

# DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER

## King's Plate

Page 4

James MacDonald and his wife Paige Austin pose with his Canadian Driving Championship Trophy Page 16



Page 24



Page 5



Hats! Hats! Hats! Page 2

### ALSO INSIDE

Woodbine Stakes	Pages 6-8	Perry Ouzts	Page 11	Hall of Fame	Page 15	Casie Coleman	Page 22
Cartoon	Page 9	Women's Driving	Page 12	James MacDonald	Pages 16-17	James Bogar	Page 23
Whitney Stakes	Page 10	Hambletonian	Page 12	Winner's Circle Proposal	Page 18	Josie Carroll	Page 24
Jack Darling	Page 11	Legends Day	Page 14	Lauren Spada	Page 21	Oddities & Entities	Page 26

## PINE VIEW WEST



# The all-new 2024 SANTA FE

Come in for your **TEST DRIVE** today!

180 Delta Park Blvd... in the of Brampton  
[www.PineViewWest.ca](http://www.PineViewWest.ca) • 905.791.2728



### The future of family adventure.



Starting MSRP of \$49,099\*  
(\*Freight, Taxes & Fees Extra)

WELCOME TO THE 165<sup>TH</sup>  
**KING'S PLATE**

How to Dress  
for the King's Plate



# THE EDITOR WEIGHS IN



The following is my horse racing ego trip:

**Linda Rainey** invited me to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies on August 7. Linda is the Managing Director of the Hall and she's smart. She knows if she invites me, I'll do some interviews for the *Down The Stretch Podcast* (which I did) and I will write up the event for the paper (see page 15).

I had barely parked my car and entered the Mississauga Convention Centre when I heard my name called. It was **Ron Waples**, the greatest harness driver in Canadian history (unless you voted for his father, Keith or his son Randy). Ronnie and I have a long history. We share the same birthday – July 21 – and way back in 1983, He allowed me to jog a precocious 3-year-old named **Ralph Hanover** at Greenwood. With nervous trainer **Stew Firlotte** driving a small pick-up and Ronnie sitting in the back chirping at his horse, Ralph Hanover worked sluggishly for his unskilled driver, probably not cracking 40 seconds for a quarter mile. Later that year, he would sweep the Triple Crown of Pacing.

Right after chatting with Ron Waples, I am greeted by Hall of Fame jockey **Eurico Rosa da Silva**.

"How are you, my friend?" he asks in his familiar Brazilian accent.

I hear my name again. I turn and there's Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Tiller**. In a recent podcast he told me that his great sprinter, **Patches O'Houlihan** could never match the phenomenal record of his even greater sprinter, **Pink Lloyd**. Sometimes, talking with Tiller can evolve into non sequiturs.

"I used to like it when you did the weather," he says, referring to something many decades in my past. "But when you did the sports, you talked too fast."

**Hec Clouthier** is a dynamic personality in Canadian horse racing. He was a professional driver, but also a member of Parliament in **Jean Chretien's** Liberal government. Sometimes, it seems, his entire reason for approaching me is to prove he's taller. With his trademark fedora, Clouthier towers over me...by about an inch. Later than night, he will accept the Hall of Fame ring for the late **Ross Curran**, and he tells me a wonderfully outrageous story about the man known as "Cowboy" (again, see page 15).

Clouthier and I are soon joined by **Jim Bullock**. I have talked on the phone with Bullock, but this was the first

time I had ever met him. He is also a Hall of Famer for multiple reasons –owner, breeder, stallion syndicator, and racetrack administrator.

I hadn't made it to my seat yet. Hall of Fame Communicator **Jim Bannon** offers a warm greeting. Every time we're at the same event, he makes a point of shaking my hand.

Moments later, **Robin Platts** catches my eye and laughs at me. Platts will present the Hall of Fame ring to **Richard Grubb**.

My table is #26. The media is always seated furthest from the podium. I am joined by harness racing guru **Garnet Barnsdale**, his talented son, **Nicholas**, Rideau Carleton race caller **Melissa Keith** and **Terence and Cindy Dulay** of Horse-Races.net.

We were well fed. The mushroom consommé did not get a great review from Barnsdale, but the main course of chicken piccata and short ribs with vegetables had a Stakes quality to it and Barnsdale upgraded the meal, thanks to the dessert of crepes filled with vanilla ice cream.

Sometime between the main course and dessert, former Woodbine CEO, **Jim Lawson** stopped to say "hello." He was probably grateful that I had no reason to ask a pertinent question. Then Hall of Famer, **Dan Loiselle** came by. He asked if I was going to Saratoga this summer and when I replied that circumstances prevented that, he told me he was going in two weeks and would be staying with **Tom Durkin**. Loiselle and Durkin – now there's an encyclopedia of great race calls.

As the Induction ceremonies ensued, I stood by the side of the stage, waiting for recipients to give their speeches, then leave. That was my cue.

"Can I get you for a minute?" I asked **Patrick Husbands**, **Sylvain Filion**, **Dr. Ian Moore**, **Richard Grubb**, **Dan Vella** and **Kevin Attard**, who chatted with me about **Starship Jubilee**.

So, there are over 700 words about just how important and recognized I am in horse racing circles. Which leaves me just a little space to tell you, even as you marvel at my impressive connections, about the thrills you will get reading this paper. As usual, we celebrate the importance of women in horse racing – **Emma-Jayne Wilson** surpassing **Julie Krone** as the all-time purse winning lady rider, **Josie Carroll** getting her 1,000<sup>th</sup> training win, **Clare MacDonald** topping the charts in the Atlantic Women's Driving Challenge, and **Nancy Takter** dashing through a downpour after her trotter, **Karl** won the Hambletonian. We have multiple Stakes results from Woodbine, **Jack Darling** buying a thoroughbred, **James MacDonald** taking the Canadian Driving Championship, 70-year-old **Perry Ouzts** still winning in the saddle, the Whitney Stakes, Legends Day at Clinton, and a guy who proposed (and got the right answer) to his girlfriend after the horse she cares for won at Mohawk. We have "sampled" more of **Jessica Hallett's** wonderful stuff – she's provided our cartoon on page 9 and, towards the back, she's part of Oddities and Entities. And then there are our three Owners of the Month - **Lauren Spada** (thoroughbred), **Casie Coleman** (standardbred) and **James Bogar** (quarter horse).

And since you are reading the paper I have worked on, feel free to tell your friends and family that you know me.

I am sure they will be impressed.

## STAFF

PUBLISHERS: Anthony and Milagros Kalloo

EDITOR: Peter Gross

ART DIRECTOR: Gord Steventon

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Susan Nash

CONTRIBUTING WRITER: Garnet Barnsdale

Our Publication Mail Agreement Number Is 41710012.

Mail:

Down The Stretch  
#11-1211 Parkwest Place,  
Mississauga, On L5E 3J3

Phone: 416-873-5250 pgross@rogers.com

## DOWN THE STRETCH

DOWN THE STRETCH assumes no responsibility for claims made by advertisers and makes no recommendations as to the purchase or sale of any product, service or other item. All letters or comments sent to DOWN THE STRETCH Newspaper become the sole property of DOWN THE STRETCH Newspaper and may be used and published in any manner whatsoever without limit and without obligation and without liability to the author thereof.

# It Took Greatness to Win the King's Plate

The 165<sup>th</sup> King's Plate, run on a Friday for the first time had a field of 12 going the mile and a quarter. Three of the entries were trained by Kevin Attard, and three were sent out by Mark Casse. My Boy Prince, ridden by Sahin Civaci was crushed down to 3-5, as bettors believed Casse was in for a 4<sup>th</sup> King's Plate. All three of Attard's charges were prices. Early in the race, Essex Serpent, the second choice at 9-2 led with My Boy Prince hounding him. Those two went the first 6 furlongs in a reasonable 1:11.60. When the mile post was passed in 1:36.14, My Boy Prince had a clear lead, while Essex Serpent was looking for a pile of hay to collapse into. My Boy Prince was clear with a furlong to go, but Rafael Hernandez had given the filly, Caitlinhergrtness a patient trip, and that one was full of gallop late, wearing down the leader and getting the lead with about 70 yards to go.



Caitlinhergrtness won by ¾ of a length in 2:03.45. My Boy Prince was 2<sup>nd</sup>, with another Casse entry, Midnight Mascot (Luis Contreras) passing rivals late to grab 3<sup>rd</sup>. Attard's Pierre (Pietro Moran) was 4<sup>th</sup> and Attard's third entry, Jokestar (Emma-Jayne Wilson) was 5<sup>th</sup>.

Caitlinhergrtness, the 36<sup>th</sup> filly to capture Canada's most important race, likely benefited from the extra 6 days off because of the wild rain that cancelled the August 17 running. She ran 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Woodbine Oaks, a mere 2 weeks before the original date of the Plate. Winning jockey Hernandez had done this before, winning on a Kevin Attard-trained filly named Moira in 2022. This was his 3<sup>rd</sup>



Plate victory, as he also won aboard Shaman Ghost in 2016.

"She was hot, but she was getting on the bridle a little bit," said Hernandez. "When I pulled the trigger, she just gave me everything."

Attard and the owners, Siena Farm and WinStar Farm, decided to supplement Caitlinhergrtness to the Plate after her good work in the Oaks.

"She's obviously all class and all racehorse," said Attard. "She handled everything really well. She's withstanding everything we throw at her. I was happy where Hernandez positioned her the whole way around, and at the quarter

pole, I thought we had a shot. Kudos to My Boy Prince. He put in a gallant effort. He proved what kind of a class horse he is. I think our filly's pretty special, and it took everything she had to run him down, and she's the champ."

Caitlinhergrtness, named after basketball star, Caitlin Clark won for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in her 7<sup>th</sup> start and paid \$20.70.

## Soaring Free Stakes:



A modest field of 6 two-year-olds competed in this one at 6 ½ furlongs on the grass for \$180,000. Mensa with the Patrick Husbands/Mark Casse credential went off at 4-5, but after leading through the first half, ran out of gas and faded to 5<sup>th</sup>. Jose Campos, aboard Cairo Caper rated it perfectly, overhauling Dream On (Sahin Civaci) late in the stretch to win by ¾ of a length in 1:16.25. Cairo Caper improved to 2 for 3 in his early career. He is trained by Nathan Squires, owned by William Thompson Jr., and the win ticket was \$12.40.



## King Edward Stakes:

The 8-year-old Filo Di Arianna took a lot of money, going postward at 3-5 in this \$240,000 race at a mile on the turf, and if on paper, he looked like a sure thing, it was anything but in the stretch. Sahin Civaci gunned Filo Di Arianna to the lead early and seemed completely in command while opening up a 2-length lead in mid-stretch. But Rafael Hernandez had War Bomber eating up the difference with every stride as the finish line loomed, and it was agonizingly close at the wire – Filo Di Arianna won the photo by a nose in a mile run in 1:34.07. Filo Di Arianna won for the 9<sup>th</sup> time in his 17<sup>th</sup> race. He repeated as the champion of this Stakes race for trainer Mark Casse and owner Gary

Barber, and all the bettors got was \$3.30.

## Bold Venture Stakes:



At 6 ½ furlongs with a purse of \$180,000, the bettors were divided between Patches O'Houlihan and the unbeaten Playmea Tune. Patches, under Sofia Vives went off at 6-5. Playmea Tune carried Sahin Civaci at odds of 3-2. Vives took Patches O'Houlihan right to the lead and cut out very sharp fractions of :44.56 and 1:08.41. Playmea Tune found his best stride late and was whittling into the leader's advantage in the final 100 yards. But at the wire, it was Patches O'Houlihan by a long neck in 1:14.90, just a half second off the track record. This was Vives' third winner of the day – her first two paid \$24.70 and \$15. Patches O'Houlihan returned \$4.80. He is trained by Robert Tiller and owned by Frank Di Giulio, and this was his 10<sup>th</sup> win in 11 races.

## Catch a Glimpse Stakes:



A field of 11 two-year-old fillies were required to go 6 ½ furlongs on the turf for \$150,000, and most of the bettors (and apparently most of the jockeys in the race) didn't see this happening – Shifty went right to the lead and repelled all challenges to win by almost 4 lengths in 1:15.68. This was yet another example of a Mark Casse-trained horse surprising the crowd (though Bullet, also trained by Casse, missed the board at 4-5). Owned by D J Stable, Shifty was racing for just the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in her career – she was 5<sup>th</sup> in a Maiden Special Weight on the lawn in her debut. Those who bet her got back \$25.50 for a \$2 win bet.

# Emma-Jayne stands alone



Perfect Lady Bee gave Wilson the record



Michael Burns Photo

Emma-Jayne Wilson has not, in any year, been awarded the Bobbie Rosenfeld trophy as Canada's Outstanding Female Athlete, yet she is this country's greatest lady star. On Thursday, July 11, she added a remarkable exclamation mark to her wonderful career when she surpassed the great Julie Krone to become the highest purse earning female jockey in North America.

Wilson started the card \$5,439 US behind the \$90,126,584 that Krone earned in her sensational career that spanned 23 years from 1981 to 2003. When Wilson finished 2<sup>nd</sup> by a nose aboard Lapochka in the first race, she had whittled the difference down to just a few hundred dollars. That meant even a 5<sup>th</sup> place result in the 4<sup>th</sup> would make her the all-time purse earner for her gender.

That race was a \$111,300 maiden special weight with only 6 entrants asked to go 6 ½ furlongs. Wilson's ride was first-timer, Perfect Lady Bee. We had seen this many times before – Wilson using all her physicality to persuade her horse onward. Perfect Lady Bee did not look like a winner as the field turned for home. She was 3<sup>rd</sup>, perhaps 3 lengths behind. Wilson gave another demonstration of professional determination, riding the filly hard, pumping

her arms on either side of the horse's head.

"Perfect Lady Bee is responding to Emma-Jayne!" bellowed track announcer, Robert Geller. "She is coming through in the center!"

Perfect Lady Bee made up a length in the final 79 yards to nail the leader, One Front War by about a half-length. First place was worth \$56,214 US to the owner, Charles Fipke. The 3-year-old, Perfect Lady Bee, trained by Roger Attfield broke the maiden on her first try and paid \$8.60.

In a post-race interview with Jeff Bratt, Wilson was asked if breaking the record with an Attfield horse made it even more special.

"To put it down to one horse, one trainer, one set of connections is tough," said Wilson. "The earnings record – I could have beat it running 5<sup>th</sup>. It's not necessarily about the wins. It's about the 2<sup>nds</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup>s, 4<sup>th</sup>s and 5<sup>th</sup>s. To attain this record with a win with these connections, you could not have written the story any better. I'm so used to putting my emotions in the back seat to ride races and be completely focused from one race to the next, but this one means so much to me."

The money earnings record is just another amazing plateau in Wilson's career. Her riding arc has basically been one elite accomplishment after another. She came to Woodbine in 2004 and even though she was still an apprentice, took down the riding title in 2005 with 180 wins. That year, she won both the Sovereign and the Eclipse awards as Outstanding Apprentice Jockey. In 2006, with 146 victories, Wilson repeated as the Sovereign Award winner for best apprentice.

Her crowning moment occurred in 2007, when she rode Mike Fox to the winner's circle in the Queen's Plate, becoming the first female rider to capture Canada's most important race. The stretch run of that race tells you everything you really need to know about Emma-Jayne. Mike Fox looked finished as they turned for home, but Wilson refused to accept defeat and pretty well carried the horse past the finish line. To this day, many knowledgeable racing fans consider that to be the greatest ride in Canadian history.

Wilson's accomplishments are widely appreciated around the world. She has ridden in Hong Kong, and in 2015, she was the captain of the Girls' Team that finished first in the Shergar Cup at Ascot. In 2008, Wilson joined a select group of great jockeys when she was awarded the Avelino Gomez memorial Award.

In the winner's circle after delivering Perfect Lady Bee to the record setting moment, Wilson was directed to a screen that played a tribute from Julie Krone.

"Emma-Jayne Wilson, congratulations for breaking my record," said Krone. "Now I can be the one for races won and you can be the one for money won. And we can hang out as friends. This is an amazing accomplishment. I am so proud of you. You are such a beautiful horseman, and you are so talented. It is a pleasure to share this stage with you. If someone ever says to you, 'You sure are small', you can say, 'Not when I'm standing on my money!'"

There's a palpable mutual affection vibe going on between the two women.

"Julie has been a true supporter of mine from the get-go," said Wilson. "When she got wind of the potential of me breaking the record this year, she has been messaging me relentlessly to show her support and it's an absolute honour. This is to show how the industry has come since she started to show what equality and sportsmanship is and what it means."

Krone demonstrated the epitome of class in her comments, because when one breaks down the numbers, it's obvious that Krone's era offered purses much less than Woodbine gives out these days. Krone rode 21,412 times with 3,704 wins and averaged about \$4,200 in earnings per race. Wilson's landmark win was her 1,903<sup>rd</sup> and her purse winnings come to about \$6,300 per race.

Now 42, Wilson has no chance at passing Krone's win total. But that doesn't mean the meter has stopped running.

"We're still counting!" she exclaimed, as she bolted from trackside to get ready for the next race. "I'm still going and its non-stop!"



Michael Burns Photo

# Woodbine Stakes

## June 28, \$150,000 Selene Stakes:

Seven 3-year-old fillies went a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> and the bettors felt strongly that Witwatersrand, the 2023 2-Year-Old Champion in Canada, was a sure thing – they bet her down to 1-2. Under Patrick Husbands, Witwatersrand



never factored, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> over 5 lengths behind the winner, Sabatini, who got a perfect ride from Sofia Vives to cruise home 2 lengths the best in 1:32.07. Sabatini is trained by Josie Carroll for NK Racing and LNJ Foxwoods. This was her 2<sup>nd</sup> win in 4 races, and she paid \$11.40 to win.

## \$200,000 Highlander Stakes:

Mark Casse was momentarily disappointed with



Witwatersrand in race 6, but his mood would pick up. Kazushi Kimura gave Filo Di Arianna an excellent ride and the 8-year-old mare powered down the stretch to win by 2 ¼ lengths in 1:09.75 for the 6 furlongs. Filo Di Arianna, trained by Casse, is owned by Gary Barber, Wachtel Stable and Peter Deutsch. This was her 8<sup>th</sup> win in her 16<sup>th</sup> race, and she returned \$6.30.

## \$150,000 Dominion Day Stakes:

This race occurred 2 days early, but the timing was right



for last year's King's Plate champion, Paramount Prince. Patrick Husbands put the 4-year-old colt on the lead right out of the gate, orchestrated comfortable fractions of :48.47, 1:12.93 and 1:36.27 for the mile, so in the last 8<sup>th</sup>, Paramount Prince simply galloped away to win by almost 4 lengths in 1:49.35. This horse is owned by Gary Barber and Michael Langlois and with his 5<sup>th</sup> win in 11 starts, Paramount Prince paid \$6.50.

## \$150,000 Marine Stakes:

This race has traditionally been a barometer for potential



King's Plate candidates, and with that premise, Essex Serpent just may have earned the mantle of "favourite" for Canada's premier race. Ridden by Patrick Husbands, Essex Serpent had the lead by the half mile pole and was never seriously threatened en route to a 1-length win in 1:43.03 for the mile and 1/16<sup>th</sup>. This was just the 3<sup>rd</sup> start for Essex Serpent, who is trained by Casse and owned by Penny and Manfred Conrad. The win ticket was \$13.70. The all-Casse Stakes pick-3 returned \$86.95.

## \$211,000 Nassau Stakes:

It would have been 4 straight for Casse if Fev Rover had



won at odds of 4-5, but it was Implicated, ridden by visiting jockey, Declan Cannon who got the jump and out-raced Fev Rover to the wire to win the mile grass race by 1 ¾ lengths in 1:35. Implicated is trained by Brendan Walsh for Bradley Thoroughbreds and Belmar Racing and Breeding. That \$13.30 win price is very appealing considering this was Implicated's 5<sup>th</sup> win in just 9 races.

## July 6, \$135,000 Hendrie Stakes:

Nine fillies and mares went 6 ½ furlongs in this one and Gal in a Rush, under Kazushi Kimura did not live up to her name out of the gate. She found herself last of 9 down



the backstretch, but got very enthused when the front runner, Owen's Tour Guide (Ryan Munger) flashed by the half mile marker in a sizzling :44.82. That discouraged several of the runners, but not Gal in a Rush, who rallied brilliantly with an 8-wide move into the stretch, cruised by tiring rivals and pulled away to win by 1 ¼ lengths in 1:15.54. Christophe Clement is the trainer for West Point Thoroughbreds, Titledown Racing Stables and Chris Larson. Gal in a Rush is a 5-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper. By winning for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 16 races, she paid \$15.10.

## July 7, \$100,000 Lake Huron Stakes:

Jump in – the water was fine on this warm summer



afternoon. Five 3-year-old colts and geldings went 5 furlongs on the inner turf and Kazushi Kimura rode Live Lucky as if he was much the best. Live Lucky led almost from the jump, sizzled the first half mile in :44.78 and cruised home an easy winner by 3 lengths in :56.59. Kevin Attard is the trainer and Live Lucky is owned by Exline-Border Racing, Michael Jawl and Aaron Kennedy. Live Lucky is a 3-year-old colt, now 2 for 2, and he paid \$4.30.

## \$100,000 Georgian Bay Stakes:

Then it was the run of 3-year-old fillies at 5 furlongs on



the inner turf. Olivia Rose was crushed down to 1-2, but it was Little Teddy for Kazushi Kimura wearing down the favourite in deep stretch and prevailing by a neck in :56.20, slightly faster than the boys went. Little Teddy paid \$98.10 to break her maiden last November and has now won 3 of her five heats. She is trained by Santino DiPaola for York Tech Racing Stable and this time around, she paid \$9.40.

**July 13, \$125,000 My Dear Stakes:**

This was a Woodbine Stakes race in which a Mark Casse-Patrick Husbands combo did not surprise the bettors.



Michael Burns Photo

Bullet went off as the 1-2 choice in the field of nine 2-year-old fillies and Husbands let his charge relax early in the 5 1/2 furlong heat, then asked her before the field turned for home. Bullet whipped down the stretch to win by over 4 lengths. The rookie filly is now 2-2 for owner DJ Stable. The win price was just \$3.10.

**\$100,000 Ballade Stakes:**

A lot happened late in the stretch in this 6-furlong dash for older fillies and mares. With a 16<sup>th</sup> to go, it looked as if



Michael Burns Photo

Foolish Games would win, but as that one faltered, Lantana Lady loomed up and momentarily seized the lead. But it was a very late move from Pleasure's Gold and Rafael Hernandez that sealed the deal with Talk To Ya Later surging late for 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pleasure's Gold is a 5-year-old mare trained by Tino Attard for Elizabeth and Gordon Lickrish. With her 6<sup>th</sup> win in 18 tries, Pleasure's Gold paid \$10.90 to win.

**July 19, \$150,000 Victoria Stakes:**

At 5 1/2 furlongs for 2-year-olds, this race didn't require any genius thinking from the horseplayers – they should



Michael Burns Photo

have seen that Mensa, ridden by Patrick Husbands and trained by Mark Casse was a no-brainer. Husbands had Mensa comfortably in front at the quarter and was never challenged, soaring home by over 7 lengths in 1:04.60. Mensa, owned by Resolute Racing, won for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 3 races and paid \$5.30.

**July 20, \$150,000 King's Plate Trial:**

A field of seven 3-year-olds went 1 1/8 miles. My Boy Prince was bet down to 2.5 on the dollar and had an abysmal start,

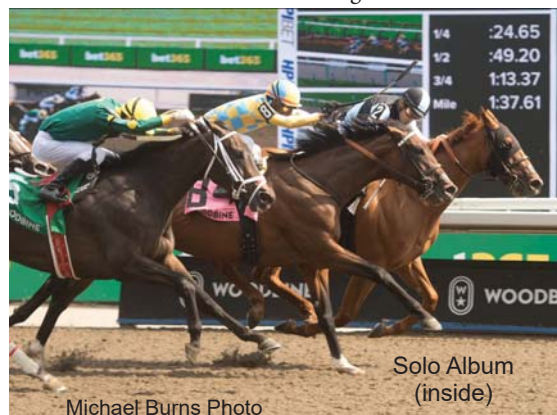


Michael Burns Photo

rearing as the gates opened. But Sahin Civaci was patient, eased My Boy Prince into mid-pack down the backstretch and had plenty of horse in the final furlong, as My Boy Prince took the lead and expanded to win easily by 1 2/3 lengths in 1:51.12. Another Stakes win for trainer Mark Casse, My Boy Prince is owned by Gary Barber. He has won 6 of his 10 races, and he paid \$2.50 to win.

**\$135,000 Trillium Stakes:**

This was at a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> for fillies and mares, and the team of Civaci and Casse did it again. Civaci took Solo



Michael Burns Photo

Album right to the lead, cut out comfortable splits of :49.20, 1:13.37 and 1:37.01 and was able to last by just a nose over a late moving Forever Dixie (Patrick Husbands), a horse also trained by Casse. Solo Album is owned by Gary Barber, Steven Rocco and Eclipse Thoroughbreds. With her 3<sup>rd</sup> win from 14 starts, Solo Album paid \$6.60.

**\$210,000 Connaught Cup:**

In Stakes races, apprentice jockeys do not get the advantage of their weight allowance, so trainers tend to

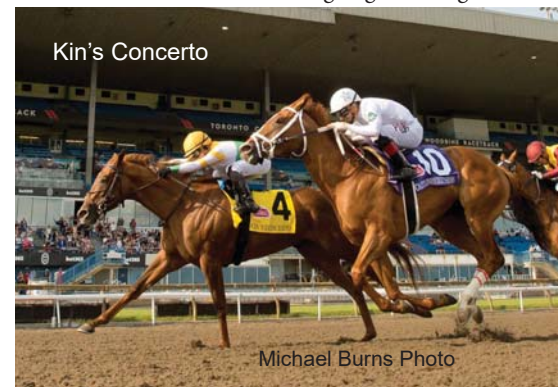


Michael Burns Photo

employ more experienced riders. Then there's Sofia Vives – she gave Cruden Bay a perfectly timed trip, rallying the 6-year-old gelding from 8<sup>th</sup> and last down the backstretch to a neck victory at the end of 7 furlongs on the grass. Trainer Gordon MacRae made the wise decision to use an apprentice. Cruden Bay is owned by Michael Lay, and this was his 7<sup>th</sup> win in 22 starts. He paid \$10.60.

**\$503,000 Woodbine Oaks:**

Josie Carroll also had faith in bug rider Vives, leaving her on Kin's Concerto in this field of 14 going 9 furlongs. Carroll's



Michael Burns Photo

faith was justified. Vives orchestrated a masterful ride on Kin's Concerto, loping easily along the inside for the first mile, coming out in the stretch and surging past rivals late to win by a long neck in 1:51.18. Technically, this was the first time in 5 races that Kin's Concerto had finished 1<sup>st</sup> – she was elevated to the winner's spot in her debut when the horse in front of her was DQ'd. Trainer Carroll had no worries about an apprentice riding in a major race.

"This young lady has improved leaps and bounds this year," said Carroll. "She suits this filly very much. She listens to instructions, which is what I really like about her. She was told to sit quiet on this filly. Not get in her head. Treat it like another race. Put the filly in the position that the filly needed to be in and have confidence in her and she did just that."

Kin's Concerto is owned by her breeder Chiefswood Stable. Her record now shows 2 wins in 5 starts and she paid \$11.50, and since the Oaks was first run in 1956, Sofia Vives is the only apprentice jockey to win.

**July 27, \$164,000 Ontario Colleen Stakes:**

Ho hum, just another example of Mark Casse getting a horse to fire at precisely the right time. He had 3 in this



Michael Burns Photo

mile grass race for 3-year-old fillies and all 3 went off at double digit odds. Sahin Civaci took Time to Dazzle right to the front out of the gate, and even through sharp fractions of :47.07, 1:09.81 and 1:21.20, the pair had no company. Time to Dazzle entered the stretch with a 5-length lead and romped easily to the wire 6 lengths the best in 1:33.57. The bettors blew this one, letting Time to Dazzle go off at 11-1. The filly showed one other race at a mile on the Woodbine grass, and she had won that one. Time to Dazzle improved to 3 for 6. She is owned by Tracy Farmer, and she paid \$24.70.

**\$210,000 Seagram Stakes:**

Last year's King's Plate champion, Paramount Prince lost Sovereign Award Horse of the Year honours to Fev Rover,



Paramount Prince

but the 4-year-old gelding is already piling up points to impress next year's voters. His win in the Seagram was thoroughly impressive – Patrick Husbands rode as if no other horse in the field mattered. Paramount Prince gunned to the lead right out of the gate, lead comfortably after 6 furlongs in 1:13.85, and was never threatened by any of the other 8 in the field, crossing the finish line a cantering 5 ½ lengths the best in 1:43.37. This was the 26<sup>th</sup> Stakes race at Woodbine this year and the 18<sup>th</sup> won by trainer Mark Casse. It was also Husbands 9<sup>th</sup> Stakes victory of the year. Paramount Prince is owned by Michael Langlois and Gary Barber. He has also won the Dominion Day Stakes this year, and with his 6<sup>th</sup> conquest in 12 starts, he paid \$4.50.

**July 28, \$100,000 Pink Lloyd Stakes:**

This was as appropriate as could be imagined – Patches O'Houlihan didn't just win the Pink Lloyd, he crushed 7



Patches O'Houlihan

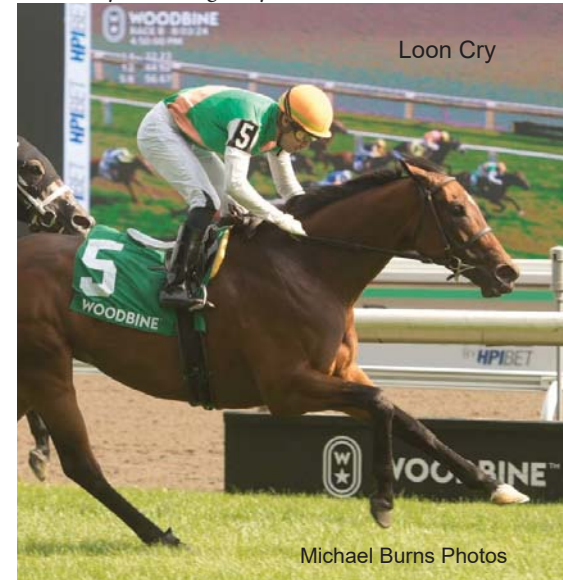
Michael Burns Photos

others, leading from the first stride for Sofia Vives and ripping away in the stretch to win by 6 lengths in 1:09.13 for the 6 furlongs. This dash is named for the 8-time Sovereign Award-winning sprinter, Pink Lloyd, who won 29 of his 34 races, of which 25 were Stakes. The pertinence here is that Patches O'Houlihan is trained by Bob Tiller

and owned by Frank Di Giulio Jr., the two principals who raced Pink Lloyd. This was the first time that apprentice Vives had ridden Patches, and the 4-year-old gelding gave her a 5<sup>th</sup> Stakes win at this meet. Patches O'Houlihan won for the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 10 tries, but strangely was not the favourite, paying \$6.30 to win.

**August 3, \$151,000 Sweet Briar Too Stakes:**

Loon Cry and Sahin Civaci were bet down to 8-5, but it took an eye-catching rally from the back of the field to



Loon Cry

Michael Burns Photos

win this 6-furlong grass race for fillies and mares. Halfway through, Loon Cry was 8<sup>th</sup>, maybe 4 lengths behind the early leader, Miss Vyvyanne (Emma-Jayne Wilson). But Civaci, the leading rider so far at Woodbine, fanned Loon Cry 7-wide into the stretch and with impressive momentum, the 4-year-old filly gobbled up rivals and hit the wire a length the best in 1:09.11. This was Loon Cry's 6<sup>th</sup> win from 13 tries. She is trained by Christophe Clement for Waterville Lake Stables, and she paid \$5.10.

**August 4, \$100,000 Lake Superior Stakes:**

"Jump in, the water's fine" was the theme this Sunday with 2 freshwater Stakes races. Three-year-old colts and geldings



Live Lucky

Michael Burns Photos

went 6 furlongs on the grass, and it all went swimmingly for the 1-2 choice, Live Lucky. With Rafael Hernandez aboard, Live Lucky had the lead at the quarter and was never seriously threatened, galloping to the wire a winner by 4 ¼ lengths in 1:09.86. Trained by Kevin Attard and owned by Ex-Line Border Racing, Live Lucky remained perfect through 3 races, which explains the \$3 win price.

**\$100,000 Thunder Bay Stakes:**

Then the 3-year-old ladies went 6 furlongs on the grass, and they did it much faster than the boys. Olivia Rose gave Hernandez the Stakes double and her fractions of :45.35 and :56.55 would have had her well in front of Live Lucky. Olivia Rose won by 1 ½ lengths, which means the second-



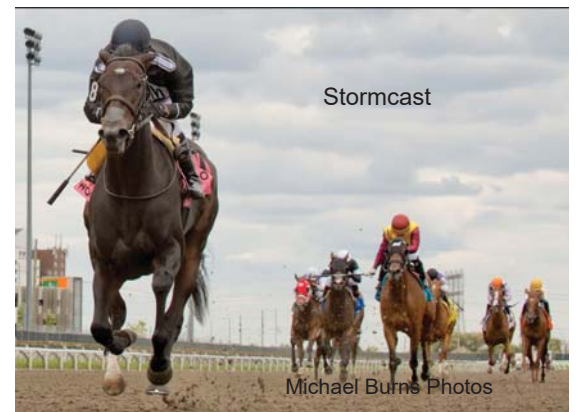
Olivia Rose

Michael Burns Photos

place horse, Little Teddy (Sahin Civaci) would also have beaten Live Lucky. Olivia Rose is trained by Mark Casse for Gabe Grossberg. She won for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 10 races and returned \$3.10.

**August 10, \$250,000 Bison City Stakes:**

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the Triple Tiara for 3-year-old fillies in Canada, and the Canadian Oaks winner, Kin's Concerto



Stormcast

Michael Burns Photos

passed on this one. Stormcast, a winner of just one race previously, went off at more than 6-1, despite being trained by Mark Casse and ridden by Patrick Husbands. Husbands took Stormcast straight to the top, had the lead at the ¼ in :23.97, galloped unchallenged through a half in :47.17 and 6 furlongs in 1:11.00 and simply ran away from 8 others to win the mile and 1/16<sup>th</sup> race by almost 8 lengths in 1:43.29. The nice price (\$15.50) had to do with the fact that this was just the filly's 2<sup>nd</sup> win in 6 tries, but for Casse, this was his 20<sup>th</sup> Stakes win this year at Woodbine, and for Husbands, it was his 10<sup>th</sup>. Stormcast is owned by K E M Racing Stable.

**\$240,000 Canadian Stakes:**

This mile and 1/8<sup>th</sup> on the grass made it a nice afternoon for fillies and mares, and an especially nice day for Full Count



Full Count Felicia

Michael Burns Photos

Felicia. Under Rafael Hernandez, the 5-year-old took the lead early and encountered little competition en route to an impressive win by 2 ¾ lengths in 1:48.69. Kevin Attard is the trainer for Gold Square LLC. Full Count Felicia hit a home run for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in 17 races and paid \$7.80.

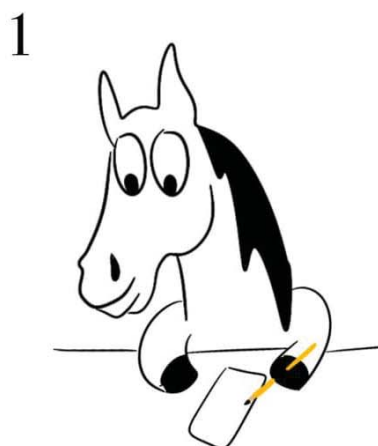


# RACETRACK HUMOUR

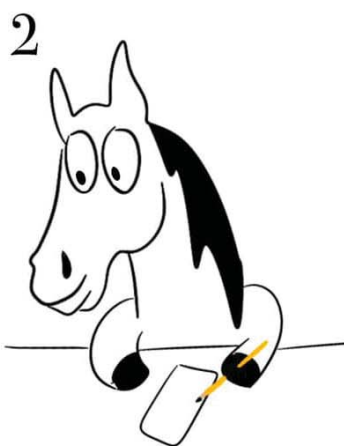


## Perry & Mooch

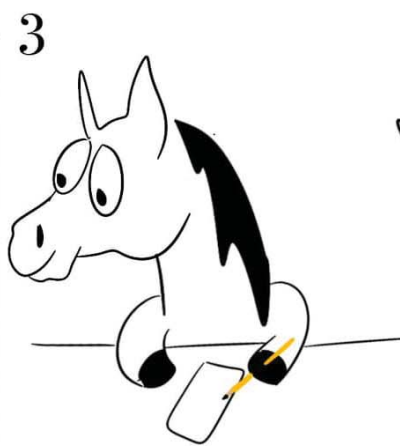
Jessica explains it  
Racing is a lot like taking a test...



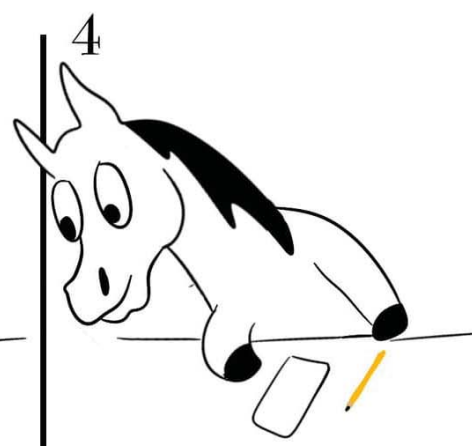
Some horses can take the test on their own with no problems...



Other horses can't help but look off to the side, getting distracted from their own test



And some horses like to lean into looking to the side a little more



Finally, there are horses that like to turn about completely



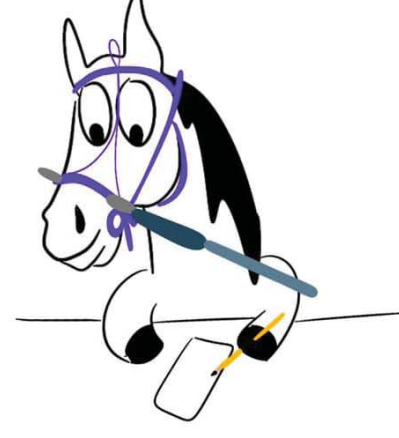
And those horses can wear just an OPEN BRIDLE



Those horses wear a CLOSED BRIDLE



They wear a MURPHY BLIND to keep them focused



These horses wear one (or two) HEADPOLES to keep their head straight

*Jessica Hallett*

Horses can wear just one or a combination of these pieces of equipment to help keep their head straight and their focus in their own race, not on the horses around them

# THE HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE that an Annual General Meeting of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as the "Association") will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, September 28th, 2024 at 11:00am for the following purpose:

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 23rd, 2023;
2. To receive the report of the auditors for the year ending March 31st, 2024; and the pension plan for the year ending December 31st, 2023;
3. To appoint the auditors for the Corporation;
4. To report on the activities of the Association;

DATED at the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Barker, Executive Assistant

MEMBERS ONLY

RSVP IS MANDATORY BY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2024



# HBPA of Ontario

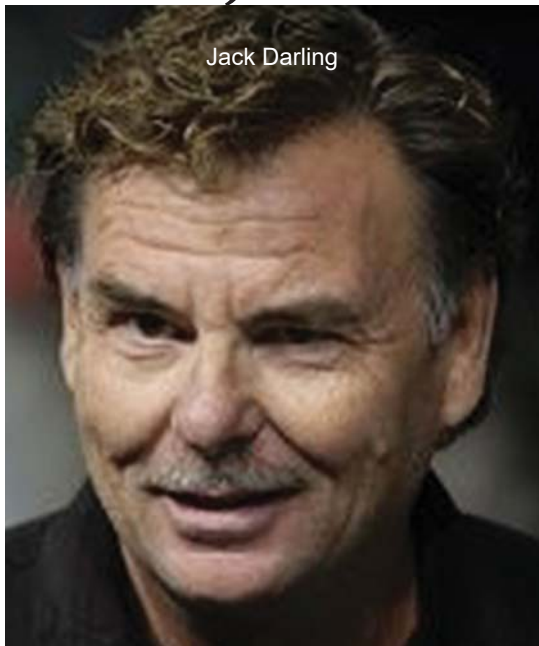
Administrative Office  
420 - 135 Queen's Plate Drive  
Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V1  
Telephone: 416-747-5252  
1-866-779-3067  
Fax: 416-747-9606  
Email: [general@hbpa.on.ca](mailto:general@hbpa.on.ca)  
Website: [www.hbpa.on.ca](http://www.hbpa.on.ca)

## Whitney Stakes



The bettors did not have a lot of love for Arthur's Ride in the \$1 Million Whitney Stakes at Saratoga on August 3. The 4-year-old colt had won 3 of his previous 4 races but was running in Stakes company for the first time. Most of the gamblers' money went to National Treasure (Flavien Prat) who had won the Preakness in 2023 and the Pegasus in 2024. On a track listed as muddy, Junior Alvarado gunned Arthur's Ride right to the front and the pair meant business, slashing out intimidating fractions of :46.63, 1:10.28 and 1:35.18 for the mile. As the wire loomed, Arthur's Ride was all alone and coasted home a relaxed winner by 2 ¼ lengths in 1:48.54. The winning trainer is Bill Mott for Glassman Racing. Arthur's Ride paid \$15.80.

# Jack Darling Has a Thoroughbred



Jack Darling

50 years. But on July 28, a 3-year-old gelding named Pin Boy ran 4<sup>th</sup> in a \$67,700 maiden race of 6 ½ furlongs at Woodbine. At least 7 entities are listed as Pin Boy's owners, including Jack Darling Stables.

Jack Darling? Isn't that the guy who trained and owned (with Brad Grant) Bulldog Hanover, the world's fastest harness horse? Why would a guy 50 years in the standardbred business opt in for a share of a thoroughbred?

"It's through Ben Wallace," Darling explains. "We're both stabled at Classy Lane. He's involved because his wife, Renee Kierans is the trainer. So, he's been dabbling in it, and we talk about it on the track, and I've always thought I'd like to see how they do it – how they train, how the business works. I went to the sale with Ben, and we bought this yearling."

A horse is a horse (of course of course) and Darling has certainly developed an eye for what makes one animal more appealing than another, regardless of the species.

I just liked him as an individual," he says. "Ben liked the pedigree, and I think Renee did too. He's an Ontario-bred, which is good because of the different purse awards. So, it was just a combination of a decent pedigree and he's just a nice individual."

A 4<sup>th</sup> place finish doesn't get you whooping it up in the stands or turning cartwheels on the way to the winner's circle, but Darling liked what he saw first time out from Pin Boy, who was ridden by Jose Campos. The 3-year-old gelding was not

hurried out of the gate, was last of 9 after a quarter, but started to show some interest in the final 3 furlongs, galloping better in the stretch and missing the show spot by a neck.

"I was really happy with what I saw," says Darling. "He was the only one in there that was a first-time starter, so he was in with some experienced horses. I think he was a little fractious in the starting gate and then he dropped back to last. He ran really well from there and it was a good solid fourth, and he kept running after the wire. That's what I liked. I was really happy with what I saw"

We had to point this out to Darling. He campaigned the wonderful Gothic Dream who won the 1997 NA Cup and accumulated over \$1.5 Million. Bulldog Hanover won 26 of 37 and banked \$2,789,271. Pin Boy's 4<sup>th</sup> placer cheque was \$3,842, and since Darling is one of 7 owners associated with the horse...

"It's really not about the money," laughs Darling. "It's the experience, seeing how it's done. I enjoyed it. It was fun."

In a way, owning a horse named Pin Boy completes a certain circle of life for Jack Darling. Way back in the 50s and 60s, before the advent of automatic pin setters, bowling alleys employed pin boys, who were stationed at the end of the lane and were required to retrieve knocked down pins and line them up properly for the next bowler. Darling has a revelation about this.

"I was a pin boy at one time too," he says. "I know what it means."

What background music should we use for this story? *Both Sides Now* by Joni Mitchell? *Break on Through to the Other Side* by The Doors? We're asking the question, "Why would a guy who trained and owned the world's fastest harness horse, buy into a piece of an unraced thoroughbred?"

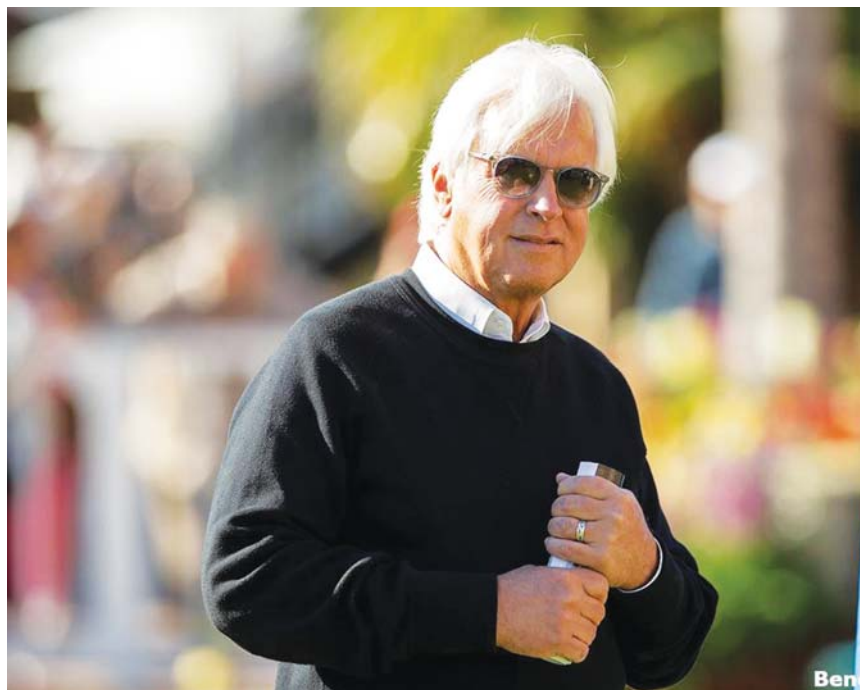
Jack Darling has been with pacers and trotters for about

## The Amazing Perry Ouzts

On July 10 at Belterra Park in Cincinnati, the 7<sup>th</sup> race was at 5 ½ furlongs for allowance level horses, and 3-year-old Opie's Girl won for jockey Perry Ouzts. Three days earlier, Ouzts had turned 70, so when he posed in the winner's circle, he became the oldest person ever to ride a thoroughbred winner at a recognized track in North America. Opie's Girl paid \$10.60 and gave Ouzts his 7,449<sup>th</sup> riding win in a career that goes back to the mid-70s.



## Churchill Downs Press Release-July 19, 2024



LOUISVILLE, Ky.— Churchill Downs Incorporated ("CDI" or "the Company") announced today that the suspension of **Bob Baffert** from racetracks owned and operated by the Company, is rescinded effective immediately. The decision was detailed in a statement from CDI CEO Bill Carstanjen:

"We are satisfied that Mr. Baffert has taken responsibility for his actions, completed a substantial penalty and is committed to running in full compliance with the rules and regulations going forward. All parties agree that it is time to bring this chapter to a close and focus on the future. Mr. Baffert is welcome to return to any of CDI's racetracks, including our flagship Churchill Downs Racetrack, and we wish him and his connections good luck in their future competitive endeavors."

CDI's decision to end the suspension follows a statement released by Bob Baffert earlier today that said, "I accept responsibility for Medina Spirit's positive test in the 2021 Kentucky Derby. I am responsible for any substance found in the horses that I train, and I have paid a very steep price with a three-year suspension and the disqualification of Medina Spirit's performance. I understand and appreciate that Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission took steps to enforce the rules that they believed were necessary to protect the safety and integrity of horse racing and the reputation of the Kentucky Derby. My family and I want to put this behind us and get back to doing what we love to do without anymore distraction or negativity. I very much look forward to returning to Churchill Downs and getting back to the Winner's Circle."

# Clare MacDonald Crowned at Truro



Clare MacDonald

In an excruciatingly close competition, Clare MacDonald won the first Atlantic Women's Driving Challenge on July 21 at Truro Raceway. The contest spanned 5 races on the afternoon card and 5 different women recorded wins. The first leg went to Julie Walker who wired the field with



MacDonald won with Lucy with Diamonds

Silverhill King (\$11.30). MacDonald finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in that heat with Camco Willow and that runner-up result mattered a lot. Monica Sutherland moved into a temporary tie for the lead when she won the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg with the 4-5 favourite, Well Lets See. Ambyr Campbell was the 3<sup>rd</sup> lady to post a win when she scored with Justa Country Boy (\$8.70). Then MacDonald took a very small lead by winning the 4<sup>th</sup> leg with Lucy With Diamonds. Because of points awarded for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> and final leg meant that several women could still claim the title. It was a pace with a purse of \$2,000 and Natasha Day validated the bettors' opinions by finding the finish line first with Fifth Estate, a 6-year-old gelding who paid just \$3.30. Fifth Estate just managed to repel a late move from Hardy Mill Joe, driven by MacDonald, and MacDonald's 2<sup>nd</sup> place points turned out to be the deciding factor. MacDonald won the event with 27 points – 2 better than Day who was 2 ahead of Campbell. It was no great surprise that MacDonald emerged victorious. Her 1,531 win total is the most of all the women who have ever driven on Canadian tracks. Factor in the comfort of competing on her home racecourse and MacDonald was a good bet from the start.

"It's great. I'm glad to see all the fans supporting everything too – it's for a great cause," said MacDonald. "These girls are all tough, they're all good drivers, and they did all put on a great show."

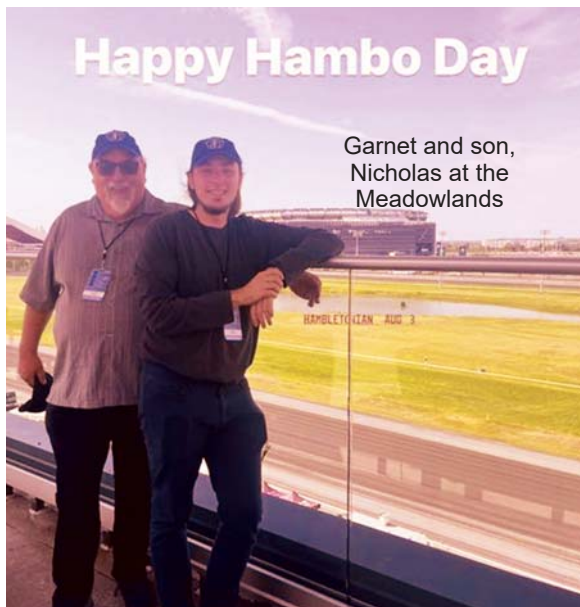
The driver challenge was part of Truro Raceway's Harness The Hope event, which raised funds for both the Colchester East Hants Hospice Society and the We Care About Cancer Fund. Included were sponsored races, a 50/50 draw, a live cake auction, and the sale of commemorative driver challenge t-shirts with artwork from Michelle Hogan, and custom designed sports cards of the challenge drivers. The afternoon's festivities also included Wiener Dog races.



Clare MacDonald, Natasha Day, Maggie Jones, Julie Walker, Ambyr Campbell, Tammy MacKay, Monica Sutherland and Clare MacDonald.

# Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands

by Garnet Barnsdale



Happy Hambo Day

Garnet and son, Nicholas at the Meadowlands

The 99<sup>th</sup> Hambletonian was the 12<sup>th</sup> race on a massive 15-race card on Saturday, August 3 at the Meadowlands. And just as the horses were gathering behind the starting gate, a torrential rainstorm poured down on the field. The great trotter, Karl, last year's Dan Patch Award winner as Outstanding 2-Year-Old Trotter was bet down to 3-5, and though he picked up live cover after 3/4, he did not look like a sure thing in the stretch. Highland Kismet, the horse that had provided the cover, pulled driver Bob McLure to a 2-length lead in mid-stretch, and seemed to be trotting like a winner. But late in the lane, Karl began to eat into the leader's advantage and just before the wire, Karl surged to the front

and won by about a length in 1:51.3. Karl is a son of Tactical Landing, the sire of last year's winner, Tactical Approach, also trained by Takter. This win improved Karl's 2024 record to 6 for 7 and he is 15 for 17 in his career. For Yannick Gingras, he finally got a Hambo win on his 12<sup>th</sup> try, and those who bet Karl had to settle for a \$3.50 win price.

Ten races earlier on the card was the \$248,000 Cane Pace, the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the Triple Crown. There were just 5 horses in this race, probably because Legendary Hanover was so intimidating. Off at 1-5, Legendary justified his short odds with a tour de force. This race sizzled at every quarter – after a :26.2 opening quarter set by Captain Luke, James MacDonald moved Legendary Hanover out of 3<sup>rd</sup> and had the lead well before the half which was clocked in a torrid :52.4. MacDonald got past 3/4 in 1:19.2 and still had a :27 final quarter to win by 3 relaxed lengths in 1:46.2. That is a record for this Stakes race, it's the fastest mile ever paced at the Meadowlands by a 3-year-old, and only Confederate, who went 1:46.1 at the Red Mile last September, has ever gone faster in this age group. Legendary Hanover is owned in part



Karl



Best hambo seen at the Meadowlands!

by Casie Coleman's West Wins Stable. He is trained by Tony Beaton and with his 11<sup>th</sup> win in 16 races, he paid just \$2.40.



Legendary Hanover

The Messenger Stakes at Yonkers, the first leg of the Pacing Triple Crown was won by Sweet Beach Life in June. The 3<sup>rd</sup> leg is the Little Brown Jug, to be held at the Delaware Fair Grounds in September.



# Buy Ontario

## \$16 Million in purses and programs

### Restricted Stakes

18 Ontario Sired Stakes, \$2.1 million | 20 Ontario Bred eligible Stakes, \$5.1 million

### Purse Bonuses at Woodbine and Fort Erie Racetracks

Ontario Sired Bonus 20 to 33% | Ontario Bred Bonus 20 to 22%

### Breeders Awards

\$5.54 million Ontario Bred & Sired Breeders Awards, Ontario & Worldwide

### Stallion Awards

\$320,000 (including a first crop sire award, up to \$40,000)

### Mare & Foal Incentives

\$500,000 Mare Purchase Program for Ontario Residents

### Sales Credits

Earned in specified claiming races; for yearling purchases at CTHS-Ontario sales

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

# TIP.ONTARIORACING.COM



#### CANADIAN PREMIER YEARLING SALE

August 28 | Etobicoke, ON



#### KEENELAND SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE

September 9-21 | Lexington, KY



#### FASIG-TIPTON OCTOBER YEARLINGS

October 21-24 | Lexington, KY



# Legends Day at Clinton



(Jessica Carnochan)

And Salive described the race, with Randy Waples making an aggressive first turn move with Heavy Dude E, who emerged between horses to assume the lead after a quarter mile. Steve Condren was able to situate Cool Clifford into second for a pocket trip as Heavy Dude E was able to cut out comfortable fractions of :28.4, 1:00.3 and 1:30.3. That benign pace spelled trouble for Paul MacDonell and the favourite, Tijuana Seelster. As that pair loomed first up from 4<sup>th</sup>, there simply wasn't sufficient early pace on which to capitalize. Into the stretch, Tijuana Seelster's bid weakened, and Cool Clifford escaped from the rail to attempt his challenge. It got close at the wire, but Waples and Heavy Dude E survived by a neck in 2:01.1. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> career win for Heavy Dude E, a 6-year-old gelding trained by owner-trainer Natalie Elliot. It was the horse's 118<sup>th</sup> race, and he paid \$15.40 to win.

Typically, Waples was self-deprecating in the post-race interview.

"I originally said I just didn't want to fall off the bike, so anything over that is a success, and it ended up being a success," joked Waples. "It's amazing being here. It's amazing competing against these guys. I honestly think this is the first time I've actually beat them in a race, so it took until the end of my career to be able to do that."

Inevitably, Waples was asked where he stands in the family rankings with regards to his father, Ron and grandfather, Keith.

"My father is always going to be *the* driver in my life. I can never put myself at that level, never would," he said. "And my father would never put himself at Keith Waples' level, so I just kind of figure I've got a long ways to go. But these guys, they're all great, you know that."

This was Randy's 6,647<sup>th</sup> driving win, but his first in almost 2 years. He has become a familiar and charismatic face on the Mohawk Park broadcasts.

Earlier in the day, racing fans helped raise \$61,000 through several events, including an online auction, a 50/50 draw and a BBQ dinner. These funds were directed to the Clinton Public Hospital Foundation.



Doug Brown, Chris Christoforou and Steve Condren walk past the grandstand before the Legends race

of Fame drivers had a total of 59,777 wins among them as follows:

Steve Condren	6,859
Wally Hennessey	11,695
Sylvain Filion	10,163
Doug Brown	8,549
Jody Jamieson	8,727
Carl Jamieson	1,372
Paul MacDonell	5,767
Randy Waples	6,646

The other special guests on hand were John Campbell, Ron Waples, Trevor Ritchie, Dave Wall and Bill O'Donnell. Including them, there were 92,435 winning drives and purse earnings of \$1.4 billion.

As befits a race involving Hall of Fame drivers, Hall of Fame race caller Frank Salive handled the chores at the mic for the race. As the trotters assembled behind the gate, Salive told the fans,

"This collection of legends, this is a one off. We may not see this particular group of Hall of Fame drivers again ever in our lifetime."



Randy Waples' 6,647<sup>th</sup>

## Gingras' Monster day

Perhaps 45-year-old Yannick Gingras looked at the 13 horses he was booked to drive at Harrah's Philly on August 16 and thought, "I might win a few." If so, he was right. Gingras won the 1<sup>st</sup> race with Gowestgofast who paid \$5.60. He completed the first daily double by scoring with Gap Kronos (\$2.40) and carved out the day's first pick-3 with Donegal Spirit (\$2.40). Just to prove he wasn't winning with just favourites, Gingras stole the 4<sup>th</sup> with Going Away who returned \$31.20. The 5<sup>th</sup> went to Gingras and Conversano (\$3), the 6<sup>th</sup> was won by Captain Fancy (\$2.50) and when Gingras delivered Stone Cold Treachery (\$2.10) in the 7<sup>th</sup>, he had swept the first 7 races on the card. Gingras finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 9<sup>th</sup>, but found the winner's circle again in the 10<sup>th</sup> when Always B Naughty paid just \$2.10. Race 11 was the only one Gingras did not drive in, but he took down race 12 with Twin B Fighter (\$2.30) and that set up some profound drama in race 13.





## Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame

# 12 New Members in the Hall of Fame

The class of 2024 was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame on August 7 at the Mississauga Convention Centre. The stars included 6 from the standardbred side and 6 from the thoroughbred side.

Starship Jubilee is an all-time great story in this country's racing history. She was claimed as a 4-year-old at Gulfstream for \$16,000 by Tino and Kevin Attard. After that she was sensational, winning 16 of her next 30 races, including the Nassau, the Dance



Patrick Husbands

Smartly, the Sunshine Millions Turf at Gulfstream (three times), the Canadian Stakes (twice), the Ballston Spa Stakes at Saratoga, the E.P. Taylor Stakes, and her coup de gras – the \$1.2 Million Ricoh Woodbine Mile under Justin Stein on September 19, 2020.



Sylvain Filion

"It means a lot being part of her career," said Kevin Attard, who trained her to all those amazing wins. She's the only horse that



Dan Vella

ever won the E.P. Taylor and Woodbine Mile. She was successful in both Canada and the United States, and a 3-time Sovereign Award winner."

The late Ross Curran steered harness horses to over 1,700 wins. His nickname was "Cowboy," and former driver and member of the Hall of Fame nominating committee, Hec Clouthier, told us a hilarious anecdote about Curran.

"We were racing at a fair," recounts Clouthier, "and Ross was so far behind the field because he was driving a real nag and couldn't keep up. At the top of the stretch, I'm on top, thinking



Dr. Ian Moore

Ross is out of the picture, but here comes Ross. He cut across the infield while a ball game was going on, cut in front of me and won the race. He says to me, 'Go and get your picture taken because they're going to throw me out anyway. My horse was so slow, I had to cut across the infield. I actually could have caught a fly ball!'"

The indestructible Patrick Husbands, now in his 50s, continues to put up elite numbers. He also rocks the fedora.

"It's right at the top," said Husbands when asked where to put this among his very long list of great accomplishments. "It's amazing to be included with the great riders that Canada has produced and I'm loving every moment."

No one could possibly dispute the inclusion of Sylvain Filion in the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Last October, Filion became the first Woodbine/Mohawk driver to crack through the 10,000-win barrier.

"I was kind of shocked when I got the call," says Filion. "I thought it was a prank or something. I couldn't believe it. I'm ecstatic. It's very special."

Asked to pick one person that inspired him over all others, Filion doesn't even take a beat.

It would be my dad," he says. "He was my idol, and he taught me so much."

And now Sylvain joins dad, Yves and Uncle Herve into the Hall of Fame.

Two-time Sovereign Award winner as trainer of the year, Dan Vella won the Queen's Plate twice – in 1994 with Basqueian and in 2012 with Strait of Dover.

"It's really quite unbelievable and overwhelming," says Vella about making it to the Hall. "I could show you where the tack room was when I started at 17 years old. It's just wonderful."

Dr. Ian Moore has combined his vet license and his training skills to produce such great harness horses as Astronomical, Shadow Play, State Treasurer, and more recently, Tattoo Artist.



Richard Grubb

"It's still very hard to believe," Dr. Moore says. "This is an honour I will never forget."

Asked to name the one unforgettable moment from a career that produced many spectacular wins, Dr. Moore responds almost immediately.

"I still have a place in my heart for Shadow Play and the Little Brown Jug," he says. "All our family was there. It was one of the greatest moments at the time."

Richard Grubb rode thoroughbreds for 13 years and for many years after that, he served as a steward. In his emotionally riveting speech, Grubb referred to 7 other Hall of Famers he had the pleasure of working with.

"I worked with them every morning, all under the same shedrow," says Grubb. "Robin Platts, Jim Bannon, Lou Cavalaris, Victorian Era, Cool Reception, Gil Rowntree and Avelino Gomez."

It's perfectly fitting that Grubbs is now in the same "shedrow" as those greats.

The others honoured that night were:

Ed Tracey (Harness Driver)

Glen Todd (Builder)

Bee A Magician (Trotter)

Channel Maker (Thoroughbred)

Dr. Moira Gunn (Builder)

# James MacDonald Wins 2024 National Driving Championship:



American Zestar clinched it for MacDonald

It was a great afternoon at Hippodrome 3R in Trois Rivieres, and MacDonald praised the host track. “There’s no experience like a national driving championship. And I can’t say enough about the job they did at the track today,” he said. “The track was amazing. The crew was amazing. The whole Standardbred Canada staff – they did a great job, and it’s just a terrific event.” The National Driving Championship is presented by Standardbred Canada and the 8 finalists made their way to Hippodrome 3R after finishing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the four Regional Driving Championships.

Driving Championship points totals	
1. James MacDonald	- 66 points
2. Tyler Borth	- 53 points
3. Robert Shepherd	- 53 points
4. Stephane Brosseau	- 50 points
5. Phil Giesbrecht	- 44 points
6. Mike Hennessy	- 43 points
7. Redmond Doucet	- 36 points
8. David Dowling	- 31 points

The World Driving Championships will be held in New Zealand and James MacDonald has won the right to represent Canada. MacDonald outdrove 7 other men on July 5 at Hippodrome 3R, winning 3 races and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in a 4<sup>th</sup>.

The draw was very good to MacDonald, as 3 of his horses were heavily favoured, and he delivered on all three. Tyler Borth fired the first shot when he won the opening leg, steering Mach Play (\$3.70) to a 3-length win over MacDonald and Classic Jim. MacDonald tied things when he scored behind Rec Time (\$2.10) for trainer Michel Allard. Then, Borth won the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg with Delgero (\$4.70), inspiring MacDonald to do what has made him the 3-time Woodbine driving champion. MacDonald steered Bonfire Bash (\$3.30) to a 5<sup>th</sup> leg win. The trainer is Serge Houde, and when MacDonald rallied American Zestar (\$2.70) from off the pace for a 5<sup>th</sup> leg victory for trainer, Louis Philippe Turcotte, all the others needed some late race magic to overhaul the leader. That didn’t happen. Drivers Mike Hennessy, Stephane Brosseau and Redmond Doucet took the final 2 heats, assuring that MacDonald ruled the day with 66 points – 13 more than Borth.

“It’s the best,” said MacDonald. “I’ll probably never get a chance to wear the red and white again. And it’s kind of a tough topic because it’s such a great experience. I wish everyone could experience it. I’m just so thrilled I get to go to New Zealand and wear the red and white. I love my blue and yellow, but there’s

nothing better than a whole country cheering for you.”



MacDonald flanked on the left by Sophie Mongeon (Standardbred Canada Director) and on the right by Darryl Kaplan (Standardbred Canada CEO)



James MacDonald and Legendary Hanover



Harness racing is a colourful sport

Jessica Hallett



# James MacDonald's Huge Night in New Jersey



You would think that someday James MacDonald would run out of heroic deeds, but apparently, that day hasn't arrived yet. Just eight days after winning the Canadian Driving Championships at Hippodrome 3R, MacDonald, the 3-time defending Mohawk driving champion, pulled off his greatest night ever at The Meadowlands, winning the Meadowlands Pace with Legendary Hanover as part of a 4-win night on the card.

MacDonald served noticed early that he was a force. He stunned the bettors in the first race when he scored with 3-year-old pacer, Huntingforchrome, who paid \$29.20. MacDonald swept the first double, winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> race with 3-year-old trotter, Benny J for trainer Tony

Alagna. Benny J paid just \$6.90 to win but completed a very generous James MacDonald double that returned \$178.40.

Then MacDonald lapsed into (for him) a monster slump – he did not win a race for at least 3 hours. That, of course changed with the \$650,000 Meadowlands Pace. He left from post 6 with Legendary Hanover and he gave that one a profoundly aggressive drive, electing to avoid the rail with a first up move down the backstretch after Funtime Bayama cut out a :26.2 first quarter. Legendary Hanover did not clear until just after the half, which was posted in a torrid :53.2. A normal horse might have been gassed from that, but on this night, Legendary Hanover was far from normal. As the field turned for home, MacDonald was stretched flat out in the bike, parallel to the ground, as Legendary Hanover increased his lead to 2 lengths. The 6-5 favourite, Nijinsky was grinding all through the stretch, but could only get up for 2<sup>nd</sup>, as Legendary Hanover unleashed a :26.1 final quarter to win by over 4 lengths in 1:46.3 – the fastest mile ever in the Meadowlands Pace. Both the winner and the runner-up, Nijinsky are trained by Tony Beaton.

"It's pretty awesome," said Beaton right after the race. "He earned this race tonight. James made a bold move,

but it was the winning move in the end. He just showed what kind of caliber horse he is."

"I wanted to give him a shot – try to put him in position to win," said MacDonald about the backstretch move. "Even if you've got to overdrive a little bit, that's just how it goes in these big races. You don't want to be at the back saying 'what if?' I'm just so proud of the horse, so proud of Tony. I'm just thrilled."

This was a first Meadowlands Pace win for both MacDonald and Beaton. Legendary Hanover is owned by Eric Good, Marc Dumain and West Wins Stable. This was his 10<sup>th</sup> win in his 16<sup>th</sup> race, and he paid \$6 to win.

There was still more from James MacDonald. He came right back in the next race to win the \$100,000 Jerry Silverman Memorial Pace for 3-year-old fillies. MacDonald was able to slide It's a Love Thing into 4<sup>th</sup> on the rail as the field turned down the backstretch, pulled first over just past the half, and needed almost all of the stretch to get past My Girl EJ just before the wire. The margin of victory was a long neck. It's a Love Thing won for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in 18 races. She is trained by Dave Menary and her owners are Eric Good, Thomas Biederman, Joshua Green and Rich Lombardo Racing. MacDonald's 4<sup>th</sup> win that night at the Meadowlands paid \$4.40.



Horses can be so kind. When this driver forgot his helmet, the rival horse brought it to him!

# Winner's Circle Proposal



A.J. on a knee for Jennifer



A.J. Miziolek (Andrew Junior) wanted to propose to his girlfriend, Jennifer Rivet in a unique fashion. For two years, Rivet has been the caretaker for harness horses trained by Gary Merner. On Saturday, August 3, Merner had two horses racing at Mohawk – Lous World in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and The Greek Freak in the 9<sup>th</sup>. Miziolek planned to get on one knee if either horse won. Apparently, had both horses lost, Miziolek didn't have a plan "B". Fortunately, the racing gods were on his side, or more specifically, Jody Jamieson was. Jamieson gave Lous World a sensational drive as the pair entered the stretch in 7<sup>th</sup> place with a wall of horseflesh in front. When the narrowest of seams presented itself with about a 16<sup>th</sup> to go, Jamieson steered Lous World between rivals to produce a last moment victory.

Rivet saw Miziolek in the winner's circle and quickly suspected something was about to happen. "I usually grab the head of the horse," she says. "But A.J. goes to Gary and said, 'If you grab the head, I got the ring.' And then, Gary said to me, 'You go in the back with Jody.' I thought that was strange but, oh well. At that point, I kind of knew."

According to the script, Miziolek should have said, "Will you marry me?" but in the moment, everyone at the track could see what was happening. If you find the race on Standardbred Canada's website, you can see Jody gesturing at the couple and shouting to the crowd, "Look at this! Look at this!"

Miziolek did indeed get down on a knee to present his lady with the ring.

"He only said, 'Will you?'" laughs Rivet. "It was so loud from the crowd, that's all I heard. 'Will you?' And then I said, 'yes.'"

The immediate "yes" is a tribute to the character of the prospective groom.

"He's so nice and gentle and careful," says Rivet warmly. "He always makes sure everything is always good and that I'm always well. It's just perfect."

After saying yes, Rivet and Miziolek experienced a little love from the bettors.

"Everybody was clapping in the grandstand screaming," she says. "It was amazing. And when I walked back, all the horse people were congratulating me."

Jennifer and A.J. have been dating for about 6 months and though they will be getting married, there is no fixed date yet.

"I'm currently expecting," she reveals. "I'm five months along right now and we're going to have the baby in January, so I just want to make sure I'm back to my normal size when have the wedding."

So Miziolek popped the big question. We popped the smaller one.

Would they be inviting Lous World to the ceremony?

"I would like that," she laughs. "But he can't come."

This image needs no caption. All we know is that it was taken at Ocean Downs Casino



# 2024 AJAX DOWNS RACETRACK

## 4 LIVE QUARTER HORSE RACING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Events For The Whole Family!

#### WEDNESDAY RACE DATES 2024

Wednesday  
May 8, 15, 22, 29  
1:30pm First Race

Wednesday  
June 5, 12, 26  
1:30pm First Race

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

Wednesday  
August 7, 14, 21  
1:30pm First Race

Wednesday  
September 11, 18, 25  
12:55pm First Race

Wednesday  
October 2, 9, 23  
12:55pm First Race

*Special events!*

#### SUNDAY RACE DATES 2024

Sunday June 16  
**Father's Day**  
12:55pm First Race

Sunday July 21  
**Craft Brewery Day**  
12:55pm First Race

Sunday August 25  
**Family Fun Day**  
12:55pm First Race

Sunday September 1  
**Labour Day Weekend**  
12:55pm First Race

Monday October 14  
**United Way Day**  
12:55pm First Race



50 Alexander's Crossing - Ajax, Ontario - 905-686-8001  
www.ajaxdowns.com



# ENJOY MORE GET MORE

EXCLUSIVE  
CASH BACK  
REWARDS

THE MOST DATA  
IN ONE PLACE

UNRIVALED  
RESOURCE  
NETWORK



GET  
**\$100**  
IN FREE BETS\*

THE ULTIMATE HORSE BETTING EXPERIENCE

**HPIBET**.com

\*Visit HPIbet.com and click Promotions to view full terms and conditions. Know when to take the reins. ResponsibleGambling.org

JOIN  
TODAY!





Lauren Spada tells us that it's 196 kilometres from her home in Fort Erie to Ajax Downs racetrack. She should know – she's driven it at least once a week for the past few years during the quarter horse season to prepare and watch the speedballs that she trains.

But having grown up so close to the Fort Erie Racetrack, the 22-year-old Spada felt the urge to get a thoroughbred to run on her home track and cut down on her mileage.

"Traveling to Ajax is really difficult every week," says Spada. "To run horses at home is really the goal for me – mostly. I wanted to claim a horse and we were looking and looking, and we didn't like anything. I was about to leave the parking lot at Woodbine with my horse trailer, and my groom, Bobby Nichols called me and said, 'Hey, Lauren, go look at this horse in the paddock. I think she's really nice.' So, we went in. I really liked her. She acted perfect in the paddock, and I went in on her and I was the only one, and we came home with her."

Spada parted with \$7,500 on July 4 for the 4-year-old filly, Ghostly Perfection and entered her 18 days later in a \$27,400 Maiden Special weight at 6 furlongs at the Fort. And let's just say, this was not the smoothest race of the year. As soon as the gates opened, Ghostly Perfection stumbled badly and almost did a face plant. Down the backstretch, Ferocious Queen took a very bad step and lost jockey Michael David. In the turn, the 6-5 favourite, Aziel pulled up and needed to be taken from the track in an ambulance. In the meantime, jockey Alexis Sanchez allowed Ghostly Perfection to regain composure, and the pair rallied from the back of the field, surged to the lead as they turned for home and romped to the wire, much the best by almost 3 lengths.

"My filly came out of the gate, and she totally fell on her face," she says. "Alexis picked her head up and he just started riding her so hard and they came up at the end. It felt so good to see my filly cross the wire after working so hard to get my trainer's license."

So, 3 weeks after spending \$7,500, Spada got a cheque for \$8,640. That's what's known in the industry as a good start. As for Spada, she can't remember when she didn't have a horse.

"I got my first pony at one year old from my grandfather, Peter," she says. "My grandfather was a big-time owner and that was when a lot of the quarter horses were running at Fort Erie. And then my dad, Criag got his trainer's license. After my grandfather passed, my dad and I had 3



NAGARA EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY

or 4 horses. And in 2021, my dad started handing me the reins and I became an assistant trainer to him. And then in 2022, I took over the whole thing. Now I'm only 22 and I got the quarter horses going and now I'm starting up with the thoroughbreds."

We asked Spada about the difference between training a quarter horse and a thoroughbred.

"To me, every horse trains differently," she says. "No quarter horse in my barn can train the same way that the other does. They all need something different. Of course, the thoroughbreds are going to train a little bit harder. I'll have the quarter horses go out and jog a lot more. The thoroughbreds obviously have to gallop a little bit stronger most of the times."

Since Ghostly Perfection's win, Spada's barn has doubled in size.

"I just claimed a horse named Seattle Down Under from Woodbine," she says. "That's a horse that looks really strong on the mother's side. The grandmother made a lot of money in turf races and the mother didn't run. He's a nice big bay gelding. He's very strong. He always tries super hard, and he always looks good at Woodbine. So, I'm hoping he's going to look good at Fort Erie on the grass down there."

Spada paid \$7,500 for Seattle Down Under, who finished 4<sup>th</sup> on July 26 in a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> race. Seattle Down Under broke his maiden in June, scoring at 6-1 for Emma-Jayne Wilson in a mile and a 16<sup>th</sup> contest for \$10,000 claimers. When Spada claimed him, he had that one win from 14 starts.

Spada's passion for Fort Erie is a little more than just the horses she might run there. On racing days, she works the entire card as a pony girl on her horse, Clifford, accompanying racehorses to the starting gate.

"I have been ponying at Fort Erie since 2018," she says. "I have a bunch of clients that I work for at Fort Erie" she

explains. All the pony people have different clients that they are assigned to. Usually, I know a lot of the horses down there, so I can pick the ones that might be the most tough. My pony is just so big and he's so strong and I'm really fortunate for that."

Spada has shown loyalty to jockey Alexis Sanchez. Sanchez rides her horses at Ajax Downs, but she insists, he's not just a quarter horse rider.

"He's been riding both right now sitting near the top in the Fort's jockey race," she points out. "He's a 115-pound apprentice rider. He had a win at Woodbine last year. He does really well on anything, any type of horse, a speed horse or an off-the-pace horse. My horse fell on her face, and he pulled her back up and they won when a lot of people probably thought it was over for her."

Spada has had significant success at Ajax Downs with the quarter horses. Since 2022, she has won 31 times from 121 starters, a strike rate of over 25%. She admits, however, that her future may rest more with the thoroughbreds.

"My heart is in the quarter horses," she says. "We would like to keep a few, but to do the drive is hard on me. For sure we have a few that I really don't want to get rid of, so right now we're just downsizing on the quarter horse side. I would like to have a lot of thoroughbreds for sure as I expand my team."

"Horse racing is a lot of work," she says. "But you know what? I love the horses. I've always grown up loving the horses. I want them to do what they're bred for. All these horses, they're super excited in the morning to go out and train. They all have a good life. I mean, that's something that a lot of people don't get to see is that these horses are treated way better than humans. I can't explain to you what goes on behind those barns and the level of care and love that everybody shows for the animals. We all love the horses and that's why we're here."



The picture is of Legendary Hanover in the winner's circle after crushing in the Meadowlands Pace. We counted 18 people, a horse, and a winged dog, but admit it, your eyes were drawn to the stunning blonde in the yellow dress.

And that's appropriate. Casie Coleman has been front and centre in the harness racing picture for the last 20 years. Her West Wins Stable owns a large chunk of Legendary Hanover and a significant percentage of Nijinsky, who finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Meadowlands Pace. Four weeks earlier, Nijinsky had sizzled home in 1:48.1 to take down the North America Cup.

Coleman admits she wasn't exactly calm, cool, and collected watching her two horses in a huge race.

"Once I saw Legendary, he's kicked home and he's gone, I could tell nobody's catching him," she says. "So, then I'm looking at Ninja and I'm cheering Ninja to get up for second. I was banging the window like I was in the North America Cup. Legend was home free and I'm hoping that my other boy could get up for second and he did. It's been awesome. It's been an amazing season so far."

It would take many more pages than the one dedicated to this story to document the great moments that Coleman has achieved in harness racing. She does remember the first horse she owned.

"The horse's name was V B's Uncle Jack, says Coleman. "The owner let me lease him. He was a bottom claimer, I think in \$2,500 claim races at Frasier Downs. He was one of my favourite horses. He was a big knee knocker lame horse, and I groomed him and took care of him, and trained him, and I don't even remember how old I was back then."

Coleman had VB's Uncle Jack for 71 races from October of 1997. If we peg her age at 44 now, she would have been somewhere between 16 and 17. In his 143-race career, VB's Uncle Jack earned just \$36,739.

Fast forward to now. Nijinsky and Legendary Hanover combined have raced 33 times with total earnings a roll of quarters short of \$2 million.

Nijinsky was a \$120,000 purchase at the 2022 Harrisburg sales. He didn't blow too many doors off as a 2-year-old, winning just once in 10 tries – and that one was a \$17,000 maiden race. But Nijinsky clearly grew into his hobbles in his sophomore year, winning his first 6 races before that 2<sup>nd</sup> place result at the Meadowlands.

Legendary Hanover almost didn't get into Coleman's barn.

"I absolutely loved him," says Coleman of her first reaction at the Lexington Select sale. "Number one, he's a Line Drive



Hanover, and I absolutely love Line Drive Hanover. Legend is a bigger horse than I normally buy, but he was so strong and powerful – huge ass, huge shoulders, sharp eyes, sharp head, long barrel and just the way he carried himself, his demeanor, everything about him. He's actually the second highest horse I've ever bought in my life. I normally don't even go over \$200,000. I actually stopped bidding myself. I think my last bid was 230 range, but my partner, Eric Good kept bidding and he got the horse at 260, then I still bought into a piece with him. So actually, I started the bidding, and he finished the bidding."

Coleman races her horses as West Wins Stable which she shares equally with Ross Warriner. And Warriner made it known that he wants in on every horse Coleman buys.

"I'll never ever forget one particular night," says Coleman. "I think I claimed about 6 or 7 horses at Yonkers and 3 of them were under Casey Coleman Racing Inc., not West Wins Stable. Ross came into my barn the next day. He says, 'I need to talk to you.' I could tell he was upset with me and I'm thinking, 'Holy shit, what did I do?' He says, 'Can you tell me why these ones are not in West Wins Stable?' And I said, 'Ross, is this the purpose of this meeting? You're mad that you're not in on those horses?' He said, 'Yes.' So going forward, he was in on every single horse I own."

For all the great horses that Coleman has trained and owned, she thinks fondly of a cheap pacing mare called Keeper Flying.

"I claimed her for – I think – \$8,000," she says. "And she went a bunch of races. I was driving and training her. Later on, I bred her, and we had a baby named Keeper Destiny that made just under a million. We had another one named Sports Keeper that made like a half a million. She went on to be a good broodmare for us, so she wasn't one of the superstars, but I'd be no one without her."

From 2004-2014, Coleman dominated the training scene in Canada. During that span, she won 2,036 races and 5 Joe O'Brien Awards as the Outstanding Trainer in Canada. But in 2012, with a horse called Michael's Power, the name Casie Coleman began to be associated with elite harness racing

talent.

After winning 4 of 5 races as a 2-year-old, Michaels Power carved out an incredible sophomore season, winning 14 of 20 races. He won the \$600,000 Upper Canada Pace at Georgian Downs, then the Canadian Breeders at Mohawk, followed by the \$581,600 Confederation Cup at Flamboro. On September 20, 2012 at the Delaware Fairgrounds, Michaels Power, driven by Scott Zeron captured his elimination heat in 1:52.3, then scooted home in 1:50 flat to take the Little Brown Jug final.

"That was my first Little Brown Jug and that was awesome," says Coleman. "The Jug's always been a race as a kid that I watched and loved, and to be there and to actually win with Michaels Power – that was the first time I've been in the Jug, and we won it – it was absolutely amazing."

Winning the Little Brown Jug was so much fun, Coleman did it again the next year with Vegas Vacation, even though the process was problematic.

"You had to win two heats back then," she recalls. "And he was terrible in his elim, even though he won it. His gait wasn't good. Brian Sears did an unbelievable job keeping him from making a break because he just wasn't grabbing. I've never done this before, but I changed shoes between trips, and he went and won the final."

Unlike the years during which she might have sent out more than 800 horses to compete, Coleman has drastically reduced her training protocol. In fact, Standardbred Canada does not show a single training entry since 2022. Her emphasis these days is finding that great horse at the sales, and she's phenomenally good at it.

"My favourite thing about the sport is picking out a baby," she says. "They've never seen a harness – and teaching them, being with them every single day up until they're going to hit the starting gate in their first qualifier. My favourite races to watch are the first qualifiers on baby days. It's a lot of fun creating champions right from scratch."

Quarter Horse  
Owner of the  
Month:  
James  
Bogar



Laurie Overton Photo

Over the last two cards of racing at Ajax Downs in July, James Bogar sent out 3 winners – The Gingerbread Mann, Relentless Betty and Queen Charlotte. Somewhere in those wins, the purses swelled Bogar's owner purses to over \$1 million (exactly \$1,012,352). When we suggested that he's the first quarter horse owner in Canada to bust open 7 figures, Bogar suggests that perhaps the reigning Owner of the Year, Milena Kwiecien did it first. Bogar was right. Kwiecien ripped past the \$2 million dollar mark earlier this year. Still, Bogar finds the number satisfying.

"I won't lie," he says. "It's a nice milestone. I was looking at that and I thought, 'Hey, I made it to a million,' and that's a million U.S. dollars. I'm proud of it."

Bogar has done well in his business life – he runs a business in Lindsay called Cameron Steel that manufactures machinery components. The success of that venture has allowed him to indulge in the horses.

"My wife, Tina and I live lakeside, and we always wanted a farm," he says. "I ended up buying four horses. And the farrier, Kate Romanenko came by, and she asked me if I wanted to partner on a horse that she had. And that's kind of what got me started into it. But I always had horses as a kid, and I was always fascinated with horse racing."

That first quarter horse was Corona Four Twenty. The gelding raced just 5 times and went out a winner, breaking the maiden in his 5<sup>th</sup> and last race. The jockey was Cassandra Jeschke as Corona Four Twenty prevailed in a \$10,000 heat at 330 yards at Ajax Downs in October 2014. Bogar has a distinct memory of that first win.

"It's thrilling," he says. "You can't beat the feeling of winning a horse race. You get chills up your back and goose bumps. It's quite an extraordinary feeling."

If you check out Bogar's stats on Equibase, you can see that 2019 was his most profitable year as an owner. He had 145 starters with 16 wins, 71 in-the-money finishes, and purse winnings of \$232,545. Bogar cites a couple of horses that helped swell those numbers.

"There was Channel Island Flyer," he recalls.

That one was a veritable cheque machine. Channel Island Flyer, in 2019 won twice, came 2<sup>nd</sup> four times, and had three 3<sup>rd</sup>s from eleven starts.

"And Ghost Pines," he adds.

Ghost Pines was a 5-year-old mare at the time, and she produced three wins, three 2<sup>nds</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> that year. As well, a 2-year-old named Lone Hand was terrific, winning twice and placing three times in his five races.

Bogar has a chance to exceed his 2019 numbers this year. At the time of our interview, his horses had accumulated over \$149,000. That gave him a very comfortable lead in the owners' race. At the same time, his 15 wins as a trainer had him 3 up on Jason Pascoe, who has claimed the training crown at Ajax Downs the past 6 years. Bogar trains his own horses simply because he wants the full experience.

"I never wanted to just buy a horse and send it somewhere and have someone else train it," he says. "I always wanted to actively participate. So, we built barns and the whole facility to train racehorses there. Truth be told, my assistant trainer, Nicole Clark – she's the one that's there every day working with horses. I go out every night and I feed my horses and water them and visit with them and I always take my horses out to the saddling paddock as well."

Let's go back to some of Bogar's recent winners. On July 21, The Gingerbread Mann sizzled home for Diego Benitez in a \$15,000 speed index race at 330 yards.

"I bred that horse," says Bogar. "He was the biggest surprise in the barn because he had one race as a 2-year-old, and his speed index was in the 20s. Then in his first race as a 3-year-old, his speed index was in the 60s and then, all of a sudden, he just got the hang of it. Now he just loves to beat other horses. So, he just keeps getting better and better."

That July 21 race was a second straight win for The Gingerbread Mann, and he recorded a speed index of

86.

On July 31, Queen Charlotte, a 4-year-old filly earned a first-place cheque for Bogar, carrying Christian Benitez to a neck win after 350 yards.

"There's another one of my favorite horses," says Bogar. "I'm hoping she's about to shine. I think she has a lot of potential."

Also on July 31, Relentless Betty posed in the winner's circle, after repelling 5 others in a maiden race at 300 yards. Diego Benitez rode that one.

"I have a lot of hope in this filly," says Bogar. "She's a little firecracker and we really had to take a lot of time with her to get her ready to race. I think she has a lot of potential. I think she'll be a contender in some Stakes races, maybe next year."

There's some "brotherly" love going on in the Bogar regime. Christian and Diego Benitez share all the riding duties.

"The Benitez brothers exercise my horses at the farm, and they'll ride all my horses," says Bogar. "I'm quite pleased with them. I like them a lot."

He probably likes them even better now. On August 13, Diego won 3 races at Ajax Downs, including the \$30,960 Princess Maturity, surprising the bettors at 11-1 with the 4-year-old filly, Queen Charlotte who was first by a length after 400 yards. Queen Charlotte is owned and trained by Bogar.

It's not by accident that James Bogar is both the leading trainer and owner at Ajax Downs in 2024. He admits it's all part of his plan.

"I'm kind of on a mission," he admits. "I want to be the best from the breeding to the training to the racing. They're kind of like your kids. You invest so much time and money into them and you want to refine your craft and see how you can get the best out of all of them."

# Carroll Gets to 1,000



When Luis Contreras rode Spinzar to a wire-to-wire win in the 4<sup>th</sup> race at Woodbine on Sunday, August 11, it gave Josie Carroll the 1,000<sup>th</sup> win of her training career. Spinzar went off at 5-1 in the \$110,700 allowance race at a mile and a quarter on the grass. Contreras put the 4-year-old gelding right on the lead and had his charge relaxed through easy splits of :25.99, :50.56, 1:15.46 and 1:39.52 for the mile. That left plenty in the tank for a :25.68 final quarter – good enough for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  length win, and history for Carroll.

Carroll is the only lady trainer to win the King's Plate, and she has done it 3 times – with Edenvold in 2006, the filly Inglorious in 2011, and then the one-eyed Mighty Heart in

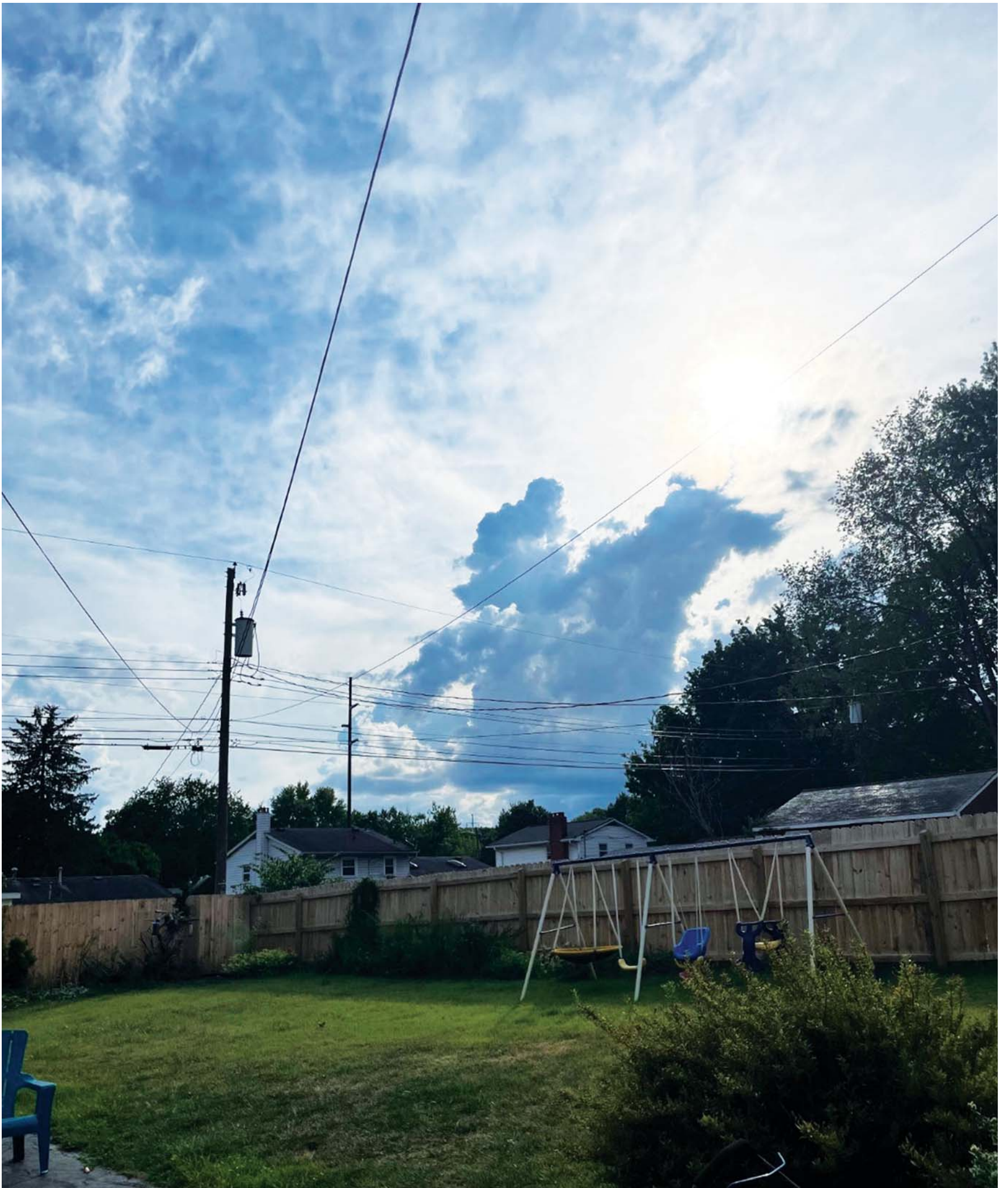
2020. The 999<sup>th</sup> racing victory came with Kin's Concerto in the \$500,000 Woodbine Oaks on July 20. After that, the next 21 horses that Carroll sent out failed to secure the landmark win.

Carroll's career started when she assisted Hall of Fame trainer, Mac Benson who prepared horses for Windfields Farm. Since 1994, Carroll has been training on her own.

Of her 1,000 wins, 176 were Stakes, 59 were graded and her horses have accumulated close to \$59 million. Carroll was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2019.

Spinzar is owned by LNJ Foxwoods. This was his 2<sup>nd</sup> win in 8 tries and he paid \$12.30.





**lizzie** @bookworm1621 · 1d

Anyone else see a jockey riding a horse??

@Kentuckyweather



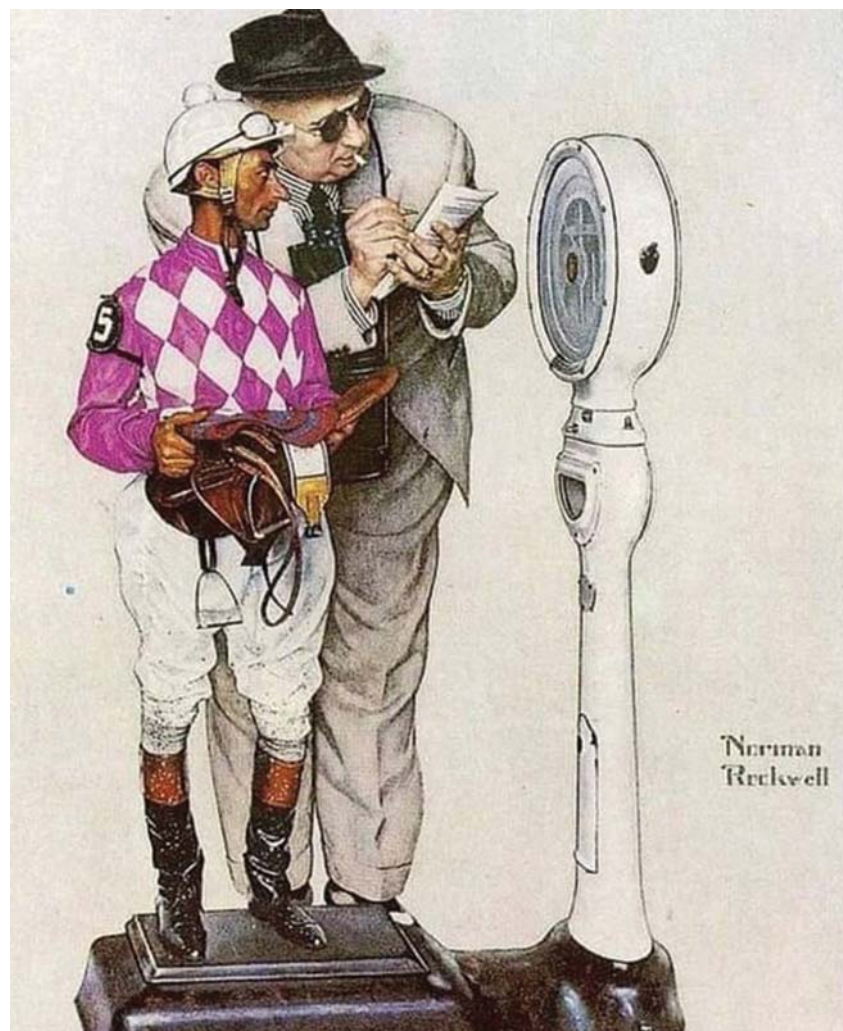
# ODDITIES & ENTITIES

We didn't really need any excuse to republish this lovely Jessica Hallett photograph. Hallett took this at the Saratoga harness track.



*Jessica Hallett*

This stunning photo by Clive Cohen of NewImage Media. is of Whichwaytothebeach returning to the paddock after winning the June 29 Preferred Pace at Mohawk on June 29... We're already giving Clive the O'Brien Award for Photographic Excellence



Classic Norman Rockwell



This had to be a first...a gender reveal harness race. At the Meadows Hollywood Casino in Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 6, two pacers competed – one bore a blue saddle cloth, the other a red one. The horse with the red saddle cloth won, so ...Sami

# DOWN THE STRETCH PODCAST

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

## June 24 Episode 230:

It was the Alywow Stakes at Woodbine for 3-year-old fillies. Jockey **Rafael Hernandez** talks about his 5 wins on Fathers' Day and how that shot him to the top of the jockeys' standings. The Dads' Day card at Ajax Downs featured another rendition of the mixed breed competition. **James MacDonald** couldn't get a flight to the Meadowlands, but that didn't keep **Hasty Bid** out of the winners' circle. **Frank Mirahmadi** just completed that 4-day Belmont meet at Saratoga, but we've got the entertaining race caller expanding on his winning appearance on the Price is Right. The price was right for anyone hitting the triactor last Tuesday at Royal Ascot and our Aussie correspondent, **Ric Chapman** filed a story about one punter who cashed very large on the outcome of a dog race.

## July 1 Episode 231:

There were 5 Stakes races Saturday at Woodbine and **Mark Casse** won 3 of them. This podcast features 4 Stakes events from Mohawk's Thursday card – 2 OSS Golds and a pair of Tompkins-Geers Grand Circuit races. Former jockey, **Francine Villeneuve** tells **Down The Stretch** how she became the agent for **Justin Stein** and **Skye Chernetz**. Villeneuve was very much an inspiration for the female jockeys of today so we have coverage of Monday's card at Fort Erie in which 4 of 7 races were won by women. There were 2 Stakes race at Ajax Downs last week. Jockey **Christian Benitez** will enjoy hearing the call of both of them And, we always enjoy chatting with **Ed Walton** who, at 61 and 6 feet tall, is hanging up his tack.

## July 8 Episode 232:

**James MacDonald** had another sensational weekend, winning the Canadian Driving Championships at Hippodrome 3R and delivering **Legendary Hanover** in a Meadowlands Pace elimination, though the win in the other elim by Nijinsky was the most impressive. Apprentice jockey, **Austin Adams** was in a special race in Deauville, France. Trainer **Mark Casse** gives **Down The Stretch** another wonderful interview about the day he won 3 of 5 Stakes races at Woodbine - along with the disappointment of the 2 he didn't win. It was Legends Day at Clinton and we've got one Hall of Famer, **Frank Salive** calling the win by another Hall of Famer, **Randy Waples**. An apprentice jockey named **Kelsi Harr** demolished the tote board in Minnesota producing a record daily double payoff. **Brian Bell**, a veteran jockey at Ajax Downs is the reason fans got a tasty treat at Wendy's. And just how good was Friday to trainer **Bill Tharrenos** when his two horses dead-heated for the win?

## July 15 Episode 233:

**Emma-Jayne Wilson** stands alone; she has broken **Julie Krone's** record for most money earned by a lady jockey. **James MacDonald** steered **Legendary Hanover** to an impressive win in the Meadowlands Pace. They're racing at Saratoga and a monster longshot shocked in the first Stakes race. We had more logical outcomes in the My Dear and Ballade Stakes at Woodbine. Trainer **Josie Carroll** talks with us as she inches closer to the 1000-win mark. A crazy Thursday night at Mohawk when 4 different drivers delivered daily doubles. We 'sample' **Hot Mic'd** with driver **Paul MacKenzie** and we go to Belterra Park for a history making win by 70-year-old **Perry Ouzts**. Did a horse really pay \$331 to place? And just how funny was it when a horse named **Ha Ha Ha** won at Royal Randwick?

## July 21 Episode 234:

A huge card at Woodbine Saturday with **Sahin Civaci** and **Sofia Vives** capturing 2 Stakes races each – Vives is the first apprentice to win the Woodbine Oaks. We've got a winners' circle tribute to **Emma-Jayne Wilson** the all-time purse earning lady jockey, and a 4-win day last week for another apprentice, **Pietro Moran**. **Casie Coleman** talks with us about winning the Meadowlands Pace with **Legendary Hanover**. We steal clips from **Unfiltered**, the definitive horse racing documentary. How smart did you need to be to bet on **Mensa** in the Victoria Stakes? And how devastated were bettors in Ireland when a sure winner jumped the fence just before the finish line?

## July 28 Episode 235

Host **Peter Gross** lost his voice this week, but no problem – friends and family signed on to get episode 235 off the launch pad. **Garnet Barnsdale** stepped in to host and his son, Nick broke down 5 OSS Golds from Mohawk Park. **Jennifer Morrison** filed from Ajax Downs and **Jim McKenny** recapped the Atlantic Womens' Driving Challenge. Peter's family rallied to the cause- son Roger handled the feature interview, grandson, Graham voiced the Stakes races from Woodbine and even Peter's 101-year-old mother, Marilyn nailed the script when quarter horse trainer Lauren Spada sent out a thoroughbred winner at Fort Erie. Also saving this podcast are Saratoga race caller **Frank Mirahmadi** and Canadian musical star, **Lu Kala**.

## August 4 Episode 236:

Once again, this podcast visits multiple locations for the best in horse racing. We have the Sweet Briar Stakes from Woodbine and the Whitney Stakes from Saratoga. **Garnet Barnsdale** reports from the Meadowlands on the \$1Million Hambletonian and a couple other races that really mattered. We talk with the charismatic **Robert Tiller** about his next great sprinter, **Patches O'Houlihan**, who won the Pink Lloyd Stakes under **Sofia Vives**. Vives gets props here for a 3-win day at Woodbine last Friday. **Jack Darling** owned and trained the world's fastest pacer, **Bulldog Hanover** – but why has he bought into a share of a thoroughbred? And you need to know that for the Ontario bred Futurity Stakes at Ajax Downs that....**Elvis** was in the building.

## August 12 Episode 237:

In this half hour of exciting, mind expanding, heart pounding horse racing content, we present:

+ The epic moment at Woodbine when trainer **Josie Carroll** scored her \$100<sup>th</sup> win

+ The **Bison City Stakes** and the **Canadian Stakes** from Woodbine

+ The **Pure Ivory** and **Millar Farms** Final trots from Mohawk

+ A night at the Canadian Hall of Fame Induction Gala featuring **Kevin Attard**, **Patrick Husbands**, **Sylvain Filion**, **Hec Clouthier**, **Dr. Ian Moore**, **Dan Vella** and **Richard Grubb**

+ **Jennifer Rivet** telling us how her boyfriend **A.J. Miziolek** proposed to her in the winners' circle after the horse she cares for won.

+ **Jim McKenny** broke **Peter Gross's** heart by going to Saratoga without him. McKenny breaks down his losing Saturday at the Spa.

+ We run the entire card from Ajax Downs and chat with **James Bogar** who is the leading trainer and the leading owner.

And how cool was it that a horse named **Federer** won a race in Australia on the same day that the 20 Grand Slam winner celebrated his 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday?

ON AIR

# DOWN THE STRETCH



A Podcast with Peter Gross