Sam Son Farm last March, so it was very much a worthwhile expenditure. Strike The Top earned about \$71,000 in 9 months for his temporary owners.

## Gulfstream, December 9:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> horse Tharrenos sent out in the Gulfstream winter meet was the 3-year-old filly, **Rain**, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race, which was a 6 furlong dash for \$6,250 claimers. Ridden by Miguel Vasquez, Rain stalked the pace, surged to the top at the head of the stretch and prevailed by ¾ of a length in 1:11.25. Miguel Vasquez was the jockey, and Rain was claimed from owner Fred Labo. That was two wins in two days for Tharrenos, though he may be looking for new stock. Rain paid \$6.20.

## Penn National, December 14-15:



Kerics Beauty

Equi-Photo

Steven Chircop did Bill Tharrenos one better, winning with the first 3 horses he sent out at Penn National. On December 14, in the 4<sup>th</sup> race, **Kerics Beauty**, a 3-year-old filly galloped home by 1 ¼ lengths after a 6 furlong maiden special weight with a purse of \$27,100. Kerics Beauty was ridden by Julio Hernandez and stopped the clock in 1:12.37. Owned by Eric Ross, Kerics Beauty broke her maiden on her 16<sup>th</sup> try after 15 winless races at Woodbine. She paid \$6.40.

Chircop struck again 4 races later when **Better Boogie**, carrying Angel Rodriquez, danced away from 4 rivals to win by 4 lengths in a 6 furlong dash for \$10,000 claimers. Better Boogie had won at Woodbine 10 days earlier for half that price. The 4-year-old gelding was owned by Eric Ross, but



Better Boogie

Equi-Photo

Better Boogie was claimed from the race. The win ticket was worth \$5.00. The next day, Chircop's 3<sup>rd</sup> entry at Penn was **Jojomar** in the 1<sup>st</sup>. It was another \$10,000 claim race at 6 furlongs and Jojomar carried Rodriquez to an authoritative win by almost 6 lengths in 1:11.77. Chircop cashed twice in this race – Jojomar was also claimed and Chircop shared ownership with Bruno Schickedanz. Jojomar paid just \$3.40.

## Tampa Bay, December 17:



Jojomar made Chircop 3 for 3

Equi-Photo

Colebrook Farms and trainer Mike Wright are off to a quick start at Tampa Bay Downs this winter, going 2-for-2 on December 17 at the Oldsmar, Florida track. Wright sent out **Decimator** to win a \$25,000 claiming race at 6 furlongs in 1:11.63 for a 75 Beyer Speed Figure. It was the 3-year-old's first win of 2021 in his first start on a dirt track. In the very next race, Wright and Colebrook celebrated a win by **Nantucket Red** in an allowance/optional claiming race at one mile on the grass. The 6-year-old mare won by a neck in 1:34.66 as the 5-to-2 favourite, taking her first win since 2019. That was Colebrook Farms' 40<sup>th</sup> victory in 2021, matching the highest win total in the farm's history.

## Oaklawn Park, December 19:

Norm McKnight is also off to a good start south of the border. The 1<sup>st</sup> race at Oaklawn Park on December 19 was a 6 furlong allowance test for fillies and mares. McKnight sent out Bruno Schickedanz's **Hoping for a Ring** and she went off at more than 13-1. Ridden by Chel-c Bailey, Hoping for a Ring rallied from 5<sup>th</sup> at the half to win by a neck in 1:11.96. The \$29.40 win price was pretty good for a filly winning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 3 tries and coming in off a win against a dozen others at Woodbine in November.

Two races later, McKnight and Schickedanz combined for another winner. It was a starter allowance, 5 ½ furlong dash and **Bachelor Pad** carried John Hiraldo to a narrow win by a head in 1:05.22. This 4-year-old gelding had won his previous 2 races at Woodbine and posed in the winner's circle for the

5<sup>th</sup> time in 13 tries. He paid \$7.80.

## Fair Grounds, December 26:

**Halo Again** stunned the bettors by taking down the \$75,000 Buddy Dilberto Memorial Stakes at a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> on the turf. Ridden by Reyly Gutierrez, the 4-year-old Ontario-bred took the lead from the start, carved out professional splits of 1:12.42 and 1:36.93 for the mile, and persevered by half a length in 1:43.22, less than a second off the course record. Halo Again is trained by Steve Asmussen and owned by Winchell Thoroughbreds and Wills Horton Racing. The colt was bred by Anderson Farms of Ontario and with his 4<sup>th</sup> win in 10 starts, he paid \$30.80.

## Gulfstream, December 30, 2021:



Another winner from Chantal

Adam Coglianese Photo

Chantal Sutherland gave the 3-year-old, **Forty Flash** a well-timed trip in the 5<sup>th</sup> race, a mile and 70 yards on Gulfstream's new all weather track for maidens with a \$25,000 tag. Stuck with the outside post in a 7-horse field, Sutherland had Forty Flash challenging the favourite all the way down the backstretch and when Forty Flash reached for the lead, he had plenty left for the stretch, pulling away for the 1-length win. Forty Flash is trained by Scott Acker for BTW Racing and he delivered a \$28.80 win ticket.

## Tampa Bay, December 31:



From Wenc she came

SV Photography

The first time Isabelle Wenc rode a horse in Florida, she brought in a winner. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> race on the final day of the year and Wenc was aboard **Call Her Joey**, a 3-year-old Ontario-bred trained by Michael Wright. The race was a mile on the grass for fillies and mares eligible to be claimed for \$16,000. Wenc had Call Her Joey 6<sup>th</sup> after half a mile, went outside rivals around the far turn and parlayed her superior momentum to a rousing win by 1 ½ lengths in 1:37.07. Owned by Gina Wright, Call Her Joey won for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 20 tries and paid \$14. Wenc told *Down The Stretch* she rode 13 horses at Mahoning Valley 3 years ago, but this is her first adventure in Florida.

**Gulfstream, January 12:**



Bill Tharrenos (far right, pink shirt) with Yes I'm A Beast and jockey Rafael Hernandez

Adam Coglianese Photo

The 7<sup>th</sup> race had a field of 6, with some eligible to be claimed for \$35,000. The distance was 6 furlongs on the dirt and Woodbine trainer Bill Tharrenos sent out the 3-year-old gelding, **Yes I'm A Beast** and his 5 rivals might agree. Under Rafael Hernandez, Yes I'm A Beast led at every pole and held on to win by a neck in 1:10.98. The win price of \$5.80 wasn't huge, but not bad for a horse winning for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 8 tries. Yes I'm A Beast is owned by Apple of Your Eye and all 4 of his wins have come at Gulfstream.

**Gulfstream, January 15:**

The 4<sup>th</sup> race on the new all-weather track was a \$16,000 claim with 8 horses going a mile and 70 yards. Despite all-world jockey Javier Castellano aboard, the 5-year-old gelding Embrace My Uncle went off at 11-1. Castellano delivered a very patient ride, gunning Embrace My Uncle at the top of the stretch and getting up late to win by a length in track record time of 1:40.33. And it's almost appalling how many De Paulo/DiPaolas are involved here. Embrace My Uncle was claimed by Santino DiPaola from Mike De Paulo in July 2020, but for this race, Mike De Paulo was listed as the trainer for owner Anthony DiPaola. The De Paulos are not related to the DiPaolas, but according to Santino, there is still plenty of uncle embracing occurring.

"The horse is owned by my uncle Tony," Santino told Down The Stretch. "We wanted to run him at Gulfstream, but with COVID, I didn't feel comfortable going. My uncle asked me to give him to someone I trust, and I said Mike right away. The De Paulos are very close family friends."

After Santino DiPaola gave his uncle Anthony DiPaola a virtual embrace, Embrace My Uncle paid \$24.60.

(Now tell me...when DiPaola and Paul took their wives, Paul and Apollo to Sao Paulo to watch polo and play in the pool, how many pails of poi-poi sauce were required?)



SV Photography

**Tampa Bay, January 15:**

Woodbine based Michael Wright has a fantastic streak going. When Nantucket Red strolled home by 3 lengths in the 9<sup>th</sup> race, Wright had sent out 6 straight winners, going back to the same horse winning at this track on December 17. The

latest win for Wright came in a \$50,000 Stakes race called the Wayne Lass Stakes at a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> on the dirt. Jockey Olaf Hernandez took Nantucket Red straight to the front and cut out excellent fractions of :47.53 and 1:12.28, en route to a persuasive win in 1:44.53. The bettors did not anticipate such a romp. Owned by Colebrook Farms, Nantucket Red, a 7-year-old mare, won for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in her 33<sup>rd</sup> race and paid \$33.60.



Adam Coglianese photo

**Gulfstream, January 19:**

Chantal Sutherland was aboard the aptly named Race Day Speed in the 6<sup>th</sup> race, a 7 furlong optional claiming test. Race Day Speed was 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 down the backstretch but made an aggressive 4-wide move into the stretch, got the lead, then repelled a rival just before the wire to win by half a length in 1:23.52. Race Day Speed is quite a worthwhile 4-year-old filly who won for the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 24 tries. She is trained by Tamara Levy and owned by Vaccaro Racing Stable, and she produced a \$7.60 win ticket.

**Gulfstream January 21**

It wasn't Canada Day, but Canadian connections were involved with 3 winning horses. Reconfigure, under Luis Saez was much the best in the 3<sup>rd</sup> race, scoring by 3 1/2 after 5 1/2 on the new all weather track. The time of 1:02.79 set the course record. Reconfigure is owned by Jim Ensom and trained by Marty Drexler. Drexler has trained 503 winners in the last 20 years, but this is the first time he has won a race in the United States. Of the 9 horses Drexler has sent out at Gulfstream so far, he has one win, three 2<sup>nds</sup>, three 3<sup>ds</sup>, one 4<sup>th</sup>, and a 5<sup>th</sup>. Reconfigure won for the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 31 races and paid \$.640.

Race 5 at Gulfstream asked 6 horses to go a mile and a



Adam Coglianese Photo

16<sup>th</sup> on the all-weather track. Saez had already swept the first 3 races and he had the 1-2 choice, Take Charge Ro. Fifth down the backstretch, Take Charge Ro had a ton of gallop in the stretch, passed several rivals and was 1 1/2 lengths the best at the wire in 1:43.79, also a record on Gulfstream's new all-weather track. The 5-year-old mare is owned by Raroma Stable and trained by Brian Lynch. Raroma Stables owns Munnyfor Ro, the likely Sovereign Award winner as Canada's outstanding 3-Year-Old Female. Take Charge Ro has won 3 of her 10 starts and she paid \$3.00 to win.



The 6<sup>th</sup> race was a maiden \$50,000 claimer at a mile on the conventional dirt. Chantal Sutherland was aggressive with the 4-5 favourite Stormy Pattern, sending the 3-year-old colt to the front out of the gate and keeping him to the wire, winning by 1 1/4 lengths in 1:37.55. Stormy Pattern is trained by Joseph Saffie Jr., owned by Span Investments, and by winning for the first time in 3 tries, he paid \$3.60. This was Sutherland's 4<sup>th</sup> winning ride in her 38<sup>th</sup> assignment in January at Gulfstream.

# The Top 50 Stories of 2021

50

Because of Covid, Woodbine's thoroughbred season was shortened from a scheduled 133 days to 99. Despite that, the overall handle of \$505,348,339 was the third highest season total in Woodbine Thoroughbred history. Wagering on the 946 races attracted a record \$420,666,755 from sources outside of Canada. Harness racing resumed at Mohawk on June 11 and the thoroughbreds began on June 12.

49

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Woodbine welcomed live fans for the first time since the pandemic hit. Spectators were asked to book in advance and were required to show proof of vaccination. "It's great to see fans," said trainer John Mattine. "It's about time."

48



Jim "Mattress Man" McIngvale bet \$3.4 million to win on Essential Quality to win the Kentucky Derby. He did this to create some insurance for his mattress company, which promised to waive the price of any mattress set over \$3,000 if Essential Quality won. It was kind of a good news/bad news outcome – Essential Quality had a bad trip and finished 4<sup>th</sup>, but McIngvale didn't have to give away the furniture.

47

The quarter racing season kicked off at Ajax Downs on June 16. Rachel Isaacs, in her first day as a professional rider won 3 races.

46

On the opening night of harness racing at Mohawk, June 11, drivers found themselves behind a newly designed starting gate that allowed the outside horses a small advantage over inside horses. The thinking behind this was to give higher number horses a better chance and consequently promote more betting.

45

Early in 2021, *Down the Stretch* encountered some legal difficulty. On January 29, Andrew J. Mollica, acting on behalf of legendary race caller Dave Johnson, sent *Down The Stretch* a letter advising that "And Down The Stretch They Come" is a trademark owned by Johnson and that our publication and podcast were infringing on said trademark. Mr. Mollica added that Johnson "seeks the appropriate compensation and corrections for said infringement." Mr. Mollica was advised that we were unable to provide any compensation and that if push came to shove, we would



argue that *Down The Stretch* is fundamentally different from "And Down The Stretch They Come." We did not subsequently hear from Mr. Mollica.



It was the handicapping accomplishment of the year. Garnet Barnsdale, a contributor to both this newspaper and the *Down The Stretch Podcast*, posted his picks on the Ontario Racing website for the 10 races at the Raceway at Western Fair on the evening of February 22. All 10 of Barnsdale's picks won.

43

We shouldn't reward idiots by putting them in this countdown, but on January 30, a guy marched to the centre of the course as 20 horses thundered towards the wire at Trentham New Zealand. By sheer chance, he was not run down, and no jockey or horse suffered any injury. The man was arrested and charged with endangering public safety.



42



When Covid caused harness racing to stop in Ontario, several drivers went southward and put on driving clinics at various U.S. tracks. From May 1-24, Doug McNair won 19 races at Harrahs Pocono, the Meadowlands and Yonkers. During the same period, Mark MacDonald won 15 races at Pocono, the Meadowlands and Yonkers. James MacDonald drove at Pocono, Yonkers and the Meadowlands and won 13 times. Louis-Philippe Roy scored 7 wins at Hoosier Park. Trevor Henry won 5 times at Hoosier Park. Jody Jamieson took down 15 races at Tioga Downs and Bob McClure was victorious 7 times at Harrahs and the Meadowlands.

41



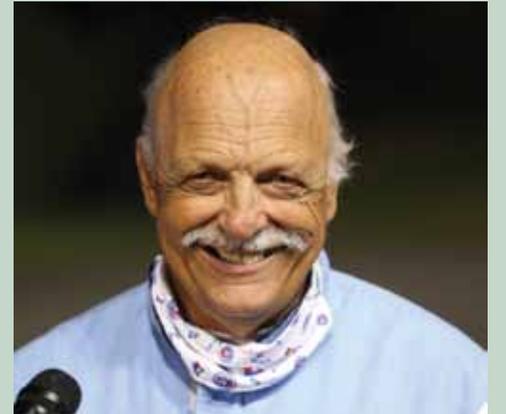
"Bite me!" That was apparently *not* what the 21-1 favourite, Yaupon (Ricardo Santana) was thinking in the stretch drive of the Grade 1 Forego Stakes on August 28 at Saratoga. On his outside in the final 8<sup>th</sup> of a mile was Firenze Fire and José Ortiz. Perhaps recognizing that Yaupon was on his way to victory, a distressed Firenze Fire started biting the head of his rival, chomping down repeatedly before Ortiz could pull him away. It's calling "savaging", but because Yaupon won and Firenze Fire finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was no disqualification imposed by the stewards, though a few sessions of equine anger management might have been recommended.

40



At the annual Quarter Racing Owners awards night, Rick Crispi was named Owner of the Year, Jason Pascoe Trainer of the Year, Ed Walton, Jockey of the Year, and Feisty Icon went home with the Horse of the Year trophy.

39



On January 31, at the (virtual) O'Brien Awards, owner-trainer Dr. Ian Moore had a sensational night, taking home 4 trophies. Century Farroh was named Older Pacing Horse and Horse of the Year. Dr. Moore also won for Lawless Shadow as Outstanding 2-Year-Old Pacing Colt, and Tattoo Artist, an Outstanding 3-Year-Old Pacing Colt.

38



On January 16, Tall Dark Stranger, a 3-year-old male pacer and the only harness horse in 2020 to exceed \$1 million, was named Horse of the Year at the annual Dan Patch Awards. Tall Dark Stranger, also the 3-Year-Old Pacer of the year, won 11 of 13 starts for trainer Nancy Takter and driver Yannick Gingras. The horse is owned by Toronto's Marvin Katz, Crawford Farms Racing, Caviart Farms, and Howard Taylor.

37

The most emotionally riveting story of the year was about Aussie Nigel Latham, who, after being told he had just days to live, asked to visit a racetrack. His nurses delivered him to Morphetville, where the jockeys could see him, strapped in a gurney, near the 200 metre mark. The track's champion

jockey, Craig Williams told one of the nurses that if he won the race, he'd give his goggles to Latham. Indeed, Williams rallied Lady Dunmore from far off the pace to an inspired victory. The goggles were delivered to Latham and the whole incident received significant coverage on Australian television. Latham passed away a few days later.

36



In the only Sovereign Award announced before the actual ceremonies, Michelle Gibson was named Groom of the Year. Among the horses that have enjoyed Gibson's loving care is the great Pink Lloyd, who thrilled racing fans in 2021 with 3 wins and 2 seconds – all in Stakes – in his final season.

35



At the Annual Sovereign Awards, watched by all on the internet, Mighty Heart was declared Horse of the Year. Rafael Hernandez won his first Sovereign as Canada's Outstanding Jockey and Mark Casse collected his 13<sup>th</sup> as the country's top trainer.

34



On September 30, Doug McNair steered the 2-year-old pacer, Sports Fan to a win in the \$20,000 Grass Roots final at Mohawk. This was Blake McIntosh's 1,000<sup>th</sup> win as a trainer. McIntosh's first winners came in 2000. Sports Fan is owned by Leanne Murphy and Stuart McIntosh and the winning bettors were rewarded with \$13.80.

33



It was, by our estimation, the worst harness racing accident of 2021. Daryl Thiessen, the former bull fighter was driving a filly with the painfully appropriate name of Crush Me on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Century Downs near Calgary.

When a horse in front went on a break, the field scattered, and Thiessen's filly hit a wheel in front of her. The filly nose-planted, Thiessen was tossed and run over by trailing horses. He suffered a blow to the head, a broken femur, dislocated hip, and a busted collarbone. Incredibly, on July 10, Thiessen was back in the bike, steering Dawns Night Owl to victory in a leg of the Golden Boy Stakes at the Miami Fairgrounds in Manitoba.

32



Il Malochio took down the \$250,000 Bison City Stakes on August 28. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Jewel in the Triple Tiara for fillies. Il Malochio (Italian for "the Evil Eye") got a perfect ride from Patrick Husbands to win by ½ length after a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup>. Trained by Martin Drexler for her breeder, Frank Meli, Il Malochio paid \$11.50.

31

The 5<sup>th</sup> race at Turf Paradise on January 7 was at a mile for 7 maiden fillies and mares. The 7-5 favourite was She's a Lady Griz and she was ridden to victory by Akifumi Kato. Kato did this on his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday and in doing so, has recorded a pari-mutuel victory in each of the last 50 years. She's a Lady Griz is trained by his daughter, Kaylyn Kato and paid \$4.90 to win. This was Akifumi Kato's 2,033<sup>rd</sup> racing victory.

30

It was, arguably, the most exciting race call of the year. Mohawk Park announcer Ken Middleton is the breeder, trainer, and part-owner of Bob Loblaw who, because of a series of breaks in recent races, went off at 37-1 in the OSS Gold Superfinal on October 16. With Sylvain Filion driving, Bob Loblaw was at least 12 lengths behind approaching the far turn and came into the stretch no better than 7<sup>th</sup>. As Middleton named the front-runners in the final 8<sup>th</sup>, he kept his eye on Bob Loblaw who was picking up momentum in the middle of the track. Less than 50 feet from the wire, Middleton, usually controlled and restrained, realized his horse was going to win a \$225,000 race. "About time Bob!" he bellowed as Bob Loblaw surged to the front just before the wire to win by neck in 1:53, paying \$77.20

29



Only 4 horses dared to take on defending champion, Pink Lloyd in the \$180,000 Bold Venture Stakes at Woodbine on September 25, and the great 9-year-old showed why few want to take him on. Under Rafael Hernandez, Pink Lloyd called the shots from the front end and prevailed by ¾ of length in the 6 ½ furlong test timed in 1:15.13. It was Pink Lloyd's 24<sup>th</sup> Stakes win. He is trained by Bob Tiller, owned by the Entourage Stable, and those who cashed win tickets at \$4.10 knew they'd received great value on a horse that wins more than 75% of the time.

28

On September 25, trainer Ashlee Brnjas died. She was barely 40. Throughout a training career that lasted 15 years, Brnjas sent out 317 winners. Two days after she passed, Hit This Town, a horse she trained won a \$4,500 maiden race at Fort Erie.

27



Bill Megens, at 87 years old, drove the 2-year-old filly, Opahs Faith to a win at Flamboro. Making this story even better, Opahs Faith was bred and is trained and owned by Megens. It was the 1,188<sup>th</sup> win of Megens' career.

26



On September 23, Lous Perlman won the 76<sup>th</sup> Little Brown Jug at the Delaware Fairgrounds, but just barely. Lous Perlman, driven by Yannick Gingras, got his nose on the wire just ahead of Perfect Sting and David Miller. Lous Perlman is trained by Ron Burke, who won 13 of the races during that week at the Fairgrounds. Burke co-owns with Weaver Brussemi, Elizabeth Novak and Howard Taylor. A \$2 win ticket on Lous Perlman paid \$5.20.

25

He's got a terrible name, but the 4-year-old Mishriff looked fantastic, overhauling the 4-5 favourite, Charlatan, in the final 50 yards to win the second running of the \$20 Million Saudi Cup at the Riyadh Racecourse on February 20.

24



On February 27, Essential Quality opened his 3-year-old season with an emphatic 4 ½ length win in the \$750,000 Southwest Stakes at Oaklawn Park. Under Kuis Saez, Essential Quality covered the mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> in 1:45.48, remaining perfect through his first 4 career races. He paid \$3.80.

23



On March 6, Chiefswood Stables' Weyburn stunned the bettors by winning the \$300,000 Gotham Stakes at Aqueduct at odds of 46-1. Trevor McCarthy gave the Canadian-bred an excellent ride, but Weyburn would bypass the Queen's Plate to run at Saratoga in the Jim Dandy, where he finished 4<sup>th</sup>, about 7 lengths behind Essential Quality.

22

Todd Kabel died at the age of just 55 on March 27. Though his life was problematic after his riding career, Kabel was a sensational jockey who brought home 3,306 wins during a career that spanned from 1985 to 2013. A 7-time winner of the Sovereign Award, Kabel won 2 Queen's Plates (1995: Regal Discovery, 2005: Scatter the Gold) and at least 85 other Stakes races.

21

March 22 was an awesome night at Mohawk for driver Sylvain Filion, who won 6 of the 11 races. His horses paid \$2.90, \$3.70, \$2.90, \$2.90, \$2.20, and \$10.40.

20



Irish Jockey Rachel Blackmore, 31, made racing history by riding Minella to an upset win in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Grand National. Blackmore became the first woman to ride a winner in the legendary race, in which 40 horses competed in the gruelling 4 ¼ mile, 30-fence challenge. Trainer Henry de Bromhead sent out both the winner and the 149-1 second place horse, Balko des Flos. If he had the exactor of 35-16, he cashed \$2,053.

19



The first time was the best time for trainer Camilla Christoforou. She passed her harness trainer's licence in March, and on March 8, the first horse bearing her name as trainer was Kameran Hanover. Driven by Camilla's husband Chris, Kameran Hanover won the race in 1:55.3 at odds of 25-1. For a few glorious nights, Christoforou was the only trainer in Canada with a perfect record.

18



In the 10<sup>th</sup> race at Running Aces in Columbus, Minnesota on July 6, Tony Kerwood drove his own horse, Intrigued Again, to victory in a \$5,200 pace, stopping the clock in 1:56. With that, Kerwood notched his 5,000<sup>th</sup> win.

17

On August 7, trainer Mark Casse was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga. Casse emphasized that the fundamental reason he got ushered in was because of Woodbine and the success he has had in Canada. Casse is credited with over 3,200 wins and he estimates some 1,700 of those came at Woodbine.

16



Rombauer, off at 11-1, surprised in the Preakness Stakes on May 15 at Pimlico. Ridden by Flavien Prat, Rombauer took advantage of a heated pace to come from 6<sup>th</sup> down the backstretch to power home for the win by 2 ½ lengths in 1:53.62 for the mile and 3/16<sup>ths</sup>. Trained by Michael McCarthy and owned by Diane and John Fradkin, Rombauer paid \$25.60.

15



Back at Woodbine on July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mighty Heart carried Daisuke Fukumoto to a front-running victory in the \$180,000 Dominion Day Stakes at a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup>. The margin at the wire was 2 lengths, and the time was excellent – 1:43.33. It was Mighty Heart's 6<sup>th</sup> win in 11 races, and he paid \$5.80.

14



Haddassah, ridden by Gary Boulanger, was one of 3 horses in the Prince of Wales trained by Kevin Attard. Boulanger made a 3-wide move at the top of the stretch and had the most horse for the final 8<sup>th</sup> to win by ½ length in 1:56.15. The second place horse, Halran Estate, ridden by Kazushi Kimura was also trained by Attard and the horse in 3<sup>rd</sup> was Keep Grinding, trained by Jamie Attard and owned by Kevin's son, Joshua. Owned by Al and Bill Ulwelling, Haddassah paid \$15.50 and the all-Attard tri was worth \$149.40 for a \$1 bet.

13

In his second start of 2021, on May 29, Mighty Heart took on 5 others in the Blame Stakes at Churchill Downs. The distance was a mile and an 8<sup>th</sup>, and the 2020 Queen's Plate champion went off at 10-1. But with James Graham calling the shots, Mighty Heart challenged for the lead into the first turn, was second heading into the far turn and when the entire field spread out 6-wide in mid-stretch, he had more to give. About 30 yards from the finish line, he appeared to take the lead and though a photo was required, Mighty Heart got the win by a nose over the 3-2 betting choice, Night Ops. Bred and owned by Larry Cordes and trained by Josie Carroll, Mighty Heart paid a generous \$21.40 to win – possibly a case of the overly patriotic American bettors underestimating a wonderful horse from north of the border.

12



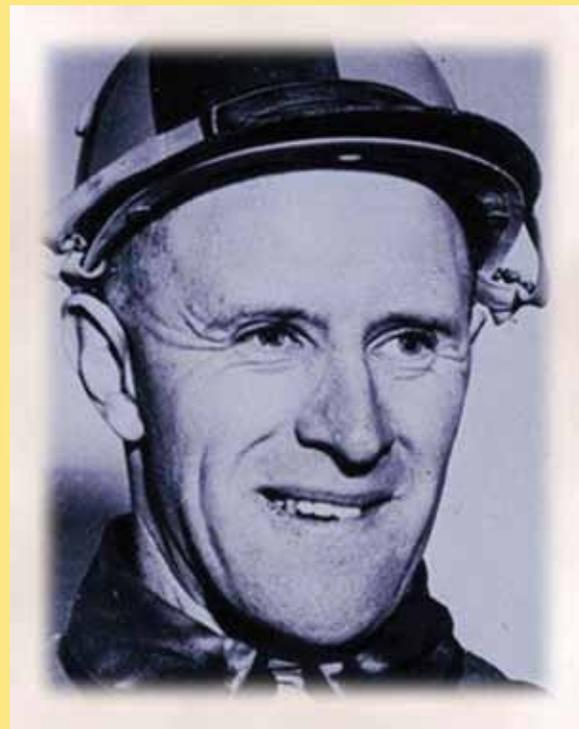
Essential Quality, thrashed around in a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Kentucky Derby, rebounded for an authoritative win in the 153<sup>rd</sup> running of the Belmont Stakes on June 5. Jockey Luis Saez had Essential Quality in 5<sup>th</sup> at the half and asked the horse to get busy around the far turn. Essential Quality powered past Hot Rod Charlie in the final 8<sup>th</sup> and won by 1 ¼ lengths giving trainer Brad Cox his first Triple Crown win. Subsequent victories in the Jim Dandy and the Travers Stakes and a 3<sup>rd</sup> to Knicks Go in the Breeders' Cup Classic will assure Essential Quality some votes as Horse of the Year in the U.S.

11

It was possibly the most controversial day in New Jersey horse racing history. In the \$1 million Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park, Hot Rod Charlie and Flavien Prat finished first, but were disqualified for interfering with both Midnight Bourbon (Paco Lopez) and Mandaloun (Florent Geroux). Hot Rod Charlie was demoted to last and Mandaloun was elevated to the winner's circle. He paid \$8.20 to win. That evening, they ran the \$700,000 Meadowlands Pace and Charlie May (Brett Miller) got the wire first in the pouring rain. But a small misstep at the top of the stretch caused Charlie May to impede others, and he was dq'd and placed last. That allowed Lawless Shadow (\$12.40), driven by Mark MacDonald to claim the trophy.

10

Keith Waples died on May 7. He was 97 and a genuine legend in harness racing. He is credited with 3,206 wins, but that doesn't account for a considerable number before statistics were compiled. He won the Little Brown Jug in 1972 with Strike Out, as well as the Adios Pace, the Prix D'Ete, and twice the International Trot at Roosevelt Raceway. Waples



was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame as well as the Horse Racing Halls of Fame in both Canada and the United States.

9



Chantal Sutherland had a remarkable year in the saddle. On June 13, she delivered the 4-year-old filly, Anonymous Source to victory in the 3<sup>rd</sup> race at Gulfstream. It was Sutherland's 1,100<sup>th</sup> career win and Anonymous Source paid \$34. On July 24<sup>th</sup> at Gulfstream, she won with 4 of her 6 rides, paying \$5.20, \$2.80, \$20.20, and \$14.40. During the week of October 31–November 7, Sutherland carved out a streak during which she won at least 2 races on 6 consecutive cards of racing – a total of 14 wins from 37 assignments. Sutherland, 46, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the jockey standings for the Gulfstream Autumn meet. She had 29 wins.

8



On November 5 at Del Mar, what should have been a great 1<sup>st</sup> day of Breeders' Cup horse races, a colossal screw-up resulted in thousands of bettors getting stiffed. Just before the start of the \$1 Million Juvenile Turf, Albahr reared up and flipped in the gate, causing the horse to be scratched. That was ok. What wasn't ok was the mistake that the stewards made in thinking that Albahr's stablemate, Modern Games, the race favourite, had also hurt himself, leading them to scratch him as well. Modern Games was fine and allowed to run, but once he was scratched, apparently no one could figure out how to re-instate him on the tote board. When Modern Games won, the booing from the large crowd in attendance was loud and furious.

7



Munnyfor Ro will attract the most votes for the Sovereign Award as Outstanding 3-Year-Old Filly. That is because she won the Woodbine Oaks on August 1, finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Queen’s Plate, then won the Wonder Where Stakes on October 2 and the Ontario Damsel on October 31. She is trained by Kevin Attard for the Raroma Stable, and Justin Stein was her rider in all her Woodbine races in 2021.

6



Natasha Day won the Women’s Driving Championship after two days and 10 races at Hanover and Dresden. Day won 3 of the races and earned 58 points for the title. The women not only proved they could compete at the highest level of the sport, but they donated all their purse earnings to Harness the Hope for Breast Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Society. Making this even more poignant, Maggie Jones, one of the 8 women drivers, postponed her breast cancer surgery to compete in the races.

5

Medina Spirit was a wonderful horse. What happened to him is anything but. After 2 wins and 3 seconds in his first 5 races, Medina Spirit won the 2021 Kentucky Derby at odds of 12-1, apparently giving jockey John Velazquez his 3<sup>rd</sup> Kentucky Derby win and trainer Bob Baffert a record 7<sup>th</sup>. But Medina Spirit’s post-race blood sample contained a small amount of betamethasone, a banned substance. By the end of the year, it had still not been determined if Medina Spirit would be disqualified as the Derby champ. Sadly, the 3-year-old colt collapsed and died after a workout on December 6 at Santa Anita. After the Kentucky Derby, Medina Spirit was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Preakness, then won the \$100,000 Shared Belief Stakes at Del Mar and the Grade 1 \$300,000 Awesome Again Stakes at Santa Anita. In his final race, Medina Spirit was second to Knicks Go in the Breeders’ Cup Classic.

4



On September 25, Venerable won the Mohawk Million for 2-year-old trotters. Driven by David Miller, the filly had the lead at the half, and thanks to relatively benign fractions (:56.3 to the half, and 1:26.1 for ¾), Venerable was able to repel the late move by Duly Resolved to win in 1:54.2. That kept Venerable unbeaten through the first 8 races. She is trained and owned by Richard “Nifty” Norman and owned by Melvin Hartman of Ottawa and Americans Paul Bordogna, Steven Arnold, and David McDuffie. Venerable paid \$3.90 to win.

3



James MacDonald will win the O’Brien as the Outstanding Driver in Canadian 2021. He led all Mohawk Park drivers, and he had a habit of winning in bunches. On June 12, MacDonald won 4 races. Five nights later he scored a 5-bagger and 2 nights later, on June 19, he won 5 again. Just to prove his point, MacDonald won 6 races on December 26. That master class by MacDonald included a sweep of races 2-6 and once he scored his 6<sup>th</sup> win, he had produced victories for 6 different trainers and 6 different owners. James MacDonald finished 2021 with 322 wins and \$7,541,377. Both figures were tops in Canada.

2



Under the prevailing Covid conditions, a horse named Safe Conduct was the most appropriate winner of the Queen’s Plate, run at Woodbine on August 22. With Irad Ortiz aboard, Safe Conduct got an ideal trip – Ortiz was able to get a strong position out of post 1, raced in 2<sup>nd</sup> for the first mile, moved to the top coming into the stretch and found the wire just in time to hold off a fast closing Riptide Rock (David Moran). Safe Conduct is trained by Phil Serpe, but Serpe was unable to make it across the border, so Woodbine trainer, Julia Carey looked after the horse. Safe Conduct, owned by Mitchell Kursner, paid \$8 to win and was last seen finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the \$150,000 Gio Ponti Stakes at a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> on the grass at Aqueduct in November.

## and the #1 story of the year



When you declare a horse the “greatest in Canadian history”, your criteria matter. Northern Dancer leads the conversation for winning the 1964 Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Queen’s Plate in 1964, and of course, for unleashing his DNA into future decades of horse racing history. Pink Lloyd does have some Northern Dancer blood in his system and we’re calling him the “greatest horse ever to race at Woodbine” because all 39 of his races were in Ontario. He won 29 times. He captured 26 Stakes. He won at least 3 Stakes in each of the last 5 years. And on November 27, in the Kennedy Road Stakes for the final test of his career, the 9-year-old gelding was vintage, coming from behind to win at 6 furlongs in 1:08.84, close to the record of 1:08.05 set three years earlier by...Pink Lloyd. Owned by The Entourage Stable and trained by Robert Tiller, the now-retired Pink Lloyd is a rock star at the LongRun farm in Hillsburgh.

# The New Wave in Harness Racing: Braiden Reibeling's Most Excellent Birthday



It's one of those moments that elevates the sport from the usual to the wonderful. Braiden Reibeling turned 21 on November 30. He had one drive at The Raceway at Western Fair. It was only his second pari-mutuel race. It was a \$7,500 pace for fillies and mares who had not won \$5,000 in their last 6. The filly, Shes Gold, trained by Matthew Panos had been winless in her first 4 races and she went off at 14-1.

And Reibeling won with her.

"I had a game plan going in," he says. "She qualified good. My game plan – and the trainer's – was to go to the front because she's a little grabby, and sometimes she can choke."

Reibeling was not able to get Shes Gold to the top because Jason Ryan gunned Atm Treasurer to the lead.

"So I'm like, okay, that's fine. I'm not going to get in a speed duel," continues Reibeling. "I'll just sit in the two-hole and keep her nice and calm. I wanted to keep her off his helmet, so he didn't know how much horse I had."

As the field approached the ¾ mark, Reibeling had to make a split second decision, the kind of move made by winning drivers like James MacDonald, Jody Jamieson, and Doug McNair. Brett MacDonald had moved Betty Onthebeach out of third and Reibeling had just moments to make a decision.

"Brett was coming and I'm like, 'Okay, I better get rolling,'" he says. "I didn't want to get caught, so I just snuck out."

It was the winning move. Shes Gold moved outside the leader, Atm Treasurer and with a little encouragement, snuck past to win by a length in 203.3.

Happy Birthday Braiden!

How about that final quarter in :29.4, faster than in any of her previous 4 races.

"I didn't want to get beat off that kind of trip, so I drove her a bit to the wire," he admits.

Reibeling had earned his driver's licence just a week and a half earlier, so it was a great moment for his modest fan club.

"It was pretty special," he says. "My girlfriend and the whole family was watching."

One must wonder what a young man is thinking as he's about to win for the first time.

"I wasn't celebrating yet," he says. "I wanted to make sure I got it done before I did anything like that."

Reibeling has known since he was as young as 10 that this is what he wanted to do. His father, Kyle has been training horses for over 30 years and dabbled a little on the driving side.

"I hope I can be good enough to drive full-time," says the younger Reibeling. "I'm training right now. I have 4 of my own but if I get good enough, I'll probably stick to driving."

On its own, winning with a longshot on your birthday in just your second career drive is terrific enough, but Braiden Reibeling almost didn't get the chance to be a professional driver. He got pretty smashed up in a frightening crash two years ago.

"So I was just going to get food after I was done in the barn and a couple of deer ran across the road," he says. "I swerved to miss them and hit a tree. I wasn't going too fast, but I did hurt myself. Two broken bones in my legs, a broken jaw, a fractured left knee. I needed 100 stitches and 100 staples. They put me back together pretty good."

Reibeling recites his injuries as if telling us about his stats in a basketball game. Young guys are like that. Less than 4 months later, he was back in a sulky.

"My dad had me training," he says. "I just didn't overdo it. I know my limits, but I was very able to do that because my upper body is pretty good."

As for driving style and techniques, we asked Reibeling which driver he admires the most.

"Probably John Campbell just because he was so dominant," he replies.

The legendary Campbell finished his career in 2017 with 11,058 wins. So after Shes Gold, Braiden Reibeling has only 11,057 to go.

## Emma Christoforou's 1<sup>st</sup> Mohawk Park Win



Emma Christoforou is just 19 and has had her trainer's licence for over a year. She's the daughter of Joanne Colville and driver Chris Christoforou. She recorded her first win with Millenium Seelster who was driven to victory at Flamboro Downs on March 14 by Bradley Harris. Her first 7 victories were spread over Flamboro, Dresden, Grand Ravine and Leamington, but her biggest moment was breaking through at Mohawk Park.

That's what happened on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Christoforou sent out the 4-year-old trotter JCs Royal Tease, who had previously been trained by her stepfather, Jack Moiseyev. Thanks to a brilliant drive from Trevor Henry, JCs Royal Tease fired up the inside late in the stretch to win by a length in 1:56.3 at 24-1.

Breaking your maiden at the biggest track in the country is a huge moment for any trainer, but Christoforou, who apparently is quite the multi-tasker, was otherwise engaged that night.

"I was that at the Ancaster Fairground, competing with my retired standardbred, The Painted Pony, in the Winter Solstice Series in an open jumper show," says Christoforou. "So I didn't get to watch the race. My friend, Carey Lecain came over and said, 'You'll never guess what JCs Royal Tease won!' I said, 'You're joking,' And she says, 'We have to watch the replay.' So we got the phone and we held up the show for about five minutes and we were watching, and everybody was all happy and excited and then we were making phone calls and it was a great night."

The \$50 win price wasn't all that surprising, considering even JCs Royal Tease's trainer was not expecting victory.

"Honestly, I just wanted that horse to stay on the trot," says Christoforou. "All I wanted was a flat line on him. And then he went out there and put on a performance. I was to the moon and back happy with him. Winning at Mohawk is one of the one of the biggest milestones. You want that first win there, and I'm hoping for more to come."

Christoforou was clearly impressed with the excellent and efficient drive that her horse got from Trevor Henry.

"I told him he was my hero for driving the horse like that," she says. "The first person I thanked was Trevor. I called him right away. Trevor has always been good. Every horse he's driven for us he's driven very well."

Making this Christoforou moment even more delightful is that Emma's horse found the wire just ahead of Deal With Lucus, driven by her father Chris. One wonders how that played out at the next family dinner.

"My dad was actually the first person to text me and send me a big congratulations," says Emma. "It's a competitive sport, but off the track, your family comes first. A safe trip is our number one priority, and we all love each other at the end of the day."

It's amazing that Emma Christoforou ever has any time to be at the track. She's got a lot on the go.

"I'm training these horses and I'm still part-time in school," she says. "I work at Mohawk Park. It was baby-breaking season not too long ago. I do fundraising events. I do everything I can do to promote this industry."



When the 4-year-old filly Silent Causeway won the \$100,000 La Prevoyante Stakes at Woodbine on December 4, it was the very best moment in horse racing for her owner-trainer Laura Krasauskaite, whose roots in the sport originated in Lithuania 28 years earlier.

“When I was ten years old, I was searching for something to do with my life,” says Krasauskaite. “I played everything – soccer, basketball, but I wasn’t really into it. Then one day, I was riding my bicycle in the countryside, and I discovered horses. I walked into the barn and from that day, I kept going back every day. I wanted to learn how to ride and muck a stall. I was doing everything. It was a show jumper barn.”

Krasauskaite’s family moved to Canada when she was 15 and the urge to work with horses crossed the ocean with her.

“I was missing them,” she says. “I was missing the riding, being beside them. So my uncle told me, ‘The closest you can get to horses is at Woodbine Racetrack.’ And I said, ‘What’s that?’ He says, ‘They’re racehorses.’ I had never heard of that, but the day he took me there, I got a job as a hot walker for John MacKenzie.”

All the time, Krasauskaite wanted to get on a horse.

“The first time, he put me on a horse, it took me for a ride,” she laughs. “It took off. I said, ‘Wow. They don’t stop!’ I really enjoyed it. I felt the rush of adrenaline.”

That’s all it took to persuade the young woman that horse racing was much more her style than her earlier experiences.

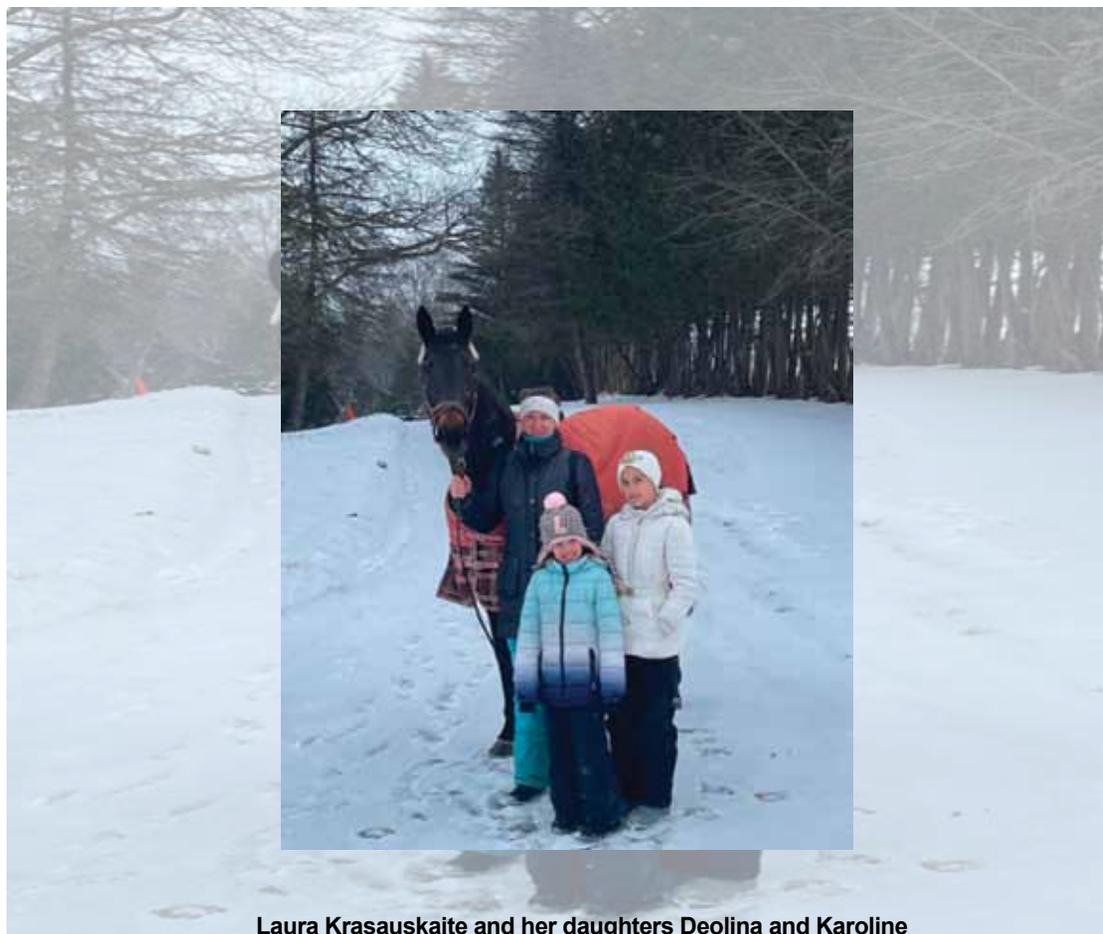
“Back then, it was all perfection in dressage and show jumping,” she says. “The coaches were really tough on you. There’s no mercy. So I thought that was a bit too boring and slow. When that horse took me for a ride, I said, ‘This is my sport. I like fast horses.’”

When she was 16, Krasauskaite earned a buffet of licences – as a groom, a hot walker and as an exercise rider.

“I was so anxious to learn,” she says. “I was doing everything.”

Around the backstretch, Laura Krasauskaite’s reputation grew – she was the rider people turned to when their horses wouldn’t behave.

“Complicated horses,” she explains. “People didn’t want to ride them. They would call me. And I would get on because I want to figure out why the horse doesn’t want to go, why the horse refuses. It’s interesting to me.”



Laura Krasauskaite and her daughters Deolina and Karoline

Krasauskaite was working a difficult horse named Sweet Shobiz.

“She was something,” says Krasauskaite. “I thought that she’s more like me – stubborn. She had to be her way, not your way. So I figured her out and the trainer said, ‘How about I just sell her to you? How about \$500?’ That’s how I ended up with my first horse.”

That small amount was a pretty good investment. Sweet Shobiz never won for Krasauskaite, but in the space of about 6 months in 2016, she ran 9 times, produced a couple of 2<sup>nds</sup>, a 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a pair of 4<sup>ths</sup>, and earned about \$6,000 before she was sold to a Fort Erie trainer.

Silent Causeway is a filly that Krasauskaite bought for \$4000 at a sale, simply because she recognized the breeding suggested much greater value. The sire is Silent Name and the filly’s dam, Good Religion is a daughter of Giant’s Causeway.

“I was sitting there and watching her going for \$4,000 and I thought, ‘Wow, Silent Name’s don’t usually go that cheap.’ She was such a good looking girl. So I just raised my hand and bought her blind. She had that spark in her eye. She’s a strong looking girl. She’s got a nice solid chest.”

On Equibase, the Krasauskaite Racing Stable is credited with 4 wins and Krasauskaite had one other before she created her stable. On September 26, 2017, her Vision of Future, a 2-year-old gelding won a \$16,320 maiden race at Fort Erie. Her stable sent out its first runners in 2019 and Silent Causeway accounted for 3 of the 4 wins. She broke her maiden in June 2020 under Patrick Husbands, defeating a dozen others at 6 furlongs in the fine time of 1:10.26. Silent Causeway’s second win occurred on September 6 of 2021, when she came from off the pace for Justin Stein in a \$60,300 allowance at a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup>. There are also some agonizing 2<sup>nds</sup> in her past performance history. The most painful for Krasauskaite would be the 7 furlong \$138,225 Algoma Stakes in 2020. In the stretch of that race, Silent

Causeway was wearing down the favourite, Marjorie’s Dream and at the wire it was a question of whose nose got there first.

“We were very close last year,” says Krasauskaite about the Algoma. “She was catching. She was closing in. We just missed it by a bobbing head. I wanted to go back in the same Stake, but because of Covid-19, that Stake never went. So I put her in the La Prevoyante, because I knew she could do it.”

The La Prevoyante was as thrilling as a race can get for an owner. Justin Stein had Silent Causeway last of 10 down the backstretch, but with half a mile to go, she began passing rivals and gaining momentum.

“I saw her start making a move at the 5/8<sup>th</sup> pole,” says Krasauskaite. “And at the quarter-pole I was watching her legs, and I told her, ‘Switch leads!’ Though it’s not as if she heard me. But she did switch leads and she was gone. Just before the wire, I started screaming.”

Krasauskaite had the immense pleasure of watching this great moment with her two daughters, Karoline, 10 and Deolina, 7.

“They were right beside me, screaming even louder than me,” says Mom. “That was amazing. It was exciting.”

The winner’s purse from the La Prevoyante was \$60,000. This will help Krasauskaite continue her love affair with horse racing.

“I always invest whatever I earn back in the business,” she says. I want to expand. I want to be bigger. I started breeding, I bought two broodmares last year. Heard That will be bred to Frosted, a son of Tapit.”

As an individual owner, Laura Krasauskaite is part of the fundamental building blocks of thoroughbred racing in this country.

“It’s a passion for me,” she says. I love the rush. I love the horses. From the day I bought a yearling, they became my kids. It’s so exciting to see them cross the finish line and winning and succeeding. That makes me so proud. It makes me want to work harder for them.”



A chronic horse player (probably stung by a nose in the last leg of a pick-6) once wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." That observation could not be more apt for George Millar whose health in 2021 was a nightmare, while his harness horses were performing at a fantasy level.

Millar is 71 and his Millar Farms has 4 nominations for the O'Brien Awards. His fillies, Prohibition Legal and Silver Label, will confound the voters in the Two-Year-Old Pacing division. Betterhavemymoney is up for Outstanding Two-Year-Old Male Pacer. And Millar Farms takes on Winbak Farm for the Armstrong Breeder of the Year Trophy.

In fact, Millar would like us to mention a 5<sup>th</sup> nomination.

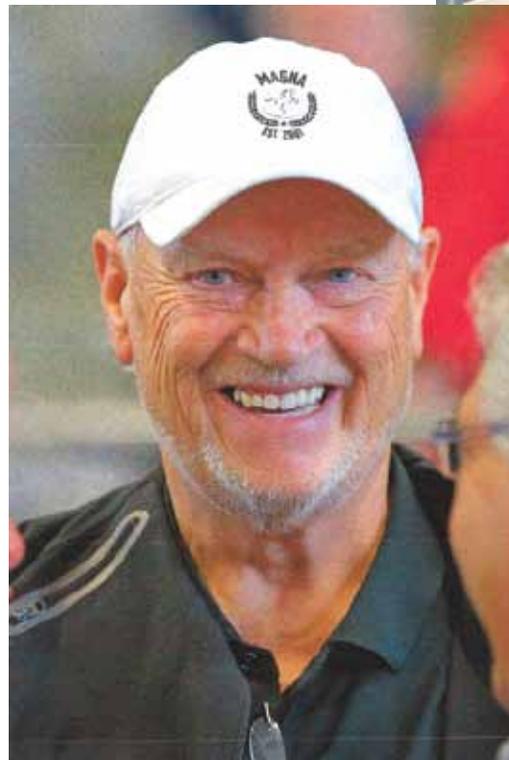
"Our trainer Nick Galluci is nominated for Trainer of the Year as well," says Millar. "If it wasn't for Nick, we wouldn't have any of these other nominations, and I wouldn't be doing all these interviews. This young man just worked his butt off. And he was under a lot of pressure, because he had quite a few horses that were undefeated and he had to try and keep them going every week, keeping them sound and healthy. His efforts made my broodmare band a lot more powerful."

The multiple nominations are thrilling for Millar, who previously has won just one O'Brien – that was for Serious Comfort who, in 2003 won the \$300,000 OSS Superfinal and parlayed that into Two-Year-Old Filly Pacing honours.

Millar's two nominees this year in the rookie pacing fillies department assure he will at least win a second O'Brien. He agrees that Prohibition Legal deserves more votes than Silver Label.

"Yeah, I think so," he says. "She beat Silver Label fair and square the last two times they raced. And she came first over to do it. I kind of thought in the Superfinal with Silver Label sitting on a helmet, that if she ever had a chance to beat Prohibition Legal, that's when she would do it, but Prohibition Legal was just too much. In the She's A Great Lady Final, Prohibition Legal actually got a half a length in front of that Niki Hill and Niki Hill just came back and won, which shows what a great filly she is. Nick thinks Silver Label is going to mature more as a three-year-old and she might be a little more competitive with Prohibition Legal. If we just keep finishing 1-2, I don't care which one finishes first."

Part of Millar's satisfaction is that he produced each of his star 2-year-old fillies from his own broodmares. He



owns both Catch a Wish, the dam of Prohibition Legal, and Hidden Gem, who foaled Silver Label. Millar has the luxury of breeding according only to his instincts, as opposed to what the market might dictate.

"I breed a lot of horses, but I'm not a commercial breeder," he says. "I don't have to worry if it's going to be a popular breeding or will I get enough money at a sale. A classic example is that I'm doing an embryo transplant on Catch a Wish with Big Jim."

Big Jim is a fine stallion, but not necessarily in the elite class. Millar points out that Big Jim is the sire of Prohibition Legal.

"When you've got something that works, you might as well stay with it," he says. "If I was a commercial breeder, I'd probably be smarter and make more money by breeding to Captaintreacherous or Always B Miki. The nice thing though, is I can breed to what I want because I don't sell them."

Millar's two-year-old colt, Betterhavemymoney also had a sensational rookie year, winning 4 of 10 starts and earning \$335,474. He was a lot better earlier in the year when he won 4 straight, including a pair of OSS Golds, an elimination for the Battle of Waterloo, the Battle of Waterloo Final at Grand River in August, and a gutsy 2<sup>nd</sup>, beaten by a nose in the Nassagawaya at Mohawk. Then he suffered physical problems and failed to win any of his last 6 races.

If Betterhavemymoney had some minor ailments, Millar's health issue was anything but inconsequential. Doctors gave him some disturbing news in early 2020.

"They called it pulmonary fibrosis, which is a lung disease," he says. "They thought it could be related to Farmers Lung, when you get hay and mould in the barn. I'm not a full-time farmer, but I've baled my share of hay. Once you're diagnosed, you've got maybe two or three years and your lungs are gone unless you get a lung transplant.

I was on a lot of oxygen when I hit December of 2020 into January 2021 and I knew I was going down quickly."

The only way for Millar to survive was with a lung transplant. Three times he was called into the hospital for the surgery and three times, the doctors determined the match was not good enough. The fourth time, the surgery was performed. But while his body was trying to cope with a pair of foreign organs, there was another dreadful circumstance.

"The next day, my wife was sitting with me and I'm unconscious and intubated," he says. "And they told my wife that the lungs they had put in me had COVID. Instead of being 10-12 days in hospital, I was in for 3 months."

Because he was bed-ridden for so long, Millar lost a lot of weight and muscle mass and found he had to learn to walk again. While he was moving slowly, his horses were cutting torrid miles. Prohibition Legal was clocked in 1:50.4 in an OSS Gold. Silver Label won a race in 1:51.4. Betterhavemymoney won in 1:51.4, and the 4-year-old Powertrain paced home in 1:49.3 to win an OSS Gold.

Millar understands how close he came to the finish line. He certainly does not take the success of his horses for granted. But he also cherishes the value of his personal life.

"I thought I was dead a few times," he says. "It makes you look at things a lot differently. A couple weeks ago, I rented a chalet in Mont Tremblant and I did some skiing, just on a small hill. And after that, I jumped in a hot tub with my grandson, and we were looking up at the stars and I was thinking how close I came and how lucky I was to survive and have this time with my family."

Being a multiple nominee for the O'Briens brings with it some welcome stress, especially the suspense for several weeks over whether you will win. Millar is a cinch for at least one trophy, and when all the envelopes have been opened, he'll be able to breathe easier. Literally.

# A Review of: Why Not Sin By Ric Chapman



First off, some full disclosure: Ric Chapman, the author of *Why Not Sin* is a contributor to this paper as well as the *Down The Stretch Podcast*. It's exciting to learn he wrote a book. It was even more exciting to read it. And there is a surprise. We expected any book written by a guy whose life has been wrapped around horse racing would be filled from beginning to end with racing events, thrilling finishes, behind the scenes malfasance and inevitable conflicts among jockeys, trainers, owners, and stewards.

And while horse racing does play a role in Chapman's book, this is more about something he calls "cryptic and terrifying." He's referring to the fabric of married life, specifically one in which there exists a lack of passion.

You must wonder just how auto-biographical this is. Chapman is an Aussie who, while attending university in Manitoba, fell in love with a Canadian

girl. In the book, there's a guy who is from Australia and he is studying at a university in Manitoba, and he does, indeed, fall in love with a Canadian girl. "I want to state up front, it's fictitious," insists Chapman. "I drew from a few circumstances in my life, which is what all creative people do, but by and large most of the scenes are made up."

Chapman adds that he simply created a premise from a point in his life and crafted a story line that bursts from that improbable starting gate.

It begins at a yearling sale in Australia and ends in at a Keeneland sale, where Sheik Mohammad and the Coolmore boys battle it out. So the presence of horse racing runs through the 128,500-word story, but that's not the central theme. This is a love story – a deeply emotional and turbulent love story that takes massive twists and turns in six different countries.

The central figure, Greg, meets Cynthia at the U of M in Winnipeg in 1988, and the first 12 chapters are set at that school and in Winnipeg. Chapman makes it very descriptive. Many true historical events are beautifully intertwined in the fictional narrative, and if you had a post-secondary experience, this just might take you back in time perhaps to the peaks and valleys of having relationships while at school.

But a love story without a crisis isn't much of a plot. Greg and Cynthia suffer a huge separation, and without any spoiler alerts, that break changes Cynthia and Greg and hardens them to the realities of being lost in inappropriate relationships.

Cynthia (Chapman calls her 'Sin' in the book) becomes deeply informed, intrepid, and a passionate pioneer of what many should do when they find themselves with the wrong partner. During the 35 year arc of this book, she grows, morphing from sensitive and fragile to discovering her inner strength. Both main characters plan to commit crimes of passion all over the globe and the bizarre fulfilment of freedom is there for all to see.

So yes, love, lust, and then a lawless pursuit to heal the world unfolds. The reader experiences the roller-coaster but turns the page because it seems so plausible. Sin's path to crime was unconventional – the native Winnipegger was pursuing a graduate degree as an actuary when she traded true love for safe love and it back-fired. That one decision changed her and the trajectory of her life.

"What Greg and Sin choose to do is simple in theory, but it's so brazen and so criminal, it is what makes their journey so compelling," says Chapman, who has written for *Down The Stretch* for nearly three years. He also worked in the media department at Woodbine for a spell, had stories published in both the *Globe and Mail* and the *Winnipeg Free Press* during his days in Canada. Simply put, if you like horse racing, adventure, escapism, suspense, historical facts, love, sex, and all its bruises, or simply just want to be entertained, *Why Not Sin* is recommended. Chapman does offer a warning though:

"For those of you who might be offended by explicit or raunchy sex descriptions, this may not be your best bet," he says cheekily.

That's like the warning before many tv shows: "*Please be advised: This program contains scenes of violence and sexual behaviour and is not intended for a younger audience.*"

There's a reason that Chapman has chosen not to be vague about the intertwining of bodies in his book.

"We live in a colour world," he explains. "If I'm going to describe in absolute clarity and precision their plans on how to commit the crimes, why then not do the same for their intimacy and exploration of each other? It is their passion and deep emotional connection that keeps them together and propels the story."

To me, this book is almost shocking. I met Chapman a few years ago. He is a passionate horse racing fan who brought to Canada many great ideas about promoting the sport here the way they do in Australia. In his homeland, Chapman sees that horse racing is covered extensively in papers and on radio and tv. Incredibly, there are 360 registered racetracks in Australia and the amounts bet daily are spectacular.

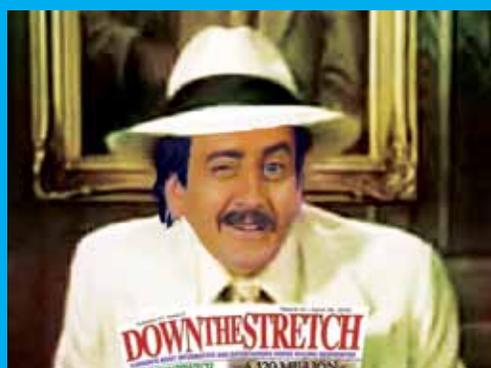
But this book is rooted in the emotions and actions of two lovers, and the racing is more the background music.

Ric Chapman says that writing a romance novel was on his bucket list for at least the last 30 years. I'd have to say it was worth waiting for.

I have purposely revealed as little as I can here, so the reader can experience the surprises and mischievous contortions that the plot offers as delivered by Chapman.

The author has implored us to encourage you to buy his book. *Why Not Sin* is available from Amazon as a paperback, or as an ebook on Kindle.

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# The Long and Wonderful Career of Ciona Bromach



Debi O'Brien-Moran and Ciona Bromach

The best horse racing stories are about the powerful bonds between the animals and the humans who love them. And the following story challenges you to find a more inspirational relationship than the one Debi O'Brien-Moran has with her now retired pacer, Ciona Bromach.

O'Brien-Moran is from Ireland and Ciona Bromach (pronounced Kinna Bromach) is Irish for "Star Colt".

"I bred him myself," says O'Brien-Moran, who also trained him for every one of his races. "My first picture is of a 16-day embryo of him. He was born in New Jersey in 2007."

And while Ciona Bromach won't be referred to in the same category as Somebeachsomewhere or Captaintreacherous or Always B Miki, he really pulled off some wonderful things in a career that spanned from 2009 until his final race on December 31, 2021 at the Raceway at Western Fair. Ciona Bromach raced 330 times, with 21 wins, 23 seconds and 31 thirds, and earnings of \$241,379.

The colt was sired by the New Zealand stallion Peruvian Hanover out of the mare Clonlara, now a 23-year-old still owned by O'Brien-Moran.

Considering he went behind the starting gate 330 times, it's notable that Ciona Bromach's racing career almost ended in his first race.

It was August 20 at Harrahs Chester. Andrew McCarthy was driving, and it went badly.

"He was coming from behind, and a horse made a really bad break in front of him," recalls O'Brien-Moran. "He got jerked

totally sideways, and he actually tore some gluteal muscles really deep. But it took several months before the right person was driving him and said he was making mistakes because something hurts real bad when you hit race speed."

O'Brien-Moran kept the horse off the track until a vet diagnosed the problem and restored his fitness.

From that point on, Ciona Bromach answered the bell each and every time he was asked: 330 races over 13 seasons – that's a race every 2 weeks for 776 weeks. His 1<sup>st</sup> pari-mutuel victory came on November 16, 2009 at Harrahs Chester, where he paced in 1:56 for Andy Miller, winning \$5,000. As a 3-year-old, he won a pair of OSS Stakes races at Grand River and Sudbury respectively, each worth \$12,000. A well-travelled guy, Ciona Bromach also won at Mohawk, Georgian Downs, Flamboro and Woodbine. His last win came on November 30 in the Seniors Pace at Western Fair. Driven by Jason Ryan, Ciona Bromach won in 2:00.4.

Throughout his extraordinary career, the persistent pacer was responsible for several important milestones.

"There was his first win for Andy Miller," says O'Brien-Moran. "The second one would have been his lifetime mark of :51.3 on a five eighth track with Michael Whelan, and then he went over \$100,000 winning a race when Anthony Haughan drove him at Flamboro. Aaron Byron winning his 1,000<sup>th</sup> with him at Flamboro and Jody Jamieson also at Flamboro, putting him over \$200,000."

It's incredible that a horse – especially these days – races 330 times in a career. O'Brien-Moran is grateful for the great work that all the drivers executed with her horse. In fact, she rhymes off every pro who ever sat in the bike behind Ciona Bromach. We already know about Miller, Haughan, Whelan, Byron and Jamieson, but also:

"Stacy Chiodo, Corey Callahan, Andrew McCarthy and Steve Smith," she begins. "Jim Marshall III, James Rattray, Brad Hanners, Yannick Gingras, Jack Moiseyev, Dave Wall, Luc Oullette, Scott Coulter, Roger Mayotte, Jason Brewer, Chase Vandervort. John Baggitt, James Panteleone, Billy Davis Jr., Mario Baillergeon, Paul Mackenzie, Mike Saftic, Doug McNair, Anthony MacDonald, Randy Waples, Bob McClure. Trevor Henry, Paul MacKenzie, Bradley Harris, Sylvain Filion, Chris Christoforou, Robert Shepherd, Paul MacDonell, Alfred Carroll, Phil Hudon, Stephen Byron, Taylor Burgess, Colin Kelly, Travis Cullen Kelly Hayden, James MacDonald, Jason Ryan, Natasha Day, Ed Hensley and Garrett Rooney."

In case you weren't keeping count, that's 49 different drivers who at one time or another, paired up with Ciona Bromach.

Admittedly, the horse's win percentage (21 for 330) is not brilliant, but Ciona Bromach seemed to know when it was critical to earn a substantial cheque.

"He always seemed to come through when I really needed him to," says O'Brien-Moran. "When his mom was going to have another baby. When his sibling was at the university for a ruptured bladder, which was very expensive. Another horse of mine had a hernia and had to be rushed to the clinic and he came through every time."

From day 1, Ciona Bromach was special to his owner.

"He was always just mine," says O'Brien-Moran. "He's



always been a sweetheart. Anthony Macdonald's kids have been crawling underneath him since they could walk, sitting on him to brush him. He just loves attention."

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Ciona Bromach and the way he was handled throughout his career, is that he was never put in a claim race. There was not one moment since he was born that O'Brien-Moran considered taking the risk of losing him. Even as a 13 and 14-year-old when the chance of being bought out of a race was miniscule, O'Brien-Moran found places for him to compete. Thanks to the Raceway at Western Fair, there were 11 Senior Pace races in the fall of 2021, all restricted to horses 11 years of age or older. Ciona Bromach won one of those, posted a 2<sup>nd</sup>, a 3<sup>rd</sup> and a 4<sup>th</sup>, but clearly, when he finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Auld Lang Syne pace on December 31, the valiant gelding had given everything he had and was entitled to the most comfortable retirement possible. You can count on that.

"He will never be leaving me," says O'Brien-Moran warmly. "I've been asked what I was going to do for with him when he retired and I have always said, 'He's not going anywhere.' There's not enough money in the world. Never has been. Never will be. He has never been for sale, and I will never give him away. He has a home for the rest of his life – hopefully, a very long one."

# Did Tim's Trick of Ten Mean That Dexter Was Dunn?

There was an astonishing turn of events at the end of 2021 concerning which harness driver in the U.S. will win the money title. On December 31, Tim Tetrick did something astonishing – he won 10 races on the 15-race card, and when the calculators staggered to an exhausting halt, it appeared that Tetrick's money-winning total for the year was \$12,917,113. Dexter Dunn had come into the last day of the year with a sizeable lead, but he doesn't show a chart line since December 18, at which point his cash winnings were \$12,916,775, or \$338 less than Tetrick. But the mathematics may have taken a dramatic turn. Tetrick drove Perfect Sting to victory in a \$148,332 pace on June 26 at The Meadows.

**This story was first published in the Paulick Report - Copyright © 2022 Blenheim Publishing LLC - Republished with permission**  
(The horseplayer who hit the \$1.2 million Rainbow Pick 6 at Gulfstream Park on Friday, January 7 is a resident of Kentucky who asked that his name not be disclosed. He told his story to Paulick Report publisher Ray Paulick.)

I was in my office Friday afternoon and thought I'd go online to see what races were coming up. I started betting on horses about a dozen years ago and am not an everyday player – more like weekly. My favorite bets are Pick 4's and Pick 5's. I don't play Pick 6's that often because, frankly, they are so hard to hit.

I logged on to my TwinSpires account and noticed that it was about 10 minutes before the fifth race at Gulfstream Park – the start of the Rainbow Pick 6. I knew about the mandatory payout on Saturday and planned to play it then. I hadn't even looked at Friday's entries or past performances but the timing was right and I said to myself, "What the hell? Why not?"

I pulled up selections for two handicappers that I follow. The first is Dan Cronin at [www.fatbaldguyracing.com](http://www.fatbaldguyracing.com). Dan does a really good job of helping put together tickets for Pick 4's and Pick 5's. I like his format and the way he adds comments to his suggestions. It's helpful in putting a ticket together. The second one was The Wizard at Daily Racing Form. It's a handicapping sheet I've had good luck with.

I didn't even have time to look at past performances, so I put my ticket together with suggestions from Dan Cronin and also The Wizard

When I play Pick 5's and 6's, I try to find a single or go skinny on a leg or two, then hit the "all" button when I can and hope for a couple of bombs. Because I didn't have much time, I couldn't find a single. I used two horses in the first leg, the fifth race, followed by five in the second, five in the third, all nine entrants in the fourth, three in the fifth and four in the sixth and final leg.

The ticket came out to \$1,080. That's about twice as much as I'll usually play, and I was kicking myself after Souper Legacy won the opening leg as the 13-10 favorite. That's the horse I was going to single. He won by a head over Bird Wildcat, a horse I didn't use. If I'd singled Souper Legacy, my ticket would have cost \$540.

I had the top four finishers in the second leg, a maiden race won by American Starlet. She paid \$9.20, beating the favorite by two lengths.

Perfect Sting was credited with \$74,166. As the year came to an end, it was revealed that Perfect Sting presented a test of excessive testosterone and as a result, he was disqualified and placed 9<sup>th</sup>. The trainer Joe Holloway is appealing that determination, arguing that Perfect Sting just has a naturally high level of testosterone. In that race at The Meadows, Dunn finished 5<sup>th</sup> with Rockyroad Hanover, who was elevated to 4<sup>th</sup>. That enhanced Dunn's winnings by \$4,450, and combined with the \$74,166 that was subtracted from Tetrick, Dunn now leaps back into first with a lead of about \$80,000. This will all rest on the result of Holloway's appeal. If his action loses, Dunn will be crowned. There is a similar controversial story



from 1981 when Eddie Davis drove home 5 winners on the final day of year. That gave Davis 404 wins, one more than the 403 posted by Herve Filion. But two years later, a horse that finished 2<sup>nd</sup> for Filion was judged to be the winner, so everyone jumped into a DeLorean back to 1981 and a tie was declared between Davis and Filion. As the great Yogi Berra so astutely declared, "It's never over til it's over!"



After that race, I had to go out and run a few errands and then head home. We were going to a friend's house down the street for dinner at six o'clock and when I got home I wanted to get in a workout before we left. At that point, I'd forgotten about the ticket. I came upstairs to get something off the computer and that jogged my memory. I thought, "Let me check on that Pick 6 and see where I am."

I looked at the seventh race, the third leg, where I had five horses, and said, "Wow, I caught the eight at big odds." Bahamian Rhapsody won the race and paid \$25.

The next leg I've got all nine starters so I'm hoping for a longshot. Sure enough Family Time went off at 14-1 and won wire to wire.

The fifth leg I'm only three deep, but I had the five horse, Collaborate, who won it and paid \$7.60.

I looked up the "will pays" and I was alive to four horses in the final leg, a mile race on the turf. I had the 1-2-3-4 horses. The payouts were about what you'd expect for three of the horses, but the No. 3 horse, Canelo, stood out: \$1,200,305.88. You could easily see that was the whole pool. There was one ticket and I had it.

This was the only ticket I played, and it didn't occur to me to start hedging and bet on other horses in that final race. At that point, what are the odds I'm going to hit this? I've got the top three favorites, plus this 32-1 bomb, Canelo. I'm thinking, "What if the three wins? How crazy would that be?" It was Canelo's second start and first time on turf and around two turns. I checked to see if anyone likes the horse, but his odds were actually going up as we got closer to the race.

I still had about 10 minutes and I wanted to get a workout in before we left for dinner. So I went downstairs and watched the race on my phone while I'm working out.

When the three got a nice break from the starting gate, gets over to the rail and gets an easy lead, I'm like, "That's

cool. At least there's that."

Corey Lanerie is riding the horse, and he's controlling the pace all the way around. But on the final turn as they're getting ready to hit the stretch, I see the No. 2 horse – the 6-5 favorite – making a move.

My first thought was, "Thank goodness I have the two on my ticket." If the two wins I get \$6,077. But the three horse keeps going, and I'm screaming "Go three! Go three! Go three!" My wife and daughter heard the commotion and ran downstairs wondering what in the world is going on.

The race had just ended, with Canelo well in front, and I said, "I think I just won over a million dollars."

My wife said, "What? Are you sure? You better check your ticket."

So I check the ticket over and over and said, "Yes, I've got this."

I waited a few minutes for it to be official and hit the button on my phone to update my TwinSpires balance, and there it is. The payout was about \$912,000 after taxes were withheld.

I've had one other big score since I started playing the races – a Pick 6 at Belmont Park a few years ago that paid about \$37,000 – but nothing close to this. I still can't believe it happened.

Was it just dumb luck? Yes, it was. And that's why you can't really handicap this kind of bet where you have to be the only winner. My method for this was very unscientific: I just tried to put together a manageable ticket. There was more luck than anything else, and the stars just aligned for me.

I know I probably caused a lot of heartburn at Gulfstream Park, because they were going to have a huge pool on Saturday if no one hit it. But I've been on the other side of this a few times.

Our celebration Friday night was pretty modest. A potluck dinner with our friends and their kids had already been planned, and we feasted on cabbage rolls, canned beans and canned turnip greens. My wife thought maybe we should have done something different, but it was fun.

I'll probably take the weekend off as far as betting is concerned. I'm still stunned this happened. I haven't figured out yet what to do with the money, but my wife said she has some ideas.

# DOWN THE STRETCH PODCAST

## On Apple, Google, Spotify, Stitcher, iHeartRADIO and wherever you get your podcasts

### Episode 99, December 12:

Is **Patrick Husbands** retiring? We go straight to the great jockey and we get trainer Mark Casse's take on it as well. **Pink Lloyd** has settled into his new life at LongRun's Farm and **Vickie Pappas** reveals how you can own the bridle he wore in all his wins. We chat with standardbred owner, promoter, and horse racing visionary **Adriano Sorella**, and ask why he's bringing **Jimmy Freight** back to the races. **Bill Tharrenos** is off to a sizzling start at Gulfstream. Geriatric horses are still finding the wire in the last year of their career. We present the argument for **Chantal Sutherland** as Canada's Female Athlete of the Year, and a bet that only **Garnet Barnsdale** was brave enough to place.

### Episode 100, December 19:

To celebrate the 100th podcast, we present 30 minutes of the craziest, funniest, most touching and most unusual moments in horse racing in 2021. A wonderful interview with **Jim Cuddy** of Blue Rodeo, a woman dq'd because her brother claimed foul, the night **Garnet Barnsdale** went 10 for 10, a horse named Ho Ho Ho that didn't have anything to laugh about, **Punxatawney Phil** winning on Ground Hog Day and what could possibly go wrong if you bet a horse called **Whacudposblygowrng**? Imagine being a race caller and there's only 3 horses in a race. How do you make it sound interesting? There was a night at Mohawk when the number 7 just kept coming in and how did we mix the **Kennedy assassination** and a classic episode from **Seinfeld** into this podcast?

### Episode 101: December 26:

Race callers **Robert Geller**, **Ken Middleton**, **Frank Ferrari**, **Frank Salive**, **Peter Aiello**, **John Imbriale**, **Larry Colmus**, **Dan Loiselle** and even **Earl Lennox** help us this week remembering the greatest races of 2021 and the events that touched, inspired and disturbed us. From **Safe Conduct** to **Weyburn** to **Munnyfor Ro** to **British Royalty** and **Pink Lloyd**, **Essential Quality**, **Medina Spirit** and **Knicks Go**. From **Venerable** to **Desperate Man** to **Monte Miki** to **Bob Loblaw**, the biggest races and the most stunning finishes of the year.

### Episode 102, January 2:

This podcast is barely 28 minutes, but somehow we squeeze in **Kazushi Kimura**, **Rafael Hernandez**, **Justin Stein**, **Emma-Jayne Wilson**, **Patrick Husbands**, **Luis Contreras**, **David Moran**, **Daisuke Fukumoto**, **Antonio Gallardo** and **Gary Boulanger**. We speak with agents, **Jordan Miller** and **Pram Seebah**. Listen to wins in Florida from **Chantal Sutherland** and **Isabelle Wenc**. Tampa Bay Race caller **Jason Beem** channels his **Billy Joel**. **Ric Chapman** files from Australia about an American mare who's getting rich. **James MacDonald** spent so much on Christmas presents, he needed to win 6 races on Boxing Day and his 5 year-old son, **Griff** tells us why daddy is so good. Props to those 14 year-old standardbreds who took one last shot at glory and even the **Rolling Stones** make a guest appearance.

### Episode 103, January 9:

The **Down The Stretch Podcast** loves stories about the relationship between people and their horses and this one fulfills that quotient. **Mark McKelvie** lays out the rules for watching the races at Mohawk. **George Millar** tells us how satisfying it is to be nominated in several O'Brien Award categories, especially after what he went through in 2021. **Debi O'Brien-Moran** talks about her favourite horse, **Ciona Bromach** who never raced in a claimer throughout his 330-race career. Quarterhorse trainer, **Jason Paoe** chatted while driving back from Oklahoma, where Ontario-based horses will be running this winter. **Carmen Auciello** had one of those training dream nights at Mohawk and the racetrack is the only place in the world where a 20-cent bet can make you a millionaire. It happened at Gulfstream.

### Episode 104, January 16:

It was a great week for Woodbine's boss, **Jim Lawson**, who explains why more money is bet at Mohawk than at any other North American racetrack. **Moir Fanning** and **John Campbell** tell us why Mohawk was awarded the next Breeders Crown races. **Kevin Attard** is a finalist as Outstanding Trainer in the Sovereign Awards. **Nick Gallucci** is up for an O'Brien as Outstanding harness trainer. Both of them join this podcast and admit to being longshots. **Jacob Roberts** is a standardbred trainer who notched his first career win at Flamboro and **Bill Tharrenos** is taking down purses at Gulfstream. By the way, how may **DiPaolas** or **DePaulos** does it take to win a race and how does **Madonna** get into this podcast?

### Episode 105, January 23:

In this episode, we remember harness racing legend **Bud Fritz**. Should horse racing be concerned that **Michael Beychok**, one of its brightest and most successful bettors is backing away? Why are there no full-time lady race callers in North America? We seek the answer from Turf Paradise's **Craig Braddick**, who persuaded **Dani Jackson** to come from England to call the races. **Shannon 'Sugar' Doyle** has ceased calling the action at the Raceway at Western Fair. He tells us that Alberta racing made him an offer he couldn't refuse. We also have an early Kentucky Derby prep from the Fair Grounds and the **Raroma Stable**, **Jim Ensom**, **Marty Drexler** and **Chantal Sutherland** repping the Maple Leaf and winning races in Florida.



Trainer Josie Carroll, jockey Daisuke Fukumoto and owner Larry Cordes pictured in 2020 with Queen's Plate and Prince of Wales winner Mighty Heart

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the province of Ontario in 2020, it hit the professional sports world with a cruel reality. Spectators could not be present, putting events, millions of dollars, and jobs in jeopardy. Public health restrictions particularly impacted the horse racing industry to stop the spread of this awful virus. For horse racing groomers, trainers, jockeys, racetrack officials, and owners, the onset of COVID-19 brought in a frustrating period of uncertainty and, for many who rely on the industry, a feeling of despair.

Out of this darkness lay a story of perseverance and triumph, both human and equine. Jennifer Morrison's *Run with a Mighty Heart* is just that. The book explains how a one-eyed horse overcame his visual impairment to win Canada's most heralded race. Mighty Heart provided a win to ownership connections beset by tragedies, a company making a herculean effort to have the show go on, and to thousands of fans around the country who needed encouragement during a time when there wasn't much to celebrate

It also shines a light on how the Woodbine thoroughbred racing community came together to fight back against the pandemic and continue the grand tradition of hosting the

# Run With a Mighty Heart is "required reading"

by Derek Lipman (This was originally published on the Paulick Report)

historic Queen's Plate against the toughest of odds during a pandemic. But, as they would say in racing parlance, pulling it all off was a 99-1 long shot.

Likewise, Morrison's splendid book is an account of how some human beings who endure crushing personal losses might ultimately find luck and triumph if they choose to keep living. For example, Mighty Heart's owner Larry Cordes suffered through tragedy when his wife, daughter, and son-in-law succumbed to cancer and later setbacks as a Thoroughbred owner when horses were injured or died before they could reach their potential.

While it may be her first book, Morrison's deep experience as a sports reporter and her knowledge of the people and players who make Woodbine successful shines through the narrative. Decades of research, conversations, handicapping races and understanding the challenges facing horses and the people who care for them inform this captivating story. In addition, the book contains exciting accounts and insights from Mighty Heart's trainer, Hall of Famer Josie Carroll and her supporting cast on the horse's rise from an awkward beginning to the apogee of Canadian racing.

*Run with a Mighty Heart* also serves as a tribute to the people from all walks of life who get up while most of the population sleeps to provide care for horses. To be sure, there is a lot that goes into the preparation for race day. Horse racing might be the "Sport of Kings," but the

people behind it who make a day at the track an enjoyable one for the betters, fans, and enthusiasts come from all social classes. Still, all share a joint determination, attention to detail, and a sense of purpose. It's about the horses, but everyone matters- from hot walker to groom, trainer to the owner and the staff, officials and executives at the racetrack.

Morrison doesn't forget about the horses. Documenting Mighty Heart's rise, Morrison carefully outlines the various physical and health curveballs thrown at these majestic but fragile creatures. For example, a horse may have excellent breeding, but exposure to parasites can make them sick, or a bout of colic could end their life. Likewise, Mighty Heart's frolicking in the paddock with other horses caused the young colt to lose an eye. These athletes work hard day in and day out, and their journey is often as complicated and uncertain as the road travelled by those who care for them.

*Run with a Mighty Heart* should be required reading for all Thoroughbred horse racing fans. It is an uplifting tale of our capacity to endure the most complex challenges life throws at us to continue our way of life, great traditions, and recreational pursuits. *Run with a Mighty Heart* is also a lively story of resilience, endurance, and hope. This book tells a story a lot of people need right now.

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## Great Betting Totals at Mohawk in 2021

Just three days before announcing that Mohawk had been awarded the 2022 Breeders Crown races, Woodbine Entertainment revealed that the 2021 Standardbred racing season at Woodbine Mohawk Park produced an all-sources handle of \$324,038,371.56, the highest total by any Standardbred track in North America in 2021. For the second consecutive year, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the number of race dates at Woodbine Mohawk Park, with only 157 cards of the originally scheduled

223 contested. The 157 race dates were 21 fewer than the 178 cards completed in 2020. Despite a pair of government enforced stoppages, Woodbine Mohawk Park continued strong as an industry-leader with the average nightly handle topping \$2 million for a second consecutive season at \$2,063,938.67, a \$40,749.86 increase from 2020. The per-race handle for the 1,693 races contested in 2021 was \$191,398.92.

"To see wagering remain steady and increase throughout these uncertain times has been a

great reflection of the strength of the Woodbine brand and our Standardbred racing product," said Jim Lawson, CEO of Woodbine Entertainment. "As a year-round racing product, we focus on consistency and see many encouraging signs to continue our success and growth in 2022." The Woodbine brand continued to garner recognition across North America, with foreign wagering representing \$235,451,948.26 of the 2021 all-sources handle. Home Market wagering remained steady in 2021 at \$62,568,269.10.

### Key Highlights of 2021:

- Nightly handle tops \$2 million for second consecutive season
- Pepsi North America Cup card generates \$5.1 million handle
- Canadian Trotting Classic card handle of \$3.1 million handle helps push Woodbine Entertainment to \$30 million weekend
- Early Pick-5 remains largest nightly wager in Standardbred racing with average pool of \$123,000 in 2021, up from \$120,000 in 2020

- Jackpot Hi-5 Mandatory Payout on December 23 generates \$1.4 million in "new money" as part of \$4 million handle

The 2022 Standardbred racing season at Woodbine Mohawk Park launched on January 1 and will feature 223 race dates.

Live racing continues every Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Post time is 7 p.m.



# The Lady Calls the Shots

The very first thoroughbred race Jackson saw was race 1 at Turf Paradise on January 17. Braddick called the first 4 that day, then turned over the mic to his guest. Jackson admits it was an intimidating experience.

“It was nerve wracking,” she laughs. “It was terrifying. The second race, I had a few issues because of jockeys coming off and coming back on and a few phone calls telling me that a horse had been scratched, which was enough to put me a little off my game. So, yeah, the first experience could have been better.”

Her self-criticism notwithstanding, Jackson is an excellent race caller. She has a deep, authoritative quality to her delivery and picks up every horse without hesitation or any sign of uncertainty. Braddick was very impressed.

“Her style is very enthusiastic,” he says. “She’s very knowledgeable about horse racing. She tries to convey the story of the race to people in a way that people who are not necessarily big racing fans can understand it. She’s very good at picking up the moves made by horses and during the race. As her first day went on, she gradually improved, and she learned a great deal.”

One of the very good things Jackson does during a race – possibly more than other callers on this side of the Atlantic – is to describe the colours of the silks as horses change positions.

“They like that in the UK,” she says. “You’ve got to mention the colours, and knowing who’s who, and making sure that you’ve got a lot of colour in your commentaries, just to bring it to life. I want to make sure that people that are watching know exactly where their horses are. That’s the style they enjoy in the U.K., so I brought it over here.”

A few years ago, Dawn Lupul was doing excellent work on the Woodbine broadcasts. She is a skilled and knowledgeable handicapper and an appealing presenter. From time to time, Lupul called entire cards of both thoroughbred and standardbred races. She was very good, but perhaps because there never seemed to be a reasonable opportunity for her,

she moved on to other things in her career.

Braddick was unable to name a single woman who has a full-time race calling job in the U.S.

“Recently Jessica Pacquette did a few days of Sam Houston last year,” he says, scouring his memory. “A number of years ago, a lady called an Angela Herman called a meet at Golden Gate Fields, and I’m not quite sure what happened there. There is a lady in Australia called Victoria Shaw, and she does some of the smaller meets over there. But that’s the only one I can identify.”

It was suggested to Braddick and Jackson that horse racing is dominated by men, and that would be the reason for the lack of women race callers, but that argument was an early scratch.

“I don’t think it’s a case of male chauvinism,” says Braddick. “For sure, it’s always been men, but it’s probably just that many females had not previously considered it.”

Jackson can testify that instead of resistance, she’s had great support from the sport.

“I think it’s just that a lot of women in horse racing have preferred to go the way of being presenters or pundits,” she says. “I decided that just because I am female doesn’t mean I can’t do thoroughbred commentary or can’t call on the greyhound circuit. As soon as I reached out to people in the UK, they said, ‘Absolutely. We’ll help you. It’s about time we had a female race caller. You’ve got something we can work with and hopefully we will have our first female race caller in the U.K.’ I think the world as it is now is very open to women in roles that have been predominantly male roles in the past. And I’ve worked in an industry for ten years that is male-dominated, but it’s never held me back.”

Jackson and Braddick split the announcing duties for the first few cards of the week and then on Friday, January 21, she called the entire card.

Anyone hearing Dani Jackson call a race must admit she’s very good at this. In fact, Braddick quietly joked,

“I may end up the second best race caller at Turf Paradise.”

Dani Jackson came from Britain to give Turf Paradise a female sound.

There are as many as 100 pari-mutuel thoroughbred, standardbred and quarter horse racetracks in North America, but there’s not one full-time female race caller, which makes no sense. Fortunately, Turf Paradise announcer Craig Braddick decided to do something about that.

“There was a message in the Racing Post in the UK in June of last year saying, ‘Why are there not any female race callers?’ says Braddick. And I responded, ‘Well, if there are any out there that do a decent job, I’d be happy to have them come out to Turf Paradise.’”

That led to 33-year-old Dani Jackson contacting Braddick via twitter. Her resume certainly was worth considering.

“I got into greyhound racing ten years ago,” says Jackson. “And I started as a broadcaster for William Hill. I have done just over 100,000 Greyhound races in my career. So once I mastered that, I thought that I need to be challenged and the next natural step was to go into horse race calling.”

Note that Turf paradise did not cover Jackson’s air fare to Phoenix from England – not because the track is cheap, but because Jackson is not eligible for a work permit in the U.S. and any expense might have transgressed tax laws. Give the woman credit for literally putting her money where her mouth is.

## Locals Cited at the Hervey Awards (Files from USHWA)

Journalists, photographers, and video story makers from Canada were cited when the 2020/2021 John Hervey Awards were announced.

Debbie Little was named a winner in harness racing journalism, while Michael Burns Jr. and Clive Cohen were named recipients of the George Smallsreed Awards for photography. In addition, Woodbine Entertainment Group was selected winner of the Sam McKee Award for broadcasting as revealed on January 21 by the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

Little won in the feature writing category for her story, *The Legend of Walter Case Jr.*, which appeared in the March 2020 issue of TROT Magazine. This is Little’s first Hervey Award.

Honourable mentions in the writing categories went to Dave Briggs for *Judgment Day is Upon Us*, March 13, 2020, in Harness Racing Update (HRU); Derick Giwner

for *Those Wealthy Pennsylvania Horse Owners*, February 11, 2021, DRF Harness Digest; Jessica Hallett for *From Pompano to Tioga and Back During Pandemic*, Dec. 18, 2020, Harnesslink.com; Bob Heyden for *Hey, Harness Racing: Grandma Died*, May 31, 2020, HRU; James Platz for *The Greatest Gift*, Dec. 20, 2020, HRU; and Jeff Robillard for *Redwood Candid on Past Addiction Issues*, July 12, 2021, Horse Racing Alberta website.

In the Smallsreed competitions, Burns won in the race/action category for his photograph, *Behind the Gate*, which appeared November 12, 2021, on the Woodbine Mohawk Park website. Burns is a three-time Smallsreed winner.

Cohen won in the feature category for his photograph, *Fall Fog*, which appeared Oct. 7, 2021, on the Woodbine Facebook and Instagram pages. It is Cohen’s third Smallsreed honour.

In the McKee competition, the Woodbine Entertainment Group broadcast department was honoured for its story *Flounder*, which appeared September 11, 2021, during the Pepsi North America Cup broadcast on the TSN television network. The piece highlighted the dedication and commitment of those working at Winbak Farm in Ontario and the story of one special foal.

The producer was Tammy Gillanders, directors of photography were David Syrie, Rob Deluca and Paulo Macedo, and the editor was Lisa Germany. The win gave WEG its fifth award in the broadcast division.

The winners will be recognized at the Dan Patch Awards banquet Feb. 20 at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. Meadowlands Racetrack Chairman Jeffrey Gural is continuing his longstanding sponsorship of the awards by providing banquet tickets for the winners.

Clive Cohen's Hervey photo, Fall Fog appeared  
on Woodbine's Facebook and Instagram pages  
last October



# ODDITIES & ENTITIES



Down The Stretch held its annual seasonal party in the Harvest Kitchen at Mohawk on Friday, December 10. In attendance were editor Peter Gross, layout artist Gord Steventon, contributor, advisor and handicapper, Garnet Barnsdale, associate editor Susan Nash and some guy named John that she passed off as her boyfriend. The Down The Stretch wagering fund provided a \$100 voucher and we bet with that while scoffing down lobster cakes, flatbreads, steak and ribs. Around dessert, the voucher was down to \$50 and Barnsdale insisted that we bet a \$10 superfecta one way – 6-4-2-7. The 6-horse, So Much More at 2-5 was an obvious pick, with #4 Trafalgar the best of the rest. Picking 3rd and 4th place horses can be challenging, but Barnsdale insisted on #2 Snow Shark and #7 Parisian Blue Chip in that exact order. We followed his commands and bet one \$10 superfecta, and we were quite the noisy bunch when the horses came down to the wire in exactly that order – 6-4-2-7. That superfecta paid \$27.75 and since we had it 10 times, we cashed \$277.50. We left a nice tip.



8 on the wire

This was the amazing finish from the 6th race at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day. 8 of the 12 horses in the 1900 metre race field appeared to hit the wire at the same time. We can't identify the winner, but you can see that the 8th place horse was beaten less than 3/4 of a length.

\$1 SUPERFECTA (6-4-2-7) paid 27.75, pool 7655  
 \$2 TRIACTOR (6-4-2) paid 23.40, pool 31223

1 MILE, PACE, PURSE \$26,000.  
 FILLIES & MARES, NW \$25,000 LAST 5 STARTS. AE: NW \$17,000  
 CLM. \$60,000.

Horse	HV	PP	1/4	1/2	3/4
6 So Much More	6	3/3Q	28/1	2	
4 Trafalgar (L)	4	2/1T	1/1	1	
2 Snow Shark (L)	2	4/5Q	4/3H	4	
7 Parisian Blue Chip	7	1/1T	3/1T	3	
5 Majestic Virgin (L)	5	7/10H	7/8T	5	
1 Lauras Love	1	5/6T	5/5Q	6	
3 Lyons Tilt Hanover	3	6/8Q	6/7	7	

Time: 28.0, 56.3, 1:24.2, 1:51.4 (Temperature: 2, Condi...)

1st So Much More (b,m,5 - Big Jim-Ladysai-Real)  
 Owner: Don D Beatson, Granton, ON-  
 2nd Trafalgar (br,m,4 - Dali-Real Heart-Real)

Incredibly close 5-horse finish at an unidentified racetrack



Every horse's name in this race starts with a 'J'

Paris-Vincennes

20 MTP \$50,000 / Abt. 111/16 mi / Dir

ODDS	HORSE	DRIVER
17	JINGLE DELO	D. THOMAIN
99	JUBY DE BAILLY	CH. MARTENS
30	JABALPUR	F. LAGADEUC
23	JAZZY DANCER	B. GOOP
25	JAKARTAS DES PRES	F. NIVARD
60	JORGOS DE GUEZ	R. CONGARD
7/5 FAV	JACK TONIC	TH. DUVALDESTIN
9/2	JOKER DES MOLLES	E. RAFFIN
35	JOYAU DE MORTREE	A. ABRIVARD
7/2	JOURDAM SEVEN	J.M. BAZIRE
15	JOYEUX MESLOIS	F. OUVRIE
16	JUST FOR LOVA	A. BARRIER
40	JASPERS TURGOT	M. MOTTIER
30	JUBILE PRIOR	S. DESMARRS

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DANISH WILDCAT, BY DANEHILL

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40 Graded SWs.**

First foals race at 2 in 2022.

**2022 Fee: \$2,500** (Canadian Funds)



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TIMBER ICE, BY WOODMAN

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**NORTHERN DANCER, DANEHILL [G1],**  
and **MACHIAVELLIAN [G1],**  
plus Champion Sprinter **CALGARY CAT,**  
Champions **WAY OF LIGHT [G1],**  
**COUP DE GENIE [G1], DENEbola [G1],** etc.

**2022 Fee: \$2,500** (Canadian Funds)



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Photos by Dave Landry

