

# DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER

Nicholas Barnsdale's Thesis  
Pages 14-15

Thoroughbred Owner Tedston Holder  
Page 19

Standardbred Owner Stewart McQueen  
Page 20

Quarter Horse Owner John Wilson  
Page 21

Belmont Stakes  
Page 8



North America Cup  
Pages 4-5



The Preakness  
Page 8



ALSO INSIDE

Sheena Ryan	Page 2	Michael Copeland	Page 9	Ajax Downs	Pages 12-13	LongRun	Page 17	Linedrive Hanover	Page 23
Mohawk Stakes	Page 6	Stars of the Month	Page 10	Cheyenne Kerr	Page 13	Dr. Glen Brown	Page 18	Can-Con at Pimlico	Page 23
Chantal Sutherland	Page 8	Woodbine Stakes	Page 11	Staying at the Spa	Page 16	Louis-Philippe Roy	Page 22	Oddities & Entities	Page 25

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Sheena Ryan

# Play ball for Sheena!



Luis Contreras pitching



mmmm

Jockey Skye Chernetz was not going to be picked off



Emma-Jayne Wilson



A sizable portion of the horse racing community gathered at Paul Coffey Park in Malton on June 20 to play in a charity softball tournament to raise money for jockey Sheena Ryan, who suffered a dreadful accident the first week of May. There were six teams including jockeys, agents, trainers and even a motley side of security guys. Heading up this event was Ryan's best friend, Isabelle Wenc, who is also a rider.

"We have food with all the money going toward Sheena," said Wenc. "There's a donation box and a silent auction. This is a fun day for all of us race trackers to get together to help one of our own."

Immediately after Ryan's accident, Wenc started a GoFundMe project that has exceeded her expectations.

"I started the GoFundMe with a goal of \$2,500 and we actually surpassed that," she said. "We're up to almost \$18,000."

It figures that Emma-Jayne Wilson was the most skilled ball player. It turns out she played fast pitch for 15 years. To her, this was simply what family does.

"This is just a testament to show what the racing community can do," she said. "Anytime we can show that support, it's a no brainer."

Helping Wenc put this together was Daren Gomez, the Executive Director of the Jockeys Benefit Association of Canada (JBAC). Gomez conceded that in a sport that tries to balance risk verse reward, too often, risk gets to the wire first.

"Sheena got hurt quite badly, so we pull together," said Gomez. "She's going to need assistance and we will get it done. We will help her out to get better to ride or to transition to another career in racing."

The unfortunate truth is that when jockeys get hurt, often there is no extra insurance coverage.

"In today's market you would need a gazillion dollars for insurance," he said. "Not every company will insure a jockey. Tell me another sport where the ambulance follows you."

Just before the first game, to the delight of all, Sheena arrived in a wheelchair. Despite her circumstance, she was buoyant and laughing, even when recalling the accident.

"It was after a breeze. I had been on her a million times," Ryan said. "She decided to turn and bolt through the outside rail, and we landed on the cement, which was not very good. I fell and broke my elbow and left knee cap. When the horse went to get up, she slipped and fell on the concrete and landed on me and crushed my pelvis. I got internal bleeding. I got a fractured spine and neck."

When her interviewer tried to stifle a gasp, Ryan broke the tension with a laugh.

"But overall it could have been worse," she said merrily. "We're healing and it's going to be ok."

Jockeys have this remarkable ability to heal and overcome terrible injuries. So is Sheena Ryan thinking of coming back to ride again?

"I already miss riding," she admitted. "We'll make final decisions closer to the end of the healing process."



Jockey Isabelle Wenc



Omar Moreno flashed some leather



Trainer Bill Tharrenos



Sheena and agent Mike Luider

# THE EDITOR WEIGHS IN



From the beginning, from our first issue in 2007, I have made this point about the content of *Down The Stretch*. We are not a scandal or exposé magazine, and as editor, I have little interest in probing the dark side of the sport. For sure, if top level trainers get busted for juicing, we'll report on it. But no one on this staff is skilled at preparing a horse or running a racetrack, so for 15 years, our purpose has always been to shine a light on horse racing, comment on how exciting it is, and to bring to you the great animals and fascinating people that make the game unique.

You will find that so true in this issue. Not to paraphrase a former presidential lunatic, but what's happened since we last published is making horse racing great again.

On June 18, Mohawk gave us a Stakes-packed night of harness racing, culminating in the North America

Cup. We deemed that worthy of two pages (4-5). Just to emphasize how prosperous the jugheads are this summer, we present more Mohawk Stakes on page 6.

One of the huge reasons that harness racing in Canada is as good as it gets is because of the passion for the game injected by Dr. Glen Brown. We lost him on May 13, but our story on page 18 reminds us how much he loved and elevated the sport.

We're bigger on local, Canadian stuff than what happens in the U.S., but we do have reportage on the Belmont and Preakness, and Chantal Sutherland's stunning victory in the Grade 3 Chick Lang Stakes on Preakness day. That's all on page 8.

On page 23, we have the story of a Canadian-bred filly, Interstatedaydream, that won the \$250,000 Black Eyed Susan Stakes.

You will soon be able to log on to your favourite internet sports book and wager on horse races. That's all explained on page 9 thanks to Woodbine's Mike Copeland. Since we suffer from the harmless illusion that we run horse racing in this province, *Down The Stretch* is offering suggestions to Woodbine to help attract more people to the races and to bolster the betting. That's just the kind of people we are.

And to double down on that theme, check out page 16. Anyone going to Saratoga this summer needs to handicap the best places to stay. Ariane Fuller of Racing City Realty may have the best options for you.

On page 11, read about the most recent Stakes races at Woodbine, as the boys and girls ramp up for the Queen's Plate and the Woodbine Oaks.

It's a tradition for the editor of this paper to get to Ajax Downs every year. On pages 12-13 join us for a day at the quarter horse races.

This issue has three Owner of the Month features. Tedston Holder, the Thoroughbred Owner of the Month (page 19) has some great messages about reciprocation and being loyal to those who helped you on your path.

Stewart McQueen, our Standardbred Owner of the Month (page 20) may look like a guitarist for ZZ Top, but the music he likes best is the sound of his pacers and trotters winning.

And John Wilson, Quarter Horse Owner of the Month (page 21) has a family history with horses that goes back about 80 years.

Jockey Sheena Ryan was badly injured in a scary spill in May. On June 19, many of the backstretch grooms, jockeys, trainers, owners, and security guards gathered at Paul Coffey Park for a softball tournament to raise funds for Ryan's recovery. Our pictorial graces page 2.

There is a shade of grey in this issue. Nicholas Barnsdale, 21, just graduated with his Bachelor of Journalism from Humber College. For his thesis, he wrote an amazing piece called *Where Did Everybody Go?* It's a revealing study on how the popularity of harness racing has declined over the past 40 years. You can find an edited version of this on pages 14-15. By the way, Nick got 88% on the paper, a slightly higher percentage than the number of winners his dad, Garnet produces in his handicapping tips.

Also in this 131<sup>st</sup> love letter to horse racing, we have the Woodbine Stars of the Month (page 10), the double-tasking Jimmy Freight topping the list of all North American harness horses (page 5) and, as we have had in every one of our issues for 15 years, a full page of Oddities & Entities (page 25) proving that horse racing is weirder, wilder and wackier than any other sport.

Love the horse racing. Love the paper.

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# Pepsi North America Cup 2022:



Pebble Beach was much the best

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Jimmy Freight



Fast As The Wind

## Pebble Beach Stoned Them

The 39<sup>th</sup> Pepsi North America Cup with a purse of \$1 million might not have had the most thrilling finish, but the connections of Pebble Beach aren't at all disappointed. With Todd McCarthy calling the shots, the brilliant 3-year-old dominated the biggest race of the year, winning by almost 3 lengths in 1:50, just a tick off the 1:49.4 he recorded winning his elimination the week before. And Pebble Beach didn't exactly have an ideal trip. Frozen Hanover, a son of the legendary Somebeachsomewhere, crossed over from post 9 to seize the lead, as the other elimination winner Cup Beach Glass, also a son of Somebeachsomewhere, settled into second. That forced Pebble Beach to press on from the outside as the field reached the opening quarter in :27.3. It was not until the half mile mark that Pebble Beach was able to settle along the rail with the lead, passing that post in :55.0. From that point on, Pebble Beach was kicking dirt in the faces of his opponents. After passing the ¾ mark in 1:23, McCarthy and Pebble Beach were under no threat. With a final quarter of :27, the son of Downbytheseaside and a grandson of Somebeachsomewhere was unchallenged to the wire.

"Our hand got forced there and I had to keep pressing," said McCarthy about his first over journey to the front.

"A :55 half – I was pretty happy with that. I just had to look after him from there and I knew he would have a big last quarter for me. He was terrific."

Trainer Noah Daley had equally high praise for the winner.

"I left it to Todd to make his decision there and he did the right thing," said Daley. "They were going

easy fractions. He showed now he's got a bit of versatility – he can do it in front or behind." This was the first North America Cup win for both McCarthy and Daley. Pebble Beach was bred by Brittany Farms. Originally an \$85,000 purchase (Hip No. 710) at the 2020 Lexington Select Sale, Pebble Beach is now a 10-time winner, along with 3 seconds and 2 thirds from 15 starts. Pebble Beach paid \$3.10 for the win. He is owned by Patricia Stable, Joe Sbrocco, Country Club Acres Inc., and La Express and Deo Volente Farms

## How Good is Jimmy Freight?

The fastest mile of the night came earlier in the card in the \$100,000 Mohawk Gold Cup Invitational and this provided more fuel for the argument that 7-year-old Jimmy Freight is the best harness horse in Canada right now.

Louis-Philippe Roy had Jimmy Freight in 5<sup>th</sup> at the quarter which was scorched in :26 by Wheels On Fire (Doug McNair). Jimmy Freight went to the outside as the field headed to the half, and he needed to pace faster than :27 to overcome almost 7 lengths as he grabbed the lead in :53.2. After a brisk 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in :26.4, Jimmy Freight's work was hardly done as James MacDonald and Line Drive Hanover were steaming down the stretch and reducing the margin with every stride. The two horses appeared to hit the wire simultaneously as the clock was stopped in 1:48, the fastest mile carved out by any harness horse in Canada this year.

"After the wire James asked me 'would you take a dead heat?'" said Roy, "I said I would because I don't want to get beat but I was pretty sure I won. James also said he thought I won."

Jimmy Freight did win, by a nose, with the fastest mile of his 72-race career. It was about a year ago that owner Adriano Sorella decided to bring the great pacer back to the races after a couple of seasons of stallion duty. In 2022 alone, Jimmy Freight has won 11 of 18 starts for trainer Richard Moreau.

He paid \$5.60.

## Fast As The Wind in the Goodtimes

On a night when favourites dominated, the 2-5 price on Fast As The Wind might have been a pretty good return in the \$251,000 Goodtimes Stakes for 3-year-old boy trotters.

Fast As The Wind had won his elimination by 3 lengths and he got a nice patient trip from Dexter Dunn in the final. When the front-trotting Looks Like Moni (Andrew McCarthy) broke stride at the top of the stretch, the race momentarily looked like a 3-horse battle as Twin B Archie (James Macdonald), Pretender (Yannick Gingras) and Fast As The Wind took over the racetrack. Halfway through the lane, Fast As The Wind was just too much, roaring past the others to win by 1 ¾ lengths in a lifetime best 1:52.2. Trained by Tony Alagna for the ownership group of Leblanc and Kribbs, Joe Sbrocco, and Joseph Barbera, the son of Cantab Hall-Wind Stroll now has two wins, one second and a third from four starts on the season. Overall, the bay colt is 7-2-4 from 18 starts and he paid just \$2.90.

## The Dragon Was Treacherous

Ten 3-year-old fillies lined up for the \$401,000 Fan Hanover final, and trainer Brett Pelling could not have scripted it better as the two that he sent out finished 1-2 and put on an exciting finish as well.

Tim Tetrick was driving Treacherous Dragon and he



Atlanta and Yannick Gingras



Test of Faith



Treacherous Dragon

orchestrated a beautiful trip, getting cover around the far turn from Prohibition Legal (James MacDonald). Into the stretch, Treacherous Dragon powered up in the middle of the track but had to deal with a late moving stablemate, Wickedly Innocent who was closing in with every stride for Todd McCarthy. The wire came just in time for Treacherous Dragon, winning by a head in 1:50.1.

Bred by White Birch Farm of NJ, and owned by Hot Lead Farm of Allentown, Treacherous Dragon was a \$260,000 yearling, and won for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in 5 tries in 2022 after 4 wins in 10 races in 2021. Treacherous Dragon paid \$4.60 to win.

**Atlanta in the Armbro Flight**

Picking winners in retrospect is easy, but even so, \$5.60 was a pretty nice price on the great trotting Mare, Atlanta after she stomped on 9 opponents in the \$211,000 Armbro Flight final. The favourite at 6-5 was Bella Bellini, but after starting near the rear of the field, she never got into serious contention. Yannick Gingras worked out a nifty trip for Atlanta – she was 2<sup>nd</sup> most of the way, as Herculisa (James MacDonald) cut out front end fractions of :26.4, :56.0 and 1:23.2. When Herculisa weakened, Atlanta popped out in the stretch and hit the wire a length the best in 1:52.2. Trained by Ronald Burke and owned in part by Canadian Brad Grant, Atlanta went to the winner's circle for the 33<sup>rd</sup> time in 67 races.

**Roses Were Red for Test of Faith**

It was a night when the favourites dominated, and that did not change in the \$315,000 Roses Are Red final for pacing fillies and mares. Test Of Faith, who had won 24 of her first 29 races went off at 1-2 and with David Miller steering, justified her low price by coming from 6<sup>th</sup> at the

half to win by a widening length in 1:50.1.

Test Of Faith won for the 25<sup>th</sup> time. She has 10 wins from her last 12 races and has now earned more than \$1,768,000. The trainer is Brett Pelling for owners Melvin Segal, Kentuckiana Racing Stable and Eddie Gran. All the successful bettors got was \$3.

Saturday evening's card established a new Pepsi North America Cup handle record of \$6.3 million, besting the \$5.6 million handle in 2020. The handle was headlined by \$1.9 million in new money wagered on the Jackpot Hi-5 mandatory payout in the 13<sup>th</sup> and final heat of the night. In that race, the 2-5 favourite, No Plan Intended, driven by Jody Jamieson, won by open lengths with a 39-1 shot second, followed by a pair of 10-1 horses and the 5<sup>th</sup> place finisher was 95-1. The combination of 6-12-7-1-2 returned \$2,228.18 for each 20-cent bet.

*Three days after the North America Cup, the Hambletonian Society released its poll of the top Standardbreds in North America. Note that Jimmy Freight tops the list and 6 of the top 10 were winners at Mohawk on June 18.*

**Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Standardbred Poll:**

**Week 3 – 6/21/2022**

Rank	Name (First Place Votes)	Age/Sex/Gait	Record	Earnings	Points	Pvs
1	Jimmy Freight (21)	7hp	<u>18-11-1-3</u>	\$283,337	313	3
2	Test Of Faith (4)	4mp	5-3-1-0	\$158,500	286	4
3	Pebble Beach (3)	3cp	4-3-1-0	\$441,900	275	5
4	Ecurie D DK (4)	6ht	1-1-0-0	\$81,817	190	2
5	Joviality S (2)	3ft	3-3-0-0	\$151,900	146	--
6	Treacherous Dragon	3fp	5-5-0-0	\$227,343	139	--
7	Funatthebeach N	8gp	<u>21-7-1-4</u>	\$512,267	122	1
8	Atlanta (1)	7mt	4-2-2-0	\$112,360	89	--
9	Linedrive Hanover	4gp	14-11-2-0	\$230,067	84	7
10	Fast As The Wind	3ct	<u>4-2-1-1</u>	\$115,355	68	--

# Mohawk Stakes

## Mohawk Park Stakes

### Somebeachsomewhere Stakes, June 4:

The start of Grand Circuit racing in June at Mohawk began with a pair of Somebeachsomewhere divisions featuring pacers looking one week ahead to the Pepsi North America Cup eliminations.

In the first \$81,000 division of the Somebeachsomewhere, Pebble Beach went coast to coast on the front to win in 1:51. Driver Todd McCarthy sent the Noel Daley trainee to the lead immediately and got full control, posting fractions of :27.1, :56.1 and 1:24.1 before a :26.4 kicker to secure the victory.

"I was pretty fortunate to get cheap fractions," said McCarthy. "Having him out front there tonight I was a little concerned how he would be, but he finished up really strong and I was super happy with him."

A son of Downbytheseaside, Pebble Beach picked up the first win of his 3-year-old season. He had won 7 times from 11 starts as a 2-year-old.

Owned by Patricia Stable, Joe Sbrocco, Country Club Acres and Laexpressfoderadeovolente, Pebble Beach returned just \$2.40.



Magic Authur

There was a much more substantial return in the second Somebeachsomewhere division, as Magical Arthur got a magical steer from Trevor Henry to upset at odds of more than 5-1.

This division had just 6 pacers, and Henry blasted Magical Arthur to the lead, posting a :27.1 opening quarter. At the half it was Beach Glass and Paul MacDonell on top in :55, but not for long as Stonebridge Helios took

over, passing  $\frac{3}{4}$  in :23. Beach Glass and Stonebridge Helios battled through the stretch, but Henry made the last critical move with Magical Henry, pulling him to the middle of the stretch late to power by on the outside to win by half a length over Beach Glass in 1:50.3.

Trained by Anthony Beaten and owned by David Lumsden, Magical Arthur won for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in his career, boosting his earnings to \$271,453.

"He proved he's as good as them," said Henry of Magical Arthur. "I thought I might get second, but I didn't really think I could beat Beach Glass, but he did."

Magical Arthur paid \$13.90 to win.

## Graduate Series, June 4:

The Graduate Series for 4-year-olds featured 3 divisions, one for the ladies and two for the boys.

Oakwoodanabella, driven by Todd McCarthy utilized a front-end strategy to take the first \$50,000 division



Oakwoodanabella

NewImage Media Photos

for pacing mares. Brian Brown is the trainer and Oakwoodanabella paid just \$2.50 to win.

Bulldog Hanover made a second-quarter move to



Bulldog Hanover

the top and never looked back to win the first \$62,500 Graduate division in 1:49.2. Driven by Jody Jamieson for trainer Jack Darling, Bulldog Hanover cruised by the half in :55.3 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  in 1:23 before shooting home in :26.2.

"He's just such a great horse and I knew it was no problem getting to the lead," said Jamieson. He won pretty handily."

Bulldog Hanover is owned by Darling and Brad Grant and has now won 16 times as he approaches a million dollars in earnings. He paid \$5.70 to win.

Carbine showed tremendous grit to pull out a 1:49



Carbine

NewImage Media Photos

victory in the second \$62,500 Graduate division. Todd McCarthy scored his third stakes win of the evening by guiding the Tony Alagna trainee to victory.

A son of Somebeachsomewhere, Carbine improved to 3 for 4 on the season. He is owned by Let It Ride Stables Inc., Bottom Line Racing LLC and Howard Taylor, and he paid \$6 to win.

## OSS Gold, June 4:

Eleven pacers lined up for the \$199,900 opening leg of the OSS Gold for 3-year-old fillies, and though Prohibition Legal was pounded down to 2-5 (despite starting from the second tier in post 11), it was 14-1 shot, In The Mood who took the top prize. Driver Sylvain Filion rallied In The Mood from off the pace, overtaking Prohibition Legal late in the stretch to win by a length in 1:50.1. In The Mood is owned by Katherine Steacy and trained by Shawn Steacy. The 3-year-old paid \$30.80 to win.



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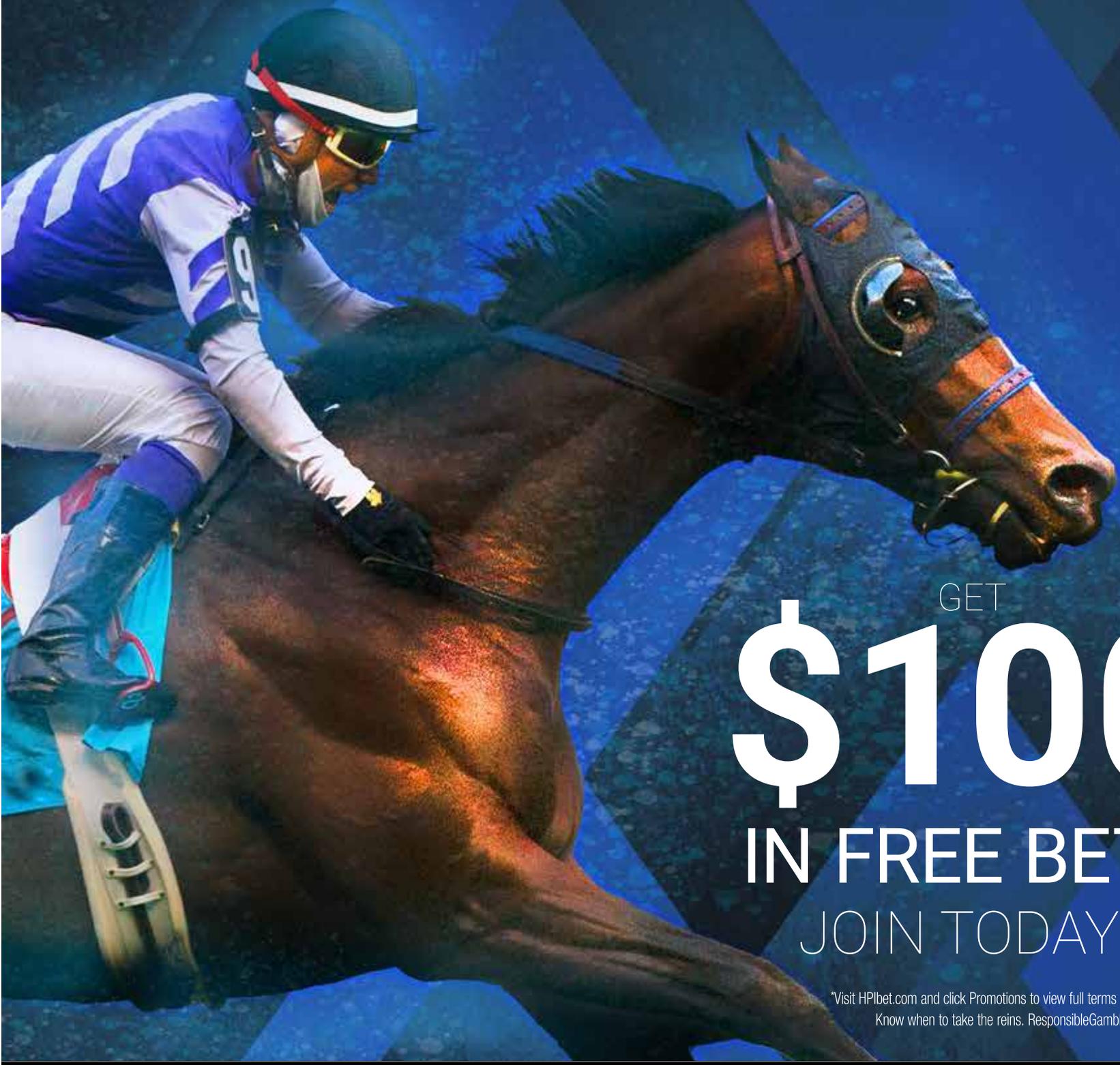
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# Mo Donegal in the Belmont

On a few counts, the 154<sup>th</sup> Belmont lacked real intrigue. There was no horse eligible to win the Triple Crown. In fact, only 2 horses in the field of 8 – Rich Strike and Mo Donegal – had run in the Kentucky Derby, and only Creative Minister and Skippylongstocking had run in the Preakness. Rich Strike's remarkable win at odds of 80-1 influenced many bettors. He went off as the 3<sup>rd</sup> betting choice at 4-1. The post-time favourite was Mo Donegal who finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Derby, but many "trip" bettors knew he probably had the roughest trip of any on the first Saturday in May.

It was We The People and Flavien Prat who did the early lifting in this year's Belmont, leading the field for the first mile and cutting reasonable fractions while doing so – 1:13.23 for 6 furlongs and 1:37.74 for the mile. It was Skippylongstocking and Manny Franco who shadowed

the leader up to the head of the stretch, as Irad Ortiz had Mo Donegal comfortable in 4<sup>th</sup> along the rail. Brother José was riding the filly Nest, and she came into the stretch 3<sup>rd</sup> on the outside.

As the field straightened for home, it was obvious that Mo Donegal was the best. He surged to the lead after a 3-wide move and was expanding his advantage all the way to the wire. Nest passed tiring rivals late and was a clear 2<sup>nd</sup>, some 3 lengths behind the winner.

Todd Pletcher trained the top two horses. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time he has won the Belmont and the 7<sup>th</sup> time a horse trained by Pletcher has finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of the Triple Crown. Michael Repole owns a share of both horses.

The Derby winner, Rich Strike was never a factor, finishing 6<sup>th</sup>, about 13 lengths behind the winner.

Irad Ortiz won the Belmont for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. His first win came in 2016 aboard Creator.

Mo Donegal paid \$7.20 to win. The all-Ortiz, all-Pletcher exactor was \$27.60.

The time of 2:28.28 for the mile and a half would have put Mo Donegal more than 20 lengths behind Secretariat, whose 1973 Belmont record of 2:24 has never been threatened. Mo Donegal did run the 12 furlongs faster than Sir Winston (2:28.30 in 2019), Tapwrit (2:30.02 in 2017), Creator (2:28.52 in 2016) and Tonalist (2:28.52 in 2014). Before that, Palace Malice (2013), Union Rags (2012), Ruler on Ice (2011) and Drosselmeyer (2010) all required more than 2:30 to win their Belmont Stakes.

Mo Donegal is owned by Donegal Racing and Repole Stable. That was his 4<sup>th</sup> win in 7 races, and he has now earned \$1,314,000.

## Early Voting Wins the Preakness



Jose Ortiz rode Early Voting to Preakness Victory

The Pimlico guys in suits will deny it, but, more than anything else, the \$1.5 million Preakness Stakes wishes to be Act II following the Kentucky Derby. It's desperately important that the Derby winner run the mile and 3/16<sup>th</sup> two weeks later, and that didn't happen this year. Rich Strike, the 80-1 shot that blew up a million tote tickets was excused from the second jewel of America's Triple Crown, his owners from Red TR-Racing deciding it was too much to ask.

Adding to the grief of the Preakness organizers, only 3 of the 20 horses that ran two weeks earlier in the Kentucky Derby were entered in the second leg – Epicenter the runner-up to Rich Strike, Simplification, who was 4<sup>th</sup>, and Happy Jack, the 14<sup>th</sup> finisher.

Adding some lustre to this year's Preakness was Secret Oath, the filly who won the Kentucky Oaks the day before the Derby.

Epicenter went off as the 6-5 favourite, with the lightly raced Creative Minister the second choice at 5-1. Early Voting, whose owners, the Klaravich Stables elected not to run in the Derby, was the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice at 5.70-1.

For more than the first half of the race, it was the Ortiz brothers calling the shots. Armagnac and Irad Ortiz led for 6 furlongs, passing that post in 1:11.50, followed closely by José Ortiz on Early Voting. As the field turned into the stretch, Armagnac was done, as Early Voting surged to the lead, quickly opening up 3 lengths. Epicenter (Joel Rosario) had languished towards the back of the field, but the pace never heated up to his advantage. He kept to the rail and passed tired rivals in deep stretch, but the best he could do was second, a length and a quarter behind Early Voting. The time for the race was 1:54.54, well off the record of 1:53 set by Secretariat in 1973. Last year's

winner, Rombauer stopped the clock in 1:53.62. In 2020, the filly Swiss Skydiver was timed in 1:53.3.

"I was never worried," said Chad Brown, the winning trainer. "Once we had a good target, I actually preferred that. We were fine to go to the lead, but I thought down the back side it was going to take a good horse to beat us. And a good horse did run up on us near the wire and it was about the only one that could run with us."

Winning jockey Ortiz gave Klaravich Stables their props for not putting Early Voting in the first leg of the Triple Crown.

"That's very hard to get an owner to pass on the Derby, and they did the right choice," said Ortiz, who won the Preakness for the first time. "The horse, I don't think he was seasoned enough to run in a 20-horse field, and they proved that they were right today."

This was Brown's second Preakness win. He also sent out Cloud Computing in 2017 for the Klaravich Stables.

"Cloud Computing was a once in a lifetime and now I have a twice in a lifetime," said Seth Klarman, point man for Klaravich, who grew up three blocks from Pimlico Race Course and was celebrating his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. "Really hard to believe it could've happened."

This was just Early Voting's 4<sup>th</sup> career race and his 3<sup>rd</sup> win. He won the Grade 3 Withers at Aqueduct and lost by a neck in the Wood Memorial in April.

And if the Preakness lost some of its buzz as the after thought to the Kentucky Derby, the bettors didn't seem to notice. Over \$18 million was bet in the win pool on race 13, \$6.7 million on Epicenter and \$2.274 million on Early Voting. Including place and show and all the exotics, the bettors poured about \$70 million into the one race.

Early Voting paid \$13.40

## Chantal's Big Win



Lightning Larry was Sutherland's biggest win of the year

It was certainly a long time between graded stakes wins for jockey Chantal Sutherland, but on the same card as the Preakness at Pimlico, she rode Lightning Larry to an upset victory in the Grade 3, \$200,000 Chick Lang Stakes for 3-year-olds. As if she knew it was her first graded win since 2014 (the Grade 3 Whimsical at Woodbine), Sutherland pumped her right fist in the air.

She had every right to celebrate – she gave Lightning Larry a confident and athletic ride. Sutherland and Larry pressed the pace of the 2-1 favourite, Cogburn (Joel Rosario) through fast fractions of :44.14 and :56.52 for five furlongs. When Cogburn got leg weary in the last 16<sup>th</sup>, Lightning Larry did not, inching away to win by 3/4 of a

length in 1:09.86, good for a 91 speed Beyer.

"He was aggressive," Sutherland said about Lightning Larry. "He's a bit of a pit bull that way, so we wanted him close. The track is fast, and the rail is good, and I didn't want to leave Joel too far away from me."

It might have been the case of the bettors underestimating Sutherland because Lightning Larry's form suggested he should not have been 12-1. He had won twice previously at that distance, including the \$100,000 Limehouse Stakes at Gulfstream on January 1.

Lightning Larry improved to 4 wins in 9 races. He is owned by Lea Farms LLC and trained by Sutherland's most loyal trainer, Jorge Delgado. The win ticket was worth \$26.

# Betting Horses With the Sports Books

Michael Copeland, WEG CCO



Many years ago, when David Willmot was the CEO of Woodbine, he made a critical argument in the battle against illegal off-shore betting sites.

“No betting results are more expensive to produce than those in horse racing,” said Willmot.

To create a \$2 win payout, a racetrack needs horses, jockeys, a starting gate, the gate crew, pari-mutuel machines, tellers, not to mention the bricks and mortar building. Illegitimate betting places incurred none of those expenses when they offered wagering on horse racing.

That’s why, when bill C-218 allowed all the gambling companies to open shop in Canada, the politicians made it clear – horse racing would not be included.

This mattered, especially to Woodbine. It allowed the track to negotiate with the betting sites to allow wagering on the horses with the understanding that all bets would simply be added to the Woodbine totals.

Michael Copeland, Chief Commercial Officer at Woodbine told *Down the Stretch* that if horse race betting were allowed to be operated by the internet bookies, the outcome would be dreadful.

“If racing was allowed to be included within the sports books, then they would reap all the benefits and the racing industry in Ontario would be decimated overnight,” said Copeland. “For us to be competitive with all the new players in the market, we need to be integrated into the sports betting ecosystem.”

Fortunately for the sport in Canada, that is what is happening. Woodbine has indicated that by the Queen’s Plate on August 21, gamblers will be able to log on to MGM, Fan Duel, Caesars, TheScore, BetRivers and others and make bets on live horse races.

“We’re just looking forward to the government regulators to endorse this and give us the green light to move forward,” adds Copeland.

As the bill moved from level to level through government procedures, it was obvious that many entities were preparing to jump into the market. We’ve already seen the expensive tv ads featuring Wayne Gretzky and Jamie Foxx for BetMGM, an intense Aaron Paul for Bet365 and even Canada’s Gerry Dee with an incomprehensible promo for TheScore. It’s as if the gates opened and a full field erupted.

“We knew it was going to be highly competitive,” says Copeland. “We knew there was going to be a fight for market share. Woodbine is a not for profit company and we support 25,000 jobs in the province, so we want to go partner with these players in the market. We want their customers to know that horse racing is available to them. Getting into the sports betting ecosystem and attracting new customers gives us a bright future.”

## Free Advice for Woodbine

With the distinct possibility of Woodbine’s product being included on the major legal betting sites, it’s time for Canada’s most important racetrack to do what the



betting palaces do – market relentlessly, offer a much wider variety of pools, parlays and props and explore each and every possibility of attracting new fans to the sport. With that in mind, *Down The Stretch* editor, Peter Gross and horse playing guru Garnet Barnsdale have assembled the following brilliant ideas, all of which are gifted at no cost to Woodbine:

- 1) Start doing what Bodog, MGM, Bet365 and dozens of others do – offer props and parlays that go beyond win, place show and exactors:
  - a) Every day you can pick 2 or 3 Blue Jays and bet they will hit a home run. The odds can run from 5-1 to 30-1. In a similar fashion allow horse players to pick the jockey that will win 2 or more races:
 

Kazushi Kimura	1.25-1
Justin Stein	2.35-1
Emma-Jayne Wilson	4-1
Leo Salles	15-1
Skye Chernetz	28-1
  - b) Predict the over-under of all the numbers that might win in a 10-race card:
 

Under 48 ½	1.10-1
Over 48 ½	.90-1
  - c) On a Thursday, pick a jockey and bet that he/

she wins at least 1 race on each of the next 4 days:

Kimura	4-1
Stein	8-1
Wilson	12-1
Hernandez	6-1
Civaci	40-1

- 2) Mix and match sports. Will the time of the Hambletonian be more in seconds than the number of minutes it takes for the first 7 innings of the Blue Jays/Yankees game?
- 3) Whatever it is that they do in Sweden for the V75 lottery, find out how it works, what they do, and do it here. The whole country plays. People line up in variety stores to fill out tickets.
- 4) If you have ever been at Saratoga on a give away day, you witness the power of free stuff. Woodbine needs more bodies to come to the track. Get the corporate sponsors – Tim Hortons, Pepsi, Molson, to provide hats, t-shirts, money clips, pens, phone holders, vouchers, etc. One spring in 1985, I went to Hialeah racetrack in Florida and upon entering, was given a free pink orange juice container. I lost \$300 that day, but I still have that juice jug.
- 5) The OLG introduces new games and new scratch tickets several times a year. They understand the mentality of the gambler, how he/she responds to something new and shiny. Racetracks should introduce a new bet a couple times a year:
  - a) A three race place or show parlay
  - b) The Woodbine 3-step. It’s like the Grand Slam in New York, but in this version, you bet to show in the 1st leg, to place in the second and to win in the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - c) The first and last race daily double. That’s how you keep the fans interested for the entire card!
- 6) Whenever possible, invite the most dynamic Maple Leafs, Blue Jays and Raptors to come sign autographs and answer questions. This is an expensive idea, but probably worth it.
- 7) At least once a week, offer a 10% takeout pool, say on a triactor, or pick 3. Persuade the relevant government bodies to shave their take. Promote it. Promote it. Promote it.
- 8) There used to be doubleheaders at Woodbine – a handful of thoroughbred races, then some standardbred racing. How about a triple header – thoroughbred races, quarter horse races and standardbred races on the grass track?

*Woodbine executives: You’re welcome!*

# Woodbine's Stars of the Month for May

This year Woodbine will present their Stars of the Month for Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing.

The Woodbine Stars of the Month recognizes top performers in three categories (Horse, Trainer, Jockey/Driver) for live racing at Woodbine Racetrack and Woodbine Mohawk Park. The "Stars" are selected by the Woodbine Communications Team and consideration for selection is based off statistics, significant wins, notable career accomplishment and milestones.

The Woodbine Stars of the Month will be named on the first Monday of each month.

Performances from start of the Thoroughbred season (April 16) through the end of May were considered in the first selection of the Stars at Woodbine. The Standardbred winners were selected based off performances in May.

## Thoroughbred

### **Horse: Arzak**



The Michael Trombetta trained four year-old started his season two for two by capturing the Thorncliffe Stakes on April 17 and the Gr. 3 Jacques Cartier on May 15.

### **Trainer: Josie Carroll**



Carroll posted seven wins from 22 starts for a 33% win percentage (highest among nine trainers with 20+ starters). The Hall of Fame trainer's top performer through May at Woodbine was Loyalty, as the three-year-old filly won both of her starts (Maiden Special Weight, Allowance).

### **Jockey: Kazushi Kimura**



Kimura led all jockeys at Woodbine with 26 wins (20% win percentage) and finished Top-3 in 56% of his mounts. The defending jocks title holder, Kimura posted three stakes victories (Gr. 3 Jacques Cartier, Gr. 3 Whimsical, Thorncliffe Stakes).

## Standardbred

### **Horse: Oney Hall**



The Bob McIntosh trained six-year-old won three of four starts in May, with his only loss being a narrow runner-up finish. All three of Oney Hall's victories came in the Free For All/Preferred, including a national season's best mile of 1:51.1 on May 16.

### **Trainer: Richard Moreau**

Moreau posted 19 wins from 98 starts for a 19% win percentage. Moreau capped off the month with four wins



on the May 30<sup>th</sup> card. Top performers included Jimmy Freight (two Free For All Pace wins) and Patriarch Hanover (Free For All Trot winner).

### **Driver: James MacDonald**



MacDonald led all Woodbine drivers with 29 wins in the month of May (21% win percentage). The reigning O'Brien Award Driver of the Year won three SBOA Stakes Finals (Adare Castle, Silver Label, Twin B Archie). MacDonald currently leads all Woodbine drivers in victories, sitting at 145 wins through May.

Arzak winning the Gr. 3 Jacques Cartier on May 15. (Michael Burns photo)

Josie Carroll speaking to media on October 19, 2020 at Woodbine. (Michael Burns photo)

Kazushi Kimura guiding Arzak to victory in the Gr. 3 Jacques Cartier. (Michael Burns photo)

Oney Hall winning the Free For All Trot on May 16. (New Image Media)

Richard Moreau warming up at Woodbine Mo...

James MacDonald steering Adare Castle to victory in the SBOA Filly Trot on May 21. (New Image Media)

# Woodbine Stakes

## Jacques Cartier Stakes, May 15:

The 4-year-old Arzak certainly loves Woodbine. The 6-furlong, \$151,000 Jacques Cartier Stakes was his 3<sup>rd</sup> career start at this track and for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, he emerged with the win, carrying jockey Kazushi Kimura to a front-running verdict by a relaxed 1 ½ lengths at the wire in 1:08.91.

Kimura believed he had the best horse, so he fired Arzak to the front early and the pair carved out intimidating fractions of 22.55 and 44.49. Not only did those fast splits not tire Arzak, but they also forced the rest of the field to follow so quickly that none of the other 6 contestants could summon up a stretch kick.

“He’s a completely nice horse,” said Kimura, who won the 2021 Sovereign Award as Canada’s top rider. “I just dropped the lines to show the natural speed and just go wire-to-wire.”

This was Arzak’s 13<sup>th</sup> lifetime race and his 5<sup>th</sup> win. He is

Summertime Magic had a spring in her step



Michael Burns Photo

owned by Sonata Stable and trained by Michael Trombeta. A win ticket on Arzak was worth \$6.50.

## Ruling Angel, May 21:

For many years, the combination of trainer Mark Casse and jockey Patrick Husbands has been deadly in Stakes races at Woodbine. There were six 3-year-old fillies in the \$100,000 Ruling Angel Stakes battling it out over 7 furlongs, and Casse sent out 3 of them. It was Summertime Magic and Husbands who went quickly to the front, stayed there through brisk splits of :46.17 and 1:09.73 and looked strong to the finish line, winning by 1 ¼ lengths over Mrs. Barbara (Rafael Hernandez) and Join The Dance (Emma-Jayne Wilson). The 3 horses trained by Casse finished 1-2-3. Summertime Magic is owned by John Oxley, and she won for the second time in 2 races. The win ticket was a generous \$11.90.

## Royal North, June 4:

The \$210,000 Royal North Stakes attracted 8 older fillies and mares to go 6 ½ furlongs on the turf. Super Sensational



Planned in the Boardroom (#5), executed on the grass

Michael Burns Photo

(Patrick Husbands) fired the first shot, leading the field through a quarter in :22.42 and scorching the half mile in :44.37. While Souper Sensational was repelling Jeanie B (Antonio Gallardo), Rafael Hernandez was giving Boardroom a nicely rated ride in her first race on the grass. The 5-year-old mare was 3<sup>rd</sup> after that quick half and Hernandez took her 3-wide with momentum into the stretch.

Down the lane, Boardroom was able to catch Souper Sensational and won by a neck in 1:13.55, just over half a

second off the course record of 1:12.93 (Queen Del Valle) which has stood for 5 years. Boardroom is trained by Josie Carroll for LNJ Foxwoods and the winning jockey, Hernandez, gave his mare her props.

“She’s an unbelievable horse,” he said. “Everything worked good, exactly like Josie told me, and here we are. Even though the pace was fast, she was doing everything easy. She just stretched her legs down the lane.” This was just the 9<sup>th</sup> start for Boardroom, and Carroll appreciates the patience of the people involved with LNJ Foxwoods.

“I’m so fortunate that I have owners who are going to do the right thing by the horse,” she said. “When you take the time



Michael Burns Photo

Victory was reality for Dreaming of Drew

and do the right thing by them, they pay you back.” Boardroom paid \$7.70, a terrific win price, considering her 6 wins and that she has never missed the board in her 9 races.

## Belle Mahone Stakes, June 5:

Trainer Barb Minshall looked at the form of the 10 fillies and mares in the \$120,800 Bell Mahone Stakes and she believed the best chance for her filly, Dreaming of Drew was to get to the front and make them all chase her.

“I didn’t see a lot of speed in here” said Minshall. “I said to Kimura, ‘If no one goes, you just do what you want to do. She can more than wire this group.’”

Good advice and good execution. Jockey Kazushi Kimura gunned Dreaming of Drew right to the front and led all the way, winning very comfortably by almost 3 lengths in 1:44.08.

“I’ve been on her two or three times in the morning and she’s eager, always running strong,” said Kimura. “I wanted her to be comfortable and when I put her on the lead, she tried to pay attention to me, and she was so comfortable to me.”

That is Dreaming of Drew’s 2<sup>nd</sup> win in 3 starts this year. She opened the season by winning the Long Branch Stakes at 5 ½ furlongs, then was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Whimsical. Dreaming of Drew missed her entire 2021 season and is now 4 for 8.

She is owned by Hoolie Racing Stable and Madaket Stables. She paid \$6.20 to win.

## Fury Stakes, June 11:

Moira made her 3-year-old debut by capturing the \$125,000 Stella Artois Fury Stakes on June 11. Rider Rafael Hernandez, who won 3 races on the Saturday card, had Moira reserved in 6<sup>th</sup> down the backstretch in this 7 furlong race that had a purse of \$125,000. As the front-runners began to fade, Moira made a 4-wide move on the turn and had the lead as the field of 7 entered the stretch. Down the lane, Moira seemed to tire in the final 70 yards as Pioneer’s Edge (Justin Stein) was moving dangerously closer, but at the wire, Moira survived by a head in the good time of 1:22.81.

Winning trainer Kevin Attard needed to see that the filly was ready to jump into deeper waters.

“Today was an important step to get her ready for the Oaks,”



Did Johnny Rose bet on Moira?

Michael Burns Photo

said Attard. We were making our first start and a lot of these fillies have already run. Obviously, winning makes it extra special.”

The 1 ⅛ mile \$500,000 Woodbine Oaks goes July 24 at Woodbine. Owned by X-Men Stable, Madaket Stables and SD Racing, Moira won for the second time in her 3 starts and paid \$6.50.

## Queenston Stakes, June 12:

It’s an easy question to ask once a race is over, but how did The Minkster – an undefeated horse – go off at more than 8-1 in the \$125,000 Queenston Stakes at 7 furlongs?

Under David Moran, The Minkster, making his 2022 debut, challenged Hi Time (Patrick Husbands) for the lead from the start, and there was nothing casual about this hook-up. The pair went past the half mile in :45.16, and as The Minkster began to pull away at the top of the stretch, he was timed at 1:08.49 for 6 furlongs. That’s Pink Lloyd territory there!

Down to the wire, The Minkster was tiring, and both Rondure (Shaun Bridgmohan) and Ironstone (Kazushi Kimura) were closing in, but the finish line came just in time as The Minkster held on by a head in the excellent time of 1:21.01.

The Queenston Stakes is considered an important lead-



The Minkster hung on

up race for the \$1 million Queen’s Plate on August 21. The Minkster now must be considered one of the more likely candidates. His trainer, Danny Vella has won a couple Plates – in 1994 with Basqueian and in 2021 with Strait of Dover.

“We’re very excited,” said Vella. “He developed a lot from two to three. Not every horse does, but he’s matured a lot. The Plate Trial is probably our next goal.”

The Minkster won both of his races in 2021, winning the Coronation Futurity in just his second start.

The winning owners are Ray and Debbie Burke of Sea Glass Stables. The Minkster paid \$19.10.

## Ontario Jockey Club Stakes, June 19:

This one had a purse of \$100,800 for 4-year-olds and up, going 6 furlongs. 60-1 shot Sunspear (Sahin Civaci) led the field of 10 to the half in a brisk :45.29 but had little left for the rest of the race. Mason’s Gamble, close from the start for Rafael Hernandez, came 3-wide into the stretch and managed to stay on top to the wire in 1:09.51, as Candy Overload came late for Keveh Nicholls, but missed by half a length.

Mason’s Gamble is a 4-year-old colt, owned by ATA Stables and trained by Josie Carroll. This was his 5<sup>th</sup> win in only 9 starts which makes the \$12.60 payoff very generous.

# Down The Stretch at AJAX DOWNS



Photographer Clive Cohen provided this shot of Blazin Magician, winner of the 1st race. Jockey Ismael Mosqueira, trainer Jason Pascoe (far right), owner Milena Kwicien (3rd from left) and some guy from Down The Stretch (2nd from left)

**D**own The Stretch took its production equipment (my cell phone) to Ajax Downs on May 18, the second day of the racing schedule. Because of a shortage of quarter horses, the track was able to offer just 6 races, and 4 of them had 5-horse fields.

The first thing we noticed in the program was that 59-year-old Ed Walton had returned to ride for another year. Walton's stats on Equibase show he was riding at old Picov Downs in 1989. Since then, he has accumulated over 200 quarter horse wins in 1,521 rides. In 2020, his 35 victories led all jockeys at Ajax Downs. At nearly 6 feet tall and weighing in at 130 pounds, Walton strikes a lanky profile. Give him a drink of tomato juice and he could pass for a thermometer.

"I just love it. I'm healthy now and my weight's good," he says, explaining his presence in silks. "I love the competition and riding some nice horses. It's hard to give up."

"We run a raw dog food company," he says, "one in North Bay, one in Sudbury. I work horses on Sunday and come here and ride on Wednesday."

The Sunday before we visited Ajax Downs, Walton's daughter Nikki Alderson delivered the 4-year-old filly, Blondeonamission to the winner's circle in a \$35,000 maiden claiming race at Woodbine. It was the first riding assignment in 20 months for Alderson, who was recovering from an injury suffered in 2020.

"That was amazing. I was so proud of her," says Walton.

"I was able to get to Woodbine and got my picture taken with her. She has been working so hard, getting up at 3 in the morning, getting on 10 or 11 a day."

Making this win even more interesting is that in mid-stretch, Blondeonamission and Tropospheric, ridden by Nikki's husband, Jeffrey Alderson were both surging for the lead. The wife out finished the husband, who had to settle for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

"That wasn't very good," laughs Walton. "I had both of them in the exactor and Jeffrey didn't live up to his end of the bargain. She went by him at the 16<sup>th</sup> pole, and I wondered if she said anything to him. I know I would have!"

Walton concedes he has no chance of leading all the



Ed Walton



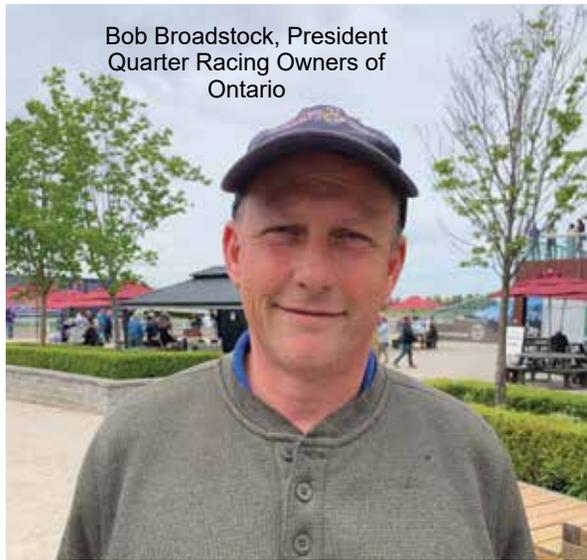
Carly Furlonger



Owner Milena Kwicien



Trainer Jason Pascoe



Bob Broadstock, President  
Quarter Racing Owners of  
Ontario

jockeys again.

“I told my doctors I would take it easy this time,” he says.

He had just one ride on this afternoon, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> of 5 in the second aboard Hanover Hill Viola.

We had to interview jockey Carly Furlonger. Why? Well she won on Opening Day with her only two mounts and besides, that name! Quarter horse races rarely go longer than 3 furlongs. How perfect to be named Furlonger.

“I got it from my dad,” she responds to the silly question about the origin of her name. “It surely is convenient.”

Furlonger is the romantic partner to trainer Scott Reid, who sent out the two horses that Furlonger won with on day one. She scored with Dawns Early Light (\$11.10) in the first for owner John Wilson, and she was the best in the 3<sup>rd</sup> with Rapter (\$10.70) that Reid owns in partnership with Colleen McCracken.

Another sophomoric question. Did she hook up with Reid simply to ride good horses?

“No,” she scoffs. “We got together about 5 years ago. I

stopped riding for quite a bit. We had a son together. He’s 4 years old. I just returned to riding last summer. We do all the work on these horses at our farm in Lansdowne.

Lansdowne is about 35 kilometres east of Kingston.

Next up on our tour of important people at Ajax Downs was Milena Kwiecien. In 2021, Kwiecien earned the title of Top Owner. With leading trainer Jason Pascoe, 22 of Kwiecien’s horses won races.

“I have an amazing team and I am lucky enough to have amazing horses as well,” she says.

Kwiecien’s most amazing horse just may be Maryland Magic. Now an 8-year-old, he has amassed 14 wins, including one on Opening Day when jockey Ismael Mosqueira got the veteran’s nose in front at the end of 110 yards (known as the Gridiron Classic). The twist here is that between racing assignments, Maryland Magic is also a stallion. We got impressive proof that Blazin Magician, who won the 1<sup>st</sup> race under Mosqueira on May 18, is the 3-year-old son of Maryland Magic, and the winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> race, Sw Snowmagicallykool, also ridden by Mosqueira, is the 3-year-old daughter of Kwiecien’s double-tasking racehorse.

“He’s amazing,” says Kwiecien. “He can breed, and he can come to the races and do really well. I am fortunate to have one that enjoys his job and can also sire babies.”

Does Kwiecien aspire to be the leading owner again at Ajax Downs in 2022?

“To be honest with you, I just want to have fun,” she says. “I want them to do well. I want my team to be successful.”

So the first 2 winners on May 18 were both owned by Milena Kwiecien, both ridden by Ismael Mosqueira, both sired by Maryland Magic and both trained by Jason Pascoe. Easy game?

“No, not really,” laughs Pascoe. “I’m lucky to have lots of good people around me and send me nice horses. Ismael has done very well for me in the last couple of years and I’m

looking for a great season this year as well.”

We asked Pascoe what criteria are necessary to be the leading trainer.

“You have to have a good stable of horses and pay attention to the fine details of what each horse needs,” he says.

Pascoe gives props to Kwiecien, his most important client.

“She’s great. She’s been in this for a number of years. She supports the business. She supports us here at Ajax Downs and when I race at other tracks.

Pascoe makes the point that very few horses can do what Maryland Magic does – win races and produce winning offspring.

“It’s never happened to me before,” Pascoe says. “He’s an amazing horse. We actually collected from him 10 days before his last race.”

Quarter horses can be bred by artificial insemination, when the stallion’s semen is frozen until it needs to be used.

Hopefully, there’s lots of that valuable DNA around, because for the first few cards at Ajax Downs there was clearly a shortage of racehorses. There were just 5 races and 24 runners on Opening Day. On May 18 there were only 6 races and 33 horses, and on Sunday, May 22, Fan Appreciation Day, there were just 27 entries and 5 heats. This is a problem that falls into the lap of Bob Broadstock, president of the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario.

“It’s a difficult question,” he says. “Right now, we have a few trainers that haven’t been out. They’ve had a tough spring getting ready. And getting new owners into the business is something we’re doing quite well right now. However, the price of horses has skyrocketed 300-400% of where they were just 2 years ago. This has pushed our breeding sector to grow and in 2-3 years, we should be good on our horse population side.”

Racing at Ajax Downs will continue on most Wednesdays until October 26, with Sunday cards scheduled for July 17, August 21, September 4 and a Monday, October 10 date.

## Her first win!

By Jennifer Morrison



Cheyenne made a splash!



Jockey Cheyenne Kerr celebrated her 20th birthday in the best way with her first victory as a jockey in the sixth race at Ajax Downs on Wednesday, June 8.

Riding in only her third career race, Kerr guided Debbie Slater’s Ah Wanna Corona to a one-length victory in the 250-yard speed index race at 9 to 1 odds. Following the race, Kerr was dunked by several buckets of water by the veteran riders in honour of her first victory.

“It was pretty cool,” said Kerr, who is from

Napanee, Ontario. “He was ready to go in the walking ring and just wanted to get running.”

Kerr is only in her second year of exercising horses at Ajax and at Woodbine racetrack but has made an instant impression on the owners and trainers at Ajax Downs.

“I am very proud of Cheyenne and Corona,” said Shannon Slater, whose mother Debbie and father Sean own and train Ah Wanna Corona, a 4 year-old gelding who was making his third start of the season. Ah Wanna Corona sped the 250 yards in 13.405 seconds for an impressive 91 speed index.

One race earlier, Ontario bred Memory of Griffin ran one of the fastest times of the 2022 Ajax Downs season when he won his 2022 debut in a 250 yard speed index dash in 13.106 for a hefty 103 speed index. Owned and bred by Erik and Joyce Lehtinen and trained by Angelle Carter, Memory of Griffin was ridden by Tony Phillips, who scored a double on the afternoon.

Phillips also won on favoured Heart of the Sun in the featured fourth race, a maiden allowance at 300 yards which he took by an easy 1 1/4 lengths in 15.883 for a 78 speed index. Heart of the Sun, is an Ontario bred for James Bogar of Cameron, Ontario, and trained by Barry Wood.

# Where Did Everybody Go?

by Nicholas Barnsdale



*For the sport of harness racing to have any kind of a sustainable future, it will need more young people like Nicholas Barnsdale. Barnsdale, the offspring of the Grade 1 winning stallion, Garnet, just graduated with his Bachelor of Journalism from Humber College. He earned 88% on his thesis, which examined the problem of diminishing crowds at harness tracks. The following is an edited version of his work:*

Since 1967, wagering on harness racing in Canada has fallen 78 per cent. In the United States, annual attendance sunk an identical amount from its peak in 1975 to the last available data point in 2005. Blue Bonnets Raceway in Montreal, Sportsman's Park in Chicago, Greenwood Raceway in Toronto, and many others have closed forever, taking with them decades of memories and many livelihoods. Harness racing, once a cultural staple in the United States and Canada, is known primarily only to its lifers. Football, basketball, hockey, and soccer exploded in popularity while the people stopped coming to see the trotters and pacers.

But why? How did we get here? Where did everybody go?

Did the lottery and slots suck the gambling dollars out of an industry reliant on them? Have the multiplying options for entertainment drawn people away from the rail? Maybe the product of racing itself is simply not exceptionally appealing as a gambling or spectating prospect.

Most of the industry's participants have an opinion. Many have watched their life's greatest passion become an afterthought in the public sphere.

Steve Wolf's journey began in the late 1970s when he and his father operated a stable out of Meadowlands Racetrack in New Jersey. Wolf then worked in publicity roles at Liberty Bell Park and Brandywine Raceway – neither of which now exist – and the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey. Later, Wolf held executive roles at Freehold Raceway in New Jersey and Pompano Park in Florida, where he currently resides. The 66-year-old Flemington, NJ native has won many awards for his media work, and is a member of the United States Harness Racing Communicators Hall of Fame. He has seen most of the sport's collapse in popularity and profitability. His home track of Pompano

Park, following a political battle, met its demise in 2022 after 58 years of live racing.

"Oh, it's very sad to think of what it was when I first got started in the business," he said. "I feel very fortunate that I got into the business when I did, but to also watch it decline and know some of the reasons why on an individual basis is sad because this was such an American sport."

United States and Canadian Hall of Fame driver Bill O'Donnell has a similar observation. Nicknamed Magic Man, O'Donnell began piloting harness horses in the mid-1970s and gained prominence when he moved to Saratoga Raceway in New York in 1979. He set a single season record for most wins by a driver at one track that season. He became a mainstay at The Meadowlands but drove in many of the sport's greatest races at various tracks. In a career of more than four decades, he won more than 5,700 races.

"There were so many more people that wanted to be involved," he said. "And The Meadowlands was the place to go. The restaurants were great. We had Pegasus – it was full every night. We raced six nights a week, 12,000 people on a bad night, twenty to 25,000 on a good night. It lost its lustre. I don't know why."

The most popular explanation for the decline of interest is that other forms of gambling ended harness racing's longstanding monopoly on wagering dollars. In Canada and most U.S. states, horse racing was the only way anyone could legally make a bet. Lotteries were banned in the United States in 1895 and did not return to the mainland until 1964. States began to introduce them in greater numbers in the 1970s. This is similarly applicable to casinos, though they were legalized earlier in states such as Nevada. Canada has a similar story: pari-mutuel



gambling, the type employed by horse racing, was the only form of betting allowed from 1910 to 1970.

Wolf points to the loss of the gambling monopoly as a main reason for the industry's decline. He believes that the introduction of the lottery was the first cut of many – an initial cut that harness racing made a lot worse by refusing to cooperate.

"There was no other places to make wagers, except for horse racing. And because of that, horse racing had, over the years, established itself as the place to go if you wanted to make wagers. But, in the 70s, states started coming up with the lotto," Wolf said.

"As lotteries became more and more popular, the onus on racing began to dwindle. And racing never adapted."

O'Donnell also attributes the onset of lotteries to the downfall of racing.

"Years ago, you bought a ticket, and it was just seven

numbers or six numbers," he said. "Go into a store now and see how many things you can buy. It's wild."

Bennett Liebman, government lawyer in residence at Albany Law School and former New York Racing Association director, wrote in his New York Times blog in 2010 that "racing had a nearly total monopoly on gambling until the lottery came in. It may not be a coincidence that racing's best year in New York was 1964, and we've been going downward since then."

Steven Riess, who wrote several books on sport, organized crime, and horse racing, summarized in a 2014 work that "certainly the proliferation of state lotteries and their seductive promises of instant fortune hurt every phase of the gaming business."

Wolf argues that racetracks should've sought to incorporate the lottery as quickly as possible. "First thing it should have done was each state needed to make arrangements to work with the lottery companies hand-in-hand from the beginning," he said.

But not everyone agrees that sweepstakes were a major factor for the people abandoning racetracks.

Some also point to other gambling-related factors, like the introduction of casinos and, more recently, online betting. The first United States casino outside of Nevada opened in Atlantic City in 1978. Canada was slightly later to the table with the first commercial casino opening in 1989. Recently, bettors in many states have gained access to online wagering websites which allow them to bet from their homes. These instant media are often seen as a direct threat to horse racing, an affair which typically entails 20 to 30 minutes of waiting between each one-to-two-minute race.

Driver Rick Zeron remains optimistic. The Ottawa native drove his first race in 1975 and moved to Montreal in 1980, where he became the leading driver at Blue Bonnets Raceway in nine of thirteen years from 1982 to 1995. Ten years later, Blue Bonnets closed for good.

"At the time when I was at Blue Bonnets, there was no betting on phones, or the lottery, or anything like that. You had to go to the track to bet the horses," he said. "No, I didn't think it would decline – it's declined in terms of the people that aren't at the track anymore. That's what's declined. I never thought that that would happen."

When Zeron moved to Toronto in 1995, he found perennial success at Woodbine Racetrack and Mohawk Park, Ontario's leading circuits. He drove horses to more than \$5 million in earnings every year from 2002-2011 and continued to hit seven figures until he scaled back his drives in the late 2010s. The horseman has been successful outside of the sulky, too. Zeron has trained more than 2,300 winners, and his horses have brought in more than \$34 million.

Zeron observes that wagering has not declined much since the heyday of the 70s and 80s, but that the drop-off has been in attendance.

"They were jam-packed," he said, remembering the grandstands at Blue Bonnets. "You couldn't get in. There were just people standing on top of people. That's how much there was of the public going to watch."

Zeron thinks that a rejuvenation, and the continued existence of harness racing, is inevitable. The second-generation horseman said that the decline is part of a natural

cycle that occurs within racing. He said that another star people's horse, along with increased advertising efforts, will bring people back to the track.

"But now the horse racing, I still believe that is still as strong," he said. "It'll dip and dive like the stock market a little bit, but horse racing will always be around. It'll always be strong. It'll go weak, it'll mellow out, and then there'll be a couple of real big horses that come into the spotlight.

"If there's a real good world champion horse that's out there, and WEG (Woodbine Entertainment Group) – the people that work in it that do the advertising and promotions, if they promote that horse coming up here and advertise on the TV, and on radio and stuff like that in the newspaper, people will read that and watch it on TV and listen to it on the radio. They're going to say to their wife, 'Well, listen, sweetheart, why don't we go watch this horse race? It's supposed to be a real phenomenal horse.' So now all of a sudden, your betting goes back up,

Industry-wide attendance to racetracks began to fall in the late 1970s. At the same time, the National Basketball Association and National Football League began to explode in popularity in the United States. Commercialized leagues overtook horse racing as the highest-attended sports in 1984 when Major League Baseball took the top spot. Along with the big four leagues, more recently, came something new to gamble on. The remaining question is why numerous forms of entertainment, other sports, especially, flourished as harness racing faltered.

While every racing participant can point to a plethora of individual decisions or inactions, the consensus seems to be a failure to organize internally and a failure to compete externally.

"The country of France declared a PMU – pari-mutuel union. And they unionized. And they now, other than maybe Dubai, on their select race days, have more wagering done than anywhere," Wolf said. "And all the horsemen, all the breeders, everyone in France, as long as they're a part of that PMU, they're doing well, and they're making money. And granted, (it's) because they're unionized, whereas in the United States, every state does its own thing. Every state has its own rules and conditions, and it doesn't jive with everyone."

Without that internal structure, Wolf argues, it was difficult for the industry to advocate for itself and coordinate a response to the spectre of new forms of gambling. He said that the industry had to ally with the lottery and the casino and/or better advertise itself to keep bringing new people to the racetrack. It also may have helped to better integrate new technology, including something also often cited as a destructive force: simulcast.

Many in harness racing see simulcast, which allows for off-track and remote wagering, as a factor in the falling attendance numbers. People, they argue, have little incentive to visit the racetrack if they can bet from their phone at home. There is a clear deviation in all-source handle and on-track wagering around the time of the invention of simulcast.

*Note that these figures were identical prior to 1983. The chart begins in 1991 as no all-purpose handle data is available from before that year.*

Ryan Clements, an owner, trainer, software developer, and photographer, notes that the large proportion of off-track dollars leave racetracks with less revenue.

"When simulcast wagering first came along, they were taking bets away from the track for the first time ever," he said. "So, the track operators naturally thought okay,

95 per cent of my wagering or 99 per cent is still going to happen on the track, and it's going to be just, you know, the odd bets come in from elsewhere. So what we'll do is we'll create a host fee, somewhere between one and five per cent, and what we'll do is, the telefeeder who takes the bets can keep all the takeout. And we'll just take one, two, three, four per cent, whatever our host fee is.' Now, they never saw coming, that people would be sitting at home betting on their computers."

"And in the COVID era, nobody's at the track betting. So the track goes from getting the full takeout, to only getting a very small percentage of it. And basically, it's a crushing business model that stopped the tracks from being able to spend money and made it very hard for them to survive. And yet, they can't do anything about it, because it's been an established business model that just has broke their back."

Clements' racing experience is unusual. Like a large portion of horsepeople, he was born into the sport – his father, Daniel, owns, trains, and drives harness horses. Clements, though, started on a different path and went to university. In second year, he launched Online Harness Owner, a fractional ownership business that allowed customers to buy shares in racehorses. It thrived, and he soon dropped out of school to pursue it full-time. The now 35-year-old Uxbridge native is among a minority demographic of young people in the sport, and has studied coding, among other technology-based skills. Though he since shut down Online Harness Owner, Clements has started other businesses. He started Bad Jump Games, which has produced five mobile horse racing video games. He became the track photographer at Hanover Raceway, and channeled his photography work into Thebit.ca, a website he developed to host digital versions of his shots for sale but now is transitioning into a one-stop shop for racing info.

Clements, having worked in other industries before returning to harness racing, casts a blameful eye at the way the sport has negotiated for itself.

"It's in every facet of it, like, you pick out a certain piece of it, and it doesn't make any sense," he said. "Like you pick out the video, and the astronomical rates that they're paying Roberts (Communications) to distribute their signal, when YouTube will distribute it free in HD to the world. They're operating at the time when Roberts used to have satellite dishes at the track and have a kind of staff there, and the cost was very high to do these things. Of course, now, today with widespread internet, it shouldn't cost anything. And yet they're still paying these, like exorbitant rates, because that's where they're stuck."

Peter Gross, a veteran Toronto journalist with a lifelong interest in horse racing, said the racing industry has failed to expand to new demographics, leaving mostly older men.

"They haven't so much done a poor job of attracting young people. But they need to put enormous resources into bringing young people to the track," he said. "Because I'm 71. And I represent the constituency that really loves horse racing and understands the racing form, that knows the trainers and the owners, and the jockeys, you know, for years and years and years. And that's why I play the races. And as the crowd gets younger and younger, as people get younger and younger, they have less interest in the races. And when I die, when your dad dies, there's just not going to be an audience for you. And it's mostly men there. Horse racing is the only professional sport in which women regularly beat the men on a level playing

field. So women should be half the audience, right? So I would make a series of ads or promotions telling people that horse racing is a sport in which women are half the equation.

"I would say 90 to 95 per cent of the money bet at the track is bet by men. I could be wrong, but most obviously most of it is bet by men."

Gross is best-known for his roles on CityPulse and 680 News, but the 71-year-old has maintained his love for thoroughbreds and standardbreds through the years. In 2007, he began publishing *Down the Stretch Newspaper*, and, in 2020, created the *Down the Stretch Podcast*. Both cover all three genres of horse racing in Canada – thoroughbred, standardbred and quarter horse. Gross identified the major problem in harness racing – the sport does little to market its own business model.

"When you go to the track, the product is horse racing," he said. "But the business model - the only way racetracks make money (aside from food and beverage sales) - is the pari-mutuels. The business is pari-mutuels. Have you ever seen a commercial or an ad that says, 'come bet the horses, you get a better buck for your dollar, come bet pari-mutuels, it's better than the lottery, come bet pari-mutuels, it's the fairest way to gamble?' They don't. It's the only product in the world that doesn't spend one dollar promoting their business model."

Clements holds the view that an influx of new gambling and entertainment options tore the market share and relevance away from racing. Along with a restrictive infrastructure, Clements said that the sport failed to adapt to a changing, increasingly instant world. He argues that harness racing did not innovate its wagering side enough to compete with casinos. But he thinks that there has been no effort to make the product entertaining.

"I believe the sport has gotten incredibly boring," he said. "It used to be that people followed this horse, there were celebrities and personalities in the harness racing world. And I honestly haven't been a fan of a horse since Admirals Express. It's just not there anymore. Like we get to see these horses race such a short period of time. And the odd one will capture my attention. Imagine if the NFL had only the regular season and there was no playoffs and no Superbowl. There's no grouping of horses so I don't get to see rivalries form. I don't get to see any storylines. It's just another race."

Wolf argued the main reason for a growing disinterest was oversaturation. While the NFL has a 16-game regular season and basketball has 82, he said racetracks in total have hundreds of race dates per year.

"In the '60s and '70s, nobody raced almost year-round, like the tracks do now. And I think that was a big part. I think they flooded the market because they owned it. And now that they didn't own it anymore, they continued to flood it, and it became like I can go to the races any day. Brandywine and Liberty Bell, they never fought against each other – one would close and the other would open, so they would have a circuit. But then, they got greedy, and they fought against each other. And that destroyed them."

So where did everybody go? The answer seems to be "anywhere but here." Yet still, harness racing in North America pulls in around \$1.5 billion a year. The sport's biggest nights do draw crowds reminiscent of the 1970s. There is clearly still hunger for racing. The question of the future will be how to harness it.

# Going to Saratoga? Here's a Big Tip!

The historic Saratoga racing season begins Thursday, July 14. If you have never been to the Spa before, you're missing out on the singularly most thrilling experience in the sport. The first thing to do is find a place to stay in Saratoga Springs – and be prepared to dig deep. The hotels and motels jack their prices up dramatically during the races. For example, the Gideon Putnam Hotel asks for over \$500 Canadian a night. The Carriage House Inn is an excellent place that goes for over \$400 per night. The *Down The Stretch* crew has been to Saratoga about 25 times. At first, we stayed in motels. Some were crappy, some were nice, but after a few years, we discovered a better option – we started renting homes from Racing City Realty. Ariane Fuller is the owner and told us she can find accommodation for any size group.

"We have everything from studios up to 9 bedroom homes," says Fuller. "We still have some rentals left. Even as Opening Day approaches, I'm taking in new listings over the last few weeks, so we still have a good inventory."

The advantages of renting a complete house over a motel are obvious, especially if there's no difference in price.

"In your own house, you can grill in the backyard,

you could sit on the patio and chill on the front porch" advises Fuller. "Nothing beats renting a house."

For many years, it was me, Jim McKenny, and the late Clint Nickerson on the unforgettable trips to Saratoga. The motels had just one bathroom. The homes had as many as 3. On one memorable day, after some success in the late exactor, Jim and I bought a massive tomahawk steak. McKenny prepared it perfectly on a barbecue. It was the best steak I've ever eaten and would have been impossible at a motel.

It's quite the industry in Saratoga. Many homeowners plan their vacations around the racing season. The income they get from the rental covers their Caribbean getaway.

We once stayed at a huge home that we understood had previously been rented by top trainer Steve Asmussen. Fuller told us a lot of horsemen and women rent from Racing City Realty.

"We have some nice trainers, very nice jockeys and horse owners," says Fuller.

One thing she is not revealing is the addresses where the jockeys and trainers stay. Obviously, a horse player would love to be able to knock on the door where Irad and José Ortiz are staying and find out which horses they feel strongly about.

"No, I cannot tell you," laughs Fuller. "This is all about client confidentiality."

The last time Jim McKenny and I visited Saratoga, Fuller booked us into a great little place by the name of Ta Wee. Many of her rentals have horse related nicknames. Ta Wee was a great mare who won 8 Stakes races as a 3-year-old in 1969. She was twice the American Sprint Horse of the Year.

Fuller rhymes off a few other places with racetrack themes.

"There's a house called Superfecta," she says. "One place is called Exacta because it's a 2 bedroom. Then there's At The Rail which is across the street from the track on Nelson Avenue. Win Place Show is close to the track and one house is called 7 Furlongs because the homeowner told me it's 7 furlongs from the track."

If you're reading this at the end of June and realize that Opening Day is in just 2 weeks, Fuller can probably still help you out with your accommodation.

"You can contact me on my cellphone or via email," she says. "Or go on our website [www.RacingCityRealty.com](http://www.RacingCityRealty.com) and fill out a form and we'll get back to you right away. We still have rentals. We've got a good inventory."



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# LongRun Open House:

Unless you're Eurico Rosa da Silva or Rafael Hernandez, you have never had the opportunity to get close to a champion thoroughbred like Pink Lloyd. On July 9, however, that could change for you when LongRun hosts an Open House at their facilities in Hillsburgh about 70 kilometres northwest of Woodbine Racetrack.

Vicki Pappas is the Chairperson and founding member of LongRun and she's excited that the farm will be open to the public after the two years that Covid made that impossible.

"It's on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, which is a Saturday, from 10 till 2," says Pappas, "at our beautiful farm in Hillsburgh. Anybody who wants to come can contact the office to get the address and directions, but it's easily accessible off Trafalgar Road."

There certainly are some superstars at LongRun. Pink Lloyd won 29 of 38 races, including 26 Stakes. His fireplace mantle has 8 Sovereign Awards, including 4 for Outstanding Sprinter in Canada and one from 2017 when he was Horse of the Year. In that season, all Pink Lloyd did was win every one of his 8 starts, all in Stakes. Meeting Pink Lloyd is akin to brushing up against Wayne Gretzky or Sandy Koufax or Michael Jordan. Or

Robert Tiller, the charismatic trainer of the great sprinter.

Then there's Rahy's Attorney. Now a 9-year-old, Rahy's Attorney argued his case on 41 occasions, and got the winning verdict 14 times. He won Stakes races for trainer Ian Black at Woodbine, Keeneland and Gulfstream.

Pink Lloyd's best friend at LongRun is Riker, who is now 10 years old. In a career that covered 56 starts, he won 12, including the 2014 Grade 3 Grey Stakes at Woodbine, which was his 4<sup>th</sup> straight win to begin his career.

There are 50 deserving retired thoroughbreds at LongRun, which means any horse lover dropping in on July 9 is going to enjoy a visual buffet.

I had to ask, "How is Pink Lloyd enjoying his new digs?"

"He's actually doing well," says Pappas. "Initially, he was maybe a little confused. When Woodbine opened up, he was a little edgy, thinking, 'Maybe it's time for me to go back to the races.' But now he's got his best friend, Riker. He's got a best friend and they're out in the paddock eating grass all day."

Since I have followed his career for several years, I wondered if Pink Lloyd ever speaks of me.

"He's thinks you're a little crazy," laughs Pappas. "He knows that you tried to beat him and failed to bet him on several occasions."

*Ouch.* The truth hurts!

Pappas adds that this should be a lot of fun for families.

"We're going to have organized tours at 10:15 11:15 12:15 1:15m" she says. "They can hear me blab, about all the horses. Bring lots of carrots and apples because they'll all be coming to the fence expecting treats. We're going to have a raffle for prizes, and I think we're hopefully going to have Pink. Floyd t-shirts to sell. Kids are welcome, as long as they're kept on a leash, and I would caution everybody to wear closed-toed shoes."

Proper footwear, for just in case, you know, a horse decides to express himself.

It's a challenging and expensive initiative to take care of so many important horses. LongRun would be grateful if visitors would make a donation.

"We would ask that they would make a minimum \$10 donation to help out the horses," says Pappas. "It's always a struggle trying to make ends meet. It's a big help and it's a terrific way to spend four hours."



**LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society to Hold Open House  
Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**

*LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society, a registered charity mandated to provide a dignified retirement from racing for Ontario's thoroughbreds, is excited to announce that there will be an Open House held at our Hillsburgh farm on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., after a pandemic-forced hiatus of three years.*

*The public will be able to tour the 100 acre property and meet many of its 50 residents, including 2017 Canadian Horse of the Year, Pink Lloyd, champions Fifty Proof, Riker, Rahy's Attorney, Rare Friends, millionaire Something Extra and other horses familiar to racegoers.*

*Demonstrations, merchandise sales and a prize draw will also be a part of the day's festivities. A minimum donation of \$10.00 per person for non-sponsors is suggested.*

# Dr. J. Glen Brown, 1933-2022



Dr. Glen Brown, third from right, presenting the Fan Hanover trophy to the connections of 2011 winner See You At Peelers

We lost Dr. Glen Brown on May 13. He was 88. In the sport of harness racing, he was as big and as important as it gets. The list of his credentials is impressive:

- Brown was a licenced veterinarian
- He was President, General Manager and Chairman of the Board of the Armstrong Brothers Farm
- He served on the Ontario Racing Commission
- He was President of both the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society and the North American Harness Racing Marketing Association of Canada
- He was on the Board of Directors at Woodbine
- He was an honoured member of both the U.S. Harness Racing Hall of Fame and the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame

Born in New Liskeard, Ontario in 1933, Brown's father, James W. Brown, also a member of the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame, was a racetrack and horse auction operator who bred and raced horses under the name of Glendale Farms.

The greatest horse ever produced under Dr. Brown by Glendale Farms was the sensational Fan Hanover who won 45 of her 72 starts. Her most important win came in the 1981 Little Brown Jug, which Brown chose, opting not to race her in the Jugette.

When an accident down the backstretch wiped out several of the horses, driver Glen Garnsey was able to put Fan Hanover on the lead, and she was good to go from there, becoming the first filly to win the Little Brown Jug.

"Personally, it's very sad," says Woodbine CEO Jim Lawson. "I sat on the Board with him for a couple of years at Woodbine Entertainment. For the entire horse racing industry, he was a pillar. Both he and his dad, Jim were a big part of the harness racing industry – in growing it and building it for decades. It's a big loss. His willingness to get involved in committees and make contributions is significant because we needed his passion and interest to make all these things go around. You don't get paid for most of those roles. He was so proud of Fan Hanover. He made a commitment to come every year and present the trophy for the Fan Hanover Stakes, which is the biggest 3-year-old pacing race in Canada for fillies."

Driver/trainer John Kopas was involved with Glen Brown as both a friend and partner.

"I became associated with Dr. Brown through my father, Jack," says Kopas. "I was the groom for a horse named Armbr Links back in 1970. It was a great relationship for many years. He was a very astute judge of yearlings. For many years, Armstrong Brothers was one of the leading breeders in North America, and a lot of that could be directly attributed to Glen and his knowledge of horses."

Kopas had the pleasure of steering many of the fine

horses out of the Armstrong Brothers Farm.

"One of the greatest pacing mares of all time was Armbro Feather," says Kopas. "I won the Breeders Crown with her in 1989. I won the Jugette with her in 1987. When I went out on my own, I trained a very nice filly for the farm. Her name was Laugh Line, and she was voted 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year in Canada in 1990. I can't think of anyone in this industry in the last 50 years who contributed more than Dr. Brown did, both as an executive and as a horseman. He was liked by everyone. I never heard one person have a disparaging remark about Glen.

In 1974, Dr. Brown received the Canadian Trotting Association's Executive of the Year Award. He was president of The Classic Series Limited, a Director of The Hambletonian Society, the E.P. Taylor Equine Research Foundation and Trustee of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

In 1985, Dr. Brown was elected to the Board of the Ontario Jockey Club and continued in that position with Woodbine Entertainment. For most of his term on this Board, he chaired the Standardbred Racing Committee. He served as President of the Kentucky Standardbred Sales Co., and as Chair of the Ontario Agriculture and Horse Racing Coalition.

He is survived by daughter Lynne Hague (Bob), sons James Brown and Douglas Brown (Tammy), and grandchildren Jenna Hague, Alex Hague, William Brown and Christopher Brown.



In life, much like horse racing, getting a good start is fundamental to success. Tedston Holder, now 53, has a warm memory of one man who set him on the best course possible.

"When I was just 8 years old, I was a paper boy for an elderly white gentleman named Mark Edghill, who took a liking to me and my work ethics," says Holder. "He looked after me and gave me a start in life. I delivered the Barbados Advocate and the Daily Nation newspaper. This man owned horses and he moved me into the game. I cleaned the stalls to make a dollar. He gave me my first horse. She was named Signet. She didn't have much talent. She never won a race."

Like many from the islands, Holder moved north to pursue horse racing in Ontario.

"Over the years I have been able to make a dollar here and there," he says. "She Kan Kipper was the first one that won here. I purchased her in Maryland with the intention that she would do well here. She was my first starter as a trainer."

Holder worked at Woodbine from 1989 to 1995 – mostly for George Bankuti, but he subsequently moved to Maryland, where he was the assistant trainer to Scott Posey, whom he describes as a "high percentage trainer."

Equibase stats bear that out. Posey won 314 races from 1839 starts. His horses earned in excess of \$4 million.

"We won the Maryland Million in 1996," says Holder.

It's no surprise that Holder remembers this race. Frugal Doc was a 10-year-old gelding, and he went off at 35-1, but repelled the 6-5 favourite to win by a head at the end of a mile and  $\frac{3}{16}$ ths. Frugal Doc paid \$72.20.

As for She Kan Kipper, "I ran her twice," says Holder. "First time out, she came 5th. I ran her back just 5 days later and she won for Tyrone Harding."

It was a \$5,000 claim race with a field of 7 going 4 ½ furlongs at Woodbine and She Kan Kipper at 5-2 got to the wire a length the best in :54.

"That was my official start in the training and owning game," says Holder.

If you check out Ted Holder on Equibase, you can see modest results as far back as 1999, but then there are several years with very few results. There's a reason for that.

"There is a gap with me and the horse industry," agrees Holder. "First I broke my leg, then I broke the opposite knee. The first one, I came off a horse called Bilbo, got hung up, and the horse was scared and spinning in circles. It was a compound spiral fracture. You could see an inch of my bone through the skin on the training track. I ended



up with a lot of nerve damage and I still have 7 inches of plate in there and 9 screws. The second injury happened in the starting gate. I came off on the right side and he caught my knee with his front legs and the force just hyper-extended it and shattered it."

As a youngster, Holder thought of being a jockey.

"Back then I was small and skinny, about 110 pounds," he says. "But I didn't pass the foot test."

The foot test?

"Back home, the guy looked at my hands and he looked at my feet and he said, 'Your feet are too big.'"

These days, there is still the urge to get on a horse's back, but Holder must resist.

"I would love to," he smiles, "But I can't afford to come off again."

If at the beginning of his career with horses, he trained for other people, Holder is much more comfortable when he owns at least a share of the horses he prepares.

"When I got back into the game, I took a page from Martha Gonzalez's book," he says. "I like to own a piece of the horse. I like it for the control part. You can have a better say in where you place the horses. When I had one or two horses that I didn't own, the owner had total control and I put them in some spots where they didn't fit because he wanted them there. Now I have a say and I can sit him or her down and explain the whole sense of it, or we can part ways."

These days, Holder has a piece of 8 horses, and the 5 wins he has registered so far constitute the best start to any year he's been in the game. There's Wicked Miah.

"I own half of that with my good friend David Bloom from Maryland," he says.

Wicked Miah had a lovely 3-race win streak last fall. At Woodbine on October 16, under Jason Hoyte, she took down a maiden race, out-firing 11 others to the wire at 6 ½ furlongs and paying \$14.70. Three weeks later she went off at 9-1 in a \$15,000 claimer and came late under Hoyte to win by a neck and return \$21.30. The third win was more impressive, because statistically horses moving from synthetic to dirt tend to regress. But on February 20 of this year, in a \$16,000 claim race at Tampa Bay, Wicked Miah carried Rocco Bowen to victory by half a length at even money.

"She is out of a Deputy Minister mare," says Tedston,

explaining the mare's comfort on traditional dirt. "The race came off the turf, but I wasn't worried. Deputy Minister was a son of Northern Dancer – the pedigree was there."

On March 19 of this year, Holder sent out I Kickn in \$5,000 claim at 6 furlongs at Tampa Bay. The jockey was Madeline Rowland and I Kickn crushed by almost 4 lengths in 1:10.54, an excellent time for that level.

Holder also won a race this year with Coo Bird, a 3-year-old gelding. It was April 17 at Woodbine, a field of 6 maidens going 5 furlongs, and Jason Hoyte delivered Coo Bird by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a length at odds of 5-1. This one was a little special for Holder.

"I won that with my kids," he says. Holder's 3 boys are Frank, TJ and Hakeem. Asked to clarify if the 3 boys are officially owners, Holder laughs.

"They each get a piece of the purse," he says. "They might get a couple 100 dollars, but Daddy pays the bills."

What would he say is his most satisfying win? Holder doesn't hesitate.

It was Jagos Fire on June 4," he says. "Two reasons. First, I put Slade Jones on the horse. I always wanted someone to get that horse on the lead because of his size, and two – it was ridden by someone who was family to me."

Slade, who is just 16, is the son of Jono Jones who had lots of success at Woodbine between 2001 and 2011, winning 658 races. There's a distinct Barbados connection here.

"Slade is a relative of the gentleman Mark Edghill who gave me my start in life," adds Holder. "When I was a kid, Slade's mom would come by the house to visit. This little blonde girl and I would hang out. I didn't know that 30-40 years later we would be good friends."

The word "reciprocation" means a lot to Holder. It's why he puts Jason Hoyte on many of his horses.

"I know Jason from when he first came here in 2002 and 2003," he says. "Back then, I had two horses and I needed a hand, and Jason came and got on the horses for me. I believe when someone does right by you, you do right by him. He and Slade are my go to guys right now."

Holder told us that he was hyperactive as a kid. None of that was apparent in our interview.

"I am at peace when I am with horses," he explained. "You can go sit in a horse's stall, sit there and relax. Once you are peaceful with them, they are peaceful with you."



Stewart McQueen, 40, like many others in the sport, inherited his love for harness racing from his father, Jack. "My dad owned horses when I was a kid," says McQueen. "He competed at Orangeville Raceway, and I used to go there with him every Sunday."

The idea of owning a horse was planted when he was just a child, and his subsequent career as an entrepreneur has allowed him to execute his dream.

"I opened my own business in automotive repair," he says. "My business, After Hours Automotive, took off and I had some excess income and I just wanted to own a horse as my dad did when I was younger. And now it was feasible."

McQueen quickly recalls the first harness horse he ever owned.

"LDL Gem," he says. "She was just a seven claimer and I really liked her because she was racing at Mohawk and then came down to the London circuit. So I found myself a trainer, and we claimed that horse for the first time and she did pretty good. I think she was 3<sup>rd</sup> three times, 2<sup>nd</sup> a couple of times and then she won four in a row before Richard Moreau claimed her."

LDL Gem was certainly a good first experience for McQueen. From January 1, 2019, to March 7, 2019, she raced 10 times with three 3<sup>rd</sup>s, three 2<sup>nd</sup>s, and the 4-race win streak until she changed owners. Standardbred Canada indicates the mare earned over \$16,000 during that streak.

"LDL Gem did so well, I was able to buy Robintheatm," he says. "And she went on to win 7 of 8 in one stretch."

Robintheatm was well named. A very streaky pacer, she won 4 in a row in the month of January 2019, the first at Western Fair and the next 3 at Flamboro. Her 7 for 8 rampage included 6 wins at Saratoga harness in June/July of 2019, with the 7<sup>th</sup> victory coming at Dresden at the end of July.

"And while LDL Gem and Robintheatm were racing, I claimed a little horse named Hopetobefirst," adds McQueen.

Hopetobefirst has a mind-boggling record on Standardbred Canada. Now a 14-year-old gelding, Hopetobefirst was claimed 26 times between 2012 and 2022. While in the hands of McQueen, Hopetobefirst fulfilled its own wishes by winning 10 times in 15 races from February to April in 2019.

"That one was named Claimer of the Year at Western Fair," says McQueen. "Then I claimed OK Man at Mohawk and he went on to be a preferred horse. I've



owned tons of horses. Really nice horses. I like classy old horses. Sometimes I'll go and claim them and try and revitalize their career. I had a trotter, Alpha Seelster. I have owned probably well over a hundred horses, maybe more in the four years I've been in the game. And I think I'm coming up to 200 wins as an owner."

McQueen's automotive shop is in Sarnia, where he lives.

"It's kind of nice that they opened the summer track at Hiawatha," he says. "It's right beside my facility. I'm at the Peter Core training facility, which is pretty well right next door. The purses aren't that great though."

We asked McQueen to recall his most exciting moment in the sport.

"I think the biggest one was a couple of years ago. We won the Hard Rock claiming series at Rideau," he says. "Mandy Archer was my trainer and we won it with a mare, Kahlua Morning."

That race was September 13, 2020. With Guy Gagnon in the bike, Kahlua Morning came late in the stretch to win by a head in 1:55, grabbing half the \$22,000 purse.

McQueen is not averse to betting on the horses, but the memory of his most successful bet goes back many years.

"When I was a kid, my dad and I would go to the Raceway at Western Fair. My dad's friend was racing a horse, and I remember having the only ticket on a triactor and it paid \$1,900. We took the whole pool, which wasn't a huge pool, but it was fun anyways."

According to McQueen, most of his horses tend to get bet down, though there are always exceptions.

"I think the first time we raced Robintheatm, she was paying 20-1 and she won out of the 7-hole at London,

which was a shock because I didn't think she was going to race that well, to be honest."

Lately, young Tyler Borth has become the driver of choice for McQueen. Borth has won recently with Rough Trade, Bettor Notbitter and Art of Fire.

"He always gives them an honest shot," says McQueen. "He drives aggressive which is a style that I like. When I go to Mohawk, I use Dougie McNair."

Stewart McQueen is a physically imposing man with a dramatically long full beard. He could easily be mistaken for the rejected guitarist from ZZ Top. But he's certainly living the dream. His business is booming, he's got a full field of harness horses and many of them have been winning. Does it get any better than that?

"Sometimes I have to pinch myself," he says. "But then I have to also remember that I worked really hard to get where I'm at. There's a lot of sleepless nights and a lot of long hours put in to get where I'm at."

McQueen is married to wife Meghan, and his two beautiful kids are Logan and Mirium.

"Meghan and I run the shop together," he adds. "I'm the head guy and she does all the administration. I can change a tire if I have to, but it's all the other guys who make me look good."

Of course, his real love is harness racing, so what's the reason he's fully committed to the sport?

"Winning," he claims. "I've always been driven to win my whole life. There's nothing more thrilling than sending a horse out that you put countless hours in and then they win for you. Horses are a different animal. They need to be loved and cared for and sometimes you need to be stern with them and teach them as well."

Quarter Horse  
Owner of the  
Month:  
John  
Wilson



John Wilson, 70, has a family history in horse racing that goes way back.

“Oh gosh, my grandfather was a seller and a renter of horses back as far as 1940, I guess,” says Wilson. “And then my father, Len Wilson, ran Wilson Horse Exchange well into the 1960s. My dad raced standardbreds through Northern Ontario and Quebec and he even ventured to the old Greenwood track down in Toronto. I also raced a few standardbreds, and then I was raising quarter horses for my kids for barrel racing and jumping, and that just branched out and I started racing a few.”

Although Wilson never entered a horse in a race at old Picov Downs, now named Ajax Downs, his family had a long history with the family that is mostly responsible for the sport of quarter horse racing in Ontario.

“The Picov family is actually from the same community that I’m from,” he says. “I’m from New Liskeard, Ontario and they’re from Cobalt about 10 miles away.”

Because of his family’s friendship with the Picovs, Wilson had a special desire to win a certain race.

“One of my goals going into racing was to win that Alex Picov Memorial because my dad was a great friend of Alex Picov,” he says.

Read on because he was able to pull that off.

As a youngster, Wilson and horses were always in the same place.

“I would have been 5 or 6 years old when I started with horses,” he recalls. “There was always an extra horse that came in off a transport load of work horses. And that would become mine. Actually my first registered quarter horse, which my father bought for me came from Alex Picov in about 1965 – a mare called Tex Ann Lee. I kept her as a saddle horse for years and showed here. She was never a racehorse, but she was a great quarter horse.”

Equibase indicates that Wilson first raced his quarter horses in 2010.

“I bought a racehorse mare off the track called Rocket Fast Jet from my blacksmith,” he says. “Bred her to Down Home Dash a few times and Mr. Jess Tex and raised three or four foals. I raced some of those foals but never did that well with them. So I ventured off into buying better horses. I bought 2 horses from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ontario Quarter Horse Race Sale and won the 2012 Princess Derby with Famous Aunt Jesse. She was an Ontario-bred mare that loved to run. I then went to the sale in Oklahoma. I bought a horse by the name of Mitford. Scott Reid, my



trainer, actually spotted the horse for me.”

With a chuckle in his voice, Wilson recalls the first time Mitford raced at Ajax Downs. It was May 28, 2013.

“He came out of the gate and went one way and hit a horse” he says. “Bounced off him, went all the way across the track 6 or 7 spots and hit another horse. Bounced off that horse and he still won the race, but he was doubly disqualified.”

A dubious Canadian debut to say the least. But after getting that bad behaviour out of his system, Mitford did some remarkable things. Seven weeks after that chaos he broke his maiden at 250 yards, sizzling home under Erika Smilovsky in 13.140, good for a 105 speed index. Three weeks later, at 330 yards, Mitford won a \$12,500 allowance race, earning a 104 speed index for his 16.550 of work.

On September 2, Mitford finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in a trial heat for the Alex Picov Memorial and 15 days later, with Smilovsky aboard, won the 440 yard final by a head in track record time of 21.520 seconds. For Wilson, it was a lifelong objective accomplished.

Mitford was hardly done. He would win 6 of his next 12 races, including the \$86,200 Picov Maturity at 350 yards. In his final race on August 16, 2015, Mitford finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Ajax Downs Championship Challenge. He retired after winning 9 of 20 starts and earning \$121,514. There’s more good news about Mitford, who is now 12 years old. Thanks to Wilson, the horse is living a comfortable life after racing.

“He’s still in the family,” says Wilson. “We love him. He’s great. I actually rode him as a pleasure horse two weeks ago.”

Wilson points out that about a year after Mitford fulfilled the wish of winning the Alex Picov Memorial, there was another horse that won the Alex Picov Futurity.

“He was an Ontario-born black gelding by the name of Panther Hero,” says Wilson. “He was named Canadian Quarter Horse of the year in 2015. I’m very proud of him as well.”

The Futurity was just the 5<sup>th</sup> lifetime race for Panther Hero. With Cassandra Jeschke in the saddle, he broke brilliantly and 400 yards later, found the wire a head the best in 20.430, which earned him an 84 speed index.

Panther Hero stopped racing in 2017 after recording 7 wins in 19 races and earning \$104,104.

These days, Wilson and his horses are extremely competitive at Ajax Downs. When we spoke with him, he was second in the owners’ standings, behind Milena Kwiecien. For a moment, Wilson was first among owners, because his Dawns Early Light, a 3-year-old filly, broke her maiden in the first quarter horse race of the year, wiring the field at 250 yards under jockey Carly Furlonger.

“I’m racing a really nice chestnut mare by the name of Oh My Gawd,” he says. “She’s an Ontario-born that I bought from Ralph Pearson. We raced her very lightly last year.”

Oh My Gawd broke her maiden under Carly Furlonger on May 22, getting up by a neck in 16.100 for 300 yards. The next time out, in a trial for the Princess Derby, she finished second by a head.”

Wilson also owns a horse named Joose, who was also second on June 8 to remain winless in 6 starts.

Wilson’s trainer has always been Scott Reid.

“When I first started in racing, I called his dad, Don, asking him to train my horses,” says Wilson. “And he said, ‘I’d like to, but I’m too busy. Would you be interested in talking to my son?’”

That worked out very well.

“So we developed a relationship, and we have a good trust for each other,” adds Wilson. “He tells me the truth and I tell him the truth and we get along.”

Many of the horses that Reid trains for Wilson are ridden by Reid’s girlfriend, Furlonger. Wilson has no problem with that.

“She does a great job,” he says emphatically. “Plus, she trains the horses at home. So she knows the animals. That’s a big plus.”

For a guy who started out with standardbreds, what’s the appeal of quarter horse racing?

“I’ve tried them both,” he says. “And it just happened with quarter horses. Of course, it’s the excitement of the actual racing,” he says. “But it’s the quality of the animals too. Where do you get to touch and handle and own so many good animals? I really do love a good horse.”

# Louis-Philippe Roy Wins The 2022 Ontario Regional Driving Championship

by Hailey Saunders



Louis-Philippe Roy punched his ticket to the 2022 National Driving Championship after capturing the Ontario Regional Driving Championship at The Raceway at Western Fair District on Wednesday May 11.

Roy led all drivers in wins with three in the nine-race contest, finishing with 79 points. He persevered through a first-over grind with also-eligible draw-in No Time At All (\$15.60) to land his first win on the night before scoring back-to-back wins at the conclusion of the card with Dabunka (\$27.40) and Willywin (\$5.40). Roy, who began driving in 2008 and has 1,940 wins to his record, advances to the 2022 National Driving Championship in November at Century Mile alongside runner-up Doug McNair, who finished second with 60 points.

A 32 year-old resident of Guelph, Roy made his way to Ontario after starting out his driving career in Quebec. Once he made the move to compete on the Woodbine Entertainment circuit, he quickly rose to the top of the standings. Roy won the O'Brien Award as Canada's Driver of the Year in 2018 and 2019, and he will make his first appearance in the National Driving Championship after qualifying for the event in 2018 but then stepping away due to other commitments.

Roy and McNair will compete with the top-two

finishers of the remaining three regional qualifiers at the 2022 National Driving Championship at Century Mile in November for an opportunity to represent Canada in the 2023 World Driving Championship in Italy. Canada's most recent World Driving Championship win came courtesy James MacDonald in 2017.

"I'll be pretty excited, especially when I qualified [in 2018] but Doug ended up taking my spot and winning the Canadian title and then going to Sweden with James. I saw them going and I had a little pinch [of envy]," said Roy after his ORDC win. "I'll be happy to be competing in the National Driving Championship. We'll have some good competition. [Doug] is a great driver and it's always good to compete against him."

The final leaderboard of the Ontario Regional Driving Championship:

Louis-Philippe Roy	- 79
Doug McNair	- 60
Colin Kelly	- 49
James MacDonald	- 45
Brett MacDonald	- 44
Travis Henry	- 40
Bob McClure	- 36
Austin Sorrie	- 34
Trevor Henry	- 33

## The hard life of jockeys:

It was the first race at the Epsom Race Course on June 4. Jockey William Buick was on the favourite, Blue Trail. In the starting gate, Approachability next to Buick in the stalls, reared up and head-butted Buick. The dazed jockey was trying to reclaim his senses, when the gates opened and Blue Trail took off without him



# Linedrive Hanover Takes the Inaugural Juravinski Cup



The first thing we wondered was, why was Flamboro's most important race going off at 10:30 on a Sunday night? For several decades, it was the Confederation Cup, but this year, the name changed to the Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup, in honour of the track's founder, who passed away in February of this year. And would Juravinski have approved of this signature race being buried late at night in the middle of the Victoria Day weekend?

As you mull over that question, be informed that this \$273,500 race had a great field. The rail horse, Lous Perlman came in with 13 wins, including the 2021 Little Brown Jug. Bulldog Hanover was a 15-time winner and took down his Juravinski elimination in 1:49.3. Charlie May had won 18 of his 35 starts and had earned over \$1.2 million. Linedrive Hanover, who raced just once as a 2-year-old, and not at all in 2021, was a winner in 10 of his first 12 races. Desperate Man, burned with post 8, was the reigning Horse of the Year in Canada and winner of both the North American Cup and the OSS Gold Final. Desperate Man's first place finish in his elimination (1:50.2) squeaked him over the \$1 million

mark in earnings.

This race was all about tactics and James MacDonald wasted no time gunning Linedrive Hanover straight to the top from post 5 and was able to slice out a first quarter in a relatively safe :27. Perhaps the big surprise in this race is that Trevor Henry asked Desperate Man to leave sharply from the outside post, and it was Desperate Man sitting second all the way behind Linedrive Hanover. The half was posted in :55 and as the field approached  $\frac{3}{4}$  in 1:27, it was still Linedrive Hanover on top with Charlie May (David Miller) threatening first over and Desperate Man still inside in third. In the stretch, Desperate Man came out, but Linedrive Hanover had a :27 final quarter to win by a length in 1:49 – the fastest mile ever paced at Flamboro.

The previous record of 1:49.2 was held by Somebeachsomewhere, set when he won the Confederation Cup in 2008.

Strangely, the winning driver, MacDonald, did not expect to get a front-running trip.

"I went over the race a hundred times in my head and none of the times I ended up on the front," said MacDonald. "I just thought for sure I would get away fifth or sixth. Last week, I tried to leave with him a bit and I'd never asked him off the gate. He was lost. He didn't know what to do. He dropped the bit and was in and out. Today, I kind of had him on his toes a little more, just to hold position. When the gate opened, he's got so much raw speed, he was just gone. I couldn't be happier for the horse or the connections. It's a great win, that's for sure."

Trainer Tony Beaton acknowledged this was a great

win for a horse that hasn't yet reached his full potential.

"We've been kind of monitoring his starts," said Beaton. "We've raced him every couple of weeks, trying to save some of these starts for these big races and not over-racing him. He had to learn. He still doesn't even really know what he's doing out there, although he's winning. Like James says, he's still green when he's racing. He overcomes everything."

Linedrive Hanover is owned by Mac Nichol, McKinlay and Fielding and West Winds Stables, which is run by Casie Coleman.

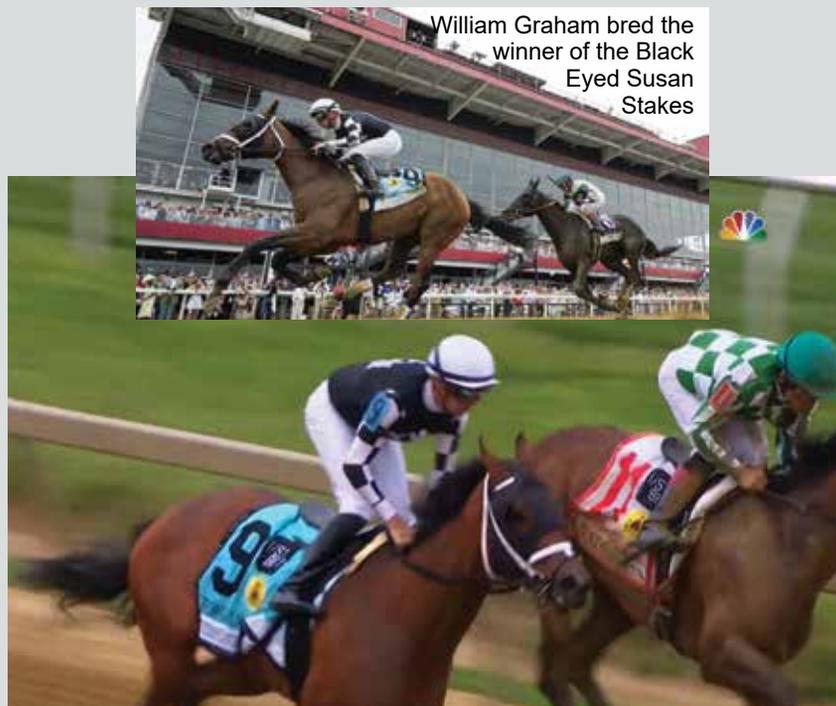
"What he's doing now is what I expected. I didn't expect to wait until he was four years old to race," said Coleman. "I've never waited on a horse this long. I told my partners on this horse, I'm not selling him. I'm keeping him. He got bone bruising at 2, and he broke a tibia at 3. I thought he was the best 2-year-old I ever had, and I thought he was the best 3-year-old I've ever had. I wasn't letting him go and now here we are. I couldn't be any happier."

The card at Flamboro completed an awesome weekend for James MacDonald. He won 6 of the 11 races on Sunday after scoring 3 of the 5 races on the weather-shortened card the night before at Mohawk Park.

Linedrive Hanover paid \$6.80 to win and combined with Desperate Man to produce a \$145 exactor. Flamboro might argue that giving their big race late on a Sunday night attracted more bettors because there were fewer racing options at the time. The handle for the 11 race card was \$793,953, a nice boost from the previous Sunday's bet total of \$643, 161.

## Black Eyed Susans for a Canadian-bred

The day before the Preakness at Pimlico, the feature race was the \$250,000 Black Eyed Susan Stakes for 3-year-old fillies. A field of 13 contested this at a mile and an 8<sup>th</sup>, and a horse bred in Ontario proved to be the best. Interstatedaydream, bred by William Graham had Florent Geroux in the saddle, and Geroux orchestrated a beneficial trip for the filly. The pair was second from the first call until the head of the stretch, when Geroux asked Interstatedaydream to overhaul the long-time leader, Beguine (José Ortiz). Interstatedaydream galloped



easily to the lead and when the 2-1 betting favourite, Adare Manor (John Velazquez) challenged from the outside, Interstatedaydream responded bravely and pulled away to win by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lengths in the good time of 1:48.73.

This filly is trained by Brad Cox and owned by Flurry Racing Stable, and she generated a \$14.20 win ticket. Interstatedaydream has never raced at Woodbine, but she is eligible for the Oaks and the Queen's Plate. This was her 3<sup>rd</sup> win in 5 starts. She also has victories at Belmont and Oaklawn.



## HORSE RACING INTEGRITY AND SAFETY AUTHORITY

As the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) is evolving, the HBPA will do our best to provide members with the most up to date information.

Trainers in the USA must register all horses in their care. Any racing industry participant entering the United States with the intention of racing a horse, and/or is licensed by a State Racing Commission **MUST** register with the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority by July 1, 2022.

### Who does this include:

Owner Jockeys Exercise Riders Farriers Racetrack Personnel Stable Area Vendors  
 Trainer Jockey Agents Pony Riders/Outriders Veterinarians Racing Office Staff Other Equine Health Providers

**\*\*\*Members who solely race in Ontario and do not cross the border, do NOT have to register with HISA\*\*\***

Here are a few links to help you through the process:

[Registering with HISA](#)

[HISA Rules & Requirements for Thoroughbred Jockeys](#)

[HISA Trainer Requirements](#)

<https://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/tdns-hisa-launch-cheat-sheet/>

Please visit [hisaus.org](https://hisaus.org) for more information and to register.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Board of the HBPA has approved the following backstretch events for the 2022 season:

July—Backpack Giveaway  
 August—Ice Cream Truck

September—Ice Cream Truck  
 September—Hot Dog Day

November—Hoodie Giveaway

### NEXT ASSISTANT TRAINER / TRAINER TESTING DATE

For those interested in taking the Assistant Trainer or Trainer test, the HBPA has scheduled the next test date for Wednesday August 10th. Completed applications are due three weeks prior on Wednesday July 20th by 3:00pm. Applicants are requested to read over the criteria to make sure you are eligible to submit an application. Applications are available at the HBPA Woodbine backstretch office or online at [www.hbpa.on.ca](http://www.hbpa.on.ca).

### FOLLOW THE HBPA ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

The HBPA is now on social media. Follow us on Twitter @HBPA\_ONT and Facebook @HBPAOntario. We will keep you up to date with important news and information within the thoroughbred horse racing industry in Ontario.



# AJAX DOWNS RACETRACK

## LIVE QUARTER HORSE RACING WEDNESDAYS, ONE SUNDAY A MONTH & THANKSGIVING MONDAY

Race days: ■ First Race: Summer Wednesdays at 1:30pm  
 Sundays & Fall Wednesdays at 12:55pm

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Events For The Whole Family!

#### WEDNESDAY RACE DATES 2022

Wednesday  
 May 11 & 18  
 1:30pm First Race

Wednesday  
 June 1, 8, 15 & 29  
 1:30pm First Race

Wednesday  
 July 6, 13, & 27  
 1:30pm First Race

Wednesday  
 August 3, 10, 17, & 31  
 1:30pm First Race

Wednesday  
 September 14, 21, 28  
 12:55pm First Race

Wednesday  
 October 5, 19, & 26  
 12:55pm First Race

#### SUNDAY RACE DATES 2022

Sunday May 22  
 Fan Appreciation Day  
 12:55pm First Race

Sunday June 19  
 Father's Day  
 12:55pm First Race

Sunday July 17  
 Craft Brewery Day  
 12:55pm First Race

Sunday August 21  
 Family Fun Day  
 12:55pm First Race

Sunday September 4  
 United Way Day  
 12:55pm First Race

Monday October 10  
 Pumpkin Day  
 12:55pm First Race

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# ODDITIES & ENTITIES

Charles Simon is a former trainer who does a podcast (“Going In Circles”) and has a wide social media reach. Will Hooks is a Todd Pletcher groom. Here are their pre-race analyses of the Derby winner, Rich Strike:

20. **Rich Strike** - He belongs in this race about as much as I belong in the starting lineup for the Milwaukee Bucks filling in for Khris Middleton.



**Will Hooks**

20. Rich Strike - The Kentucky derby is a race everyone in racing wants to win. But not just win....just getting the opportunity to run in is amazing and get the experience leading up to the race and the walkover. You never know when you'll ever get this chance again so when you stumble into the race....you better take the shot and chase the dream! That said theres a better chance of OJ Simpson winning the 2024 Presidential election

*(The following was posted on Facebook by someone named Danni Griggs. The original author of this is unknown, but the message is timeless):*

## *Letter from a Groom:*

*Yesterday was a hard day. I loaded a horse onto a trailer. I kissed that horse's neck, just like the last million times, and told him to behave himself. Not that he was going someplace bad. I actually didn't know where he'd end up. I told him to behave because any decent horseman or woman will respect that quality and treat that horse well. I don't know if he will get that respect. But I know he will behave.*

*Yesterday, I touched a horse for the last time. He had only lived 28 days. I stayed with him during his very first 24 hours. I lifted him to his feet so that he could nurse. Every 20 minutes. His color changed from dark wet sleek to fluffy baby brown. And many days later, when he was much stronger on his spindly legs, in a big green field, another mare kicked him. So I kissed his neck and told him to go run and play.*

*Yesterday, I held a horse in the Winner's Circle. I smiled as we became part of history. The world could see what that horse had done. And I had helped him. It was just one day, a few minutes really, but one of our best and I was proud. So I patted his neck and said "good boy".*

*Yesterday, I walked into the barn. I'm always the first person there. It's early but I don't mind because twenty pairs of eyes look at me eagerly and nicker to me with breathy voices. I kiss a few muzzles but not everyone tolerates the nonsense of a late breakfast so I quickly get the grain. Their voices are music to my ears.*

*Yesterday I waited, my whole heart hurting as you stood in the field with a broken leg. When the vet finally showed, he drove straight down to where you stood shaking and immediately started grabbing needles and pulling blue liquid. I was his only helper and he instructed me through the din of my uncontrollable sobs. I held your artery and told you that soon you wouldn't hurt anymore. I let go and then fell to my knees to lay across your neck.*

*There are pieces of my heart out there. And I don't know which goodbye is worse. When it's cold, I pray that you have enough hay to eat. I hope that someone cares enough to give you water and exercise and a pat on the neck. Are your feet trimmed? Did you get your spring shots? Does your leg bother you still? Do they rub liniment on it or ice it or is it completely healed? I still see you in the barn. I can still see you in a picture, but every day when I walk past your stall, there is another horse there.*

*I will give my best to him too.*

*There are pieces of my heart out there. And the best goodbyes come with the knowledge that my horse still has a job and a home with horsemen and women who respect him.*

## Ron Waples and Randy Waples share a laugh



Dave Landry Photo

This was the full field of wild deer in a race at Lingfield Park, England recently. Anyone who bet bucks on the winner cashed a lot of doe!



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## #121 May 17:

This podcast features races from Woodbine, Mohawk and Ajax Downs. We have the Jacques Cartier Stakes from Woodbine, and some huge payoffs thanks to **Chantal Sutherland, Trevor Henry and Sylvain Filion**. **Larry Collmus** breaks down his historic and spine-tingling call of 80-1 shot **Rich Strike** in the Kentucky Derby. **Jennifer Morrison** explains – logically - why she bet on Rich Strike and Morrison also provides Opening Day stuff from Ajax Downs. Jockey **Isabelle Wenc** describes how badly her friend **Sheena Ryan** was hurt and how you can help with a Go Fund Me project.

We give props to a lot of jockeys who don't challenge for the riding title. In this podcast, we feature wins by **Sunny Singh, Kirk Johnson, Keveh Nicholls, Shawn Bridgmohan, Corey Jordan, Antonio Gallardo, Eswan Flores, Larry Munoz** and **Nicky Alderson**, who won a race with her first ride in 20 months.

Jockey **Declan Carroll** has landed at Woodbine and he delivered a \$59 winner early in the meet. We needed to talk to him about that.

And the Ontario Regional Drivers Championship needed all 11 races at Western Fair to determine which drivers will go to the Nationals in November. We'll tell you how **Louis Philippe Roy** pulled it off.

## #122 May 24:

This week. **Jim Lawson** and **John Kopas** help us look at the great life of **Dr. Glen Brown**. We've got the 147<sup>th</sup> **Preakness Stakes** and a Canadian-bred filly winning the **Black Eyed Susan Stakes**. **Chantal Sutherland** won a big race on Preakness day at Pimlico, **Ailsa Morrison** had a great day at Gulfstream and **Kazushi Kimura** tripled up at Presque Isle. We've got **Mark Casse** sweeping the board in the Ruling Angel Stakes and **James MacDonald** with a strange three-bagger at Mohawk. **Down The Stretch** spent an afternoon at Ajax Downs, and what is the deal with Flamboro Downs - did they simply not want anyone to notice their biggest race of the year?

## #123 May 30:

We cover a lot of ground this week, from Woodbine for an upset in the Stella Artois Eclipse Stakes to Sweden for the Elitloppet to Presque Isle Downs where **Kazushi Kimura** is winning races. We go to Gulfstream because Moncton's **Ailsa Morrison** is bringing in price horses and we go to The Raceway at Western Fair where **Trevor Henry** went crazy and **Jimmy Freight** was awesome. Everyone loves good six and we have 6 sixes in a row at Mohawk. Racing Secretary **Tony O'Sullivan** talks about 'Pop-Up' races and we have the bizarre story of the filly...who was really a colt.

## #124 June 6:

In this episode we have two Stakes races from Woodbine and a six-pack of big heats from Mohawk Park. Woodbine's Director of Thoroughbred Racing, **Tim Lawson** reveals the details of this year's Ladies of the Lawn Series. Woodbine conducted its first grass races on Thursday; one of winners was ridden by **Slade Jones**, who registered his first pari-mutuel victory at the age of 16. **Sandy Hawley** talks about that, how he's enjoying his retirement and a park in Oshawa named after him. The 125th season of racing at Fort Erie got underway and thanks to the Fort's new announcer, **Doug McPherson** and Ajax Downs race caller **Frank Ferrari**, we get to enjoy **Helen Vanek's** Fort Erie/Ajax Downs double. And did you vote in the Provincial Election last week? We tell you why a horse race is better than an election.

## #125 June 13:

This podcast has Stakes races from Woodbine and the **154th Belmont Stakes** from New York. There were two elimination heats for the North America Cup at Mohawk as well as huge miles from both **Test of Faith** and **Bulldog Hanover**. **Garnet Barnsdale** went all the way to Cleveland to report on the **Battle of Lake Erie**. We have races from Fort Erie and Ajax Downs; as for the latter - we talk with a buoyant **Cheyenne Kerr** after she rode her first pari-mutuel winner and we meet John Wilson, who has owned quarter horses for over 60 years. And when this podcast's host went to Woodbine last Friday, he ran into **Zeljko Krmar, Shale Wagman** and **Tedson Holder**.

## #126 June 20:

The \$1Million **North America Cup** was part of an extraordinary night of harness racing at Mohawk Park. We have the one Stakes race from Woodbine on Sunday and Woodbine's **Michael Copeland** breaks down how horse racing will be integrated into the tsunami of betting sites that have erupted in Canada. Two wins for 16 year-old **Slade Jones** on the weekend and he's just 16. Canadians **Chantal Sutherland** and **Ailsa Morrison** produced an incredible finish at Gulfstream and we have it. We've also got **Vicki Pappas** of **LongRun** revealing how you can come and see **Pink Lloyd** and many other retired thoroughbreds. If you have plans to go to Saratoga, we'll help you out - **Ariane Fuller** of **Racing City Realty** tells us why renting a house is better than staying in an overpriced motel. And why are we running all 7 races from last Wednesday's speed extravaganza at Ajax Downs? What did all the winning jockeys have in common?