

DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER

Natasha Day's 6-sational night!

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Modern Games Paid Off in the Ricoh

The Grade 1, \$1,017,200 Ricoh Woodbine Mile on September 17 was part of the Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" program, which means the 3-year-old, Modern Games is going back. His first Breeders' Cup was controversial, to say the least.

In the Ricoh Mile, jockey William Buick executed a patient strategy, holding Modern Games in 8th down the backstretch, while long shots March to the Arch (Patrick Husbands),



Modern Games in the Ricoh

Michael Burns Photo

Get Smoking (Rafael Hernandez) and Mighty Heart (Justin Stein) exchanged blows up front. As the field came into the stretch after 6 furlongs in a brisk 1:09.39, Modern Games was 6-wide and barrelling. In the span of less and an 8th of a mile, he passed 7 rivals, had the lead a 16th of a mile out and romped to the finish line more than 5 lengths the best. That's just over a second slower than the record of 1:31.73 set last year by Olympic Runner, Ivar. (Joe Talamo) also arrived late to finish 2nd, and Finest Sound (Andrea Atzeni) was 3rd.

Recognizing the easy win, race caller Robert Geller proclaimed, "This 3-year-old is a star, and this time you can cash your ticket!"

That bright reference recalled last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile. In the chaos leading up to the race, Modern Games was accidentally scratched at the gate. When the mistake was noticed, he was reinstated, but all bets were returned. He would have been the favourite, and when he won handily, thousands of bettors were justifiably dismayed.

"He was back in the pack a little bit and he had to make a bit of room," said Buick. "But you saw he has that speed for a mile, you know that you need to get yourself out of trouble, so he picked up really fast and really good. It was a very good performance."

Modern Games is the first 3-year-old to win this race. He improved to 6-2-1 from 11 starts, and with the win, was gifted a fees-paid spot in the Grade 1 \$2 million Breeders' Cup Mile at Keeneland on November 5.

Buick would love to get another chance at Breeders' Cup glory with the multiple graded stakes winner.

"Very excited," said the jockey. "Of course, he's obviously a Juvenile Turf winner already last year, so you know he loves North American racing. We are very much looking forward to it."



William Buick rode him like a Cadillac

Trained by Charles Appleby and owned by Godolphin, Modern Games returned \$3.50.

Pattison Summer Stakes

The Grade 1, \$600,000 Pattison Summer Stakes for 2-year-olds was also a Breeders' Cup



An obvious afternoon for Mysterious Night

Win, and You're In contest, and it was also captured by the trio of Buick, Appleby, and Godolphin. Buick rode the 1-2 choice, Mysterious Night and there was nothing mysterious about the colt's win. With a 3-wide move at the head of the stretch, Mysterious Night rocketed from 4th to 1st in a matter of strides, and romped to the wire almost 6 lengths ahead of Appraise (Manny Franco) in 1:34.98 for the grassy mile.

It was the 3rd win in 6 starts for the Irish-bred Mysterious Night and he paid just \$3.10.

Seaway Stakes

At 7 furlongs on the Tapeta, the \$180,000 Seaway stakes attracted 9 fillies and mares. The excellent Lady Speightspeare justified the faith of the bettors who sent her off at 7-5 under the excellent Emma-Jayne Wilson. In mid-pack early, Lady Speightspeare surged to the front as the field turned for home and had to battle courageously to repel a determined Hazelbrook (Jason Hoyte) to win by 3/4 of a length in 1:21.79.

The 4-year-old filly is trained by the legendary Roger Attfield and is owned by Charles Fipke. Now a winner 7 times from 12 starts, Lady Speightspeare returned \$4.90.

Johnny Walker Natalma Stakes



Last Call got the first call

Michael Burns Photo

This was a Grade 1 with a purse of \$600,000, and the bettors got it wrong. They made Cairo Consort (Antonio Gallardo) the 8-5 choice, but it was the longest shot in the field of 7 that prevailed at the end of a mile on the turf.

Last Call and Rafael Hernandez rallied from 6th with a 4-wide move into the stretch and got to the wire winning by a length in 1:36.49. Last Call showed good timing to break his maiden in just his 3rd try. He is trained by Kevin Attard and owned by X-Men Racing, so the jockey, trainer and owners are the same bunch who sent out Moira to her Oaks and Queens Plate wins.

Last Call paid \$44.30 to win.

THE EDITOR WEIGHS IN



This newspaper is simply an extension of my long-term passion for horse racing and of the opportunities I have had to express it in the media. Wind the clock back to 1976: I had just been hired, at \$7,800 a year, as a reporter with Citytv and I was asked to do my first feature report. Considering my quantum lack of experience and knowledge in most relevant areas, I pitched a story called *How to Bet at the Racetrack*. Strangely, the producer approved.

I collected \$100 from my fellow employees, somehow persuading them that I was an expert in this realm. The cameraman, Don Purser and I went to Woodbine and started interviewing some of the jockeys in the day's feature race. I will never forget when Jeffrey Fell, the rider on a horse named Fort Prevel, told me,

"The other horses will make mine win."

This was my first lesson in "pace" handicapping. I bought a \$100 ticket to win, and Fort Prevel stalked the leader for the first half mile of this 6-furlong race, then surged to the front and won easily. The Citytv gambling cartel cashed \$550.

With that successful video essay accomplished, I parlayed any excuse to craft a horse racing story. On March 17, 1977,

I went to Greenwood Racetrack for Opening Day of the thoroughbreds, and filed a story on Avelino Gomez, calling him the world's most famous Irish jockey – *Avelin O'Gomez* – get it?

In June of 1980, Gomez died after a spill in the Canadian Oaks. I covered his funeral and after noticing dozens of racing fans gathered at the fence around the funeral home, I commented that "Gomez would be pleased to see railbirds at his service."

I vividly recall attending the 1998 Breeders Cup at Churchill Downs. I was standing beside Woodbine's John Siscos, when Frank Stronach's Awesome Again roared up between horses very late in the stretch to win what is arguably the most exciting Classic of all time. In that race, Swain, ridden by the legendary Frankie Dettori, bore out dramatically in the stretch, as if trying to buy a hot dog from under the stands. My buddy, Jim McKenny stood to win a lot had Swain won, and to this day, he still grumbles about that finish.

The next day, McKenny and the late Clint Nickerson and I drove home from Louisville. I had calculated that

little Toledo Downs in Ohio was precisely halfway back to Toronto. We decided to drop in for a few races. Clint bet \$6 on the superfecta and when his 4 horses finished 1-2-3-4, he swept the pool of about \$800. We were laughing hysterically, running out of the track as Clint handed each of his friends a \$50 bill.

Betting wise, I have a slight preference for thoroughbreds over harness races, but many of my great horse racing moments come from the standardbred side. Back in 1983, the legendary Ron Waples was piloting the superb Ralph Hanover. One spring morning, Waples allowed me to take Ralph around the Greenwood track. With a nervous trainer, Stu Firlotte driving his pick-up beside us, Waples sat in the back whistling and urging his champion horse. Ralph Hanover gave me nothing that day, pacing a half mile in about 1:30. But later that summer, he swept the Triple Crown of Pacing, knocking off the Messenger Stakes, the Cane Pace, and the Little Brown Jug.

Cam Fella was very much the "People's Horse" when he won his final 28 races in 1984. Before his last start that December at Greenwood, I joined a mob of reporters allowed to gaze on the superstar in the backstretch. Cam Fella held his head high, fully aware he was the star of the show.

I also had the immense pleasure of meeting the remarkable Somebeachsomewhere. Trainer/owner Brent McGrath had the horse stabled near Mohawk and brought him out at my request one afternoon – just another moment with greatness for me.

I have not had the thrill of meeting Bulldog Hanover, but this issue has multiple references to the awesome pacer. His win in the Breeders Crown (page 4) reinforces the argument that he is the greatest pacer of his time. We've got his win in the Canadian Pacing Derby (Page 16) and an essay from Dean Towers (Page 16) on whether the Bulldog is indeed the G.O.A.T. Had it not been for the Bulldog, what Natasha Day did at Western Fair on October 14 would be a candidate for most compelling story of the year. As we tell you on page 22, Day swept all 6 races of the Women's Driving Championship. The most emotionally riveting story in this issue is on pages 14-15 in which we meet the remarkable Cody Dorman, whose relationship with a winning racehorse is as inspiring as it gets. Also in this issue we have the Woodbine Ricoh Mile (page 2), the Mohawk Million (page 6), the Prince of Wales (page 7) and the E.P. Taylor Stakes (Page 12) There are 2 pages of Woodbine thoroughbred Stakes (pages 10-11) and props for driver James MacDonald (page 22). Our Thoroughbred Owner of the Month (page 19) is Donato Lanni who pilots X-Men Racing, and we have a quartet of MacDonalds as our Standardbred Owners of the Month (Page 20). Throw in another page of humour (page 9) and a full page of Oddities & Entities (page 27) and once again, this is an issue that requires reading from beginning to end.

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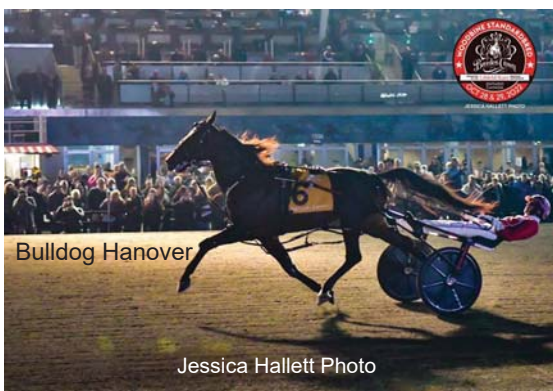
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His Last Canadian Race: Bulldog Hanover Brilliant in the Breeders Crown

If there was any doubt about his quantum superiority, the 14-year-old Bulldog Hanover laid it all to rest with a tour de force win in the \$610,000 Breeders Cup Open pace at Mohawk on October 29. Wasting 10 top-notch opponents with an authoritative victory by over 3 lengths in 1:46.4, he ran the fastest race ever in the history of the Breeders Crown and tied the track and Canadian records.



Bulldog Hanover

Jessica Hallett Photo

There was nothing easy about this win. Out of post 6, driver Dexter Dunn had to power the Bulldog on the outside until clearing at the half in :53.1. Similar to his last race in which he cut the pace, Bulldog was now cutting the pace with a perfectly situated Alywag Hanover drafting in second. Unlike in the Allerage, when Alywag came out late in the stretch to surprise Bulldog, this time the world's fastest pacer was too much in the stretch, coming home in :26.1 on a chilly night at Mohawk.

"He felt great tonight," said Dunn who had a Breeders Crown night to remember. "The fractions were fast. He had a good helmet to tow him to the backstretch after the first quarter. He grabbed hold like he has most of the year, and that gave me a lot of confidence coming into the last turn."

It was just more gravy on the plate for Jack Darling who trains and co-owns with Brad Grant. A few weeks ago, Darling was elected to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Even so, Darling felt emotionally fragile leading up to this race.

"The pressure going into this race was excruciating," said Darling. "I just wanted him to win so badly for the fans. When he started to step away, I felt really good about him."

This was Bulldog Hanover's last race at a Canadian track, but he does have a couple of appointments before 2022 is done.

"The plan is to race on November 10 at Rosecroft," said Darling. "And then he has one at the end of November at the Meadowlands."

The Breeders Crown Open Pace gave Bulldog Hanover his 13th win from 15 starts this year. In the middle of an 11-race win streak, Bulldog won the Billy Haughton Final in 1:45.4, the fastest mile ever paced. Owners Darling and Grant will get a cheque for \$405,000 from the Breeders Crown win. Those who bet on Bulldog Hanover got a tad less – \$2.40.

Open Mare Trot – \$472,500:



Bella Bellini

Dexter Dunn's most excellent night started in the Open Mare Trot, when he delivered Bella Bellini to a 2 1/2 length win in 1:51.1. Trained by Nifty Norman for owner David McDuffee, Bella Bellini won for the 19th time in 43 starts, becoming the sport's newest \$2 million winner. She paid \$3.80. The great trotting mare, Atlanta finished a strong second after cutting most of the mile. This was the final start in Canada for Atlanta, whose second-place cheque upped her career earnings to \$3,794,171.

Open Mare Pace – \$540,000:



Grace Hill

Local hero Doug McNair drove Grace Hill to a small upset win with 2-5 betting choice, Test of Faith, coming too late as Grace Hill hit the wire by a head in 1:48.4. Grace Hill is trained by Virgil Morgan and owned by Tom Hill. With her 18th career win, she paid \$13.30.

Three-Year-Old Filly Trot – \$911,250:



Jiggy Jog

Dunn's 2nd win of the night came courtesy of Jiggy Jog. After surging to the top down the backstretch, Jiggy Jog discouraged her rivals with a :27 final quarter to win by a length in 1:51.1, establishing a Stakes, track and Canadian record in the process. This was the filly's 10th win for trainer Ake Svanstedt. Owned by Jorgen Sparredal, Jiggy Jog is the first back-to-back winner in this division in 19 years. She paid \$6.80.

Three-Year-Old Filly Pace – \$810,000:



Treacherous Dragon

The win by Treacherous Dragon was a bonus for Scott Zeron, who was hurt in a spill in July, and didn't anticipate driving in the Breeders Crown. However, trainer Nancy Takter persuaded him to handle her filly, and that was an excellent decision, as Zeron found a lane very late in the stretch, and Treacherous Dragon surged to the wire to win by a neck in 1:49.1. Hot Lead Farm owns this one and with her 13th win in 24 races, treacherous Dragon paid \$9.50.

Three-Year-Old Colt Trot – \$810,000:



King of the North

This was a stunning performance by King of the North, driven aggressively by Mark MacDonald. King of the North went off at 5-1, but MacDonald ripped him to the front immediately from post 1. They hit the half in :54.3, and with a final quarter of :28.2, King of the North was all alone at the finish line, a winner by 4 lengths in 1:50.3. That bettered

the Stakes and Canadian record set the previous weekend by King of the North. Ray Schnittker trains and co-owns, and a win bet on King of the North was worth \$12.90.

Three-Year-Old Colt Pace – \$911,250:



Pebble Beach

Pebble Beach went off at 7-5 with Bythemissal at even money. Driver Todd McCarthy had Pebble Beach on the lead after a half in :54.1, and Pebble Beach stayed there, pacing home in :26.4 to win by over 3 lengths in 1:48.1. That was Pebble Beach's 15th win in 26 races. He is trained by Noah Daley, and he paid \$4.90.

Open Trot – \$810,000:



Ecurie D

Going to the front proved to be a winning tactic for Dexter Dunn, who launched Ecurie D to the lead from post 5 and cut out good fractions of :27.1, :55.2 and 1:23, before unleashing a final quarter of :28 to win by an intimidating 3 lengths in 1:51. That was Dunn's 3rd win of the night, before completing his 4-bagger with Bulldog Hanover. Ecurie D won for the 19th time in 29 starts for trainer Ake Svanstedt, and she paid \$4.50.

The bettors deserved props for their fine work. The total handle for the Friday and Saturday cards at Mohawk was \$8.9 million, blowing away the previous record of \$6.6 million for a two-night extravaganza at Mohawk, set in 2019.



Friday, October 28: Two-Year-Old Breeders Crown:

The four freshman finals of the 2022 Breeders Crown were each worth \$810,000. Some local horse people earned their first Crown trophies, as the big money races featured heavy favourites prevailing and a huge longshot shocking in the Colts and Geldings pace.



Bulldog Hanover

The 2-year-old colts trotted in the first Breeders Crown race. Louis-Philippe Roy orchestrated a winning drive from Gaines Hanover, even though historically post one is a difficult starting point. Roy had Gaines Hanover 7th into the first turn, got cover behind the 7-5 favourite, Celebrity Bambino just before the half, and was able to launch his winning bid in the stretch, get-

ting his neck in front just before the wire in 1:53.2. For driver Roy and trainer Richard Moreau, it was a first Breeders Crown win. Montreal based Gestion Blais owns the son of Cantab Hall who was recording his 4th win in 8 tries this year, and he paid \$9.60.

Hanover Shoe Farms bred both Gaines Hanover and the winner of the Breeders Crown pace for 2-year-old fillies, as the heavily favoured Sylvia Hanover gave Bob McClure a 1:51.1 ride to win. Shawn Steacy trains for Hudson Standardbred. Sylvia Hanover breezed home easily for her 7th straight win and her 8th in 9 starts. This is Steacy's 1st Breeders Crown win, though he doesn't have bragging rights in his own family. His father, Mark has 3. All the bettors got for their win ticket on Sylvia Hanover was \$3.00.

The next race, the 2-Year-Old Fillies Trot, not only produced a 2nd straight 7-race win streak, but a track and Canadian record. Special Way hauled down local favourite Righteous Resolve to win in 1:52, the fastest ever recorded for this

class, and the lowest mark ever in Canada for 2-year-old trotting girls. Ake Svanstedt trains and drove Special Way for the owners and breeders, Brittany Farms, Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld, all long-time supporters and sponsors of the Breeders Crown. Special Way returned \$3.00 on the win ticket.

After those low-paying fillies, the 2-year-old boys produced a mind-blowing result in the Breeders Crown Pace. Dave Miller scored his 30th Breeders Crown trophy with a great drive behind Ammo who had to rip to the front from post 9. Miller and Ammo cleared just past the first quarter, and then allowed Combustion to go past at the half in :56.1. Miller's patience paid off in the stretch as Ammo fired up the inside and found the wire by half a length over a fast closing 1-2 favourite, Confederate in 1:50.4. Owned by Val D'Or Farms and Ted Gewertz, the Sweet Lou son trained by Joe Holloway was notching his 2nd win in just 5 career starts. This was Holloway's 10th Breeders Crown title, and those who backed Ammo cashed \$106 on their \$2 win tickets.

Mohawk Million 2022:

All's well that ends Oh Well



When the 2-year-old Oh Well won the \$1 million Mohawk Million at Mohawk Park on September 24, it gave Steve and Cindy Stewart and their Hunterton Farms an extraordinary triactor. They bred the first two winners of the Mohawk Million – Venerate and Venerable and, along with some partners, they purchased a \$100,000 slot this year.

Oh Well, driven by Tim Tetrick was sent off as the 4-5 favourite, and he got a nifty drive as befits a heavy choice. Tetrick had Oh Well safely in 4th after the first quarter, and then decided to move him to the front down the backstretch. After a half mile in :56.1, Oh Well was passing rivals and he had the lead at the ¾ mark in 1:24.4. With a final quarter in :29, Oh Well was 2 ½ lengths the best in 1:53.4, which was a record for this Stakes race.

“I just had to be careful on the rail. You just don’t want to get pinned and then not get out,” said Tetrick of having post 1. “I don’t think the size of the track even bothers him at all. He’s a big strong colt, he’s great gaited, and mainly just keep him focused because he’ll look at butterflies if you let him. He’s got a big engine, he never gets tired, and he’s a really nice colt.”

Oh Well improved to 4 wins in 6 starts. A son of Muscle Hill’s Fine Tuned Lady, he was a \$530,000 purchase at the 2021 Harrisburg Yearling Sale. He has now earned \$858,130.

“Right from the start, he was a beautiful colt,” said the winning trainer, Marcus Melander. “He cost a lot of money. If you buy a high-price yearling, it doesn’t mean they’re going to be good. He’s covered a lot of ground and he’s a great horse.”

Those who backed the winner of the 3rd Mohawk Million got just \$3.40 on the win ticket, to which they probably said, “Oh Well!”

Canadian Trotting Classic

There was an abundance of chaos in the \$615,000



Canadian Trotting Classic. Two horses were quickly eliminated at the start. Both Duly Resolved and Twin B Archie went off stride and plummeted to the back of the field. As the trotters were approaching the ¾ mark, the even money favourite, Branded By Lindy wasted a second over trip by going off-stride. As the field turned for home, Slay, driven by Jon Bongiorno made a break in stride which lasted very briefly, as the horse quickly reset, then stormed up the rail to haul down Pretender for the win. There was a judges’ inquiry to figure out if the horse, as the rules demand, lost ground while off stride. The decision allowed Slay to stay in first place.

The Chapter Seven colt matched the feat of his older brother, Ahundreddollarbill who captured this race last year.

“We just got a little bit jammed up in there. He caught a boot,” said Bongiorno about the momentary bobble. “It was surprising to me as it probably was to everyone else. It was very uncharacteristic for him. Like a great horse does, he got back really quick. I figured going for this kind of money, I just had to drive him through the wire and let the judges make their decision.

“He showed determination,” said the winning trainer, Tony Alagna. “This horse really likes to win. It’s kind of fun to have two full brothers win it back-to-back years, both owned by the Crawfords. It’s special.”

For Slay, owned by Crawford Farms Racing and James Crawford, it was the 5th win in 12 attempts this season, as he jacked his 2022 earnings to \$594,000 and over \$700,000 lifetime. Slay paid \$18.60.

Metro Pace



The 2-year-old pacers got to race for \$900,000. The crowd sent Stockade Seelster off at 4-1 against Save America, who was the 3-5 favourite. There was some unusual driving down the backstretch, as Jody Jamieson had Stockade Seelster coming up on the outside of Save America just past the half. It was difficult to assess whether it was intentional, but Yannick Gingras allowed Save America to drift to the centre of the track, which let Stockade Seelster slip easily back to the rail. That just might have given Stockade Seelster a winning breather because he was able to come out in the stretch and overhaul Save America with the rest of the field several lengths behind. The mile was timed in 1:50.1.

“Well, Yannick was looking to let me go and I knew,” said Jamieson about the weird mid-race antics. “There was a gap there and I took it. It’s as simple as that. At the head of the lane, I was kind of shocked a bit that I had him. He just dug in and paced right to the wire.”

Stockade Seelster is trained by Dr. Ian Moore, who won the Metro Pace for the first time. The horse is owned by Paul MacDonald and his aunt, Sally MacDonald.

“This is a pretty nice colt,” said Moore. “We got a full performance from him tonight. And Jody did a heck of a job, no doubt about that.”

With his 7th win in 8 starts, Stockade Seelster paid \$10.30.

Elegantimage



Sylvia Seelster

Three-year-old trotting fillies raced for \$350,000 and it was Raised By Lindy, steered by Yannick Gingras who went off at even money. That turned out to be cash in the pocket, as Gingras took her to the front after a first quarter of :27.1. Raised By Lindy trotted happily past the half in :56 and was 2 lengths the leader at the ¾ mark in 1:24.3.

Down the stretch, the only legitimate threat would have been the 2nd betting choice, Warrawee Xenia, but she exploded into a gallop part way down the lane. Raised By Lindy won the race handily in 1:52.1. This was the 4th win of the year and 9th lifetime win for Raised By Lindy who is owned by her breeders Lindy Farms and trained by Domenico Cecere.

She’s a Great Lady



Raised By Lindy

Having won 5 of her first 6 races, Sylvia Hanover looked a cinch to the bettors who pounded her down to 1-2. Bob McLure took the cue from the crowd and steered the heavy choice in the 11-horse field of 2-year-old fillies as if she were much the best. Sylvia Hanover led the bunch to the half in :56.3, was leading by more than a length at ¾ in 1:25.2, and threw a discouraging :26.2 final quarter at her rivals to win by a measured length in 1:51.4. Sylvia Hanover is trained by Shawn Steacy and owned by Hudson Standardbred. She paid just \$3.00 to win.

Duke of Love in the Prince of Wales



Duke of Love

Michael Burns Photo

Queen's Plate and Woodbine Oaks champion, Moira passed on the 87th Prince of Wales, but the two favoured colts put on a battle that consumed all the mile and $\frac{3}{16}$ on the Fort Erie dirt. From the start, Ironstone, off at 6-5 under Kazushi Kimura, and Duke of Love, a 5-2 shot with Justin Stein, engaged each other and gradually pulled away from the 5 others in the field. At the quarter in a swift 22.93, Ironstone was about a length ahead of Duke of Love. After 4 furlongs, that margin was a half length. At the head of the stretch, the two were virtually equal, and it was several lengths back to Ice Road (Jason Hoyte). Duke of Love had to work for it, but at the wire, he was $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length better than a feisty Ironstone. The time for the distance on a muddy track was 1:58.07.

Duke of Love is a son of Cupid. He is trained by Josie Carroll, who won the Prince of Wales for the 3rd time. The owners are the 900 plus investors in a micro share racing syndicate named MyRacehorse.

This was Justin Stein's first Prince of Wales victory.

"I'm on a high. Put it that way. It will last all day, and tomorrow, and probably into Thursday," said Stein.

Stein saw the win as vindication for Duke of Love, a horse he had ridden in 6 previous starts, including the Queen's Plate where the horse was a disappointing 8th, some 16 lengths behind Moira.

"The Plate was a throw out race," said Stein. "Today, when Duke was on the track in post-parade, he had his game face on. He was a lot cooler. His body temperature on Plate Day – he got pretty nervous and warm, a little bit worked up. Today he knew what he was doing. He kept looking back at the gate, like 'are we going to go?' You could just feel his energy was a lot more in tune with what he was supposed to be doing today."

Josie Carroll's previous Prince of Wales wins came with Mighty Heart and Amis Gizmo.

"He got the trip today. Justin rode him perfectly," said Carroll. "We discussed what we were hoping for. I wanted Justin off the fence where he wasn't going to be squeezed down in there and be in a lot of trouble this time. We wanted him to get a nice clear trip. The horse looked a little bit lost in the lead in the stretch, but Justin kept busy

on him and got him home."

MyRacehorse's East Coast racing manager, Harry Rice was on hand to watch Duke of Love persevere and capture the second jewel of the OLG Canadian Triple Crown. He was elated with the victory.

"It was awesome," said Rice. "We have about 900 owners that are involved with Duke. So, to have the 25 that we have here and see him finally put it together – we always knew he was going to. It was something else. We had people who travelled from all over –

Americans, Canadians, and it was just an unbelievable day. Justin gave him a great ride, so it was good."

Plate Trial winner, Sir for Sure attracted lots of support from the bettors, going off at just over 5-2 as the third

Sir for Sure suffered no injuries. Neither did Carroll, who was back riding two days later at Woodbine. There were 4 other Stakes races on Fort Erie's biggest day of the year. The Lake Erie Stakes and Rondeau Bay Stakes are both part of the Ontario Sire Heritage Series.

Bossy Holiday out-battled Uncle Joe to capture the \$100,000 Lake Erie Stakes. Jockey Luis Contreras got the 3-year-old to the wire first by a head. Bossy Holiday, also trained by Carroll and owned by Ivan Dalos paid \$17.00 to his backers.

"He broke really sharp, and after that he was just fighting the whole way and fought hard in the end," reported Contreras.

Carroll also trained Bossy Holiday's sire, Ami's Holiday.

"That's a lot of fun, training for the Dalos," she said. "We've got generational horses and it just makes it very special."

Pleasure's Gold took down the \$100,000 Rondeau Bay Stakes for trainer Tino Attard and owners Elizabeth and Gordon Lickrish. Rafael Hernandez delivered the 3-year-old filly by 2 lengths which produced a \$14.80 win ticket.

Because of rain during the afternoon, the \$32,000 Molson Cup was taken off the grass and contested over a $1\frac{1}{16}$ mile over the dirt. Emma-Jayne Wilson rode Super Chianti to an impressive 5-length win. The filly is trained by Michaela Neubauer for owner Charles Fipke.

Neubauer was probably surprised by the \$14.50 payoff.

"I thought the distance would be fine and she's been training so great," she said. "So, we just took the shot."

Le Cinquieme Stakes had an appropriate winner as Strong Ending (Olaf Hernandez) repelled Letting Loose (Marklee Buchanan) to record his 5th straight win at Fort Erie. Strong Ending is trained by Richard Davis for owner Bruno Schickedanz. Olaf Hernandez rode the horse to victory in the Puss N Boots Stakes eight days prior and celebrated that with the traditional jump in the pond.

Davis claimed Strong Ending for \$5,000 at Tampa



Justin Stein's 1st Prince of Wales

choice, but jockey Declan Carroll found himself in tight company in the first turn and ended up dislocated from his horse.

"My horse got a touch off balance in the first turn," said Carroll. "The horse on the outside kind of squeezed me and when my horse took an awkward step, I became unbalanced, and my right stirrup came loose. That's when you saw my body turn. It was a very unfortunate incident."

Downs earlier this year. The Fort Erie based trainer didn't anticipate the claim would lead to five wins in a row at the border oval this season.

"I knew he was a nice horse. I figured he would like it here at Fort Erie, but I wasn't expecting this at all," he said.

The sumptuous buffet of Stakes races at the Fort on a Tuesday afternoon was reflected in a strong handle of more than \$2.1 million in wagering.

PERFECT TIMBER



TALK TO YA LATER captures Woodbine's \$100,000 Algoma S. by 3 1/2 lengths in her stakes debut.

PERFECT SOUL (IRE) – TIMBER ICE, BY WOODMAN

50% Winners/Starters and 33% Stakes Horses/Starters From His First Two Crops

First Crop – 3YOs **TALK TO YA LATER** (SW and Woodbine 2YO debut winner), Santa Anita maiden winner **PINEDALE**.

Second Crop – 2YO **Fortyfiveventy**, placed in Woodbine's \$250,000 Princess Elizabeth S.

Third Crop – \$55,000 colt at Fasig-Tipton October Yearling Sale.

[**Owner: Charles Fipke**]

2023 FEE: \$2,500
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Photo by Michael Burns



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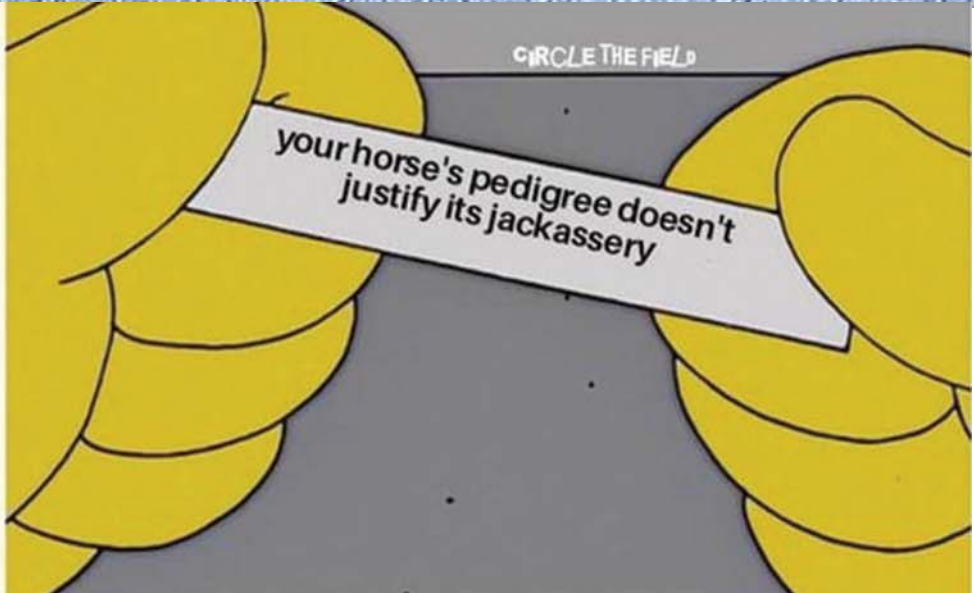
Perry & Mooch



Remember social distancing?



Wow, the fortune cookies here really are more accurate.



your horse's pedigree doesn't justify its jackassery

Woodbine Stakes

August 28, \$100,000 Algoma Stakes:



Talk to Ya Later

Michael Burns Photo

Only five 3-year-old fillies burst from the gate to compete at 7 furlongs, and Talk to Ya Later rallied from last under Emma-Jayne Wilson to win by a widening 3 ½ lengths in 1:24.43. This was just the 3rd start for Talk to Ya Later, and her second win. She is trained by Ian Black, owned by Piano Bar Racing, and she paid \$10.10.

August 28, \$100,000 Elgin Stakes:



Full Screen

Michael Burns Photo

The 3-year-old boys went 7 furlongs, and Full Screen, ridden by Jeffrey Alderson was the best of 9. Full Screen was close from the start, surged to the lead before the field turned for home, and simply widened his advantage all the way down the stretch to win by 4 ¾ lengths in 1:23.35. Full Screen won for the 2nd time in 8 tries. The gelding is owned by Nidel Charfi and trained by Julie Belhumeur, and those who backed him got \$11.50 to win.

August 28, \$202,000 Simcoe Stakes:



Gran Spirited

Michael Burns Photo

This one was for 2-year-old colts and geldings at 6 ½ furlongs on the Tapeta. A full field of 13 battled it out and late in the stretch, Gran Spirited, ridden by Declan Carroll, surged up to claim victory by a neck in 1:18.23. That's 2 straight wins for Gran Spirited, whose only other race resulted in a 6th place finish. The trainer is Mark Casse for Heste Sport, and the win ticket was worth \$14.20.

August 28, 201,600 Muskoka Stakes:

A dozen 2-year-old fillies were entered here, required to go 6 ½ furlongs. The favourite at just over 2-1, was Anam Cara, ridden by Patrick Husbands. Anam Cara was 7th



Anam Cara

Michael Burns Photo

down the backstretch, made a 3-wide move at the quarter pole and galloped impressively down the lane to win by 1 ¾ lengths in 1:17.61. The filly has now won both her starts. She is trained and owned by Sarah Ritchie, and she produced a \$6.70 win ticket.

September 3, \$150,000 Vice Regent Stakes:



Forester's Fortune

Michael Burns Photo

Silent Poet (Justin Stein) was bet down to 4-5 in this 7-horse field going 5 furlongs on the inner turf, but heading into the far turn, he was severely interfered with by Rockcrest (Keveh Nicholls). Stein had to check badly, and Silent Poet lost all chance. Rockcrest had a clear lead in mid-stretch but faltered as Forester's Fortune (Daisuke Fukumoto) surged in the last 8th to win by a head over Wedgewood (Jason Hoyte) in :56.90. That made trainer Rodney Barrow the winner for the owners Archie Lee and Claudia Evelyn Silvera. With her first win of the year and the 5th in 23 starts, Forester's Fortune paid \$18.20.

September 4, \$100,800 Zadracarta Stakes:



Lorena

Michael Burns Photo

At 5 furlongs on the inner turf, this race attracted 10 fillies and mares. The 5-2 favourite, Stormy Silence (Sahin Civaci) was in the mix from the start, but it was Lorena and Hall of Fame jockey Gary Boulanger who flashed from 4th into the stretch to win by half a length in :57.29. Lorena belongs to Brent and Russell McLellan, Kai Olguin, and the filly's trainer, Stuart Simon also has a share. The 4-year-old filly won for the 7th time in 12 starts which makes that \$13.70 win price quite easy to take.

September 10, \$150,000 Toronto Cup Stakes:



Luckman

Michael Burns Photo

At a mile on the turf for 3-year-olds, this race had a field of 10 with Churchtown (Declan Carroll) off as the 9-5 choice. As the field turned for home, several horses seemed to have a chance. Churchtown surged to the lead about a quarter mile out, but it was Luckman, under Daisuke Fukumoto, who rallied from 10th down the backstretch, split rivals late in the mile and got to the wire a neck before Churchtown in 1:34.36. Trained by Vito Armata for Alpine Stable, Luckman ran his win streak to 4, all at Woodbine, which makes the \$18.80 win price very tasty.

September 11, \$250,000 Wonder Where Stakes:



Sister Seagull

Michael Burns Photo

Moira won the Woodbine Oaks, the first leg of the Triple Tiara for fillies, but didn't run in the Bison City, won by Sister Seagull. Despite taking down the 2nd leg, Sister Seagull did not go off as the favourite in the mile and a quarter Wonder Where on the grass. Whimsical Dance (Declan Carroll) left the gate at even money in the 6-horse field. Sister Seagull, ridden by Antonio Gallardo was 5th around the far turn, but parlayed impressive momentum to pass others coming into the stretch, then put away a game Swoop to Finish (Emma-Jayne Wilson) to win by a length in 2:04.55. Sister Seagull improved to 3 for 5 this year for trainer Catherine Day Phillips and owners Sean and Dorothy Fitzhenry. The \$2 win ticket was worth \$7.90.

September 24, \$100,000 Victorian Queen Stakes:

The 2-year-old fillies, 8 of them, dashed 7 furlongs on the grass, and this one punctuated a great day at the track for jockey Rafael Hernandez. Hernandez was riding Ancient Spirit for trainer Sid Attard, and he orchestrated an ideal trip for the rookie filly. Ancient Spirit tracked the early lead of longshot Cara Cara (Kazushi Kimura), then decided to take the lead as the field turned for home. At the wire, Ancient Spirit was much the best by 2 ½ lengths in 1:21.80. This was Hernandez's 3rd winner of the day. Ancient Spirit won for the 2nd time in 2 lifetime starts for her owner, Norseman Racing Stable and she paid \$8.20.

September 24, \$100,000 Bull Page Stakes:

Only six 2-year-old boys were in this heat, and Patrick

Husbands took away the suspense early by gunning the 8-5 choice, Poulin in O T straight to the top. With sharp fractions of :45.55 and 1:09.02, Poulin in O T was able to skate easily to the finish line with a regulation time win in 1:22.02, about a 5th of a second slower than Ancient Spirit's time for the same distance. Poulin in O T is trained by Steven Owens who shares the horse with Empress Stable. The chestnut gelding notched his 3rd win in 4 tries and paid \$5.30.

September 25, \$180,000 Vigil Stakes:

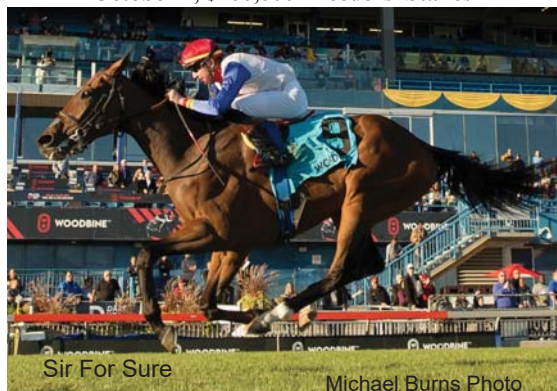
A field of 8 was asked to sprint 6 furlongs on the Tapeta. Leo Salles was able to unleash Lucky Score late, going for the come-from-behind win. Lucky Score was last of 8 down the backstretch, launched a 6-wide move into the stretch and passed rivals easily to win by 1 ¼ lengths in the very good time of 1:08.63. Lucky Score is trained by Willy Armata for Dominic Liscio and Danny Iandoli. The 4-year-old gelding won for the 5th time in 12 starts and paid \$14.70.

October 1, \$125,000 Duchess Stakes



There were just five 3-year-old fillies in this race, which was 7 furlongs on the Tapeta. This one finished in the exact order of the odds as determined by the bettors. The 4-5 favourite, Loyalty (under Luis Contreras) needed about 3 furlongs to get the lead and once there, the pair was not seriously challenged. Loyalty got to the wire 1 ½ lengths the best in 1:22.90. Josie Carroll trains for Gainsway Stable and LNJ Foxwood, and Loyalty returned \$3.80.

October 2, \$400,000 Breeders' Stakes



The 3rd jewel in the Canadian Triple Crown attracted 9 horses. Sir For Sure, winner of the Plate Trial went off at 6-1, mostly because his last racing line showed that he dumped jockey Declan Carroll somewhere in the first turn. This time, Carroll stayed on the horse and was able to orchestrate a winning strategy. Sir For Sure tracked the field from near the back for the first half of the 1 ½ miles on turf. Carroll took his mount 6-wide coming into the stretch and was able to parlay that momentum into a comfortable win by a widening 2 lengths with stable mate, Hall of Dreams in second. The time for the 10 furlongs was 2:28.88. Sir for Sure is trained by Mark Casse and owned by Heste Sport and he won for the 3rd time in 8

starts. He paid \$14.80 to win.

October 9, \$251,600 Cup and Saucer Stakes:



A dozen 2-year-olds went a mile and a 16th on the grass, and at the end it was a late surge from the 9-5 favourite, Philip My Dear and Kazushi Kimura that decided it. Kimura had Philp My Dear far back early, but with an ambitious 8-wide surge into the stretch, the pair overwhelmed their opposition to score in 1:41.61. Philip My Dear is trained by Kevin Attard for Raroma Stable, and with his 3rd win in 4 tries, he returned \$5.60.

October 9, \$100,400 Overskate Stakes:



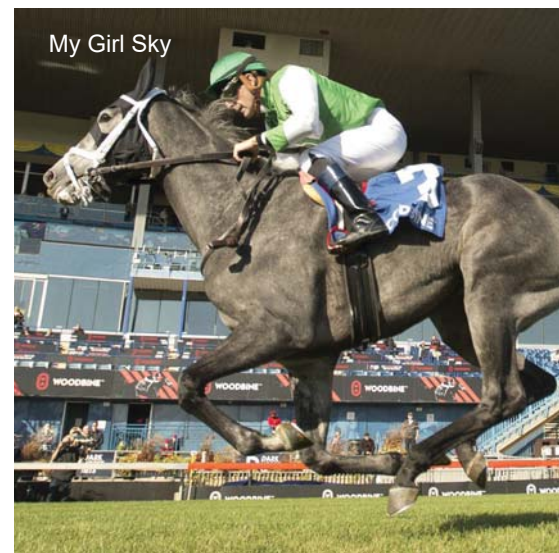
This one was 7 ½ furlongs on the inner turf for 3-year-olds and up. Not So Quiet (Rafael Hernandez), the 2-1 choice, was barely heard from, flattening out late to finish 7th. Up front there was a furious finish as Dun Drum (Emma-Jayne Wilson) and Mason's Gamble (Luis Contreras) appeared to hit the finish line together. The photograph gave it to Dun Drum by a nose. Dun Drum is a 6-year-old gelding trained by Ian Black and owned by Janet Black, Joan Addison, and Barbara Brown. With his 6th win in his 30th race, he paid \$17.70.

October 15, \$180,000 Ontario Fashion Stakes:



Hazelbrook and Jason Hoyte were pounded down to 1-2 in this field of fillies and mares going 6 furlongs, and the favourite delivered. Hoyte had Hazelbrook close all the way, took the lead as they turned for home, and found the wire ¾ of a length the best in the impressive time of 1:08.38, close to the course record of 1:07.63 set by Nobals earlier this year. The 4-year-old Hazelbrook has won 6 of his 9 races for trainer Lorne Richards and True North Stable. The winning bettors had to settle for \$3.10.

October 16, \$251,000 Princess Elizabeth Stakes:



There was a nice upset in this one, as Kazushi Kimura rode Jumpin Junie to a front running win, finding the wire 1 ½ lengths ahead of the 8-5 favourite, Me and My Shadow (Emma-Jayne Wilson) at the end of a mile and a 16th on the Tapeta. This was a maiden-breaking win for Jumpin Junie, who was 5th then 2nd in her first two starts. She is owned by Sea Glass Stables and trained by Danny Vella, and she put up a \$29.70 win price.

October 21, \$100,500 Thunder Bay Stakes:



A field of nine 3-year-old fillies were asked to go 7 furlongs on the turf, and it was My Girl Sky and Steven Bahen who went the fastest. In mid-pack early, My Girl Sky parlayed a 4-wide move at the top of the stretch into an emphatic victory by 1 ¾ lengths in 1:23.53. My Girl Sky is trained by Katerina Vassilieva for owner Kevin Drew, and the win ticket was worth \$16.40.

October 21, \$100,000 Lake Superior Stakes:



Banff (who was bred in Ontario and not Alberta) was the only favourite to prevail on this day, and he did so just barely, winning a photo by a head over Hunt Master (Emma-Jane Wilson). Ridden by Sahin Civaci, Banff rallied furiously from last at the head of the stretch to record the victory in 1:22.05 for the 7 grassy furlongs. This is a 3-year-old gelding owned by Brigitte and Douglas Cheetham and trained by Martin Drexler. Banff paid \$3.20 to win.

Lots of Drama in the Grade 1 \$750,000 E.P. Taylor

by Chris Lomon

A tremendous recovery by the French filly, Rougir had racing fans talking after the running of the E.P. Taylor Stakes at 1 ¼ miles on the turf on October 8. There were 9 contestants in this one and Queen's Plate champion, Moira was installed as the even money favourite.

It was Adventuring (Antonio Gallardo), riding a two-race win streak, who went to the front, as Lemista (Luis Contreras) and Mylady (Andrasch Starke) picked up the chase in 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Rougir, with Kazushi Kimura in the irons, settled into 7th through an opening quarter timed in :26.78, while Moira, under Rafael Hernandez, bided her time in 6th.



Adventuring held a 1 ½-length lead at the half, reached in :51.39, as Mylady and Lemista continued to apply pressure on the frontrunner. Rougir seemed to be running comfortably in 7th, but early in the backstretch appeared to take a bad step and had to be steadied as she dropped back dramatically. Typically, a setback like that would eliminate a filly from having any chance, but Rougir did not run a typical race.

As the field turned into the long E. P. Taylor stretch, Moira looked to have a great chance at victory. However, as Hernandez guided his charge to the inside, Moira cut off Lemista, who lost her stride along with any chance.

Meanwhile, Rougir was executing an extraordinary comeback, roaring up on the outside. Both Rougir and Moira were galloping full tilt to the wire, with Rougir getting there the best by a head in 2:02.62.

It didn't take long for the inquiry sign to flash. Contreras lodged an objection about the way Lemista was treated, and the stewards also wished to review the stretch run. Unfortunately, Moira, justifiably, was found guilty, disqualified from 2nd, and placed 8th.

"I had been struggling because this horse had moved me up so sharply that I had to pick a pathway," said Kimura. "So, when he comes from the corner it was tremendous, I was trying so hard. I was so confident, but those horses already had experience from the long stretch."

It was the 6th win, along with one 2nd and three 3rds, from 19 starts for Rougir, bred by Jan Krauze, and owned by Peter Brant and Michael Tabor. Chad Brown was the winning trainer. It was also Rougir's first win since a 3-length triumph in the Grade 3 Beaugay on May 14 at Belmont.

Rougir paid \$12.60

The E.P. Taylor was also the final leg of Woodbine's "Ladies of the Lawn," a three-race turf stakes series for fillies and mares consisting of the Dance Smartly, Canadian, and E.P. Taylor.

Fev Rover (IRE), second in the Dance Smartly, winner of the Canadian, and 3rd in the E.P. Taylor, finished with 22 points for the Ladies of the Lawn bonus prize of \$50,000. Points were awarded on a 10-7-5-3-2 basis for the top five finishers in each stakes race, with one point earmarked for other also rans.

In other stakes action, Firing Bullets took the \$150,900 Woodbine Cares, and Bushido took the \$152,100 Ontario Racing.

Trained by Mark Casse for Gary Barber, Firing Bullets, a son of Firing Line-Twisted Beauty, got up in the final strides under Kazushi Kimura to take the Woodbine Cares, a 5-furlong Inner Turf race for 2-year-old fillies.

Fearless Angel, also from the Casse barn, was a nose back in second. No Kay Never (IRE) was third.

The final time was :58.14 over firm ground.

Firing Bullets, bred in Kentucky by Texas Star Farm, paid \$15.60 for the win.

Bushido made it two straight victories to start his career, easily winning the Ontario Racing Stakes.

Trained by Darwin Banach, the son of First Samurai and Burma Road notched a 2 ¾-length score in a time of :57.52 in the 5-furlong Inner Turf race for 2-year-olds.

Bred in Kentucky by Lantern Hill Farm LLC, and owned by Bushido LLC Syndicate, Bushido paid \$5.40 for the win.

The chestnut ridgling won his debut, also a 5-furlong Inner Turf race, on September 4 by 5 ¼ lengths.

As part of Woodbine's Aftercare Day, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, and LongRun Retirement Society, both had representatives onsite Saturday for an afternoon that included Woodbine presenting \$5,000 cheques to each charity in a winner's circle ceremony.

Nearctic Stakes

Cazadero, under Patrick Husbands, closed with authority to win the Grade 2 \$255,500 Nearctic Stakes.

The 6-furlong turf stakes for 3-year-olds and upward attracted a competitive field of 8, including Cazadero, a 4-year-old son of Street Sense and Wild Gams.

Into the Sunrise (Luis Contreras) took control soon after the gates opened and was immediately confronted to his



Michae Burns Photo

outside by 2020 Nearctic winner, Silent Poet (Justin Stein), and 4-5 choice Bound for Nowhere (Kazushi Kimura).

Ahead by a half-length after a quarter in :22.93, Into the Sunrise continued to be hounded by the duo of Silent Poet and Bound for Nowhere, as Husbands and Cazadero considered them all from back in eighth.

As the field turned for home, through a half in :45.29, Silent Poet and Bound for Nowhere enveloped the leader and then looked to separate themselves from their rivals down the long E.P. Taylor stretch. Cazadero, still last, began to pick up momentum in early stretch and started to gain steadily on the lead pair.

Mid-way down the lane, Cazadero was in full flight, gliding past the frontrunners en route to a 2 ¼-length score.

The final time for six panels over firm going was 1:09.11.

"I just looked at the form and saw that this is the second time he's gone on the turf," said Husbands, aboard for the first time. "In the last race, he came off the pace, flying. I just tried to ride him back the same way."

It was the 4th win from 10 starts for Cazadero, trained by Brendan Walsh for Marc Detampel.

The win price was \$18.40.

Durham Cup by Bill Tallon

The Durham Cup, at 1 mile and a 16th on the Tapeta and worth \$180,000, also featured a stunning come from behind rally for victory. Who's the Star, ridden patiently by Emma-Jayne Wilson, overcame a sluggish start, found himself 8th after 7 furlongs, but had more than enough gallop to pass 7 rivals in the stretch for the impressive win.

The 4-year-old gelding, one of three horses in the field trained by Mark Casse, was making his first start on a synthetic surface and finished in a track record time of 1:40.73 while scoring by a half-length over Artie's Storm, in the \$157,500 event.



Michae Burns Photo

"I knew this horse would come running on in, that's what he did the last time he was here," said jockey Emma-Jayne Wilson, who was recording her second straight upset stakes score with the 9-1 Who's the Star after capturing the Niagara over 1 ¼ miles on the E.P. Taylor course at 13-1 in their first partnership.

"And he's pretty speedy that last quarter," added Wilson. "He was just motoring home. I was really impressed."

Who's the Star, who began his career in California, joined Casse's string in Florida this winter and looks to have developed a fondness for Woodbine with the Durham Cup his third win in as many outings. The Durham Cup win was the fifth for Casse and the fourth for Wilson.

Owned by M Racing Group LLC, Who's the Star is a Kentucky-bred by Tonalist out of the Carson City mare Shine Forth and was a \$375,000 yearling.

The winner returned \$20.10.

OSS Super Finals

The Saturday October 15 card at Mohawk Park had 8 OSS Gold Super Finals, each worth \$225,000.



New Image Media Photo

The night began with the 2-year-old filly trot, and it produced a big win for Righteous Resolve and a miniscule payoff for the bettors. Driven by Paul MacDonell, Righteous Resolve went off at 1-9. Out of post 3, MacDonell settled Canada's fastest trotting 2-year-old of 2022 into 4th, pulled right after the first quarter and with a first-over move easily had the lead to the half in :56.3. With an easy 3rd quarter of :29.2, Righteous Resolve had her rivals at her mercy and experienced no threats in the stretch, flashing a :28.4 final quarter to win by 2 ½ lengths ahead of Mass Hysteria in a 1:54.4 mile.

Righteous Resolve is trained by John Bax and owned by Bet Max Stables Benenati Inc. She improved to 8 for 9 in her early career and has now earned \$533,224.



New Image Media Photo

That's a tad more than the \$2.20 the win bettors received.

The 2-year-old colts and geldings trot ended with a tight photo finish, as Dws Point Man (Louis-Philippe Roy) and Snowpiercer (Paul MacDonell) appeared to hit the wire simultaneously, with Dws Point Man surviving by a nose in 1:55.1. With his fastest mile,



New Image Media Photo

Dws Point Man improved to 5 wins in 10 starts for his trainer Richard Moreau and owners Ecurie. The win price was \$11.50.

Roy put a 2nd Super Gold in his pocket winning the 3-year-old fillies' pace with Mischevious Rose who



New Image Media Photo

powered past the 1-9 favourite, Adare Castle (James MacDonald) in the final 16th to win by a head in 1:54. Luc Blais is the trainer for Determination, and Mischevious Rose, winning for the 4th time in 22 races, paid \$10.70.

There were plenty of awkward grins in the winner's



New Image Media Photo

circle after Bob McClure steered Cheesy Smile to victory in the 2-year-old fillies' pace. Cheesy Smile was far back at the half but parlayed an overland trip into a 1 ½ length win in 1:51.1. Trained and owned by John Pentland, Cheesy Smile won for the 5th time in 10 starts and paid \$4.40.

Trainer Nick Gallucci sent out a pair in the 3-year-old fillies Super Final, Silver Label and Prohibition Legal, both owned by Millar Farms, and Gallucci had to be thrilled with what he saw in the stretch. Prohibition



New Image Media Photo

Legal, the 3-4 favourite, led past ¾, but Doug McNair converted a perfect following trip by bringing Silver Label to the outside in the final 16th to overhaul the odds-on choice by a convincing 2 lengths in 1:50.2. Silver Label put a 12th win on her resumé in her 20th race and paid \$8.10.

The biggest pari-mutuel payoff of the night came in the OSS Gold Superfinal for 3-year-old trotting boys. Safe Conduct, driven by Chris Christoforou, rallied from the back of the field to get to the wire first in 1:53.2 with Sea Can and Scott Young arriving late at 125-1 to grab second. Safe Conduct is trained by Camilla Christoforou and owned by Charalambos Christoforou and Irvann Holdings. The win ticket was \$22.20, and the 8-10 exactor rewarded the gamblers with \$1,176.90 for each \$2 bet.

The 2-year-old pacing colts and geldings Super Final was all about Stockade Seelster. Thanks to his 7 for 8 record, he went off as the 1-9 favourite and he performed accordingly. Jody Jamieson was able to take Stockade Seelster to the lead down the backstretch, and from there it looked very much like



New Image Media Photo

a workout, as none of the others could get close. Stockade Seelster cruised to the wire in an unstressed 1:50.1, winning by a relaxed 2 lengths. A cinch for the O'Brien as Canada's best male 2-year-old, Safe Conduct is trained by Dr. Ian Moore and owned by Sally and Allan MacDonald and their nephew, Paul, and his wife Sophie. The first-place cheque in each OSS Gold Super Final is \$112,500. All the win bettors got was \$2.30.



New Image Media Photo

And the huge night at Mohawk culminated with the 3-year-old colts and geldings' pace. Cold Creek Queso was the 4-5 betting choice and he delivered value for the risk, pulling Sylvain Filion to a ridiculously easy 5-length win in 1:50. Owned by Cold Creek Standardbred and trained by Murray Brethour, Cold Creek Queso won for the 7th time in 23 starts and paid \$3.80 to win.



Cody Dorman

No one would ever name a horse Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome. It's a rare and miserable affliction affecting about 1 in 50,000 newborns, something about missing genetic material in chromosome 4. A young man named Cody has it. Cody, like a great racehorse, perseveres, overcomes, and fights on. There's a thoroughbred named after him. Like his namesake, the 4-year-old Cody's Wish is extraordinary.

Cody Dorman is 16. He lives with his parents Kelly and Leslie and his 8-year-old sister, Kylie in Richmond, Kentucky, about 150 kilometres from Churchill Downs. What's at the other end of the spectrum from winning the lottery? That's Cody's day-to-day reality. His father Kelly explains.

"It pretty much affects every aspect of his life," says Kelly. "He's had dozens of surgeries ranging from minor stuff to open heart surgery. He's had a couple of strokes and I couldn't even count the number of seizures. It's well up in the thousands. He's been on a feeding tube since he was 6 months old. He's non-verbal but he does have a tablet that he can communicate with. He is very intelligent."

In 2018, the Make A Wish Foundation, in conjunction with Keeneland Racetrack, arranged for Cody and his family to visit the Gainsborough Farm in Versailles, some 45 minutes away. The Dormans weren't all that familiar with thoroughbred racing, but an interesting field trip sounded uplifting.

The farm manager, Danny Mulvihill was instrumental in showing the Dormans around, bringing out mares and foals for them to see, and then he brought out a broodmare named Dance Card, who was accompanied by her handsome foal. On multiple occasions, the farm, owned by Godolphin has entertained people of all ages and from all walks of life, but Mulvihill saw something unique.

"We brought the foal out. We had picked him because he's quiet and laid-back," recalls Mulvihill. "We brought him out to the middle of the barn for Cody and his family, and of course, we were conscious about doing it safely. But the foal wanted to get close to Cody in the wheelchair and he came up right beside Cody and he put his head in the boy's lap and you could see the connection immediately. Cody was relaxed and his demeanour changed."

Kelly Dorman could barely fathom what he was seeing.

"He just kept creeping up to Cody," says dad. "He wasn't going to take no for an answer. And he just laid his head in his lap. They just bonded. I don't think anybody said anything. We just all kind of took in the moment and it was real neat."

That alone makes a lovely story, doesn't it? But as you can see from the

Cody and Cody's Wish

length of this article, there is *so* much more to this.

Covid took over everyone's lives for 2 years. Cody's condition didn't show any significant improvement. In 2019, his grandfather, Lester passed away and Cody was clearly affected by that. His mental attitude was in a slump and his parents were concerned.

"He's had dozens and dozens of surgeries and the strokes and the seizures," says Dorman. "We've seen him go through a lot of stuff but the hardest thing we've ever dealt with was seeing him go through depression, slipping a little bit and giving up."

Kelly and Leslie recalled how happy Cody was the first time he met the baby horse. They called the farm and asked if they could come back. It had been 2 years. Mulvihill and the farm's office manager, Mary Bourne immediately said yes.

"He came to the training center," says Mulvihill. "You have to remember that now the colt was 2 years old and he was a handful. But the horse recognized him, and he marched forward once again, until he put his head down and was so close that Cody was able to touch his head. Everyone watching was moved beyond belief."

Something else happened in that moment that was unforgettable. Cody rarely shows any emotion but – "His dad has told me many times that Cody has laughed out loud about 5 times in his entire life," says Mulvihill. "And that was one of the times in his life that he actually laughed out loud."

"Cody started laughing, I mean out loud and he has just been a different kid since then," adds Dorman. "It's like a switch flipped on for him."

The sport of horse racing is all about making predictions, but Kelly Dorman made a wonderfully accurate forecast.

"When that horse did that, I told Danny, 'If that horse has half the heart that Cody has, he's going to do some great things,'" says Dorman.

Sometime after the Dorman family went back home, Mulvihill and Bourne continued to marvel at what they had seen. Bourne suggested that they name the horse after Cody –

"Cody's Wish." Bourne called the Dormans to get their permission.

"She told me, 'I hope you don't mind, but we just named that horse after Cody,'" says Dorman. "And I almost fell over. I mean, I never would have dreamed they would have done something like that."

So now there's a very well-bred son of Curlin beginning his racing career. Trained by the legendary Bill Mott, Cody's Wish debuted on June 4, 2021, in a \$90,000 maiden special weight at 7 furlongs at Belmont. Under jockey Junior Alvarado, the horse ran nicely, but finished 3rd, beaten by about 4 lengths. Two months later, at Saratoga, in a \$100,000 maiden special weight at a mile and an 8th, there was another 3rd place finish for jockey Joel Rosario. In his 3rd race, the same jockey, a similar purse, and at 7 furlongs, Cody's Wish produced another 3rd place finish.

Cody watched every race. He had a very good theory about what was missing.

There's a unique way that he communicates. Cody cannot talk and he is unable to hit letters on a



keyboard. He has a special tablet, hooked up with a pair of glasses that can direct a red beam to his computer screen. It's slow and difficult process, but he's able to create sentences and express himself.

"This tablet looks similar to an iPad," explains Dorman. "It's got a little camera on top of it and his glasses have a sticker on them and the camera picks up the sticker and puts a little red dot on the screen. And he can spell things out numbers and icons for quick answers, like *yes, no, how you doing?* It's time consuming, but he does good on it and can spell out pretty much anything he wants."

After those first three losses by Cody's Wish, Cody wanted to tell his parents something important. He spelled it out.

"He told my wife the horse would not win a race until he was there in person," says Dorman. "He said, 'He's waiting on me.'"

It was time for a road trip.

The 4th race for Cody's Wish was set for October 2, 2021, at Churchill Downs. It was another maiden special weight, with an attractive purse of \$120,000. One mile was the distance, Rosario was back on board, and for the first time, Cody Dorman would see Cody's Wish in person.

"I was blown away," says Dorman "They treated us like royalty. They just rolled out the red carpet.

We had a lot of cameras on us, and all the jockeys came out and got their picture with Cody. They took us down in the winner's circle to watch the race."

And Cody's Wish was terrific. Rosario had him 3rd, about 2 lengths from the lead as the field went around the far turn. With a confident 3-wide move into the stretch, Cody's Wish surged to the front and galloped home a winner by 2 lengths. The track record for a mile at Churchill Downs is 1:33.26. Cody's Wish was timed in 1:33.88.

If a switch flipped on the 2nd time Cody met Cody's Wish, then the same theory would seem to apply to the horse. After that first win with Cody at the track, Cody's Wish assembled a sensational streak of races.

Five weeks after his maiden breaking victory, he romped by 5 ¼ lengths in a \$129,275 allowance race at Churchill. The jockey was Martin Garcia and the time for a mile on the dirt was 1:35.06. Three weeks later was almost a carbon copy, as Cody's Wish scored again at a mile. This time the rider was Rosario, and the time was 1:34.94. Before every one of Cody's Wish's races, Cody would make a prediction on his computer. Each time that he predicted a win, the horse complied. But in March of 2022, Cody's Wish was racing at Tampa Bay for the first time as a 4-year-old. It was a \$100,000 Grade 3 Stakes race at a mile and a 16th and the morning of the event, Cody's parents had reason for concern.

"Cody woke up and he was throwing a fit," says Dorman. "We were trying to figure out what was wrong with him. And he kept saying, typing into his tablet, he said he's not ready, he's not ready. He's going to finish second. And I'll be damned. He got beat by a neck."

The Equibase charts describe the horse's effort this way:

"CODY'S WISH, off a step slow, tracked off the second flight outside foes racing to the backstretch, steadily drew on terms with the leaders three deep racing into upper stretch, contested the issue outside the eventual winner to late stages but was outkicked."

Like Cody Dorman, Cody's Wish handles setbacks well. His next race was at Belmont Park for the \$200,000 Grade 3 Westchester Stakes at a mile. After Cody predicted victory, Cody's Wish crushed his opponents, romping to the wire 5 lengths the best in 1:34.68.

Two months later, he was back at Churchill Downs. Assigned #5 for the \$175,000 Hanshin Stakes, Cody's Wish battled bravely in the stretch to prevail by a neck, covering the mile in 1:34.10. He had won 4 of 5 races since Cody had first seen him run.

But now, his owners, Godolphin decided to put him into very deep waters. The \$600,000 Forego Stakes at Saratoga at 7 furlongs attracted a field of 7, including Jackies Warrior, the reigning Eclipse Award sprint champion in the U.S.

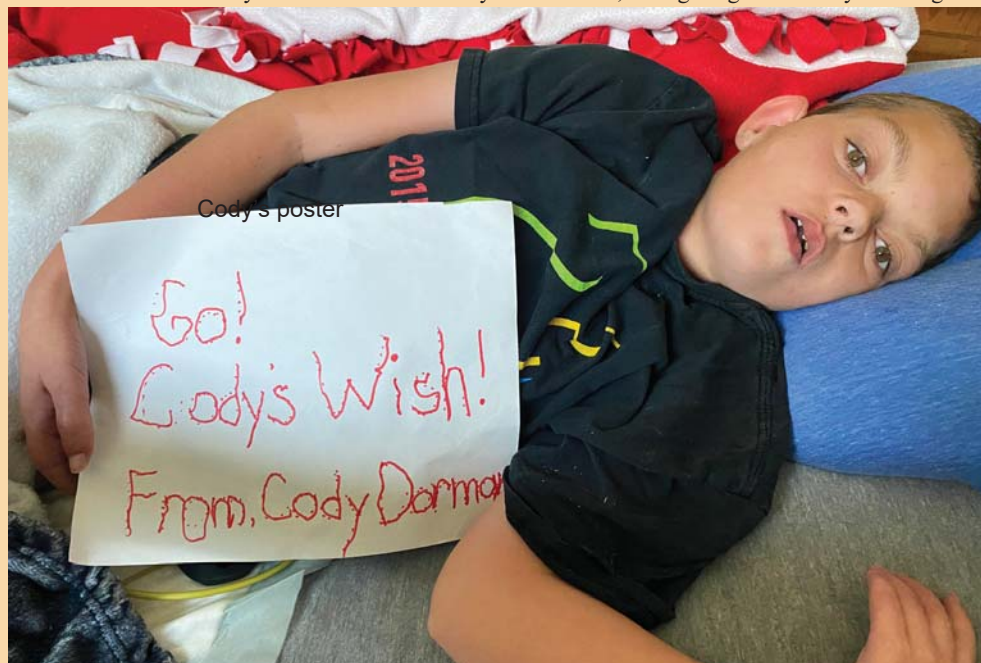
Cody was glued to his TV set, watching the pre-race analysis, with saddle cloth 5 wrapped around his shoulders. It was the saddle cloth from the horse's most recent win. Coincidentally, Cody's Wish was #5 in the Forego.

The broadcasters irked Cody. They went on and on about what a cinch Jackies Warrior was, how he'd won his last 4 races, all Stakes, all at different tracks. The opinions were that he could not be beat. Cody thrashed out a message on his screen for his parents to read.

"Tell them to shut up," he said. Cody, once again, was confident his special friend would win again. He even created an insurance policy. With the help of his therapist, Cody had written a poster that declared "Go Cody's Wish from Cody."

"Make sure he sees my sign," instructed Cody. So, dad sent a telephone image to Mulvihill and Mulvihill relayed it to Bill Mott, and Mott actually held his phone up to Cody's Wish, making sure the horse saw the poster.

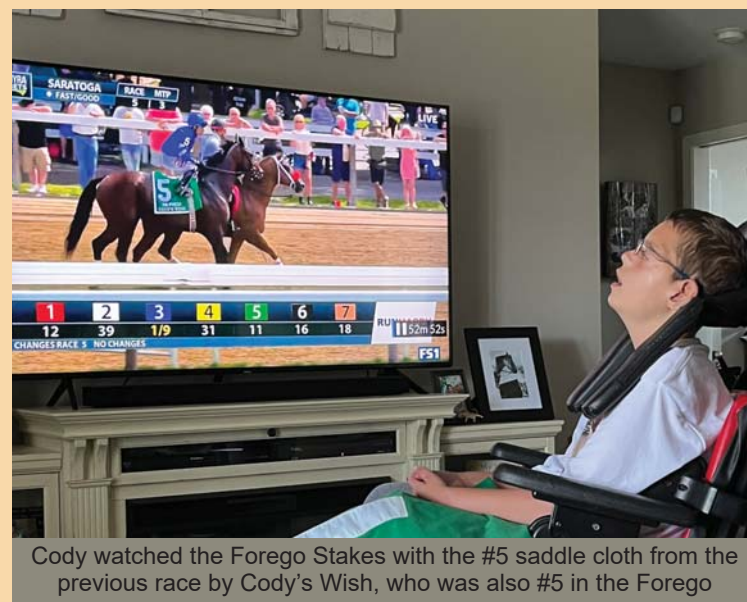
You can believe what you want here – that a 4-year-old horse, seeing a sign created by a courageous



young man was inspired to run the race of his life. Or that a legendary trainer and a skilled jockey combined with a fantastic racehorse to produce what we like to call the "fairy tale ending."

Cody's Wish, ridden by Junior Alvarado, started toward the back of the pack as the favourite, Jackies Warrior battled with Pipeline. Those two might have gone too fast – they passed the ¾ mark in 1:08.76, torrid fractions with a gasping furlong yet to run. At that point, Cody's Wish was still 4 or 5 lengths behind, but the long Saratoga stretch can be cruel to horses that expend too much energy early. In mid-stretch, Jackies Warrior appeared to have discouraged Pipeline, but almost at the moment that the odds-on favourite assumed the lead, race caller John Imbriale bellowed, "And putting in a late run here is Cody's Wish on the outside!"

Cody's Wish, benefitting from a perfectly timed ride by Alvarado swept by



Cody watched the Forego Stakes with the #5 saddle cloth from the previous race by Cody's Wish, who was also #5 in the Forego

the favourite and won by over a length in 1:20.95, just over a half second off the course record for that difficult distance.

Back in Richmond, Kentucky, the Dorman family's home was bedlam.

"I guess our neighbours thought we had lost our minds," laughs Kelly. "I had to check my drywall and make sure we didn't have any broken windows, 'cause we were screaming our heads off."

Next move – does Disney, or anyone want to make an emotionally packed, feel-good movie based completely on real events? No plot tweaking is necessary.

Chances are, Kelly Dorman will see this movie, even though he already knows how it ends.

"Dude, I had a front row seat to the best story in the world," he says.



Cody Dorman with mom, Leslie, dad Kelly and sister Kylie with Cody's Wish

No Leash on the Bulldog



Bulldog Hanover

NewImage Media Photos

At first glance, Bulldog Hanover's victory in the \$650,000 Canadian Pacing Derby at Mohawk Park on September 2 appeared routine. Dexter Dunn revved Bulldog to the front in the first quarter, got a gentle first half in :54.3, and was able to hold off a game Tattoo Artist (James MacDonald) to win by a length.

But there was little that was "routine" about this race. Bulldog Hanover came into the Pacing Derby with 8 straight wins, including that world record 1:45.4 in the William Haughton Memorial. He won most of his heats by going to the lead and daring opponents to come after him. He won from off the pace, he won first over, and he won with cover.

So when Dunn planted Bulldog on top in that :26.3 first quarter, the 9 outstanding pacers behind him were suffering from harness racing's catch 22 – if anyone dared to challenge Bulldog, they would be burned on the outside; if anyone stayed along the inside, planning a last quarter comeback, Bulldog would get away with benign fractions and romp home with ease. It was more the latter that occurred, though Jimmy Freight (Louis-Philippe Roy) did right-line down the backstretch in what turned out to be a futile first-over bid. After that easy first half, Bulldog Hanover was able to pace the 3rd quarter in :26.3 and recorded the same split in the final quarter. The time of 1:46.4 was a record for the Canadian Pacing Derby and tied the all-Canadian mark set by Dr. J Hanover at Mohawk on June 3, 2017. The previous best in this race was the 1:47.2 set by A Rocknroll Dance (Tim Tetrick) in 2013.

Tattoo Artist at 23-1 finished 2nd, and Poseidon Seelster (Bob McClure), an 83-1 bomb was 3rd. Jimmy Freight flattened out for a 4th place finish.

This was the first time in the Canadian Pacing Derby for Dexter Dunn and in the post-race interview, he indicated that his workload wasn't very oppressive.

"Well, when you've sat behind so many horses and you sit behind a horse like Bulldog, it really is a pleasure and it's a joy being out there," said Dunn. "I'm just along for the ride. What he's doing is just amazing to see, the way he does it as well. There's no easy trips for him, he does all the hard work in those big races, and he's running away from good horses."

Bulldog Hanover jacked his 2022 record to 10 wins in 11 races, and his overall report card shows 24-3-1 out of 32 career races. Jack Darling is the trainer, and he shares ownership with Brad Grant. The first 1,000 fans into Mohawk Park that night received Bulldog Hanover t-shirts, and Darling seemed more concerned about the

dwindling supply than the possibility his horse might lose.

"I've had calls from all over the United States, people who want Bulldog Hanover t-shirts," said Darling. "I may have to make more. This horse really has a fan base out there. So many people are cheering for him. It's just an honour to be involved with him and be part of this. It's a real thrill."

Co-owner Grant was asked if Bulldog could eclipse his own world record of 1:45.4.

"I think on the right day," mused Grant. "At the right track, maybe at Lexington if everything is right. Maybe he can go better."

The winning bettors might have preferred to keep their tickets as souvenirs rather than cash them – Bulldog Hanover produced a \$2.20 payoff.

Maple Leaf Trot

If you'd asked Ake Svanstedt before the \$610,000



Back of the Neck

NewImage Media Photos

Maple Leaf Trot which of his two horses he figured would win, he would probably have chosen Ecurie D DK, who had won 18 of his previous 26 starts. Svanstedt trains and shares ownership of this 6-year-old gelding, and he also trains and owns Back of the Neck, who had the benefit of Tim Tetrick in the big race.

This was a very entertaining race, with multiple lead changes and lots of outside action. Fashion Frenzy (Louis-Philippe Roy) had the lead after a first quarter in :26.4, but the veteran mare, Atlanta (Yannick Gingras) forged to the front about $\frac{3}{8}$ into the race. Atlanta looked in charge as the field went into the far turn after the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark in 1:23.2, but Fashion Frenzy came back out. That gave cover to the 6-5 favourite Ecurie D DK, who in turn towed his stablemate, Back of the Neck into the fray.

In the stretch, Atlanta, uncharacteristically stopped badly and finished 9th. At one point there were 6 trotters across the track with a chance, as Back of the Neck on the extreme outside had the most momentum.

"Check out Back of the Neck!" bellowed race caller Ken Middleton. "We could have an upset."

Back of the Neck gobbled up 5 rivals in the final 8th, trotted his last quarter in :26.4 and won the Maple Leaf Trot by a widening 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths in 1:51. His stable buddy Ecurie D DK was 2nd and Forbidden Trade was 3rd.

The Maple Leaf capped an historic week for Tetrick, who recorded his 13,000th lifetime win early at Harrah's in Philadelphia.

"Well, this one was unexpected," said Tetrick, who also won this race with Market Share in 2013 and Guardian Angel AS in 2019. "I got the phone call before the draw was announced. Everything worked out. I followed Ake, and Ake led us right up there and the fractions were fair,

and I came off Ake's back and he did the rest. It was pretty easy."

Svanstedt originally had 3 trotters in the race, but the highly regarded Alrajah One IT was scratched due to an injury.

"I wanted the other one in the race, especially with the connections," said Svanstedt. "It's sad. I wanted to watch the other horse because I'm a fan of him. He's amazing. But lucky for me, I got to win."

Back of the Neck improved his record to 12-5-5 from 36 starts and paid \$20.40.

Simcoe Stakes

How do you know that a night featuring 2 huge Stakes



Twin B Archie

NewImage Media Photos

races has an amazing undercard? How about when the 1st race is a \$165,725 trot – one of three divisions of the Simcoe Stakes. This one was for 3-year-olds. Just 5 were at the starting gate, and Twin B Archie, sent off at .55-1, grabbed the lead at the half for James MacDonald and flashed a second half in :56.3 to win by a head in 1:53.2. Scott McEneny trains and shares ownership with Dominic Chiaravalle, Floyd Marshall and Martwest Racing Stable. That's 10 wins in 20 starts for Twin B Archie, which explains the \$3.10 win ticket.

There was a second division of the Simcoe, this time featuring 3-year-old fillies. It had a purse of \$80,367 and it attracted a field of 6. Yannick Gingras put the favoured Monkey Queen on the lead just past the 1st quarter, and the pair stayed there to the end, hitting the



Monkey Queen

NewImage Media Photos

wire the best by a head in 1:53.1. Monkey Queen is trained by Domenico Cecere and her owners are David Anderson, Lindy Farms and Black Horse Racing. Monkey Queen has won half of her 6 starts and a win bet was worth \$3.70.

The 3rd Simcoe Stakes was also for 3-year-old fillies with \$80,368 available. Adare Castle (James MacDonald) went off at 3-5 but was collared in deep stretch by Warrawee Xenia and Bob McClure. Warrawee Xenia won by a head in 1:54.1. She is trained by Shawn

Steady who owns along with David McDonald, Dale Larson, and Diane Bertrand. Warrawee Xenia is now 9 for 16 and she generated a \$4.20 payoff.

OSS Gold Leg 4

There was \$101,300 in this OSS Gold Leg pace for 2-year-old colts and geldings, and Whatchulookin At (Doug McNair) was wondering why so many were looking at the 4-5 favourite Write Me a Rose (Sylvain Filion) who led the field into the stretch. That was it for the choice who faded to 5th as Whatchulookin At powered home to win by a length in 1:52.2. Gregg McNair is the trainer, and he is one of the owners along

with Jim Newton, Paul Kidd, and Bloomingwood Farms. Whatchulookin At won for the 3rd time in 5 races and



paid \$8.10.

The other OSS Gold Leg, with a purse of \$100,400 featured a remarkable performance by a 2-year-old. Stockade Seelster cruised home by 1 ½ lengths for Jody Jamieson and was timed in 1:49.3. This made Stockade Seelster 6 for 6 in his burgeoning career. Not only was that 1:49.3 his fastest mile, but it also exceeded the fastest time posted as a 2-year-old by Bulldog Hanover, whose rookie mark was 1:50.2 in an OSS Superfinal. Stockade Seelster is owned by Sally and Paul Macdonald and trained by Dr. Ian Moore. None of the bettors was fooled by this one – Stockade Seelster paid the minimum \$2.10.

Is Bulldog Hanover the Best Ever? By Dean Towers

Originally published on *Harness Racing Update*

(<https://harnessracingupdate.com/2022/10/09/is-bulldog-hanover-the-best-ever/>)



When a “best ever” poll in any sport is released, a common theme emerges – the effect of recency. The “now” player or coach, or horse, always seems to top the list, as the accomplishments of those before him or her fade from memory.

Reading the industry chatter about Bulldog Hanover, I see a little of this phenomenon and it does give me pause, but as I dig deeper and deeper, this feels a whole lot different.

Please allow me to share why.

“Time only counts in jail” is a phrase we hear often in harness racing to discount the speed of an animal, but it ignores a simple fact: A horse that stops the clock faster than the others wins the race. And Bulldog does that better than any horse in memory. His times, internal fractions, and the way he does it is pure magic.

Bulldog won the Haughton in 1:45.4, but he did it from the seven post, hung to a :26.1 first panel, then by forging to the lead with a :26.4 second quarter. He backed off the third quarter to :27.1 and then restarted his engine, coming home in :25.1 under no urging to win as easily as any horse can. Almost all of his races go something just like that.

There’s something in handicapping called even energy distribution, which means, generally, even fractions yield the best results for a horse. The horses the energy types are talking about clearly aren’t named Bulldog Hanover.

We can often be tricked with a horse by the competition they face. This is seen some years in the age restricted divisions, where a precocious colt or filly can win all the chocolates, but when they turn 4 or 5, they have to prove their mettle and fail.

Bulldog Hanover might be toying with his competition, but he isn’t beating up on slow horses.

Allywag Hanover is a 1:46 pacer who can’t seem to



get close. Abuckabett Hanover came his back half twice in 51 seconds with last quarters of :24.4 against Bulldog and could not finish in the same area code. Tattoo Artist is probably the sharpest and most talented horse in North America not named Bulldog Hanover. He got within a length, with Dex impersonating a statue in front of him. This horse’s competition has been fantastic, and he’s made them all look ordinary.

I believe how a horse wins off adversity is always a solid benchmark to judge just how good they are.

We all likely remember watching Somebeachsomewhere in the Messenger at Yonkers in a driving rainstorm. The Beach was saddled with the six post against the Jug winner, world record holder, and top racehorse Shadow Play. Beach took the absolute worst of it parked most of the mile, was slipping and sliding on the greasy surface he surely didn’t like, and never once looked like a winner. Until he won.

I thought about The Beach’s Messenger while watching Bulldog’s tremendous performance in the Dayton Derby last week. It was a windy night, he was on a new surface at five-eighths that some think isn’t his best, and he was surely not reaching the lead easily from his outside post. In the end, Dexter put a nice drive on the colt (what else is new) and he looked to be a winner at the top of the lane, but how he won we weren’t expecting. He simply exploded, again making these very nice free-for-all horses look like they don’t breathe the same air, and giving us all a thrill – one we won’t forget any time soon.

Several years ago, Malcolm Gladwell wrote an excellent book called *Blink*. The author believes those who have done something their whole lives have an innate gut feel, where they might not be able to put into words what they conclude about a topic in their purview, they just know it’s special, or different.

For many people outside this sport, their blink moment was Secretariat’s Belmont. Horses just don’t do that. With Bulldog, I’d argue it’s not one specific blink of time, it’s about everything he does. It’s how he moves, how he handles adversity, how he paces after the wire for a half mile, not wanting to stop; wanting to keep going, to keep fighting, to never let a horse get near him.

Is Bulldog Hanover the best ever? I don’t know. But I do know one thing – this horse is special.

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When the brilliant filly, Moira crushed ten boys in the Queen's Plate, there were three groups of elated owners – Madaket Stables, SF Racing and X-Men Racing. Donato Lanni, 53, is the guy who put together the X-Men Racing Syndicate, and the story here is that the 8 men in the group all came from the standardbred experience. Lanni grew up in Montreal where the legendary Blue Bonnets was the hub of excitement.

"My father was in the standardbred business and at a very young age. I was around horses, and farms, training and breaking," he says. "I just grew up in the racing industry. Blue Bonnets was a very dynamic centerpiece with tons of history and really good horsemen like the Lachance family and the Filions – some pretty influential horse guys in the 80s."

After graduating from Concordia with a degree in business, Lanni was determined to make a career that involved horses.

"I had somewhat of a business mind, but I was also a horseman," he continues. "If you're going to try to be in the horse business, there's one place in the world you want to be – that's the thoroughbred capital of world, Lexington Kentucky. I was young and had nothing to lose. I packed up my car, drove down there, knocked on some doors, worked hard. I met some really good people along the way."

Lanni became a bloodstock agent, someone whose expertise is in the pedigree of thoroughbreds, who buys and sells racehorses for their clients. What he also does is assemble syndicates and that's what he did with X-Men.

"We raised about \$1 million and bought 12 horses," he says. "Some didn't make it. Some did. I wanted to go back to Canada and spend some time at Woodbine and buy horses that fit that synthetic turf profile. I met Kevin Attard 15 to 16 years ago. I wanted to put guys together that I knew for a long time. They happened to be in the standardbred world, and I was trying to get them involved in thoroughbreds."

Lanni's X-Men group includes John Fielding, David Anderson, Daniel Plouffe, Robert Leblanc, Steve Hiembecker and Clay Horner, all players who had made significant marks on the sulky side.

One of the horses that the X-Men group invested in was a Ghostzapper filly. Two years ago, Covid made it difficult for Canadians to travel to Lexington for the sales. Lanni was a little surprised at the bargain he got for this yearling.

"We got lucky buying her for about \$150,000," he says. "I was looking for a Canadian-bred. She was not a typical looking Ghostzapper, but more of a long, narrow

filly. She looked a lot like the Unbridled Song portion. She was a quiet filly. She had all the parts. She was immature looking but she grew up to be quite magnificent."

Lanni has always enjoyed the process of naming horses as well as naming his syndicates. X-Men Racing got its name because Lanni's children like the Marvel movies. So, he turned to his kids again to name this little filly.

"We watched Schitt's Creek," says Lanni, about the brilliant, multi award-winning series created by Eugene and Dan Levy. "Moira Rose was a character in the show, and the kids like that. So we named her Moira."

Lanni reveals that the Queen's Plate was not necessarily a destination for Moira. The main goal early in the year was the Woodbine Oaks. But when Moira destroyed her 9 opponents with a 10-length win, it just made sense to try the Plate.

In retrospect, Moira deserved to be the favourite in the Queen's Plate. Not only was her Oaks time of 1:49.78 the fastest mile and an 8th in Canada this year, but she was entitled to a 5-pound break from all her male rivals. However, a lot of late money poured in on Marine Stakes champion, Rondure and that one went off at 3-2 to Moira's 9-5.

There was a point down the backstretch when Moira was 7th, about 9 lengths from the leader, The Minkster, and Lanni had reason to be concerned.

"Down the backside, I could see that she was kind of boxed in," he says. "I'm thinking, 'She needs to get herself out of this trap' and sure enough, she got out. And she's got this gear. She's able to accelerate."

Oh, yeah! When jockey Rafael Hernandez got Moira into the clear, it was extraordinary. In less than 20 seconds, Moira inhaled all the horses in front of her and with most of the stretch to go, was 3 lengths in front, and uncatchable. As thrilling as this might have been, Lanni was not convinced that victory was assured.

"So, nobody was coming, and everybody's cheering but I said, 'We're not at the wire yet,'" he says. "And I see the jockey standing up and celebrating and still I'm thinking, 'Wait until you cross the wire.' There's a saying that there's one way to win and 1,000 ways to lose. Once she crossed the wire there was obviously a big celebration, but I was kind of in shock. I couldn't believe that actually happened. The last time I heard a crowd erupt like that was

at the Belmont when American Pharoah turned for home."

Although it was his first Queen's Plate in person, it was the second time Lanni had a chance in Canada's big race.

"In 2020, I had a horse called Clayton," he says. "I owned him with Daniel Plouffe, and he was the favourite in the Plate that Mighty Heart won. He ran a good third. He didn't want to go that far. I couldn't go because of Covid."

So, at this point in the story you might be thinking, "the guy buys some horses, gets lucky and wins the Queen's Plate." Well, it turns out this was not the first time Lanni brought others together to buy a classic champion. Ever hear of a horse named Authentic?

"I buy horses for a lot of American buyers and syndicates," he says. "And one of the horses that we bought in 2018 was Authentic. SF Racing and Madaket, which are in the Moira syndicate were also involved in this."

And this was another example of Lanni taking a cultural reference to refer to the latest acquisition.

"There were so many owners involved, I nicknamed them The Avengers."

Authentic won 6 of his 8 races, including the 2020 Kentucky Derby, the Santa Anita Derby, the Haskell and the Breeders' Cup Classic. He retired with \$7,202,200 on his report card.

It's suggested to Lanni that winning the Oaks and the Queen's Plate assured Moira of a Sovereign Award, not just for Outstanding 3-Year-Old Filly, but as Canada's Horse of the Year. Case in point: Lexie Lou, a filly, won the Oaks and the Plate in 2014 and took home Horse of Year bling.

"It would be nice to see Kevin win his first Sovereign Award," Lanni says, sort of changing the subject. "He's never won that before as Trainer of the Year."

Typically, we ask every one of our Owners of the Month what they love most about the sport.

"It's like the game of golf," he says. "There's always that one hole you can play that makes you feel you're a scratch golfer. Having that one horse and the euphoria of winning a race makes you come back. When you get to win it with people you love, with friends and family around, it makes a special day and a memory that last forever. It's a majestic experience to have your own horse, something that you worked with and built and worried about, and watch it win. It's a feeling you never forget."



So, imagine the first time you invest in a standardbred racehorse, and you throw in a very modest amount, and that first horse earns \$2 million.

That is exactly what happened to Paul MacDonald. In fact, Paul and his wife Sophie share all their horses with Paul's aunt and uncle, Sally and Allan MacDonald, though it's just Paul and Sally who are listed as the horse owners. It saves room in the program.

To be sure, Paul was destined to be involved with harness racing. He grew up on Prince Edward Island, which has produced many great horses and drivers.

"When I was young, my grandfather and my uncle, Allan had a racehorse or two," he says. "Allan trained and drove a bit. I totally enjoyed hanging out with them when they were working the horses and going to the races."

Allan MacDonald is our point man here. He got Paul into the game and though wife Sally now loves the sport, she was on the outside looking in until she got a boyfriend.

"I had no interest in it until I married Allan," she says laughing.

Paul, who lives in Toronto, is now 48, but his first harness racing purchase didn't come until he was in his late 30s.

"About 2010, Allan called me," he says. "He was thinking of going to the Harrisburg sale looking for a yearling and he asked if I would be interested in going in half on a yearling. My wife, Sophie had never been around horse racing before and I said to her, 'We are likely to lose all this money, but it sounds like a bit of fun. Maybe we should do it. It would be an excuse to go down to Charlottetown and watch this guy race and visit family.'"

The horse cost \$6,500. Paul and Sophie split that with Allan and Sally. The horse was State Treasurer. All this guy did was win 33 of 106 races and earn \$2,072,450.

He raced until his 6-year-old year when we retired him to stud," says Paul. "We had a fantastic time with him We were at all of those big races that I was hearing as a kid or watched on television. State Treasurer won the Molson Pace 3 times (2013-2015). He won the Allerage in Kentucky, the Canadian Pacing Derby, and the U.S. Pacing championship. It was just a fantastic ride, and it was an incredibly tough crop in State Treasurer's year."

With the amazing success of State Treasurer, who



has been a stallion for the last 6 years, the MacDonalds were certainly partial to any of his offspring.

"We pretty well go to the London Sale, because that is where the State Treasurer babies are sold," says Sally MacDonald.

Because of Covid 3 years ago, Sally and Allan, pinned down in PEI, could not see the young horses on sale in person.

"It was a virtual sale," says Sally. "We had to do it online. Paul was able to see this one colt and Dr. Ian Moore had a look at him before we started bidding online."

"The farm manager at Seelster, Karen Favacho contacted me and said there was an impressive colt on the ground by State Treasurer from a mare they owned," says Paul. "I went by to see him and took a photo that day and texted it to Allan and Sally. He was really well matched from a breeding perspective. He looked the part, and we were eager to bid on him. We were pleased with the amount we purchased him for."

That horse was Stockade Seelster. The sale price was \$45,000. How good a deal was that? Well, in a year in which Bulldog Hanover is provoking conversation that he's the best harness horse *ever*, there's a strong argument that Stockade Seelster is the best 2-year-old in Canada.

Stockade Seelster was a 2-year-old in 2022. He won his first 6 races, including 4 OSS Golds and the elimination and final of the Dreammaker series. His first loss came in the \$40,000 elimination for the Metro Cup. The concern about that within the Macdonald group was that they wouldn't be able to choose a post position for the \$900,000 Metro Pace.

"We were very fortunate with the draw," says Sally. "He drew 2, which we were thrilled with, and then Jody gave him an unbelievable drive."

Jody Jamieson let Stockade Seelster settle in 4th into the first turn and when the 3-5 favourite, Save America pulled from 3rd to go for the lead down the backstretch, Jamieson was able to get live cover. There was a strange moment just before the ¾ when Yannick

Gingras allowed Save America to drift off the rail and Jamieson capitalized, shooting to the inside to save ground. That might have been the winning move, as in the stretch, Stockade Seelster came to the outside and overhauled Save America to win by almost a length in 1:50.1.

That \$10.30 win price was a great return on a horse winning for the 7th time in 8 tries.

So elsewhere in this paper, we consider the argument that Bulldog Hanover is the greatest harness horse of all time. Is there conversation that Stockade Seelster is the best 2-year-old in Canada?

"I have heard that stated," smiles Paul. "He's been really strong, and to win the Metro was just an exceptional accomplishment. We're ecstatic with his performance. He has done far and above what we expected. State Treasurer was a once in lifetime horse in our eyes. To be here with his offspring and for him to be going even better than his sire is fantastic. Doc Moore has done a fantastic job. He has carefully managed this and kept all of us in the loop."

There have been some other fine athletes that the Macdonald clan has enjoyed.

"We've had a State Treasure filly, Alumni Seelster who won a couple of OSS golds as a 2-year-old," says Paul. "She made over \$100,000 and she is still racing in the U.S. Then we had another filly named Bold Amaretto who is now a broodmare. She didn't race very long. She won a Grassroots event but ended up with an issue that ended her racing career. It's been interesting to watch her broodmare career at Seelster."

For Sally, having a terrific horse has a myriad of benefits.

"It's just the thrill of watching your horses," she says. "The chance to be closer to relatives. As well, we have travelled to so many tracks and met so many people. It's just been unbelievable."

"I truly love the horses and I love the sport," adds Paul. "It's just so incredible to be part of a horse at such a high level, watching them thrive and do extremely well. It's great just to be part of it."

CTHS Yearling Sales: Very Good Numbers

The annual Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society Yearling Sale was, from every statistical account, a tremendous success. A total of 208 horses were paraded through the Woodbine Sales Pavilion on August 31 and the bidders were ready, willing, and able to spend.

- Gross sales increased by 22%, and the average selling price of a yearling was up 28% from 2021. Last year, the average price per transaction was \$19,901. This year it was \$25,585. In 2021, the median sales price was \$10,000. This time around it was \$19,500. The total spent at this year's event was \$3,837,700, up dramatically from the \$2,144,400 of last year.
- The most coveted yearling was hip #130, a grey colt by Cairo Prince out of Hopping Not Hoping. This one fetched a winning bid of \$115,000 from agent Dr. Robert McMartin. Gail Wood of Woodlands Farm was the consignor.
- Al and Bill Ulwelling signed a cheque for \$105,000 for hip #58, a bay colt by Tapiture, out of Archette, consigned by Richard Hogan. Three days after the sale, the Ulwellings reached 400 thoroughbred wins when Trizzle Trazzle was promoted to 1st in a maiden special weight of 7 furlongs at Woodbine.
- Mike Ambler liked hip # 48 enough to pay \$102,000. This grey colt is a son of Palace Malice out of Zee Ro Drop. The yearling was consigned by Ballycroy Training Centre and Villa Rosa Farms.
- Hip # 20 was a chestnut filly by Reload from the broodmare, Spani Lou. This one fetched \$87,000 from Catherine Day Phillips for the consignor, Sherry McLean of Northern Dawn Stable.
- A group called 3 Sons Racing Stable Ltd, paid



Hip #130 - a Cairo Prince Colt consigned by Woodlands Farm (Gail Wood) sold for \$115,000 to top the 2022 Canadian Premier Yearling Sale.

\$75,000 for hip # 78, an Old Forester Colt out of Cawaja Beach, consigned by Susan Foreman and Bernard McCormack.

- Laura Krasauskaite ponied up \$70,000 for hip #21, a grey filly by Frosted out of Spider Dust. Richard Hogan consigned.
- Lou Tucci spent \$67,000 for hip # 50, a bay filly by Dialed In out of Zippity Zoom. This one was consigned by Bernard McCormack.

“Our sales week got off to a great start with our race day at Woodbine on Sunday featuring the four sales stakes for previous sales grads,” said Peter Berringer, President and Sales Chair of the CTHS. “Ontario Racing’s promotion of the Sales Credit Program in 2022 has undoubtedly increased interest from our

owner buyer base. We’ve also enjoyed welcoming many returning customers who we last saw pre-Covid, as well as a diverse new international buyer base. We thank the breeders/owners who have supported the sale as more than ever it pays to breed, buy and race in Ontario.

2022 Mixed Sale

The next CTHS Ontario Sale will be on October 19th with entries closing on September 9th.

The sale will provide Ontario consignors the last opportunity to sell Ontario bred yearlings in Ontario in 2022, as well as horses of racing age, foals, and broodmares.

Please visit the CTHS Ontario website for more information at cthsont.com or contact us directly at 416-675-3602.



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MacDonald – the \$50 Million Man



It was the 4th race at Mohawk Park on September 8th. The track's leading driver, James MacDonald was steering Dewitt This Moment in a \$16,000 pace for 2-year-old fillies. At the time, MacDonald was sitting on roughly \$49,996,000 in career purse earnings. The bettors did not think this would be the race in which Macdonald would

leap past \$50 million.

The bettors were wrong.

Dewitt This Moment came barrelling through the stretch, passing the leaders, and getting to the finish line a head the best in 1:54. This was the 2,933rd driving win for MacDonald, and the \$8,000 winner's share of the purse launched him past \$50,000,000 for the 14 years he has been steering standardbreds. Dewitt This Moment was 20-1 and returned \$42.60 to win. The filly, breaking her maiden on the 3rd try, is owned by Paul Ritchie, and is trained by James Ritchie.

This was just another impressive statistic for MacDonald, who had a breakout year in 2021, when he led Canada in wins with 322 and with earnings of \$7,542,277. As of the publication date of this paper, MacDonald has already exceeded that purse total and had already surged past his 2021 total of wins.

MacDonald's UDRS, as of September 12 was .343. Without explaining the Sheldon Cooper-esque math required to understand UDRS, anything over .300 (as in baseball) is excellent. That .343 is by far the highest number of all drivers at Mohawk Park.



When James MacDonald delivered Southside Eddy in the first race at Mohawk on October, 22, he achieved his 3,000th driving win. This happened on the same night that his older brother, Mark - who drives full-time at the Meadowlands - also won a race at Mohawk. Another MacDonald brother, Anthony added up all the wins of the brothers and posted this on Facebook:



Day Sweeps All 6 Races in Final Leg of Women's Driving Championship

Courtesy Standardbred Canada



Defending champion Natasha Day blew away the competition with a perfect performance in the final leg of the OLG Ontario Women's Driving Championship, which took place on October 14 at The Raceway at Western Fair District.

Day swept all six challenge races in the final leg,

courtesy of Rose Run Why Not (\$2.60), Upgrade Valley (\$2.70), What Can I Say (\$11.30), Mister X (\$3.90), Jayport Roadrunner (\$3.40) and Azucar Pipedream (\$3.30).

"I thought maybe I would win one or two and the rest maybe just place chances," commented Day afterwards. "I wasn't expecting six at all. It's a great series and we had a lot of fun. I was just blessed with a couple of handy horses and good front-end speed, so I got off the gate really well. This track is a front-end track, so that's what it all came down to."

Day had entered the final leg with an 8-point lead in the standings following stops at Hanover Raceway, Dresden Raceway, Leamington Raceway and Grand River Raceway. She more than doubled her point total to 118 by the end of the night, finishing well ahead of Marielle Enberg and Julie Walker, who were second in a dead-

heat with 80 points each. Rounding out the order of finish was Pam Forgie (50 points), Maggie Jones (43 points), Samara Johnson (42 points), Debi O'Brien Moran (25 points), Brittany Kennedy (21 points) and Marie-Claude Auger (16 points), who was unable to continue in the series.

As the overall winner of the Ontario Women's Driving Championship, Day was awarded \$2,000 in prize money, plus a set of custom-made summer driving silks from Graham's Racing Silks.

The women donated their earnings from the championship series to Harness the Hope, which raises funds, awareness and supports programs that help those affected by cancer.

The Day-driven Mister X was voted "Best Dressed Horse" as part of on-track Harness the Hope 17th anniversary festivities.

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DRUG TESTING & CAPSAICIN

We would like to take this opportunity to remind Trainers to exercise extreme caution when using supplements and medications as CPMA drug testing is sensitive. We strongly urge you to work closely with your veterinarian especially if administering medications on your horse on a repeated basis. Remember to also be extremely cautious when using compounded drugs, any items purchased online or in tack shops. All horses in the care and custody of a Trainer are their **Absolute Responsibility.**

Unfortunately, we continue to see the odd positive for Capsaicin. Trainers must be extra cautious and ensure that oral supplements or other liniments or creams are not administered or fed within 48 hours before a race. This will reduce but not eliminate the risk of a positive test result.

DONATION

On behalf of our members, the HBPA donated 300 t-shirts and 300 water bottles to the Racetrack Chaplaincy's annual Operation Shoebox. This year the shoeboxes are being filled with much needed supplies to those in the Ukraine.



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HBPA 2022 FORT ERIE YEAR END

AWARD WINNERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Male Claimer of the Year
Big Time Louie
<i>(Roy Agostino, Even Steven Stables)</i> | Female Claimer of the Year
Loaded Once More
<i>(Sam Meli, Krista Clemmer)</i> |
| Male Sprinter of the Year
Jack Beanstalk
<i>(Desmond Maynard)</i> | Female Sprinter of the Year
Gimbala
<i>(John Simms, Harvey Bussey)</i> |
| Distance Male of the Year
Strong Ending
<i>(Richard Davis, Bruno Schickedanz)</i> | Distance Female of the Year
Reign by Rein
<i>(Daryl Ezra, Julia Ezra)</i> |
| Best Claim of the Year
Loaded Once More
<i>(Sam Meli, Krista Clemmer)</i> | Outstanding Rider of the Year
Melanie Pinto |
| Leading Rider
Christopher Husbands | Leading Apprentice
Amanda Vandermeersh (8) |
| Exercise Rider of the Year
Natalie Frost | Groom of the Year
Reginald Johnston |
| Leading Trainer
Julie Mathes | Outstanding Trainer of the Year
Richard Davis |
| Leading Owner
Bruno Schickedanz | Horse of the Year
Strong Ending
<i>(Richard Davis, Bruno Schickedanz)</i> |



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This potential Eclipse Award winning picture was taken at Gulfstream by Ryan Thompson as a majestic bird with spectacular wingspan led the field down the stretch. Florida horse racing rules insist that only official equine animals can be declared winners, so the magnificent feathered creature was not allowed to participate in any of the pari-mutuel results.



DOWN THE STRETCH PODCAST

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

August 29:

If you thought a podcast covering the week after the Queen's Plate would be an anticlimax, with nothing to talk about, listen to this one and admit you were wrong. There was a monster card of harness racing Saturday night from Mohawk - the William Wellwood Memorial, the Eternal Camnation, Jimmy Freight and Bulldog Hanover, both impressive in Canadian Pacing Derby Eliminations. At Woodbine on Sunday, 4 Yearling Sales Stakes races. We're still buzzing about Moria and in our Moria pack, trainer **Kevin Attard** tells us how the Queen's Plate changed his life. Owner **Donato Lanni** of X-Men Racing explains how a group of harness men came to own Moira and how his children come up with colourful names, and **Joe Nevills** of the Paulick Report explains why Moira is a big story in the US. We've got the Travers Stakes from Saratoga and chaos at Mohawk Park last Monday in which no one was hurt thanks to safety protocol. Then there's this race from The Track On 2 in which the top 4 horses all shared the same name. And those listening to the entire podcast will be treated to music from **Dire Straits, The Tubes, Norman Greenbaum, The Bobby Fuller Four** and, of course, **Jay and the Americans**.

September 5:

Does this podcast have the **Greatest Horse Racing Story** ever? Listen to our report on **Cody Dorman** and the great horse named after him and make your own decision. Is **Bulldog Hanover** the greatest pacer ever? Listen to his win in the **Canadian Pacing Derby** and jump into the debate. This podcast also goes to Woodbine for a couple of weekend Stakes and to Ajax Downs for the **Picov Derby**. Lots of **Tim Tetrick** in this audio – after notching his 13,000th win at Harrah's, he drove the upset winner in the Maple Leaf Trot. We found bloodstock agent, **Donato Lanni** at the CTHS Yearling Sale – did he buy the next Queen's Plate winner? And you might want to raise a glass or guzzle a shot or two when you hear a booze-fuelled harness race from the Meadows.

September 12:

Woodbine CEO **Jim Lawson** talks about the impact **Queen Elizabeth** has had on horse racing and reveals the amazing moment he spent with the Queen chatting about horses. Lots of Stakes races – the Wonder Where and the Toronto Cup from Woodbine and from Mohawk, 3 versions of the Simcoe and 2 of the Champlain. Fort Erie race caller **Doug McPherson** will be announcing his first Prince of Wales on September 13; he analyzes the field for us. It won't make the Hebsies, but iconic sportscaster **Mark Hebscher** reveals how he was the first race caller at Flamboro Downs. Horse trainer/owner **Blake McIntosh** tells us just how dilapidated and neglected Flamboro Downs has become. And we've got the moment when a horse driven by **James MacDonald** pushed his purse earnings past the \$50 million mark.

September 19:

The **Ricoh Woodbine Mile** was the highlight of a monster day of racing at Woodbine on Saturday. That same night, fillies and mares went at it at Mohawk in the Milton Stakes. Then on Sunday, **Emma-Jayne Wilson** capped a terrific day by winning the Singspiel Stakes. This podcast has the **Prince of Wales** from Fort Erie; **Justin Stein** discusses his win aboard **Duke of Love** and **Declan Carroll** explains how he got ejected from **Sir for Sure**. Teenage phenom **Slade Jones** had the biggest day of his riding career. Moncton's **Ailsa Morrison** scored a pair of wins at Gulfstream last Friday. And **James MacDonald** is crushing it at Mohawk, soaring past the \$50,000,000 mark, but even so, he might not even be his mother's favourite driver.

September 26:

Last Saturday gave us another monster night of Stakes races at Mohawk, including the Mohawk Million, Canadian Trotting Classic and the Metro Pace. This podcast is heavy on the harness racing; we interview **Doug McNair**, go to the **Little Brown Jug** and watch in amazement as 70 year-old **Reg Gassien** takes down another driving title. **Julie Ezra** is the daughter of trainer, passionate horseman and borderline lunatic **Darryl Ezra** and we discover he has passed on his horse racing genes. The sensational Bulldog Hanover crushed again and set a track record at Hoosier. We also have Stakes races from Woodbine and Ajax Downs and we hook up with **Frank Salive, Jack Darling** and **Shadow Play** to get their reactions to being finalists for the next induction into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

October 3

It was the \$400,000 Breeders' Stakes at Woodbine and staying on his horse proved to be a winning strategy for jockey Declan Carroll. Pacer Bulldog Hanover demolished the field in Ohio and that provoked us to wonder if it's time to call him the greatest harness horse of all time. We get opinion from Garnet Barnsdale, Brad Grant and Paul MacDonell. We have audio from a great night at Mohawk by driver Louis-Philippe Roy and Flamboro Downs race-caller Gary Guy getting a little ahead of himself. How lucky must one fan have been to take down the whole Jackpot High-5 pool when none of the longshots made the top 5? And just to make you smile... when 88 year-old horseman Bill Megens won another race, he tipped us on his impending retirement...sometime in the 2030s.

October 10:

How did **Rougir** and **Kazushi Kimura** win the E.P. Taylor Stakes and why was Queen's Plate champion, **Moira** disqualified? A defeat in Kentucky for **Bulldog Hanover**; perhaps taking the shine off an otherwise great week for trainer **Jack Darling** who got into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Darling, jockey **Eurico Rosa da Silva** and race caller **Frank Salive** talk about the honour of their inductions. Why can't we bet on horse racing at Bet365 or Fanduel or Bet MGM. Woodbine's **Michael Copeland** says be patient...it's going to happen. And it did happen for harness driver **Gilles Barrieau** – he scored his 5,000th win.

October 17:

It really deserves consideration for the horse racing story of the year – harness driver **Natasha Day** swept the 6 races in the **Ontario Women's Driving Championship** at Western Fair. She tells us how it happened. All 6 of Day's winning drives were called by **Melissa Keith** who puts the historic event in perspective. We document another huge night of racing at Mohawk Park with the 8 OSS Gold Super Finals – winning the 2 Year-Old Colts and Geldings final was **Stockade Seelster** and we feature his owners **Sally Macdonald** and her nephew, **Paul MacDonald**. And trainer **Mike Keogh**, who directed Wando to Canada's last Triple Crown sweep, talks about his battle with prostate cancer.

October 24:

This podcast features several Stakes races from Woodbine and the most riveting elimination heats from Mohawk Park for next weekend's Breeders Crown Finals. Another milestone for driver **James MacDonald**, and because there was no actual race for the world's fastest pacer, Bulldog Hanover decided to take part in a qualifier – but how fast did he go? Trainer **Jack Darling** tells us. Dead heats – how often do they occur – last week more than you'd think, and we're monitoring the Redemption Tour of jockey **Leo Salles**.

October 30:

Bulldog Hanover's authoritative win in the Open Pace is one of 12 Breeders Crown Championship races from Mohawk featured in this podcast. Driver Dexter Dunn and trainer **Jack Darling** talk about the amazing pacer. Race caller **Doug McPherson** breaks down his 5 most memorable moments as the racing season ends at Fort Erie. Another Quarter Horse session is in the books at Ajax Downs. Not only do we have **Jennifer Morrison** to tie a bow around things, but jockey Tony Phillips wraps up his championship season with his Championship Rap. Harness driver **Travis Henry** hits a plateau and have you ever seen a horse pay \$260...to show?

ODDITIES & ENTITIES

Anthony MacDonald, who won the Gold Cup and Saucer at Red Shores, Charlottetown, posted this picture of him coming to the finish line with Sintra. It's the people peering over the fences in the background that makes this image special to him.



"Maybe the coolest picture I've ever been in. Not because I won of because I was overcome with emotion, but because everyone else was behind me on the fenceline and this is what horse racing is all about. That's the Gold Cup and Saucer and that's what horse racing is to me. Thank you Charlottetown; even I forget sometimes."

That's the Gold Cup and Saucer, and that's what racing is to me.

Thank you Charlottetown, even I forget sometimes.

To the first 1,000 who came to Mohawk on September 3



When tracks payoff to the penny

RACE 3		MTP 23	Walter's Supplement	TUR
RACE 2		FINAL TIME	1:34.66	
SCRATCHES NONE				
WIN	7	Hawk of War	Tyler Gaffalone	
		7.48	4.48	3.58
PLACE	9	Artie's Rumor	Mitchell Murrill	
		7.28	4.26	
SHOW	12	Freedom Matters	Edgard Zayas	
			5.26	
	3	Palace Coup	Julien Leparoux	
\$1 Exacta	7/9		26.0	
\$5.50 Trifecta	7/9/12		63.0	
\$1 Double	10/7		11.0	
\$5.10 Superfecta	7/9/12/3		76.0	



Jessica Hallett