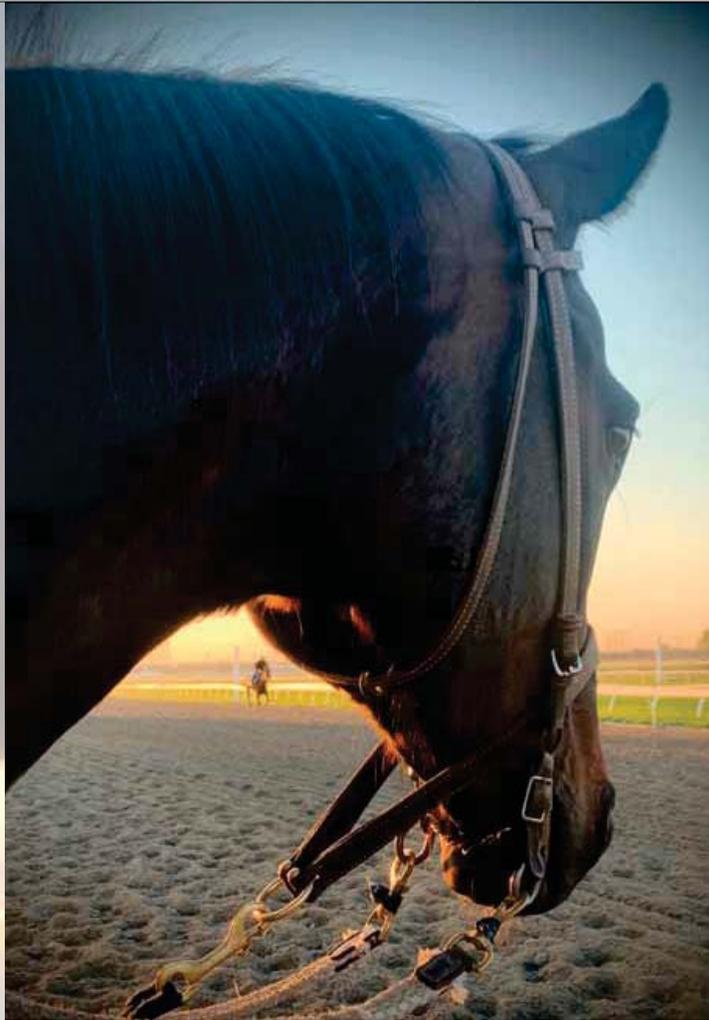


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# Baffert In Tatters



Just how bad has it gotten for Bob Baffert? After Medina Spirit, the 12-1 winner of the Kentucky Derby, tested positive for the corticoid steroid betamethasone (a controlled substance), the grief started to pile on. Baffert horses have been banned by Churchill Downs, pending a full Kentucky Racing Commission investigation. Spendthrift Farms, a long-time partner in horses trained by Baffert, announced it was taking four horses out of the Baffert barn. The Phipps stable advised their trainer, Shug McGaughey, not to enter any of their horses in any race at Pimlico with a Baffert runner. And for the next several months, one imagines, Baffert will have to deal with a class action lawsuit that, among other things, seeks to pay off anyone who bet on Mandaloun, the horse that finished second at 26-1 to Medina Spirit on the first Saturday in May. The 55-page document on behalf of the gamblers isn't vague in its allegations:

*“On May 1, 2021, Defendants entered a doped horse, Medina Spirit, into the 147th running of The Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky and won \$1,860,000.00 as part of a horse-doping scheme in thoroughbred racing.”*

One of the lawyers representing the horseplayers is William Federman, who thinks the integrity of horse racing is on the line here.

“The lawsuit itself is brought by horse players,” says Federman. “The truth is that there doesn't appear to be a meaningful, consistent regulation in the industry that provides a level playing field. Why is it that some horses are allowed to be doped and there's no consequences? It's almost as if you're allowing some people to cheat as long as they bring in the big dollars, as long as they bring in certain horses, as long as they bring in certain notoriety or publicity.”

The class action suit, among other requests, is asking that Bob Baffert and Zedan Racing Stables, the owner of Medina Spirit, compensate bettors who lost their wagers when Medina Spirit won the Kentucky Derby:

*“...ordering Defendants to pay to the Plaintiff and Class the amount they would have won, but for the illegal doping of Medina Spirit.”*

One of plaintiffs is Michael E. Beychok. Beychok claims he poured nearly \$1,000 on Mandaloun, who went off at 26-1 and finished second. Including the exotics,

Beychok might have cashed as much as \$100,000 if Mandaloun had won.

Justin Wunderler, another plaintiff, estimates he would have scored at least \$40,000 from the \$2,000 he wagered.

*“Plaintiff Wunderler's wagers would have won, but for the illegal, drug-induced win by Medina Spirit. Thus, Plaintiff Wunderler is entitled to bring a civil action against Defendants.”*

Federman is inviting any bettors who have proof of wagers on the 2nd place horse, Mandaloun, to join the action. Actually, the third-place horse, Hot Rod Charlie and the fourth finisher, Essential Quality, would all be moved up if Medina Spirit is disqualified.

“What we want is that nobody throw out their tickets,” says Federman. “Keep the evidence that you did place a wager here. We want those people at the time when the Class is getting certified to be available, to raise their hands and say, ‘Yes, we should be included.’”

The thought of any person or organization electing to pay out huge sums of money after a race is declared official seems far-fetched. This is even more head-spinning when you consider how much was bet on the Derby on May 1. There was \$22 million on the exactor, \$30 million on the tri and over \$85 million on win, place and show. No pari-mutuel pool has ever been redistributed after a race has been declared official, but Federman seems confident some kind of settlement will occur.

“I don't know if I put the odds as high as 2 to 1,” he says when asked to give a ‘tote board’ estimation of success. “But we are certainly investing our time and efforts. In this case, we think there is smoke on the horizon and we think in discovery, we're going to find out exactly what the truth is. We're willing to invest our time and money to help protect the integrity of the sport.”

There is actually a very interesting precedent for the litigants, though certainly not on the same scale. In 2018, a man named Jeffrey Tretter sued for the proceeds of a superfecta that he didn't get. The winning horse was subsequently DQ'd for a doping infraction, and the horse's owner and trainer actually settled for about \$27,000.

## Rice Was Tossed



Cynics and haters may have been suspicious of the great success of trainer Linda Rice. She's been sending out horses since 1987, and her 2,107 wins are the most of any female trainer ever. From 2013 through 2020, horses in her name earned over \$4 million per year as she consistently averaged a win rate of over 20%. But if her detractors thought she was ‘juicing’ horses, they were wrong. It turns out she was working another hustle.

On May 17, state regulators in New York came down hard on Rice. They revoked her licence, fined her \$50,000 and told her she cannot re-apply for a license for three years. What did she do that officials described as “corrupt”?

Apparently, Rice paid New York Racing Association officials, who in turn, provided her with the names of

horses entered in upcoming races. Knowing in advance who her competition might be gave her an enormous advantage.

The result of a lengthy investigation into Rice concluded that during a period that spanned from 2011 to 2015 at Aqueduct, she “was given regular and improper access to information that may have provided her with an edge in races.” The hearing process, characterized as “marathon”, included dozens of exhibits and 15 witnesses.

Robert Williams, the Executive Director of the New York Gaming Commission, called Rice's activity “inconsistent and detrimental to racing.”

Rice is the only woman to capture the trainer's award at Saratoga Race Course (2009). She has denied any wrongdoing.

# THE EDITOR WEIGHS IN



After more than 50 years of betting the horses, I have constructed a vast collection of theories that guide me in my wagering. Here's two of my most profound and effective principles:

- 1) Horses tend not to repeat their wins.
- 2) Horses that win at 10-1 or more almost never win the next time out.

Both of those premises played out in the running of the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness. Ignoring his rash (and the viral itch by **Bob Baffert** haters), Medina Spirit had

everything go his way in the Derby: a perfect ride from **John Velazquez**, virtually no serious challenge for the whole race, a speed-favouring surface and, in all fairness, he was ready that day to run his best race. Two weeks later, it simply was not worthwhile wagering to pound Medina Spirit at less than 5-2. Medina Spirit ran a brave race, but he and Midnight Bourbon flashed by 6 furlongs in 1:10.97 and did the mile in 1:34.78 on a track that didn't allow the speed to prosper as much as Churchill did in the Derby.

That being said, my bets in the Derby were on O Besos

(5th), Known Agenda (9th), and my most confident selection, Super Stock (16th). In the Preakness, none of my exactors featuring Midnight Bourbon included Rombauer.

Another one of my theories is that it's worthwhile, in this editorial, to direct the reader to the various wonderful pages of this publication. We have the Derby and Kentucky Oaks on page 4, Baffert's career spiralling out of control on page 2, and the win by Rombauer in the Preakness on page 6.

For the second year in a row, **Jim McKenny** and I will not be going to Saratoga, but a few years ago, while updating my spa adventure in a downtown café, I looked up to see the luminous trainer, **Linda Rice** working on a computer beside me. Had I been a braver soul, I would have introduced myself and asked for an interview. It's something I regret. On page 2, sadly, we report that Linda Rice is also a scoundrel, severely punished, not for illicit medication, but for illicit information.

On page 7 we say farewell to the legendary **Keith Waples**, who hit the finish line on May 7. Much like Northern Dancer has influenced thoroughbred racing in every corner of the world, Waples' driving DNA touched virtually every driver in North America in one way or another.

Can you imagine the horror of an assassination in the walking ring on Queen's Plate day? Author **Robin Dawson** can. It's a riveting scene in his sprawling novel, *Last Hurrah*, which we review on page 19. Contributor **Ric Chapman**, from Australia, gives us the heart rendering story of **Nigel Latham** (page 22), the horse player who, with just days to live, asked to be taken to a racetrack as his final wish. Have a tissue nearby.

The photogenic **Chantal Sutherland** posed for a lot of images in May, most of them in the winner's circle at Gulfstream, where the Canadian rider continues to demonstrate her excellent riding skills (page 10).

We've written about **Daryl Thiessen** before. He decided it was safer to steer harness horses than to be a professional bull fighter. After his horrible accident at Century Downs on May 18 (page 21), he may be reassessing that choice.

Our Thoroughbred Owner of the Month, **Bruce Lunsford** (page 16) is a Kentucky boy who loves to send his horses to Woodbine. The Standardbred Owner of the Month (page 17) is 19 year-old **Cassidy Schneider**, injecting some youth appeal into the sport. And we also have a Quarter Horse Owner of the Month (page 18): **Carol McIntyre's Big Dog Racing** can't wait to gallop out 350 yards.

This issue has our usual beloved features – the cartoon on page 9 and a full page of Oddities & Entities on page 23. We have been able to fill this page in every one of our issues since we began in 2009. Horse racing is a sport that continually surprises, exhilarates, shocks and amuses us.

I hope to see you at the racetrack one day soon.

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# The Derby and the Oaks:



## Baffert sets the Derby record (or not)

It was a wonderful race by the Bob Baffert-trained Medina Spirit, followed in the next few days by another devastating blow to the sport. Medina Spirit faced 18 other colts in the 147th running of the \$3 million Kentucky Derby on May 1. At odds of 12-1, Medina Spirit was sixth in the wagering and, under John Velazquez, he got the best of the break. While the 5-2 favourite, Essential Quality, was exchanging body checks with Rock Your World out of the gate, Medina Spirit was hustled to the front and, from post 8, was leading on the rail into the first turn. Spirit sliced out aggressive fractions of :46.70, 1:11.21 and 1:35.98 for the mile as the others continued to chase him. Mandaloun (Florent Geroux) ran a very strong race and was a huge threat as the field came into the stretch; at one point, it appeared Mandaloun might have had his head in front with less than an eighth of a mile to go, but Medina Spirit bravely repelled that challenge and won by half a length in 2:01.02. Hot Rod Charlie (Flavien Prat) was third, a half length behind Mandaloun and a head better than Essential Quality (Luis Saez), who suffered his first defeat. As the winning trainer, Bob Baffert was celebrated for entering the record book with his seventh Kentucky Derby win, one more than the legendary Ben Jones, and jockey Velazquez pulled off the very difficult Oaks-Derby double. Needless to say, the positive result for Medina Spirit, presented by Baffert himself, put those accomplishments in jeopardy.

For the bettors, who cannot be disqualified after the official sign is lit, that Oaks-Derby double paid \$95.80. It was (tentatively) Velazquez's fourth Derby win, putting him one behind the all-time record shared by jockeys Eddie Arcaro and Bill Hartack.

"There's no words to describe it," Velazquez said. "You couldn't ask for more of a horse. When you ride a horse like this who is competitive, you can't ask for anything else. This doesn't get old."

The unfortunate part of this story with regards to the positive finding is that Medina Spirit is the quintessential rags to riches story. He was originally bought for just \$1,000 as a yearling, then sold to Zedan Stable for the bargain basement price of \$35,000 as a two year-old.

"This little horse, he's always shown that he is an overachiever," said Baffert. "His heart is bigger than his body, and when he turned for home, something told me that he doesn't know how much he cost, he wasn't going to let anybody pass him."

Churchill Downs was capped at 50% capacity for this year's Run for the Roses after the race took place without spectators last year. The attendance was announced as 51,838. Medina Spirit paid \$26.20. The \$2 exactor with Mandaloun second was worth \$503.60.



## John Velazquez's Prosperous Weekend

Horse racing was back to near normalcy at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby weekend as more than 50,000 were allowed into the track on April 30 and May 1. In the \$1.25 million Kentucky Oaks on Friday, the undefeated Malathaath went off as the 5-2 favourite, and there must have been a massive groan when, right out of the gate, announcer Trevor Stone bellowed:

"And Malathaath was squeezed just a bit coming out of the gate."

In the opening strides, Pass the Champagne in gate 9 bore out, and Will's Secret from the 11-hole cut in, and that made Malathaath the peanut butter in an equine sandwich. Jockey John Velazquez did not lose his cool and was able



to steer Malathaath into sixth place by the first turn, although she was four-wide. Travel Column (Florent Geroux), bidding to become trainer Brad Cox's third Kentucky Oaks heroine in the last four years, set the early fractions of 23.60, 47.47, and 1:11.31. Around the far turn, Search Results (Irad Ortiz) loomed around Travel Column and had the lead in mid-stretch. Malathaath, wide the entire trip, had to go outside Search Results, but was determined in a thrilling stretch drive. There was no quit in Search Results, but Malathaath was just a little better, hitting the finish line a neck better in 1:48.99 for the mile and an eighth.

It was Malathaath's fifth win in five races and it gave trainer Todd Pletcher his fourth Kentucky Oaks trophy. The filly is owned by Shadwell Stable.

"She was running well. When I turned for home, I had a target (Search Results) to send her after," Velazquez said. "We got up next to her and my filly went by. Then she waited a bit. She does that. The other filly came back, but I could tell I was still in control. I never thought I was going to do anything but win."

Pletcher gave Velazquez props for a fine ride after the difficulties absorbed by Malathaath at the start.

"She got away from there just a bit slow, but Johnny moved her up and got her in a much better position," Pletcher said. "He had to lose some ground and go wide to do it, but it was the right thing to do. She wants a target to run at and she got one here. Delighted with the outcome."

Shadwell had paid \$1.05 million for the filly at the Keeneland yearling sale in September 2019. Shadwell's owner, Sheikh Hamdan, who participated in the acquisition of the filly, died in March. That affected Malathaath's racing schedule. She was supposed to run in the Grade II Gulfstream Oaks on March 27, but that race fell during the 10-day period of mourning for Sheikh Hamdan. Instead, Malathaath ran in the \$400,000 Grade I Ashland Stakes at Keeneland, prevailing by a head over Pass the Champagne. Crazy Beautiful, who won the Gulfstream Oaks, finished tenth in the Kentucky Oaks.

Malathaath paid \$7 to win.

# The Day That the Belmont Stakes and New York Horse Racing Died

(This story by Dawn Lefevre was published originally on Past The Wire).



racing illegal and imposed substantial fines and prison terms for violators. Up until that pivotal moment, New York was bursting with no less than seven racetracks – Aqueduct, Belmont Park, Brighton Beach, Gravesend, Jamaica, Saratoga and Sheepshead Bay. Now those very same tracks suddenly found themselves fighting to survive.

On June 15, 1908, over 200 police officers and plainclothesmen descended upon the Gravesend racetrack. Their mission? To arrest anyone caught writing on newspapers, programs, or even a plain sheet of paper and charge them with wagering. While the Hart-Agnew Law made written bets illegal, it had a loophole – oral wagering. For the next two years, the New York tracks kept their doors open by exploiting that loophole as bookies simply plied their trade underground. Ignoring the outcry from August Belmont Jr. and Henry Payne Whitney, New York legislators passed even stricter anti-gambling laws and closed the oral wagering loophole. It was game over. By 1911, every racetrack in New York had closed its doors.

Thus began the great migration. Desperate owners and trainers sent their horses to Kentucky, Maryland, Canada, and Europe. More than 1500 American Thoroughbreds were shipped overseas, twenty-four of which went on to become champions.

New York didn't only lose horses. Many owners, trainers, jockeys and stable hands were also forced to relocate to more racing-friendly locales. The economic impact on the towns where these now-shuttered racetracks were located was disastrous. Saratoga Springs, in particular, was gut-punched with collapsing real estate values and failed businesses.

So what became of the Belmont Stakes, the third jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown, during these years of turmoil? Luckily, or perhaps unluckily, two different horses won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness in those Belmont-less years so there was no chance for a Triple Crown winner. Then in 1913, after three years without a single horse race in the state of New York, August Belmont bravely decided to reopen the track which bore his name. Over 30,000 horse racing-starved fans answered his call. They came not to bet, but simply to revel in the magnificence of Thoroughbred competition. And what they saw was pure brilliance as Whisk Broom II captured the Metropolitan Handicap. He would go on to sweep the Suburban and Brooklyn Handicaps as well, thus becoming the first Handicap Triple Crown Winner. The Belmont Stakes was also contested that year and was won by Prince Eugene. From that point forward, there has never been a year without a Belmont Stakes.

In 1934, a bill sponsored by Democrats William Breitenbach and James J. Crawford re-instated wagering and eventually led to the pari-mutuel system being adopted in New York. Ding-dong, the Hart-Agnew Law was dead! New York horse racing survived as a whole, but the Hart-Agnew Law had claimed three casualties – Brighton Beach Racecourse, Gravesend Racetrack and Sheepshead Bay Racetrack. Jamaica Racecourse did reopen its doors and continued racing until 1959, when it was redeveloped as the Rochdale Village Housing Development. From the carnage of the Hart-Agnew Law, three of those original Thoroughbred racetracks still stand proud: Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga.

The Belmont Stakes is a hallmark of horse racing, the Test of the Champion, and the race that can make or break a Triple Crown contender. And yet, it was exterminated by a simple stroke of a pen. Indeed, not just the Belmont Stakes, but all of New York horse racing was devastated on June 11, 1908, when Republican Governor Charles Evans Hughes signed the Hart-Agnew Law into effect. Sponsored by conservative Assemblyman Merwin K. Hart and Republican Senator George B. Agnew, the Hart-Agnew Law made wagering on horse

# Rombauer in the Preakness



Ending a week of constant controversy and debate about Bob Baffert, Medina Spirit, and betamethasone, the unheralded Rombauer let his racing do the talking. He surged in mid-stretch and powered past the favourites to win the 146th Preakness Stakes at Pimlico on May 15. Ridden by Flavien Prat, Rombauer went off at almost 12-1 and was given a perfect ride.

From the opening of the gates, it was a head-to-head battle between the aggrieved Kentucky Derby winner, Medina Spirit (\$2.40-1) and the second choice, Midnight Bourbon (\$3.10-1). Almost to mid-stretch, no more than half a length separated those two and the fractions were swift – 1:10.07 for six furlongs and 1:34.78 for the mile. Rombauer was nicely rated in 6th down the backstretch, perhaps 4 lengths in arrears and when they turned for home, Prat had plenty of horse. Rombauer loomed up in the middle of the track and devoured both Medina Spirit and Midnight Bourbon, galloping home to win by 3 ½ lengths in an excellent time of 1:53.62 for the mile and three-sixteenths. The record of 1:53 flat was set in 1972 by Secretariat.

For the jockey, winning the middle leg of the Triple Crown was especially important. Prat's first Triple Crown win came in the bizarre 2019 Kentucky Derby when Maximum Security finished first but was taken down for instigating a wild west rodeo on the far turn. Prat was aboard 65-1 shot Country House who finished second but was elevated to the winner's circle.

"It does feel different," Prat said about his Preakness victory. "I realize how important it is."

Medina Spirit's 3rd place finish assures there will be no Triple Crown sweep this year. The horse was tested repeatedly before the Preakness and was declared 'clean.' After winning the Kentucky Derby two weeks earlier, Medina Spirit produced a positive test that included the controlled drug, betamethasone, a corticosteroid that was in an ointment applied to the horse to relieve a rash.

According to Churchill Downs officials, if a second sample matches the first one, Medina Spirit would be officially taken down and Mandaloun, who finished second would be named the 2021 Kentucky Derby champion.

This was the first Triple Crown win for trainer Michael McCarthy and his terse post race comment was a tribute to the atmosphere that horse racing exudes these days.

"I'm off to the test barn," McCarthy said, referring to the place urine and blood samples are taken.

We can only assume the results came back negative.

Rombauer is owned by John and Diane Fradkin. He skipped the Derby after a 3rd place finish to Essential Quality in the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland on April 3. He won the El Camino Real Derby at Golden Gate in February, and his Preakness victory gives him 3 wins in 7 races.

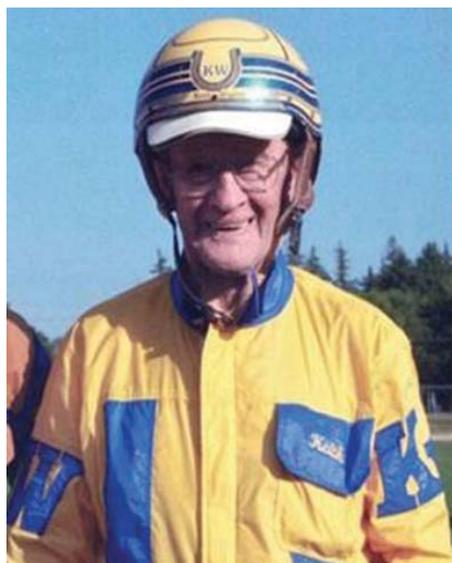
He paid \$25.60 to win.

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# Keith Waples:

## December 8, 1923 – May 7, 2021



Keith Waples, a legend and a pioneer in harness racing, died on May 7. Born in Victoria Harbour, Ontario in 1923, he carved out an incredible career that started even before official records of his victories were recorded. Because of that, the 3,206 wins he is credited with are probably vastly behind the real number as they don't include conquests at smaller tracks at the beginning of his career.

In fact, long-time race caller Earl Lennox tells a story about Waples' first win, when the legendary driver was just a child.

"His father, Jack was a big man, and he had this horse called Grey Ghost racing at Uxbridge Fair," relates Lennox. "It had rained all night and the track was muddy. Jack knew that it would be hard to pull him through the mud, so he put Keith up because at only 11 years old, he was small and light. That was how he managed to win his first drive. In those days, you didn't need a licence to drive at fairs. The horse won both heats, of course."

The word "first" is often used to describe Waples. In 1959, he was the first to record a sub-2:00 mile in Canada. He did that with Mighty Dudley at Richelieu Park.

"He'd won in 2:00.1 the week before," said Waples, "and he was quite sharp at that time. Mighty Dudley was a good horse, but he couldn't beat the top horses out at that time, like Bye Bye Byrd or some of those."

Keith Waples was the first Canadian to win a \$100,000 race. And, according to Lennox, he could do things in competition that had never been done before. Lennox called many races in the '70s won by Waples, but one sublime drive stands out.

"They were at Mohawk in a Stakes race," he recalls, "And there had been a big accident earlier and this filly was way out in front, but she was coming to a walk and Keith was second, but way back. He's going to pass the



other filly, but his filly is tired as well. He couldn't pull on the right line because that would slow her progress, so he took both lines in one hand, put the other hand under the seat, jumped the cart over to the right, skimmed by and his filly won by a head."

Keith Waples won the 1962 International Trot at Roosevelt Raceway with Tie Silk. Hard to imagine with the state of racing these days, but that day, there were 53,279 in attendance at Roosevelt. Ten years later, Waples took the same race with Strike Out, whom he also steered to victory in the 1972 Little Brown Jug

"Strike Out was a perfect horse," said Waples at the time. "He'd dead-headed in the Adios final. When we got to Delaware for the Jug, Strike Out drew inside of Jay Time and we both went out of the gate as fast as we could. I had no intention of letting Jay Time get around me."

Strike Out paced the first heat in 1:56.3, the fastest mile ever on a half-mile track. He won the final easily.

Waples also won the Adios Pace and the Prix d'Été. He is an inducted member of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame (1973), the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame (1973) and the United States Harness Racing Hall of Fame (1978). Locally, Waples is in the Midland, Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in the Athlete category as is Hall of Famer Mike Lachance, who speaks with reverence when talking about Waples.

"I started watching Keith when I was about 13 years old at Richelieu Park in Montreal," says LaChance. "He always impressed me with the way he sat in the bike. He had so much patience in a race. No one had more patience than Keith did. And he was an all-around horseman. He could train and develop young horses."

"He was such a smart driver," adds Lachance. "He was such a nice guy, too. He worked hard and was never sour. He was always joking around."

When Waples was in his 80s, he participated in a Hall of Fame race. LaChance witnessed that and was in awe of what he saw.

"He looked just the same as he always did in the bike," says LaChance.

Murray Brown is in the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame and always admired how Waples never abused a horse for the purpose of winning.

"I cannot recall ever seeing him win a race by more than a length," says Brown. "In most instances it was a neck or less. I cannot recall him ever losing a photo finish. I cannot recall a single instance when I saw him using the whip where I felt that he was actually hitting a horse."

According to Brown, generations of harness drivers owe their skills and success to Keith Waples.

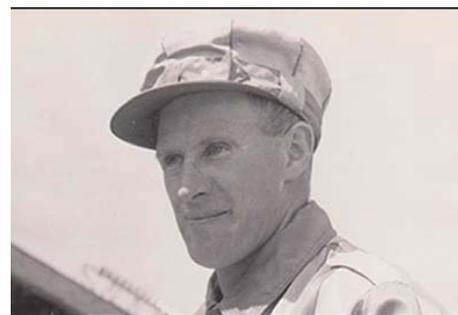
"Not only was Keith Waples a great driver and an extraordinary horseman," Brown says, "he was also, in my opinion, the greatest teaching influence that a significant number of our great drivers ever had. You name them! Whether it was Herve Filion, Mike Lachance, Bill O'Donnell, John Campbell, Bill Wellwood and even those older Canadian legends such as Buddy Gilmour and John Chapman - they all learned from The Thin Man. I'm sure that each and every one of them would be quick to give him credit."

Trainer Doug McIntosh comments that Waples and Herve Filion are the only two drivers he's ever known who understood what all the other horses in a race were doing while diving their own horses.

"He had an unbelievable sense of what was going on around him in a race," says McIntosh. "He could also get up behind a horse and evaluate it so quickly. He never overdrove a horse."

He will be sadly missed by Eileen, his loving wife of almost 75 years, and his four children, Barbara Lennox, Donna Galbraith (Mac), Karen Hauver (Maurice) and Gord (Denise), as well as his 9 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Guelph General Hospital would be appreciated by the family in recognition of the excellent care that he and Eileen have received there over the years. Donations/online condolences can be made through the Funeral Home at [gilbertmacintyreandson.com](http://gilbertmacintyreandson.com).



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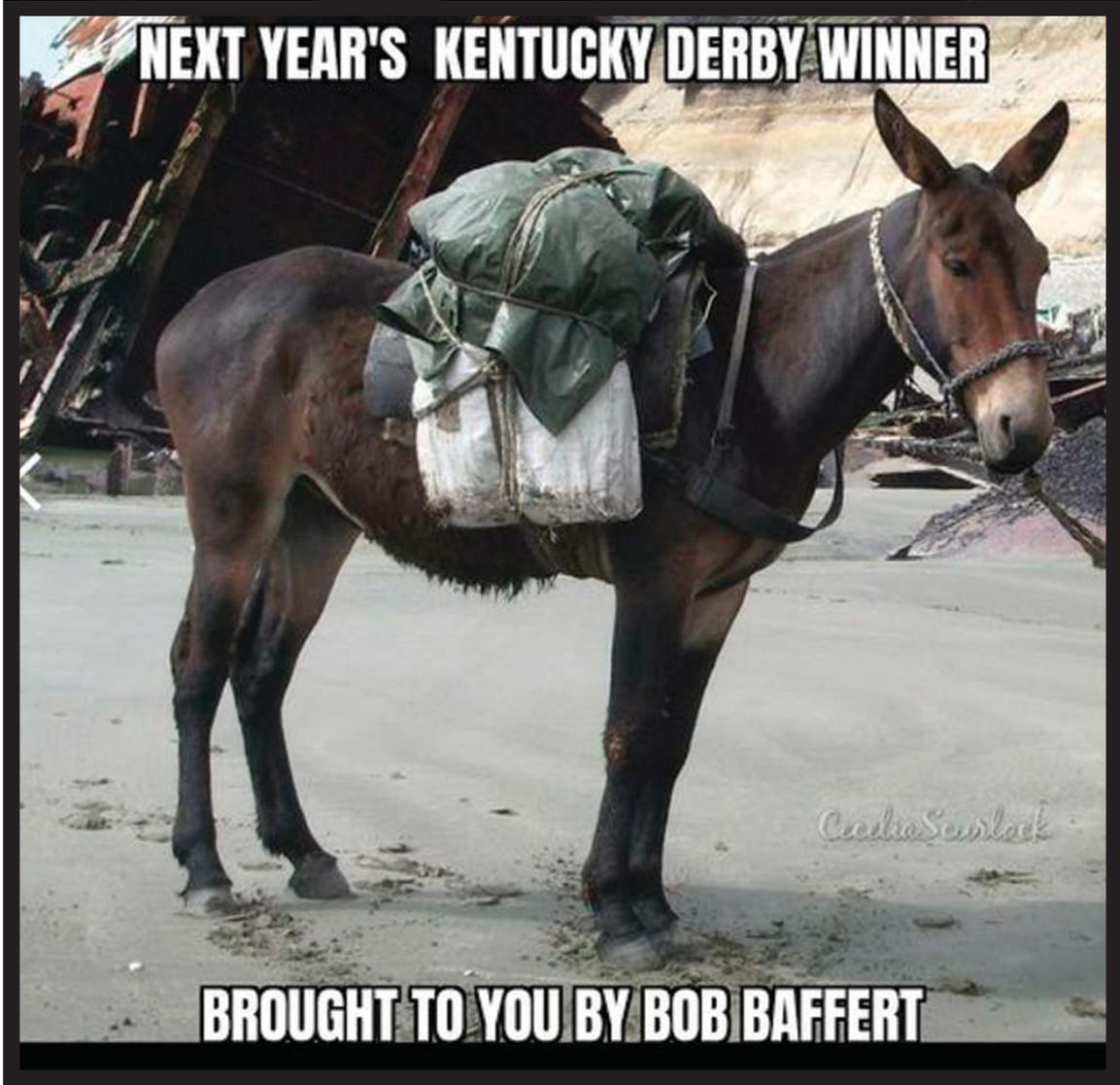
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# RACETRACK HUMOUR



Perry & Mooch



# Sutherland's excellent May



Chantal Sutherland is winning and paying off well!



Sitting straight up on Straight Up Guy

Adam Coglianese Photos

Chantal Sutherland is “crushing” it at Gulfstream. She is winning at an excellent rate and almost all her winners are rewarding the bettors with nice payoffs. May was very good to Sutherland. Let’s review her victories:

On May 1, she was aboard an 8-1 shot named Treasure Tails in a maiden special weight at a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> on the turf. She rated the five-year-old mare perfectly, powering past rivals in mid-stretch to score by 1 ¼ lengths for trainer Cara Holtzinger. Those who bet her got \$18.60 for each \$2 win bet.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, the 2<sup>nd</sup> race was a 5-furlong turf sprint with a field of 7 who could each be claimed for \$12,500. Sutherland had Going For Gold forwardly positioned out of the gate, took the lead before entering the stretch, and won by 1 ¼ lengths. The winning trainer was Jorge Delgado, and this result was not a surprise. Going For Gold paid just \$2.80.

That same day, the 8<sup>th</sup> race was a \$35,000 claim race for maidens. Sutherland delivered the three-year-old gelding, Straight Up Guy, to victory at the end of a mile on the turf. Trained by Patrick Biancone, Straight Up Guy paid \$9.40.

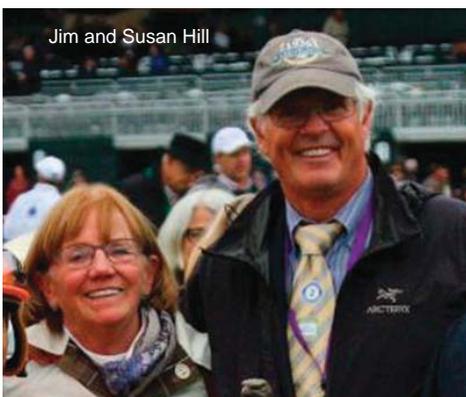
On May 15, Sutherland was paired with Pacific Princess, one of just 5 entered in this 6-furlong optional claiming dash. At odds of 5-1, Pacific Princess was the third betting

choice. But Sutherland timed it brilliantly, stalking from third while the favourites went too fast, then revving up in the stretch and hitting the wire best by a neck for trainer Roger Laurin. That created a \$12.40 win ticket.

The next day, the 4<sup>th</sup> race had 8 runners asked to go 6 furlongs on the dirt. Sutherland was riding a three-year-old gelding named Kleon. She waited patiently until the head of the stretch to get him going and he responded by taking the lead and expanding his advantage right to the wire, winning by 2 ¾ lengths. This was another win for trainer Delgado and the win ticket was worth \$9.40.

On Saturday May 22, in a starter optional claim race, Sutherland had the mount on a 6-year-old Ontario-bred named Trapezoid. Those who bet the gelding were hoping to get a square race out of him, anticipating that Sutherland would circle the field and triangulate a win. All geometry aside, Trapezoid, 4<sup>th</sup> early, surged to the front just after turning into the stretch and romped to the wire 1 ¼ lengths the best in 1:37.60 for the mile on the dirt. This may or may not prove that the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides, but it does show just how well Sutherland is riding. Trapezoid, bred by Bernard and Karen McCormack, now has 9 wins in 42 career races. He is trained by Jorge Delgado and owned by Heehaw Racing. His win ticket was \$5.20.

# The Hills Were Alive With the Sound of Winning



Jim and Susan Hill

Sunday, May 24 was a brilliant day for Jim and Susan Hill of Calgary. They had entered four horses at Churchill Downs and two of them won. In the 6<sup>th</sup> race, a \$100,000 special maiden weight at 5 ½ furlongs on the turf, Drayden Van Dyke executed a timely ride on the three-year-old filly, Town Avenger. She was 7<sup>th</sup> at the quarter, but started passing rivals on the turn, persevered right to the finish, and won by a neck in 1:04.51. This was Town Avenger’s racing debut for trainer Brian Lynch, and she returned \$9 to win.

The 10<sup>th</sup> was also a generous maiden special weight worth \$100,000. This time, a field of 8 was required to run a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> on the dirt. The Hills’ horse was a three-year-old colt called Yearn for Victory, whose only previous race was a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at 6 ½ furlongs at Keeneland in April. Under Brian Hernandez, the second time out was impressive, as Yearn for Victory called the shots, leading at every post, while setting solid fractions of 1:11.94 for six furlongs and 1:36.79 for the mile. Yearn for Victory got to the finish line the winner by ¾ of a length in 1:43.39. He is trained by George Arnold II, and he also paid \$9 to win.

The Hills operate Marquax Farm near Midway Kentucky, and Jim admitted that although he was optimistic, the twin victories exceeded his expectations.

“Yes, a good day at Churchill Downs with two MSW winners,” he said. “We have been down here at the farm since the beginning of March and got to see Town Avenger and Yearn For Victory work every day throughout March, before they shipped to Keeneland and Churchill. We loved how they travelled at Margaux, so I was expecting good things, although that is often not the case when they actually race.”

Hill told *Down the Stretch* that the win by Town Avenger had a certain emotional subtext to it.

“Both horses were bought at the Keeneland 2019 yearling

sale,” he said. “Town Avenger was bought early in the sale and was expensive. She was picked out for me by bloodstock agent and friend, Kenny Lejeune, who tragically died suddenly from cancer last December. We have had great luck buying Speightstowns that could run, but not so lucky keeping them sound. Hopefully this one is an exception. She’s got a long, powerful stride and we are definitely looking to route races. That she also has the speed to win a sprint was a real bonus.”

Hill’s friend, Lejeune, was also instrumental in the purchase of Yearn for Victory.

“Yearn for Victory was bought in Book 3,” says Hill. “The weather was extremely hot that year and Kenny wasn’t seeing much and was getting exhausted in the heat. I told him to forget about day 1 of Book 3 and we would both work together just watching the horses come into the ring on the second day of Book 3. We saw this horse come in and loved his walk, made a quick confirmation check, got a vet to read his X-rays on the fly, and bid. The horse has an extremely efficient and light way of travelling so when I saw him go to the lead right out of the gate, I felt pretty good about his chances.”

So Jim and Susan Hill took down a pair of \$100,000 maiden special weights on the same afternoon. That gave them 7 wins from 42 starts in the U.S. in 2021 and earnings of \$523,204.

# How our harness men are crushing it

When it was obvious there would be no racing in Ontario until June, some of the best harness drivers in the country migrated to the U.S. and the evidence seems to indicate they're inflicting serious damage on their American counterparts. Here's a list of their recent wins:

## Doug McNair



May 1 at Harrah's Philly, \$7,600 Pace: Capozzo  
May 3 at Pocono, \$10,800 Pace: Spellcheck Hanover  
May 6 at Harrah's Philly, \$11,200 Trot: Refi  
May 7 at Harrah's Philly, \$10,800 Trot: Vinyasa  
May 7 at The Meadowlands, \$8,750 Pace: Mayfield Duke  
May 9 at Harrah's Philly, \$9,900 Pace: Capozzo  
May 10 at Pocono, \$10,800 Pace: Sir Blue Chip  
May 10 at Pocono, \$10,800 Trot: A Blue Blood  
May 10 at Pocono, \$9,900 Trot: Cambellini  
May 12 at Harrah's Philly, \$10,800 Pace: Century Hannibal  
May 14 at The Meadowlands, \$9,000 Pace: Break The Deal  
May 14 at The Meadowlands, \$8,125 Pace: Art Scaping  
May 17 at Pocono, \$10,800 Pace: Big Idea  
May 19 at Yonkers, \$17,000 Trot: Kandy Sweet  
May 20 at Yonkers, \$14,000 Trot: Kilauea  
May 21 at The Meadowlands, \$8,750 Pace: Mr Hat  
May 21 at The Meadowlands, \$15,000 Trot: Skyway Kon Man  
May 21 at The Meadowlands, \$9,000 Trot: Resita  
May 24 at Pocono, \$10,800 Trot: Camden Hills

## Mark MacDonald



May 4 at Pocono, \$13,500 Pace: Full View  
May 11 at Pocono, \$11,700 Trot: Chocolate Matters  
May 11 at Pocono, \$15,300 Pace: Gray Dragon  
May 11 at Pocono, \$13,500 Trot: Cherry Red  
May 14 at The Meadowlands, \$9,000 Pace: Thndfrmrthehron  
May 15 at The Meadowlands, \$14,375 Pace: Master Conrad  
May 11 at Pocono, \$15,300 Pace: Gray Dragon  
May 17 at Pocono, \$10,800 Pace: Dillinger  
May 18 at Pocono, \$15,300 Pace: Gray Dragon  
May 18 at Yonkers, \$12,000 Pace: Stop Staring  
May 21 at The Meadowlands, \$12,000 Pace: Ruby On Rails  
May 22 at Pocono, \$11,200 Pace: Splash Brother  
May 25 at Yonkers, \$14,000 Pace: Stop Staring  
May 25 at Yonkers, \$16,000 Pace: Salt Life  
May 25 at Pocono, \$13,500 Pace: Let Er Buck

## James MacDonald



May 1 at Pocono, \$9,000 Trot: Nothing But Muscle  
May 3 at Pocono, \$9,000 Trot: Uris Des Caillons  
May 7 at The Meadowlands, \$12,500 Pace: Majestic Virgin  
May 9 at Pocono, \$11,200 Pace: Lady Rocknrolla  
May 15 at Pocono, \$13,000 Pace: Points North  
May 17 at Pocono, \$5,400 Pace: Highview Conall  
May 17 at Pocono, \$10,800 Pace: Bet Light  
May 18 at Pocono, \$13,500 Pace: Nightlife Seelster  
May 22 at Pocono, \$13,000 Trot: Bautista  
May 22 at Pocono, \$15,700 Pace: Points North  
May 22 at The Meadowlands, \$14,375 Pace: Kingofthejungle  
May 27 at Yonkers, \$12,000 Pace: Kay's Delight  
May 27 at Yonkers, \$12,000 Pace: Chase You

## Louis-Philippe Roy

May 6 at Hoosier Park, \$8,500 Pace: Backwater Belle  
May 6 at Hoosier Park, \$4,500 Pace: Alexas Cruising  
May 6 at Hoosier Park, \$7,500 Pace: Lous Delight  
May 7 at Hoosier Park, \$6,500 Pace: Major Hill  
May 7 at Hoosier Park, \$10,000 Pace: East End  
May 13 at Hoosier Park, \$6,500 Pace: Backwater Belle  
May 14 at Hoosier Park, \$10,500 Pace: Major Hill

## Trevor Henry



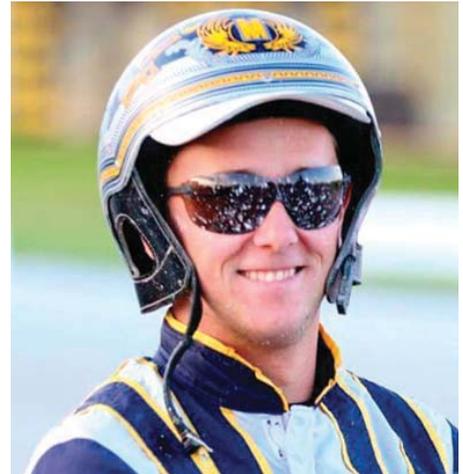
May 8 at Hoosier Park, \$7,500 Trot: Wickenburgh  
May 13 at Hoosier Park, \$7,500 Pace: Lydias Liberty  
May 22 at Hoosier Park, \$7,500 Trot: Lexus Kody  
May 23 at Hoosier Park, \$14,000 Pace: East End  
May 26 at Hoosier Park, \$6,500 Trot: Love of Prayers

## Jody Jamieson



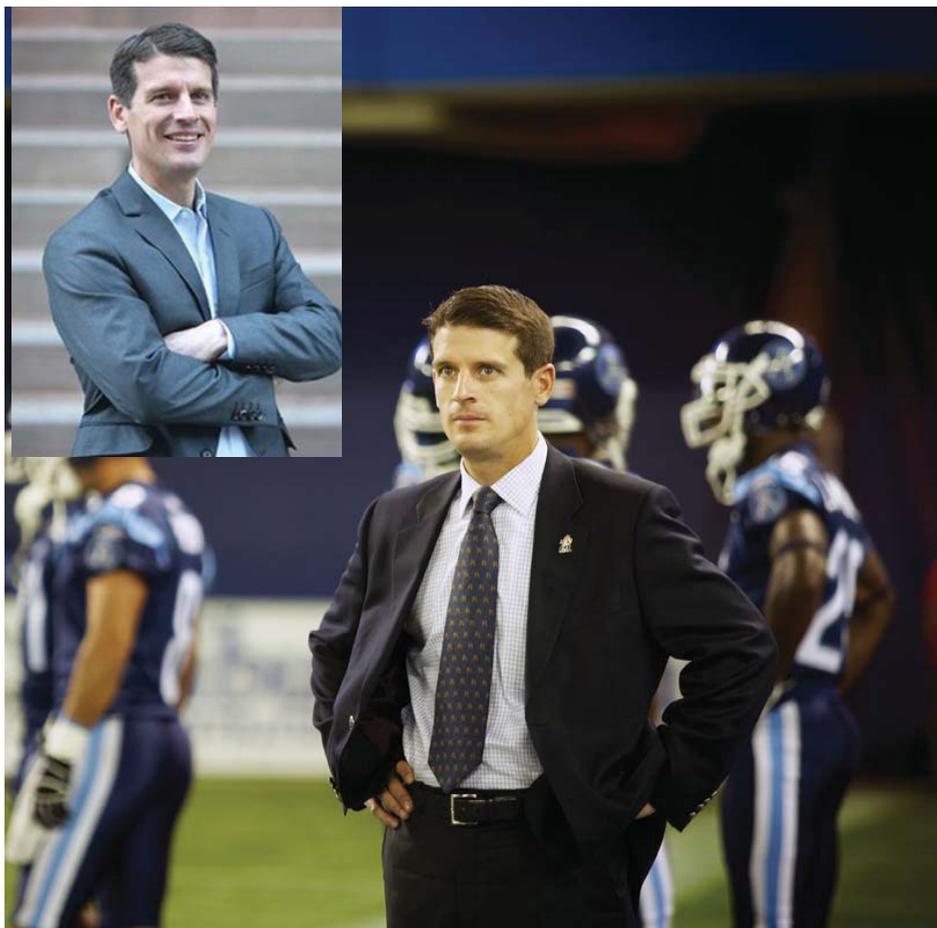
May 1 at Tioga Downs, \$3,800 Pace: Century Grizzly  
May 1 at Tioga Downs, \$6,000 Pace: Machet Time  
May 8 at Tioga Downs, \$5,800 Pace: Skyway Ballet  
May 8 at Tioga Downs, \$3,800 Pace: Viceroy Hanover  
May 9 at Tioga Downs, \$5,800 Pace: Better Be Gouda  
May 15 at Tioga Downs, \$5,000 Pace: Blue Me a Kiss  
May 15 at Tioga Downs, \$4,500 Pace: Machet Time  
May 16 at Tioga Downs, \$5,000 Pace: Movie Star  
May 16 at Tioga Downs, \$6,400 Trot, Wesley Hanover  
May 16 at Tioga Downs, \$7,200 Pace: Better Be Gouda  
May 22 at Tioga Downs, \$5,800 Pace: New Number Who Dis  
May 23 at Tioga Downs, \$6,000 Trot, She Matters  
May 23 at Tioga Downs, \$5,000 Pace: Movie Star  
May 23 at Tioga Downs, \$9,000 Pace: Braeview Bondi A  
May 23 at Tioga Downs, \$5,000 Pace: Khun Ratha A

## Bob McClure



May 1 at Harrah's Philly, \$12,600 Trot: Inaminate Hanover  
May 7 at The Meadowlands, \$8,125 Pace: Sonic Flare  
May 13 at Harrah's Philly, \$12,600 Trot: Inaminate Hanover  
May 14 at The Meadowlands, \$7,800 Pace: Sonic Flare  
May 15 at Pocono, \$11,200 Trot: Steuben Hanover  
May 16 at Harrah's Philly, \$7,600 Pace: Lady Lou  
May 23 at Harrah's Philly, \$7,200 Pace: K Lees Shakenbake

# Mike Copeland: From Touchdowns to Exactors



Woodbine Entertainment announced, in the first week of May, the hiring of 51-year-old Mike Copeland as the Chief Commercial Officer. From 2006 to 2016, Copeland was the President and COO of the Canadian Football League. After that he slid into the position of CEO/President of the Toronto Argonauts. According to Woodbine's press release, Copeland's workload will have him overseeing business development, digital strategy, marketing, sponsorships, broadcast and customer experience strategy. What they didn't tell him is that one of his first assignments would be to submit to a grueling interview with *Down the Stretch* editor, Peter Gross.

**DTS:** Mike, this newspaper is not into character assassination or scandal. However, based on the prevailing climate, I do have a rather difficult question to ask at the end of the interview. I'm going to save it for the end because if you get pissed off and hang up on me, at least I will have the rest of the information. So, just be prepared for that.

**Copeland:** Okay.

**DTS:** What was the premise that got you hired by Woodbine?

**Copeland:** To help them realize their vision, to grow and transform. Woodbine is well positioned to continue to their path on that and I am here to assist with that process.

**DTS:** I'm sure you're aware of the people that say, "The CFL? What's that got to do with horse racing?" But actually, you do have a history. You married Deanne, the daughter of trainer Nick De Toro.

**Copeland:** Yes. My wife grew up on a horse farm in King City, and her father, Nick, was an owner and a trainer of thoroughbreds. My wife spent most of her life around horses at Woodbine and down in Florida. I grew up in Bramalea, pretty close to Woodbine. So I'd been to the track as a kid, but certainly wasn't as immersed in it as my wife's family was. But I got a real inside look and education on the horse industry through my wife and through my father-in-law. So, it's nice to come full circle. And although I'm on the business side, I've got a deeper appreciation of the horse.

**DTS:** Tell me about your involvement in the sports betting project that Woodbine had been obviously lobbying very hard for.

**Copeland:** Dating back to my days with the CFL,

sports betting has always been something that I believed could transform sports in every respect. We're certainly hopeful that the bill will pass through the Senate and when it does, Woodbine is really well positioned to help lead what sports betting means in Ontario. So it's certainly a conversation that we're deeply embedded in and interested in, and our proven track record is going to help advance the industry in Canada and beyond.

**DTS:** Are you going to be involved in the ongoing Expansion Project on the Woodbine site?

**Copeland:** Yeah. Absolutely. My role is to help develop all areas of growth for Woodbine. I'm not a real estate developer. We have partnered with experts in those areas but certainly Woodbine is playing a central role in shaping the vision for the property and how it's going to develop. Everything comes back to supporting racing and the racing community. There is a real major opportunity here to transform the site into something pretty spectacular. It's going to animate it and change the relationship that people have with the track, and I think that's only going to shine an even brighter light on what happens at the track. I will be deeply involved in this.

**DTS:** The government recently announced that horse racing can resume - standardbreds on June 14, and thoroughbreds on June 18. Will that be sufficient to make up for all the law states?

**Copeland:** No, certainly not, but we're really thankful to have some clarity about when racing is going to start. It's very difficult for everybody on the backstretch involved in racing and getting ready for the races, to do what they need to do without having a set date. So that helps them. I think we would have preferred if it was earlier - the safety record of the track would support that. But we understand that this is the date and so we'll work with it. It'll be good to get back to racing.

**DTS:** Okay. I've thrown a lot of softball questions, but I've got to ask this. In these difficult times, so many horse people are struggling, and you get (and I'm assuming here) a pretty nice paying job with the company. Are you overwhelmed with guilt?

**Copeland:** No. Because I think my role is to help advance the interests of the racing community. I believe in the industry. I have got first-hand knowledge of the work that goes into developing these horses. I know that this is a community that deserves support and it's a very important industry in Ontario. The more successful I am about growing the business and bringing a fantastic sport to more people, is only going to create a virtuous cycle for everybody. This is a great time for me to come in and roll up the sleeves to try to advance our CEO's vision. We've got a unique opportunity right now to bring Woodbine back into the mainstream of Canadian and international sport, with the property development and with sports betting and the advances that we're making in terms of how we showcase and communicate racing. This is a unique time and I think I can contribute to that and help move it forward.

# DOWN THE STRETCH PODCAST

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

## **Episode 67, May 4:**

A huge portion of this podcast is consumed by Canadian harness drivers winning races at U.S. tracks. In fact, this podcast has 19 harness race calls, unofficially a record for a podcast. *Down the Stretch* interviewed **Louis-Philippe Roy**, then watched him win at Hoosier Park. Other Canadians taking down U.S. purses are **Scott Zeron**, **James MacDonald**, **Mark MacDonald**, **Bob McClure** and **Trevor Henry**. **Chantal Sutherland** makes this podcast again, thanks to a brilliant ride on an 8-1 shot at Gulfstream. Jockey **John Velazquez** had the kind of weekend all athletes dream about. He won the **Kentucky Oaks** on Friday with **Malathaat**, then delivered 12-1 shot, **Medina Spirit** to victory in the **Kentucky Derby**. Writer **Robin Dawson** has been around horses for several decades and he gifted us his first novel, *Last Hurrah*, which is a great read. Dawson tells us it's about murder, money laundering, horses killed for insurance, and crumbling racetracks. And we "sampled" Mic'd Up to hear **Jody Jamieson** giving us the play by play while he wins with the outstanding Sintra.

## **Episode 68, May 11:**

Host **Peter Gross** looks at the wonderful life of **Keith Waples**, with help from **Earl Lennox** and **Fred Grant**. **Mark McKelvie** reveals why Woodbine had to push back the NA Cup, and who could go to the track to get a Covid vaccination. **Scott Zeron** tells us how much he has to drive in order to drive all afternoon and all night. Canadians are winning at the Meadowlands, Yonkers, Scioto Downs and Philly. Jockey **John Velazquez** got a headache he didn't deserve – an offensive Facebook posting that he spent the week denying. And finally, we have the heart-warming story of **Nigel Latham**, the dying Aussie horse racing fan, who had his last wish fulfilled.

## **Episode 69, May 18**

The unpleasant case of **Medina Spirit**, **Bob Baffert** and the positive test gets full coverage this week. We have feedback from **Jim Lawson**, **Lori Cirillo**, **Jennifer Morrison**, **Garnet Barnsdale**, **Robin Dawson**, **Ric Chapman** in Australia, **Gary 'Suitcase' Smith** in California, **Boomer Esiason** and even Saturday Night Live Oklahoma City lawyer, **William Federman** lays out the Class Action suit against Baffert. And then, how did Medina Spirit do in the **Preakness Stakes**? It was another week in which Canadian drivers marched onto American tracks and took down their purses. We have race calls of wins by **Scott Zeron**, **Doug McNair**, **Louis-Philippe Roy**, **Bob McClure**, **Trevor Henry** and **Mark MacDonald**. We find out from **Irwin Driedger** how much a jockey is worth in this province. **Bob Broadstock** updates the status of the Quarter Racing industry and **Josie Carroll's Belichick** raced tough at Churchill Downs. **Chantal Sutherland** brought in another good-priced horse and finally, how come a horse named **Hohoho** didn't get the last laugh?

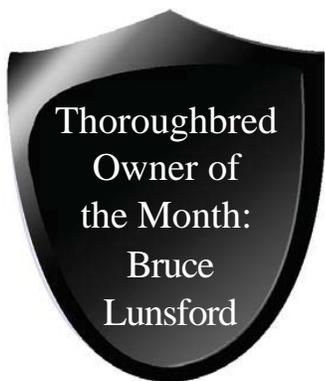
## **Episode 70, May 25:**

The Provincial Government has finally relented and allowed racing to resume. Woodbine's new Chief Commercial Officer, **Michael Copeland** discusses that and other issues. **Trevor Henry**, **Mark MacDonald**, **James MacDonald**, **Doug McNair** and **Scott Zeron** continue to show our neighbours to the south how to drive standardbreds, and we have an abundance of evidence. The podcast suffers when we don't run **Chantal Sutherland** winning, so suffice it to say, we're happy this week. It was a great Sunday at Churchill Downs for Canadian horse owners **Jim** and **Susan Hill**. American **Bruce Lunsford** tells the podcast why he loves racing at Woodbine, and if there's a more distressing accident than the one **Daryl Thiessen** experienced at Century Downs, we don't want to see it.

# 2021 Thoroughbred Stakes Schedule

RACE	RUN DATE	PURSE	CLOSING DATE
<b>STAR SHOOT STAKES</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies Six Furlongs	Saturday, June 19, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 09, 2021
<b>WHIMSICAL STAKES GR.III</b> Fillies & Mares, Four-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs	Saturday, June 19, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 09, 2021
<b>WOODSTOCK STAKES</b> Three-Year-Olds Six Furlongs	Sunday, June 20, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 09, 2021
<b>JACQUES CARTIER STAKES GR. III</b> Four-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs	Sunday, June 20, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 09, 2021
<b>TRILLIUM STAKES GR.III</b> Fillies & Mares, Four-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Saturday, June 26, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 09, 2021
<b>DOMINION DAY STAKES GR.III</b> Four-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Thursday, July 01, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 16, 2021
<b>FURY STAKES</b> <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Olds Fillies Seven Furlongs	Saturday, July 10, 2021	\$125,000 (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, June 23, 2021
<b>SELENE STAKES GR.III</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Sixteenth	Saturday, July 10, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 23, 2021
<b>QUEENSTON STAKES</b> <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Olds Seven Furlongs	Sunday, July 11, 2021	\$125,000 (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, June 23, 2021
<b>MARINE STAKES GR.III</b> Three-Year-Olds One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, July 11, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 23, 2021
<b>BALLADE STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs	Saturday, July 17, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, June 30, 2021
<b>CONNAUGHT CUP GR. II</b> Four-Year-Olds & Upward Seven Furlongs (Turf Course)	Sunday, July 18, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, June 30, 2021
<b>NASSAU STAKES GR. II</b> Fillies & Mares, Four-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile (Turf Course)	Saturday, July 24, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 07, 2021
<b>NIAGARA STAKES</b> <b>(AN OVERNIGHT STAKES)</b> Four-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Eighth (Turf Course)	Sunday, July 25, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$20,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 14, 2021
<b>MY DEAR STAKES</b> Two-Year-Old Fillies Five & One Half Furlongs	Saturday, July 31, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 14, 2021
<b>VICTORIA STAKES</b> Two-Year-Olds Five & One Half Furlongs	Saturday, July 31, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 14, 2021
<b>ALYWOW STAKES</b> <b>(AN OVERNIGHT STAKES)</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies Six & One Half Furlongs (Turf Course)	Saturday, July 31, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$20,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 21, 2021
<b>WOODBINE OAKS PRESENTED BY BUDWEISER</b> Scale Weight, <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Eighth	Sunday, August 01, 2021	\$500,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.) (Payment of \$750 due June 30) (Late Nomination fee of \$2,500 due June 30)	
<b>Plate Trial Stakes</b> Scale Weight, <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Olds One Mile & One Eighth	Sunday, August 01, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, July 14, 2021
<b>ROYAL NORTH STAKES GR. II</b> Fillies & Mares, Four-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs (Turf Course)	Sunday, August 01, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 14, 2021
<b>VIGIL STAKES GR.III</b> Four-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs	Sunday, August 01, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 14, 2021
<b>GEORGIAN BAY STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old Fillies Five Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Saturday, August 7, 2021	\$80,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, July 21, 2021
<b>LAKE HURON STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old, Colts & Geldings Five Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Saturday, August 7, 2021	\$80,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, July 21, 2021
<b>GREENWOOD STAKES</b> Three-Year-Olds Seven Furlongs (Turf Course)	Saturday, August 14, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 28, 2021
<b>KING EDWARD STAKES GR.II</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile (Turf Course)	Sunday, August 15, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, July 28, 2021
<b>SINGSPIEL STAKES GR.III</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Quarter (Turf Course)	Saturday, August 21, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 04, 2021
<b>CATCH A GLIMPSE STAKES</b> Two-Year-Old Fillies Six & One Half Furlongs (Turf Course)	Saturday, August 21, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 04, 2021
<b>SOARING FREE STAKES</b> Two-Year Olds Six & One Half Furlongs (Turf Course)	Saturday, August 21, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 04, 2021
<b>SEAWAY STAKES GR. III</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward Seven Furlongs	Saturday, August 21, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 04, 2021
<b>THE QUEEN'S PLATE</b> Scale Weight, <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Olds One Mile & One Quarter	Sunday, August 22, 2021	\$1,000,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.) (Payment of \$1,500 due June 30) (Late Nomination fee of \$5,000 due June 30)	
<b>HIGHLANDER STAKES GR.I</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs (Turf Course)	Sunday, August 22, 2021	\$350,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$70,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 04, 2021
<b>DANCE SMARTLY STAKES GR.II</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Quarter (Turf Course)	Sunday, August 22, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 04, 2021
<b>ONTARIO COLLEEN STAKES GR.III</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies One Mile (Turf Course)	Sunday, August 22, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 04, 2021
<b>IBISON CITY STAKES</b> Scale Weight, <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Sixteenth	Saturday, August 28, 2021	\$250,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, August 11, 2021
<b>MUSKOKA STAKES</b> (A Sales Stakes) <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Two-Year-Old Fillies Six & One Half Furlongs	Sunday, August 29, 2021	\$200,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, August 11, 2021
<b>SIMCOE STAKES</b> (A Sales Stakes) <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Two-Year-Old Colts & Geldings Six & One Half Furlongs	Sunday, August 29, 2021	\$200,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, August 11, 2021
<b>ALGOMA STAKES</b> (A Sales Stakes) <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies Seven Furlongs	Sunday, August 29, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, August 11, 2021
<b>ELGIN STAKES</b> (A Sales Stakes) <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Old, Colts & Geldings Seven Furlongs	Sunday, August 29, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, August 11, 2021
<b>ZADRACARTA STAKES</b> <b>(AN OVERNIGHT STAKES)</b> Registered Ontario Bred Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward Five Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Friday, September 10, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>SEAGRAM CUP GR.III</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Saturday, September 11, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 25, 2021
<b>VICE REGENT STAKES</b> Registered Ontario Bred Three-Year-Olds & Upward Five Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Saturday, September 11, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, August 25, 2021
<b>TORONTO CUP</b> Three-Year-Olds One Mile (Turf Course)	Sunday, September 12, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, August 25, 2021
<b>BELLE MAHONE STAKES</b> <b>(AN OVERNIGHT STAKES)</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, September 12, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$20,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>PRINCE OF WALES STAKES (TO BE RUN AT FORT ERIE)</b> Scale Weight, <b>Foaled In Canada</b> Three-Year-Olds One Mile & Three-Sixteenths	Tuesday, September 14, 2021	\$400,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.) (Payment of \$1,000 due August 31)	
<b>RONDEAU BAY STAKES</b> <b>(TO BE RUN AT FORT ERIE)</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old Fillies Six Furlongs	Tuesday, September 14, 2021	\$80,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Tuesday August 31, 2021
<b>LAKE ERIE STAKES</b> <b>(TO BE RUN AT FORT ERIE)</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old, Colts & Geldings Six Furlongs	Tuesday, September 14, 2021	\$80,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Tuesday August 31, 2021

(An Ontario Sired Stakes) Two-Year-Old, Colts & Geldings One Mile (Inner Turf Course)		(Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	
<b>RICHWOOD BINE MILE GR.I</b> Breeders' Cup Challenge Series "Win and You're In" Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile (Turf Course)	Saturday, September 18, 2021	\$1,000,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$200,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>PATTISON CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL GR.I</b> Scale Weight Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Half (Turf Course)	Saturday, September 18, 2021	\$600,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$120,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>CANADIAN STAKES GR.II</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Eighth (Turf Course)	Saturday, September 18, 2021	\$250,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$50,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>NATALMA STAKES GR.I - Scale Weight</b> Breeders' Cup Challenge Series "Win and You're In" Two-Year-Old Fillies One Mile (Turf Course)	Sunday, September 19, 2021	\$400,000 Guar. (Plus Up To \$80,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>SUMMER STAKES GR.I - Scale Weight</b> Breeders' Cup Challenge Series "Win and You're In" Two-Year-Olds One Mile (Turf Course)	Sunday, September 19, 2021	\$400,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$80,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>WOODBINE CARES STAKES</b> Two-Year-Old Fillies Five Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Sunday, September 19, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>ONTARIO RACING STAKES</b> Two-Year-Olds Five Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Sunday, September 19, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 01, 2021
<b>DUCHESS STAKES</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies Seven Furlongs	Saturday, September 25, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 08, 2021
<b>BOLD VENTURE STAKES GR.III</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward Six & One Half Furlongs	Saturday, September 25, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 08, 2021
<b>WONDER WHERE STAKES</b> Scale Weight, Foaled in Canada Three-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Quarter (Turf Course)	Saturday, October 02, 2021	\$250,000 Guar. (Includes Funds From T.I.P.)	Wednesday, September 15, 2021
<b>BREEDERS' STAKES</b> Scale Weight, Foaled in Canada Three-Year-Olds One Mile & One Half (Turf Course)	Sunday, October 03, 2021	\$400,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.) (Payment of \$1,000 due September 15)	
<b>ONTARIO FASHION STAKES GR.III</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs	Sunday, October 03, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 15, 2021
<b>SHADY WELL STAKES</b> Registered Ontario Bred Two-Year-Old Fillies Five & One Half Furlongs	Friday, October 08, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, September 22, 2021
<b>Clarendon Stakes</b> Registered Ontario Bred Two-Year-Olds Five & One Half Furlongs	Friday, October 08, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, September 22, 2021
<b>OVERSKATE STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Olds & Upward Seven & One Half Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Saturday, October 9, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, September 22, 2021
<b>CUP &amp; SAUCER STAKES</b> Scale Weight, Foaled in Canada Two-Year-Olds One Mile & One Sixteenth (Turf Course)	Sunday, October 10, 2021	\$250,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, September 22, 2021
<b>ONTARIO MATRON STAKES GR.III</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, October 10, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 22, 2021
<b>DURHAM CUP GR.III</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, October 10, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 22, 2021
<b>E. P. TAYLOR STAKES GR.I</b> Scale Weight Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Quarter (Turf Course)	Sunday, October 17, 2021	\$600,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$120,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 29, 2021
<b>NEARCTIC STAKES GR. II</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs (Turf Course)	Sunday, October 17, 2021	\$250,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$50,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, September 29, 2021
<b>THUNDER BAY STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old Fillies Seven Furlongs (Turf Course)	Friday, October 22, 2021	\$80,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday October 6, 2021
<b>LAKE SUPERIOR STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old, Colts & Geldings Seven Furlongs (Turf Course)	Friday, October 22, 2021	\$80,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday October 6, 2021
<b>PRINCESS ELIZABETH STAKES</b> Scale Weight, Foaled in Canada Two-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Sixteenth	Saturday, October 23, 2021	\$250,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, October 06, 2021
<b>HENDRIE STAKES GR.III</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Years-Olds & Upward Six & One Half Furlongs	Saturday, October 23, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 06, 2021
<b>ETERNAL SEARCH STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward Seven & One Half Furlongs (Inner Turf Course)	Friday, October 29, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, October 13, 2021
<b>GLORIOUS SONG STAKES</b> Two-Year-Old Fillies Seven Furlongs	Saturday, October 30, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 13, 2021
<b>DISPLAY STAKES</b> Two-Year-Olds Seven Furlongs	Saturday, October 30, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 13, 2021
<b>CORONATION FUTURITY</b> Scale Weight, Foaled in Canada Two-Year-Olds One Mile & One Eighth	Saturday, October 30, 2021	\$250,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, October 13, 2021
<b>ONTARIO DAMSEL STAKES</b> Three-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, October 31, 2021	\$125,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$25,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 13, 2021
<b>ONTARIO DERBY GR.III</b> Three-Year-Olds One Mile & One Eighth	Sunday, October 31, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 13, 2021
<b>ONTARIO JOCKEY CLUB STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs	Sunday, November 07, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, October 20, 2021
<b>BESSARABIAN STAKES GR.II</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward Seven Furlongs	Saturday, November 13, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 27, 2021
<b>MAPLE LEAF STAKES GR.III</b> Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Quarter	Saturday, November 13, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 27, 2021
<b>AUTUMN STAKES GR.II</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, November 14, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, October 27, 2021
<b>ASHBRIDGES BAY STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Sixteenth	Friday, November 19, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday November 3, 2021
<b>LAKE ONTARIO STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Old, Colts & Geldings One Mile & One Sixteenth	Friday, November 19, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday November 3, 2021
<b>SOUTH OCEAN STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Two-Year-Old Fillies Six & One Half Furlongs	Sunday, November 21, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, November 03, 2021
<b>FROST KING STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Two-Year-Olds Six & One Half Furlongs	Sunday, November 21, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, November 03, 2021
<b>KENNEDY ROAD STAKES GR.II</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward Six Furlongs	Saturday, November 27, 2021	\$175,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$35,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, November 10, 2021
<b>MAZARINE STAKES GR.III</b> Two-Year-Old Fillies One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, November 28, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, November 10, 2021
<b>GREY STAKES GR.III</b> Two-Year-Olds One Mile & One Sixteenth	Sunday, November 28, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, November 10, 2021
<b>LA PREVYONANTE STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Fillies & Mares, Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Saturday, December 4, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, November 17, 2021
<b>STEADY GROWTH STAKES</b> (An Ontario Sired Stakes) Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Sixteenth	Saturday, December 4, 2021	\$100,000 Guar. (Includes Funds from T.I.P.)	Wednesday, November 17, 2021
<b>VALEDICTORY STAKES GR.III</b> Three-Year-Olds & Upward One Mile & One Half	Sunday, December 05, 2021	\$150,000 Guar. (Plus up to \$30,000 for Eligible Ontario Breds)	Wednesday, November 17, 2021



**WOODBINE**

presented by WEG

Our Thoroughbred Owner of the Month, Bruce Lunsford, is a vibrant 73 and has been active in the sport for over 30 years. It was an unforgettable race that he witnessed many years ago that inspired him to own racehorses.

"While I was sophomore at the University of Kentucky, the thing to do in the spring and the fall, was to go to the races," he begins. "Graustark was running in the 1966 Blue Grass Stakes. When they broke, he was so powerful that he landed a length and a half in front of everybody, and just opened up down the backstretch. It looked like he was going to win by 30 lengths, and then he started slowing down in the turn. He had taken a bad step and hurt himself. Abe's Hope came along side of him at the top of the stretch, so he kicked in again and they ran neck-and-neck all the way down to the finish line. Got beat by about two inches, and it was the last race of his career. I knew right then that I wanted something like that."

In many ways, Lunsford got something "like that". He has had a few fantastic horses, some of whom have performed brilliantly at Woodbine, a location for which Lunsford has great affection.

"I also like the surface up there," he says. "I like the big turns and the way they take care of the track. I think they've done a good job with their synthetic, and their turf is just outstanding. One of the prettiest pictures you could find of a racetrack is a race at Woodbine on their turf. I get treated really well in Canada. They have been incredibly nice to me the whole time I've been coming up there and it's been fun, and I enjoy it. I think Toronto is a beautiful town."

In 2009, Lunsford had a horse named Auteur. It had run for trainer Bill Mott at Saratoga, but Lunsford decided to try the synthetic surface at Woodbine. He'd heard good things about Barb Minshall and asked her to train Auteur. It was a mile and an 8th on the Poly. Auteur, ridden by Patrick Husbands, rallied with a 6-wide move at the top of the stretch to win by a head at odds of 12-1. Lunsford has stuck with Minshall ever since.

"She's an excellent horsewoman," he says. "She's got a lot of experience. She loves the horses. She takes really good care of her horses. She's very honest about when they need a rest, when they don't, or when they're ready. And she'll sometimes tell me, 'I think I got a horse, it's ready to go.'"

Lunsford bred a horse named Stacked Deck who was born in 2004 out of the Smart Strike mare, Bel Air Beauty by First Samurai. Stacked Deck ran all of his 23 races at Woodbine, winning 9 times and earning \$614,951.

"He's a horse that that I can honestly say was as dependable as you could be, given the fact he had a



couple of issues along the way," says Lunsford. "Barb did a great job with him and he had some great performances, probably came close a couple of times to the track record and he did it with such a strong fashion. I really enjoyed watching him."

Lunsford really enjoyed watching the running of the Grade 2 \$200,000 Kennedy Road Stakes in November 2015. Under Luis Contreras, Stacked Deck tracked a very fast pace from 3rd, accelerated with a 5-wide move on the final turn and won pulling away by 2 3/4 lengths in the sizzling time of 1:08.34, a blink of the eye off the 6-furlong record of 1:08.05 held by Pink Lloyd. Stacked Deck would be voted the Outstanding Sprinter in Canada, for which Lunsford has a beautiful Sovereign Award.

In 2016, Stacked Deck, now a 5-year-old, won the \$102,600 Jockey Club Stakes with another great time in a 6-furlong sprint. Rafael Hernandez was the pilot and Stacked Deck led from gate to wire, prevailing by 1 1/2 lengths in 1:08.70. That was in September. Two months later, he ran again in the Kennedy Road and this was, arguably, the best race of his life. Fourth at the half, Stacked Deck, under Hernandez, passed rivals on the rail, scooted home with a final 8th in under 12 seconds and won by a length in 1:08.19.

Lunsford's Art Collector never raced at Woodbine, but definitely has a Canadian angle.

"I owned his mother, Distorted Legacy," Lunsford points out. "She broke her maiden with Barbara. She had a big race in the Breeders' Cup, got beat by the Attfield filly by maybe 1 1/4 lengths."

The Equibase chart of the 2011 Breeders Cup Filly and Mare Turf reflects Lunsford's memory. Distorted Legacy went off at 45-1 under Rajiv Maragh and, after going wide on the final turn, passed several horses late to finish 4th behind Perfect Shirl. The chart shows the second horse a nose better than the third horse, who was a head better

than Distorted Legacy.

Sired by Bernardini, Art Collector gave Lunsford one of his greatest thrills when he won the 2020 Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland. Brian Hernandez gave the colt a perfect trip that turned into victory by 3 1/2 lengths over the filly Swiss Skydiver, who three months later, would win the Covid-delayed Preakness Stakes at 11-1.

"I grew up in Kentucky," says Lunsford. "That was a race I always wanted to win."

As for the name, Art Collector, that's Lunsford being autobiographical.

"I also collect art on a very conservative side," he says. "I've always enjoyed it."

In fact, Lunsford has elegant portraits of one of his greatest horses, Madcap Escapade.

"She won the Ashland Stakes at Keeneland to remain undefeated," he says proudly. "That was the best race I have ever had in terms of inspiring me to stay in the business."

That race, on April 3, 2004, had a field of just 4 and Madcap Escapade went off at 3-5. Rene Douglas took the filly to the front and dictated terms all the way around, winning the mile and a 16th by half a length. Madcap Escapade finished her racing career with 7 wins from 9 starts. Her earnings soared past the \$1 million mark when she won her final contest, the \$500,000 Grade 2 Princess Rooney Stakes at Calder on July 10, 2005.

Bruce Lunsford is a man of many industries. He's a lawyer, a businessman and an entrepreneur who has dabbled in the movie industry. But when asked, Lunsford will tell you that it's horse racing that he finds the most satisfying.

"The thing I like about the business is that I see horse racing as an art form featuring beautiful animals and the added benefit of really nice people. I have made life-long friendships in a sport that has great beauty and great thrills."



If there is one thing that the horse racing industry has not yet figured out, it's how to engage a much younger audience.

Cassidy Schneider is doing her best to rep the new generation. She's only 19, has owned horses since she was a little kid and already has her trainer's license.

"I just got my trainer's license last August," she says. "I've been involved in racing my whole life and I always knew that I wanted to be a trainer."

Cassidy's father is Colonel Schneider. For the last three decades, he has been training and owning horses that performed primarily at the "B" tracks – Hanover, Grand River, Clinton, Flamboro and Western Fair, with occasional forays out to Mohawk.

"I have always looked up to my dad," says Cassidy. "So it's nice that we always work together, and he was really supportive to get my trainer's license."

The first horse owned by Cassidy was Arizona Gem who raced for her back in 2007-2008, when she would have been merely 6 years old.

"He was bought in the Delaware sale," she says. "He was mediocre. He wasn't great."

The record on Standardbred Canada supports Cassidy's memory. Arizona Gem, now 18, went behind the starting gate 28 times, with just 1 win, 2 seconds, and 3 thirds for winnings of \$11,377. It was, however, a little girl's first involvement with the sport.

"I loved going to the races all the time," she says. "The older I got the more involved I was."

There would soon be a horse worth bragging about in Cassidy Schneider's barn.

"The best horse that I've owned was Reb the Raider," she says. "We bought him when he was five and he was racing in a five thousand claimer, and then he went from a five claimer to an eight claimer to a Mohawk \$12,000 claimer and even a preferred race at Flamboro and he won those four races in a row."

That memorable streak occurred in the spring of 2015. Reb the Raider took down a \$5,000 claim race at Western Fair on March 23, won a week later at Woodbine for \$8,000, and came back 6 days later to conquer preferred company at Flamboro. He then completed the four-bagger with a stunning come-from-the-back-of-the-pack win at Mohawk over \$12,000 company.

Cassidy now owns or shares ownership in three horses.

"I own Zealous Seelster by myself. I claimed her in October," she says. "I own Maddys Credit with my dad. And I own Easy Flyer with my dad as well."



Zealous Seelster, a mare, was taken out of a claim race for \$10,625. One wonders about a teenager with that kind of cash, but Cassidy is getting comfortable with the economic strategies of the sport.

"I had an old trotter, Yoooukilis, that I claimed maybe a week after I passed my trainer's test. I raised him three times. Then he was claimed for \$13,000. So then I took that money and went and claimed Zealous. I had watched her for a long time, and I finally just stepped up and took her."

The pacer, Zealous Seelster, now 8 years old, had 115 starts (as of this story) with 25 wins. Easy Flyer, a 6-year-old gelding showed 20 wins from his first 99 races. On March 24, at Western Fair, he paced away to a 2-length win in 1:56.3 after being parked for the first half mile. He was driven by Colin Kelly.

Maddys Credit, an 8-year-old mare, has raced 112 times, most of those for either Colonel or Cassidy. She has 10 wins and almost \$90,000 earned, and Cassidy has plans for her.

"She's one that I plan on breeding," she says. "So she'll be retired eventually."

Maddys Credit raced 18 times for Colonel Schneider, was claimed out of a \$12,500 race at Grand River, and after competing 11 times for her new owners, she was haltered back by the Schneiders out of a \$12,500 claim race at Western Fair. Since then, Maddys Credit raced 59 times with Colonel as trainer. Cassidy was listed as the trainer for the first time on August 25 when the mare raced at Grand River. From the 15 times that Cassidy has been the official trainer, Maddys Credit has 2 seconds, 2 thirds, and a win on December 14 at Western Fair. Natasha Day drove, and Maddys Credit crushed it, winning by 8 lengths in 1:56.4 at odds of over 19-1.

Cassidy certainly has fond memories of that win, but she picks another victory as her most exciting racing experience.

"We have a three-year-old home-bred named Hollys Treasure," she says. "He's by State Treasurer and we bred and raised him, and we used to race his mom, Hollys Cam. It was his 6th race, and he had the 7-hole at Western Fair. Our driver was Bruce Richardson and he drove to the front and was parked the entire mile. He won in :58 and was 25-1. So

that was pretty thrilling to think that we bred and raised him and he has a heart like that."

Cassidy tells us she pretty well divides driving assignments between Richardson and Natasha Day, who is one of the very few female drivers in Canada.

"I'm friends with Natasha and she started driving for us in 2017," says Cassidy. "The first horse she ever drove for us was Reb the Raider and she won with him. So, from that day, she was my favourite driver because that was my favourite horse. It had been 2 1/2 years since he made it to the winner's circle. That was a special moment for me."

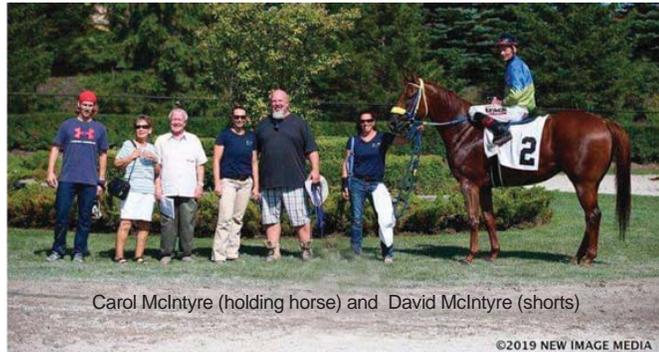
Since she's just 19, Cassidy probably gets a lot of advice from her dad, Colonel.

"He likes to state his opinions often," she says. "We have a good relationship. He's been a driver and trainer for like 30 years so he does give great advice."

Cassidy told **Down The Stretch** that even as a child, she knew she would be a harness horse trainer. She's off to a nice start – Standardbred Canada showed her with 8 wins from her first 86 entries and \$61,585 in earnings.

"I just like the thrill of it," she says. "Like when you do all this hard work and then you get rewarded when your horse does good. It's something I've always had a passion for. I love working in the barn and I love jogging and training them."





Carol McIntyre (holding horse) and David McIntyre (shorts)

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Until Carol McIntyre bought her first quarter horse, she had no connection to the sport. She had never owned a horse and the passion for it was not passed down in her family.

“Never had anything to do with horses,” says McIntyre. “My entire life, I never basically touched a horse until we got our first racehorse.”

So, for a long time, McIntyre was not into fast horses. Then she got a horse called Into Fast.

“Trainer Greg Watson talked us into buying a racehorse,” she says. “It was a mare called Into Fast and she did great, earning a 101 speed index. She was mare of the year and we just got hooked. We purchased a couple of horses after that, sold our property in Ajax and built a farm out in Hampton. At one point we had 26 horses; but now because of the uncertainty of racing, we’re down to 12.”

Into Fast raced from 2006 to 2008 and won 8 of her 20 races. Most of those wins came at the distance of 350 yards. Carol and her husband, David, are now Big Dog Racing and in the last 10 years, they have won 47 quarter horse races, accumulating almost \$500,000 in purses. 2019 was an excellent year for Big Dog - from the 58 starters they sent out, they won 15 times.

Ittakestwotootango won four times in 2019 for Big Dog. Three of those wins came consecutively. On July 28, Ittakestwotootango carried Ed Walton to victory in an optional claiming heat at 300 yards with a purse of \$12,800. Ittakestwotootango was a neck the best and earned a 94 speed index figure. Three weeks later, with Walton aboard, Ittakestwotootango was actually second, but the first-place horse was dq'd and Ittakestwotootango was elevated to the win in the \$15,000 race at 300 yards. Then, on September 1, the triple was achieved, as Ittakestwotootango scored in a 330-yard race, best by a neck for Walton to claim the larger share of a \$17,600 purse.

“I love that guy,” laughs McIntyre. “He’s an eight-year-old gelding. He’s one of our mares that we bought and also raced. She’s Mighty Oak Streaking. Tango is amazing. He was a bit of a bad gate horse, but he’s matured so much now and he’s just awesome. Everybody that rides him loves him. He’s always in the money. When he’s not in

the money it’s because maybe he acted up in the gate, but he’s always steady. He’s great to handle. He’s a clown. He’s a real character. We were going to retire him this year, because he owes us nothing, but he just wants to run, and he loves to train. So we casually brought him back into training just for something to do with him and he’s doing a great job. We’re going to put him back in a couple of the Ontario Maturities and we’re just going to pick and choose his races. He’s going to race lightly.”

Big Dog Racing has another excellent horse named Tres On Fire. He’s a 5-year-old Ontario bred gelding and in 2020, he was sharp, winning 3 times in 6 races. Overall, his record shows 5 wins from 11 tries and \$33,190 earned.

“Yeah, he’s awesome,” says McIntyre. “He’s a big gray that we purchased when he was just three months old, and we purchased him and just another. He’s not the fastest horse in the barn, but he’s so consistent and he’s just a lovely horse to work with.”

McIntyre trains all the horses in the Big Dog stable and gives props to the more experienced horse people on the grounds.

“This is my fifth year of training,” she says. “I like to say I winged it, but I worked a lot with Jason Pascoe as well as Kim Ito and Don Reid. So I learned a lot from those guys and then I got my assistant trainer’s licence with Jason, after which I just got my actual trainer’s license.”

Big Dog Racing likes to put Ed Walton and Ismael Mosqueira aboard their horses, but the politics of racing sometimes affects plans.

“When you’re a small barn, we don’t often get a first-up jockey,” she says. “All the jockeys seem to have a farm that they’re committed to. So often, it’s whoever’s available. We think both Ed and Ismael are awesome jockeys. We’re going to be trying to use both of them as often as we can this year.”

We couldn’t resist pointing out that the 56-year-old Walton is 6 feet tall, and we wondered how he makes himself small on a horse.

“Have you seen how much he tucks up?” laughs McIntyre. “I’ve never seen such a tall guy tuck up into a little ball. He’s actually pretty bendy for an old guy.”

Truth is, with limited racing dates, no one is getting rich with the quarter horses in Ontario. It’s really not something to count on to bankroll your home, car and

cruises. So why does Carol McIntyre devote so much time to it?

“It’s an awful lot of work,” she admits, “But I love working with the horses. They’re all my babies. I just love it there. It’s not like we’re making a fortune, but it’s just so much fun. What else would you do?”

Fortunately, the McIntyres aren’t living under a bridge. David is a manager at Gerdau Ameristeel in Whitby. Carol also used to work there.

Like most people in the horse racing industry, McIntyre was greatly disappointed with the Provincial Government’s refusal to allow horse racing to be conducted this spring.

“It’s hugely frustrating,” she says. “I see the Toronto Maple Leafs and maybe we can’t compare ourselves to that, but why are they able to function? We had all the Covid protocols last year and we had zero outbreaks. It’s frustrating that we can’t get outside and race, even without spectators to start with. I just don’t understand the logic with Doug Ford not allowing us to run.”

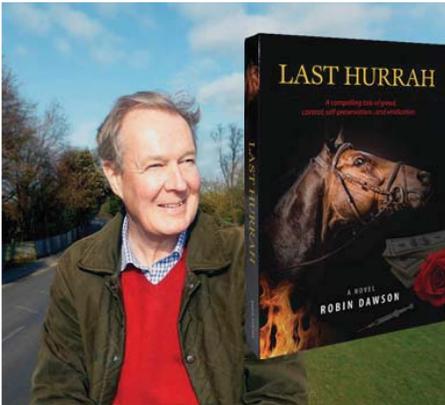
Within a couple weeks of this publication, Ajax Downs will be conducting quarter horse racing. There’s no chance of Big Dog Racing getting excessively wealthy from it, but it’s an experience Carol McIntyre loves.

“I think of those sunny afternoons when the stands are full and it’s all families with children,” she says. “Everyone is having a good time and it’s just so exciting. All the people at Ajax Downs are so great – the grooms, the starting gate crew. It’s really not like work. It’s just a fast-paced exciting sport to get into. You can’t blink or you’ll miss it.”



Big Dog’s filly, Goodness Graceious looking good in a workout

# Last Hurrah by Robin Dawson...a review



The first instinct you have when you start reading Robin Dawson's first novel, *Last Hurrah*, is to be reminded of the great Dick Francis. For more than 40 years, Francis, a former jumps jockey in England, crafted wonderful and thrilling books that always had a horse racing theme. Like the Francis narratives, *Last Hurrah* has good guys and bad guys, and the latter inevitably get their just desserts thanks to the efforts of the former. To be fair, however, Dawson goes far beyond the Francis template, even if he's pleased at the comparison.

"I'm very flattered," says Dawson. "I met Dick Francis many years ago early on in my career when I was working for a trainer in England. We would chat to him about his latest books. He would come up to Woodbine for various Queen's Plates, especially when the Queen Mother was over here, so I got to meet him a few times and I'm extremely flattered to be mentioned in the same breath."

*Last Hurrah* is a sprawling 470 pages long and Dawson covers a lot of ground between the covers. Fortunately, for this one-page review, he's pretty good at summing up the entire book in a few sentences.

"We have an old established firm in Kentucky and it's struggling," he says. "They bring in a partner who turns out to be not all that nice. He liquidates horses for insurance. When a prized mare is killed, so are a couple of people, but the foal is saved. The people who have the baby now have a foal that nobody knows exists. And this story is about him resurfacing and winning the Kentucky Derby."

The very length of the book does require a certain

endurance by the reader. But there is a reward. Dawson is a skilled writer. His descriptions make it easy to visualize the characters. He paints vivid pictures of various farms and racetracks. He takes us to England and India and Saratoga and Ascot and even Woodbine.

As per the latter, Dawson writes lovingly about the track, but not so much the politics in Ontario between government and racing officials. One of the characters talks about the controversial Slots at Racetracks program:

"They brought slot machines to the tracks throughout the province of Ontario. Horse racing received over \$4 billion in direct subsidies during that time. That money was supposed to be spent on marketing horse racing to a new and younger audience, to stimulate betting on horses and it was hoped new owners would appear and the market for Ontario-bred horses would improve. But all management did was boost the purses to ridiculously high levels to serve existing owners and then paid themselves huge salaries for effectively doling out this public money."

And without impugning Woodbine specifically, Dawson hints at one of the big issues with our local racing. In a paragraph about English racing, he writes:

"Even today, as the sport struggles to maintain the interest of contemporary audiences, horse racing is still a big deal that is avidly covered by all forms of media, with a newspapers presence that makes sure that every punter can see when their favourite horses, jockeys and trainers are participating."

Dawson has been immersed in horse racing for several decades and inserts some of his unpleasant experiences into this book. There is a lot in *Last Hurrah* that Dawson admits gets suits in upper management upset. He describes the convoluted business of yearling sales, where deceit spars with genetics for equal attention.

"I suggest that on the surface at horse sales, not everything is on the up-and-up," says Dawson. "I explain what's going on at the sales. It's somewhat ironic really, that of all the states in the U.S., the actual medication rules are relaxed more in Kentucky than probably anywhere else. And so a lot of these young horses going into sales are cranked up with steroids, so I expose them."

The "bad guy" in Dawson's book is a South American by the name of Hector Delmontez. Delmontez is rich and powerful and is attempting to inject himself into the

highest levels of the sport. His income appears to be from international drug trafficking, so he launders his money by buying expensive racehorses. One by one, it seems, his prized equines die mysteriously and he collects the insurance money. The insurance company doesn't get suspicious, because it's owned by Delmontez.

A groom who knows too much is found dead. One of Delmontez's employees happens to fall out of a plane and his body is found on a beach in Northern Ontario. Horse players get stuck in a broken elevator at Pimlico. Our hero, Tom Fraser would like to be a steeplechase jockey, but his career is interrupted when he learns that his father died in a horrendous and very suspicious barn fire. Sadly, he lost his mother in a plane crash a few years earlier and he starts to wonder if the two deaths are connected.

Meanwhile, there's the issue of the orphaned foal. How do you explain his presence when the mare has been reduced to ashes? How does this horse end up in the Kentucky Derby? And why, Robin, is there so much reference to Woodbine in your book?

"Because Woodbine was built by E.P. Taylor," he says. "And Northern Dancer put Canada on the international horseracing map. So the two go together. Everybody knows about Northern Dancer. He's the key stallion in the last fifty, sixty years. Look at horses like Frankel, Nijinsky, Sadler's Wells, Nureyev, Storm Bird, and The Minstrel. And Woodbine is one of the Premier racetracks in North America. They've got two fantastic turf courses. In the coming years, we're going to look at a lot of contraction with much fewer tracks, but Woodbine will survive because it's just a splendid racetrack."

Not to give away a major plotline, but it is Woodbine, on Queen's Plate day that is the location of an assassination, right in the walking ring, an occurrence so shocking that the track is immediately emptied and the Plate that year is postponed for two weeks.

*Last Hurrah* is a remarkable book on many levels. It's a compelling thriller and the reader needs to know how it ends. But it's also required reading for anyone more curious about the underbelly of the sport: what goes on at the sales, how trainers prepare their horses, and how the cheats prosper.

It's Dawson's first book, but he tells us he's working on a sequel. We're looking forward to that.

This, of course is an optical illusion. This is a training shot of an Irish horse named Mahler, snapped at the instant that her connections are following her in their car.



# Put The Blame on Mighty Heart

**R**eigning Queen's Plate Champion Mighty Heart made his second start of 2021 in the 9 furlong The Blame Stakes at Churchill Downs on May 29. In a field of 6, he was let off at almost 10-1, but under rider James Graham, Mighty Heart was not aware of the bettors' lack of enthusiasm. Now a 4 year-old, the 2020 Horse of the Year in Canada galloped aggressively and challenged for the lead into the first turn, was second heading into the far turn and when the entire field spread out 6-wide in midstretch, he had more to give. About 30 yards from the finish line, he appeared to take the lead and at the wire, there was very little between Mighty Heart and the 3-2 betting choice, Night Ops (Florent Geroux). The judges were able to see that Mighty Heart's nose preceded his rival to the line; what was not visibly evident was his courage and stamina in a gruelling race.

Bred and owned by Larry Cordes and trained by Josie Carroll, Mighty Heart won for the 4th time in 10 starts. His career earnings are now \$759,759. Form-wise, he came into the race with stats equal or better than his 5 opponents, but paid a generous \$21.40 to win; possibly a case of the chauvinistic American bettors underestimating a wonderful horse from north of the border.



That's Mighty Heart's mighty nose on the wire in The Blame

# McKelvie to retire from Woodbine

**A**fter 40 years of dedication and critical contributions, Racing Secretary Scott McKelvie has announced that he will retire from Woodbine Entertainment on March 31, 2022.

Scott joined the then-named Ontario Jockey Club in 1981, working his way up to take leadership of the Race Office and has served as the long-time Racing Secretary of Greenwood, Woodbine, and Woodbine Mohawk Park since 1992.

Through his time at Woodbine, Scott has been influential in creating a competitive year-round racing product and establishing Woodbine's prolific Stakes program, including proudly working on all 37 editions of the Pepsi North America Cup.

Scott has been a key industry leader throughout his career, contributing to various boards and committees. Scott is a past president and current director of the American Harness Racing Secretaries Association and a current vice-president of the Grand Circuit.

"I'm proud to have spent the last 40 years with Woodbine. It has been an outstanding place to work. I would like to thank all my colleagues for their efforts, support, and friendship during my career," said McKelvie. "The racing industry is a great community and I'm proud to have met and connected with many wonderful people over the years, including the horsemen and women that I've worked closely with on a day-to-day basis."

"Scott's imprint on standardbred racing in North America has been immense. We appreciate his great devotion to our sport, his professionalism and great expertise which has helped establish Woodbine Mohawk Park at the top," remarked Jessica Buckley, Senior Vice-President of Standardbred and Thoroughbred Racing. "In addition to his expertise, Scott's steady, kind way with people will be greatly missed day to day. All of us at Woodbine Entertainment, wish to say thank you to Scott and we wish him a wonderful retirement."

Scott will continue to lead the Race Office until his retirement and provide contributions to Woodbine's standardbred operation in the future.

## *Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of Ontario*

### **ELECTION OF HBPA OF ONTARIO DIRECTORS**

**ELECTION DAY— FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2021**

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT NOON ON FRIDAY JULY 2ND, 2021**

#### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIRECTORS**

- **Owners:** Must be a member in good standing, who is currently, or was during the prior 12 months, licensed as such by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and who has started a thoroughbred race horse in the current or prior year.
- **Trainers:** Must be a member in good standing, who is currently, or was during the prior 6 months, licensed as such by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and who has started a thoroughbred race horse in the current or prior year.
- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must be a resident of the Province of Ontario on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- Must not work or serve on a board of a racing association, a racetrack operator, a horse breeding association or be a member of a racing commission.

A nomination committee has been formed by the HBPA. They will be composing a list of nominees that will be filed with the office of the Secretary Treasurer of the association by noon on Friday July 2nd, 2021. Additional candidates may be nominated by completing a nomination form, available at any HBPA of Ontario office, which must be signed by a least fifteen members in good standing with the association.

The deadline for filing election nomination forms is noon on Friday July 2nd, 2021. Nominations may be submitted by fax: 416-747-9606; email: lbarker@hbpa.on.ca, mailed or delivered to the HBPA of Ontario Administrative Office at 135 Queen's Plate Drive, Suite 420, Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V1.

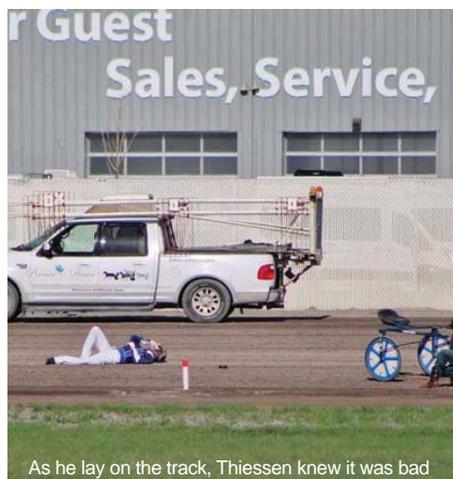
Should you have any questions please our Head Office at 416-747-5252 or 1-866-779-3067.

Election ballots are scheduled to be mailed on July 30th, 2021.



Administrative Office  
135 Queen's Plate Drive,  
Suite 420,  
Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V1  
Telephone: 416-747-5252  
1-866-779-3067  
Fax: 416-747-9606  
Email: general@hbpa.on.ca  
Website: www.hbpa.on.ca

# Daryl Thiessen: Tough As They Come



As he lay on the track, Thiessen knew it was bad



There's a narrative about Canadian athletes that we carry proudly like a medal of honour: the hockey player who spits out his broken teeth and keeps playing, Bobby Baun scoring an overtime goal after breaking his ankle. The Canadian shrugs off injury and pain. Which brings us to 31-year-old Daryl Thiessen. This story is about his horrific accident on May 18 at the Century Downs Racetrack near Calgary. There are a couple of levels of irony here.

First: Thiessen spent many years as a bull fighter, but not like a matador in Mexican bullfighting. Thiessen's work involved distracting the bull as the riders dismounted and scurried to safety. The word "safety" is employed tenuously here. Thiessen suffered for the love of his sport. He talks of knee damage, broken legs and ankles, a back cracked twice, busted ribs and numerous concussions. But nothing in the bull fighting game broke him up as much as the chaos in the 10<sup>th</sup> race at Century Downs that night.

Oh, and here's another irony – Thiessen was driving a three-year-old pacing filly named...Crush Me.

"What a name, right?" he joked over the phone 20 hours after his surgery.

The field was heading down the backstretch about a half mile into the race. Thiessen's horse was in third when things unravelled much too quickly.

"Mike Hennessy's horse was on the front and the horse

threw some steps," he recalls. "Phil Giesbrecht's horse was first up on the outside of me, and my horse was on the left line, so she's running out. I tried to get her down to the safety lane and I clipped Mikey's tire and she nose-planted. Everybody missed me but the last horse, Nathan Sobey's, and he crushed me. He hit me and sent me flying, broke my femur and my collarbone and knocked me out."

For all the damage inflicted on his body in the bull riding ring, Thiessen is clear about the category of this latest incident.

"This is the worst injury I have ever sustained in my life," he says.

Thiessen has had a continual presence on Facebook. He posted a video of himself just hours after the surgery, in which he is standing and carefully trying to walk. He also put up the X-ray of his femur, in which the complete break of the bone is obvious. It's not for the squeamish.

"It was sticking out of my leg and it was dislocated," he mentions casually. "It was bad. They nailed a rod in the middle, and the collarbone they put some plates in."

Thiessen was prescribed appropriate medicine to deal with the pain, but the best analgesic came from his friends, family and fellow drivers, who called, texted and messaged him.

"It's been just insanely positive," he says brightly. "People have reached out and called me. My rodeo friends

whom I haven't heard from for years called me and we had good conversations. All the people in the industry have been unbelievable. It's been great. It really helps mentally to know you're supported the way I am."

A normal person, maybe someone who isn't Canadian, might think about the risk and the chance of something awful happening again, but this hellish event has not diminished Thiessen's urge to return to the sulky.

"The second I can get back, I will," he says. "This doesn't scare me. I try to keep positive about it. Mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. I love driving horses. I already can't wait to get back. When I was lying on the track, I was already thinking, 'when I will get back in the bike?' I love horses. I love driving horses. I will continue to combine my two favourite things."

No need to see his birth certificate. We know that Daryl Thiessen is Canadian!

## 38th Pepsi North America Cup moved to September 11

On April 30, Woodbine Entertainment announced the 38th Pepsi North America Cup, originally scheduled for June 19 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, had been rescheduled to Saturday, September 11.

This will mark the second consecutive year the \$1-million Pepsi North America Cup and its several undercard Stakes have been rescheduled due to COVID-19. The Pepsi North America Cup eliminations will now take place on Saturday, September 4.

"The Pepsi North America Cup is our signature race at Woodbine Mohawk Park and we fully intended to return this prestigious event to its usual spot in 2021," said Jim Lawson,

CEO of Woodbine Entertainment. "We remain hopeful to resume live racing in May, but felt it was necessary to reschedule this race and others from the start of our Stakes season to provide all nominated horses, specifically our local horses not currently racing, with an opportunity to be in top shape for these marquee events."

The stacked Pepsi North America Cup undercard of the Fan Hanover, Goodtimes, Roses Are Red, Armbro Flight, and Mohawk Gold Cup have all been rescheduled to new dates later in the season.

The Fan Hanover and Goodtimes will join the "Cup" on Saturday, September 11. The Roses Are Red has

been moved to Saturday, September 4, Armbro Flight to Friday, September 17, and Mohawk Gold Cup to Saturday, September 18.

The Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) schedule will be adjusted to accommodate the new dates for the various rescheduled stakes. The new OSS schedule will be confirmed once live racing resumes in the province.

Woodbine has also rescheduled the SBOA Stakes from May 22 to November 13, Somebeachsomewhere Stakes from June 5 to August 28, Simcoe 3-Year-Old Open Pace from September 4 to September 18, and Simcoe 3-Year-Old Open Trot from September 10 to September 25.

# Angels Guide Winner Home For Dying Man

By Ric Chapman



In early May this year, at Morphettville Racetrack in South Australia, which is a beautiful turf course with a long 2 furlong home straight, a 9-race card took place.

Nothing new about that.

Morphettville is a five-star course in Australia and, on this day, two Group 1 races, both worth \$505,000 Canadian each, were conducted.

That's got nothing to do with this story. For the record, those races were won by Instand Celebrity in the 6 furlongs TAB Classic for mares, and Media Award in the 10 furlongs Australasian Oaks for three year-old fillies.

Nor has the fact that Australian racing is encouraged to continue operating by the federal and state governments. The governments' understanding of how important the racing industry is to the work place – in Australia it is the biggest employer – and also how important it is for the general populous who collectively make it the biggest sport in the land, are the very reasons why Australian horse racing hasn't missed a day during COVID.

It's a model the Ford Nation mob need to seriously look at.

But, I repeat, this story has nothing to do with that.

It's more about the power and passion of positive change you find enmeshed in the sport. The pull the sport has on the souls of those involved.

Ok – the star was Nigel Latham, a name you don't know and once this story is over will probably never hear again because he likely will be dead.

On May 1 at Morphettville, he wasn't dead. He was alive... just barely.

He had been in hospital for some time prior. His diagnosis was not good; in fact, the morning

of the race day he was told he had just a few days to live. So, he asked to be released. He just wanted to go home to die, so he begged the staff at the Royal Adelaide Hospital where he was at if the ambulance could take him to his family home so his loved ones could continue palliative care there.

The doctors looked at each other, looked back at him, saw the desire in the dying man's eyes and so agreed.

The plans were put in place and, on time, the ambulance arrived around 1 pm to take him home. Now, to fill in time while waiting for the ambulance to arrive, he had watched on TV the first two horse races at Morphettville and had enjoyed the equine battles.

Loaded on a gurney, strapped in tightly, fluids coursing through the catheter in his left wrist, he was gently placed into an ambulance for his trip home. The doors closed behind him and the two paramedics in the back with him, Bec and Laura, sat softly talking to him.

One held his hand.

The other asked him what he would like to do this afternoon when he arrived home, and he smiled a crooked grin at them.

"I'd love to go home via the racetrack at Morphettville," he said, knowing he'd never get an opportunity like this to attend the races again.

Bec and Laura looked at each other amazed, then Bec leaned forward and asked the driver if he knew where Morphettville was?

After a quick Google search, the driver found the track, and noticed that it was only 10 minutes away and so they all agreed to grant the dying man his last wish.

He arrived at the track, unannounced, with no fanfare, and as bemused patrons watched on, he on his gurney were wheeled onto the course and headed to a quiet spot at the 200 metre mark. That is exactly one furlong from the winning post.

Now, all that is wonderful on its own, but here's where this rich tapestry of love took a tipping point turn.

As the horses went onto the track for the next race, they all made their way down past the 200 metre mark. In Australia the horses are under control of the riders and don't all have outriders taking them to the starting the gates. The jocks do that.

One of the jocks saw Nigel lying flat on his back atop the gurney, pretty much something you don't see every day at a racetrack. There was no

commotion around him; in fact, what struck the jock, champion rider Craig Williams, was the fact that everything was so serene. So, out of curiosity, he steered his horse over to the fence and casually asked what was happening.

Bec sprang to her feet and walked to meet him at the rail and explained that Nigel's last dying wish was to come to the races.

Moved as anyone would be by what he'd just heard, Williams, aboard a mare named Lady Dunmore, said that if he won the race, he would donate his winning goggles to Nigel, dipped his helmet at the man, and praised the man's strength and determination in the face of the ultimate test of character.

And, well folks, God is good, though he's not beyond a little drama. With 500 metres to go in the race, Lady Dunmore appeared beaten, no better than tenth on the outside of the 15-horse field. But with an angelic wing on every hoof, the mare carried an inspired Williams to victory, soaring past rivals in the stretch, and finding the winning strike right on the line. The pair was in third spot when passing Nigel, but a super-natural surge of power late got them home.

"I trotted the mare back past him after the win and he was the happiest man you could imagine," said Williams. "I told my horse as we were heading to the barriers that, if you get over the line, I will donate my goggles to him. And so, he was the inspiration for all this."

Williams handed his winning goggles to Bec who then took them to Nigel.

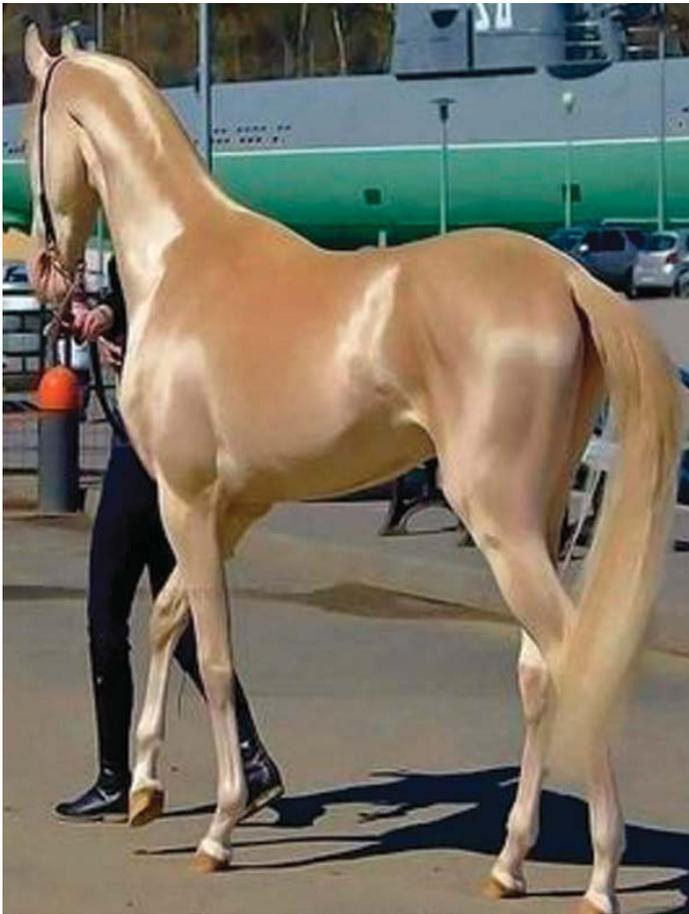
At this point, the TV cameras captured everything that was happening from afar but no one except Williams, the ambulance ladies, and Nigel himself knew what was actually going on. When he weighed in and was interviewed after the race, Williams shared the story and people were weeping everywhere.

"Full credit to Nigel for what he did in coming here," added Williams. "It is people like him that we all need to be grateful for. This industry works because of people like him who are just so passionate."

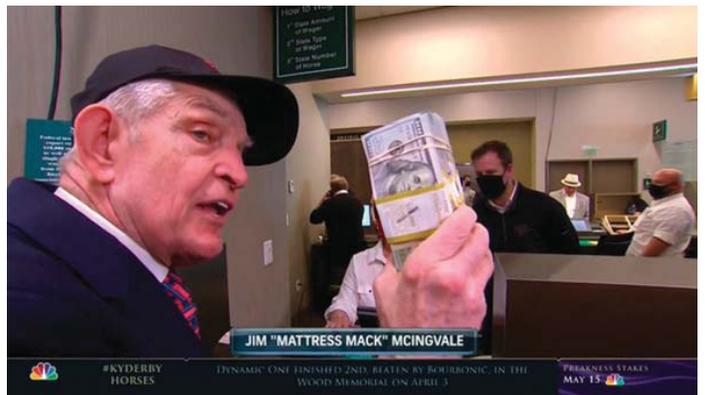
Several days later, Latham died. But that scene, unscripted, God-driven, captured on camera simply because it looked out of place, gave over four million people in Australia watching on....something to live for.

# ODDITIES & ENTITIES

Akhal-teke, a horse breed over 3,000 years old. As if woven from silk and pearls, the breed comes from Turkmenistan, where it is a national symbol. It is also called the “golden” horse due to its appearance. There are 6-7,000 left in the world.



At least he didn't hide it under a mattress!  
Jim "Mattress Man" McIngvale



Jim “Mattress Man” McIngvale bet \$3.4 million to win on Essential Quality to win the Kentucky Derby. He did this to create some insurance for his mattress company, which promised to waive the fee of any mattress set over \$3,000 if Essential Quality won the big race. Essential Quality was body-checked coming out of the gate and was forced to run wide the entire race, but still finished fourth. The previously undefeated colt went off at odds of 2.90 to 1 which means, had he won, McIngvale would have cashed about \$13,260,000. So, the question is: How many \$3,000 mattresses did he sell?

## False post on Facebook about John Velazquez

It’s a gag that has been used before – a few days after John Velazquez’s brilliant winning ride in the Kentucky Derby, idiots on Facebook posted this message under the headline Breaking News:

“Derby winner Medina Spirit’s jockey, John Velazquez, turned down a White House invite today saying ‘If I wanted to see a horse’s ass I would of came in second,’” the user wrote and subsequently more than 5,000 users shared the posting and there were many comments praising Velazquez for his turn of phrase criticizing President Joe Biden.

Both Velazquez and his agent, Ron Anderson, were appalled. There wasn’t a horse’s hair of truth in the message.

“This is the most ridiculous thing I have heard in many months,” said Anderson. “First, we haven’t even been invited to the White House. He wouldn’t make any kind of statement like that in a million years. He’s about as classy a person as you have ever met. Politidax and others have called me and I have made a statement. It’s really sad in a way; there’s plenty of things to worry about or think about rather than something so ridiculous.”

If you’re looking for one word to describe Velazquez, the word might be remarkable. Go to Equibase and check out his record. Velazquez has won over 6,200 races. His horses have earned - and this is not a typo – over \$436,000,000. He has won 18 Breeders’ Cups, 4 Kentucky Derbys, 2 Belmonts, and both a Queen’s Plate and Prince of Wales with the filly Wonder Gadot.



# Ajax Downs Racetrack



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John Loper Photography

*We look forward to hopefully welcoming everyone back for our 2021 live race season.*

*Please stay healthy and stay safe during these unprecedented times.*

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