

DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER

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Canadian International Stakes, October 8:

Woodbine has a well-deserved reputation around the world for its great racing, facilities, and hospitality. Unfortunately, sometimes the outsiders drop in and overwhelm the home side, sweeping most of the big money and leaving the locals to divvy up the chump change.

That was the case on October 8. The big race was the Grade 1 Canadian International with a purse of \$900,000 and a distance of a mile and a quarter on the E. P. Taylor Turf. Nations Pride, under William Buick was pounded down to 2-5 as the bettors were persuaded by the 4-year-old's record of 8 wins in 13 races and earnings of more than \$2,000,000. And Buicks gave Nations Pride a confident ride, stalking

Nations Price



Michael Burns Photo

the leader, Royal Champion (James Doyle) for at least the first mile, coming out in the stretch and powering away to win easily by 2 ¼ lengths in the casual time of 2:03.65.

"I've ridden in the Canadian International a few times before and I've been placed a few times so it's great to win it," said Buick. "I knew with Nations Pride I had a pretty good horse, so it's just about getting everything right. The track was a bit of a concern – the yielding surface – but he really showed how versatile he is, and he's a high-class horse."

For trainer Charles Appleby and owner Godolphin, this was a second straight Canadian International victory. They sent out Walton Street to win in 2021, and this race was paused in 2022 because of Covid.

Nations Pride paid just \$2.80 to win.

The Algonquin Stakes was worth \$240,000, and



Dancing Duchess

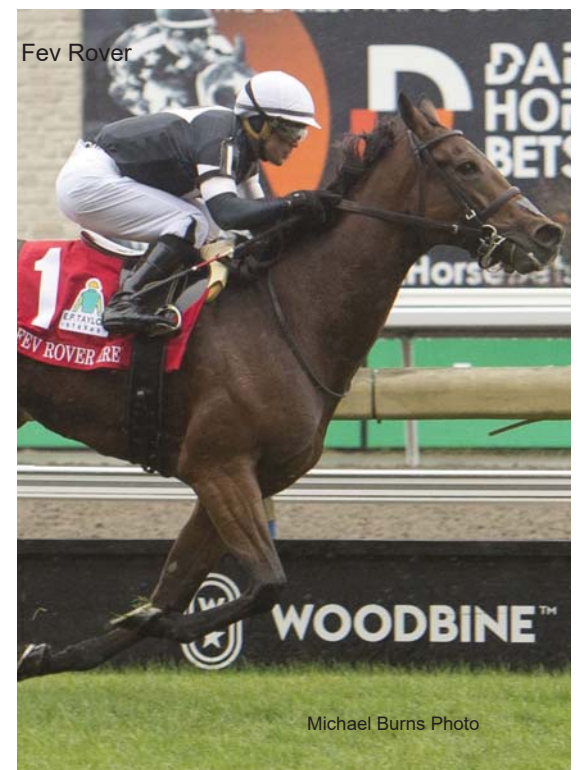
Michael Burns Photo

it attracted eight 2-year-olds going 5 furlongs on the inner turf, and this one had a sensational finish. Rock to Fame with Leo Salles was 83-1, yet took the lead into the stretch, but then was swarmed. Dancing Duchess and Javier Castellano erupted from 7th, were barreling 5-wide down the stretch, and found the wire a breathless half length better than Pipit (Kazushi Kimura) who grabbed second by a head over Golden Canary (Sahin Civaci). It was another head back to Split Strike (Dulan Davis) and one more head to Rock to Fame. Dancing Duchess notched her second win in 6 starts for trainer Mark Casse and owner Tracy Farmer, and she paid \$7.20.

This was also the first leg of an impressive riding clinic from Castellano.

The \$900,000 E.P. Taylor Stakes at 10 furlongs on the grass had a field of 10 fillies and mares. Moira, the 2022 Queen's Plate champion went off as the 3-2 favourite under Rafael Hernandez, but she had to settle for a decent 3rd place finish. It was Fev Rover and Castellano who were the best, moving from 3rd to first just as the field straightened for home and romping to the wire safe by over 2 lengths in 2:04.20. Fev Rover, a 5-year-old mare, has alternated wins and losses through her last 8 races. She won the Nassau Stakes on July 1, and took down the Beverly D Stakes at Colonial Downs on August 12. The win in the Canadian Stakes gave Fev Rover 6 wins in 19 starts for her owner, Tracy Farmer. Fev Rover paid \$10.10 to win and when Castellano captured the next race with the Casse-trained Like The King in a \$114,000 allowance heat at a mile and a 16th, he had the natural hattrick. The all-Castellano pick-3 was worth \$9.55 for a 20-cent bet. Calculating that jockeys get 10% of the purse, Castellano earned about \$65,500 in about 65 minutes.

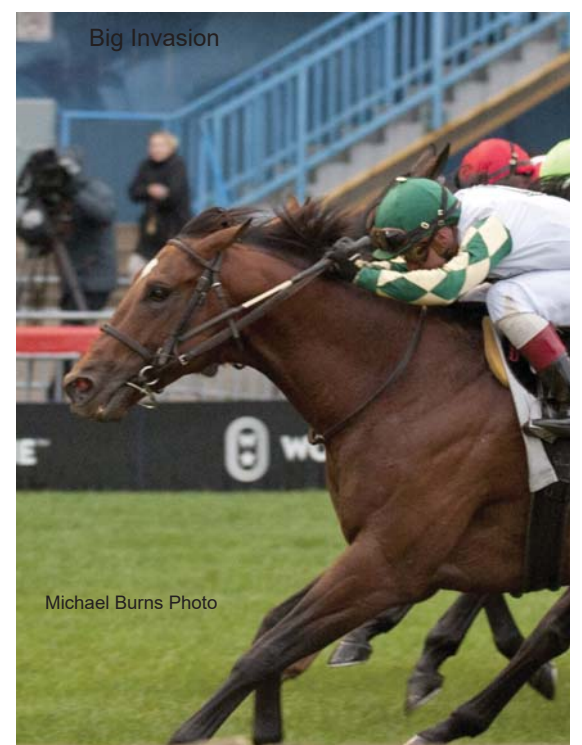
The other Stakes race that day was the Grade 2 Nearctic for 3-year-olds and older at 6 furlongs,



Fev Rover

Michael Burns Photo

and like the other three added-money events that day, this one belonged to the interlopers. In fact, the appropriately named Big Invasion completed the big invasion of foreign entities by carrying Dylan Davis to a head victory in another race with a furious finish. Big Invasion was timed in 1:11.31. Lucky Score (Sahin Civaci) was 2nd with Ice Chocolate (Castellano) a head back in 3rd, just a nose better than Dhabab (William Buick) who was a head better than Dream



Big Invasion

Michael Burns Photo

Shake (Rafael Hernandez). The Equibase chart shows that 8 horses were all lunging at the wire together. Big Invasion is trained by Christophe Clement and owned by Reeves Thoroughbred racing and with an 8th win in 14 races, the 4-year-old colt paid \$9.60.

THE EDITOR WEIGHS IN



Recently there has been an uncomfortable narrative about horse racing – that the sport is veering towards a precipice and will soon plummet into irrelevance. And, in fact, we have a page in this publication in which trainer Mark Casse argues that all racetracks should embrace synthetic surfaces and that doing so will save countless horses' lives.

But is the sport of horse racing in an unstoppable downward spiral?

We don't think so. And in the pages of this issue – our 139th – is a generous abundance of proof that the game is still extraordinary, thrilling, and unforgettable. Where do we begin?

Well, they had the Breeders Crown at Hoosier park in Indiana on the last weekend of October.

Locally, the last several weeks have felt like a non-stop parade of huge Stakes races at both Woodbine and Mohawk. When Woodbine hosted the Canadian International, most of the money went to competitors from outside the country. It was a similar story on September 16, the day of the Woodbine Mile as an Irish

Horse, Master of the Seas took down the Mile. Kentucky-breds Carson's Run and She Feels Pretty won the Summer Stakes and Natalma Stakes respectively, leaving just the Vigil Stakes for the local sprinter, Patches O'Houlihan. Our take, of course, is that Canadian horse racing is so vibrant and rewarding, the best come here to share in the spoils.

We have 3 pages of Woodbine Stakes descriptions, in which we refer to Sahin Civaci, Kazushi Kimura, Jose Campos, Rafael Hernandez, Emma-Jayne Wilson, and Patrick Husbands.

We have paid a lot of attention to jockeys this year, especially to the apprentices. Can anyone remember a year when the "bugs" won so many races? We're touting Sofia Vives as the runaway winner of the Sovereign Award as this country's Outstanding Apprentice Jockey, but others will get votes – Amanda Vandermeersch, Desean Bynoe and Rachel Slevinsky all have had wonderful moments. And there was a remarkable 3-day period in October when 3 apprentice jockeys on 3 successive days each won for the first time at Woodbine. So, watch out next year for

Cheyenne Kerr, Fraser Aebly, and Pietro Moran.

On the harness side, we document the Canadian Content from the Breeders Crown in Indiana. A year ago, it was the Canadian horse, Bulldog Hanover crushing everything in sight. This year Dr. Ian Moore's Tattoo Artist is having a year to remember.

Stop reading this editorial right now and go to Standardbred Canada's statistics and try and digest what Sylvain Fillion has done lately – like over the last 36 years. On October 23, Fillion won the first race with a pacer called One More Bet and that was his 10,000th career win, the most by any driver ever on the Woodbine-Mohawk circuit.

I have grown fond of a woman named Jessica Hallett, whom I have never met. But she's a brilliant artist and photographer and as you leaf through these pages, you will find her stunning image of harness horses racing with a fall foliage background, a harness horse etched on a pumpkin, and a horse named Hi Ho Silver playing the part in the winner's circle.

Before we published the first issue of this paper 15 years ago, we went hat in hand to David Willmot, who was the CEO of Woodbine at the time. We were seeking "sponsorship," you know, regularly issued cheques for reflecting Woodbine's product. I remember Willmot's response.

"Everyone wants to suckle Woodbine's teat!" But then he proposed that it was the horse owners who were taking the biggest gamble and getting the least attention. He agreed that Woodbine would provide a roll of quarters if *Down The Stretch* were to produce Owner of the Month features, and so we have. This month, our Thoroughbred Owner of the Month is Beverley Chubb, who not only has a letter from the Queen complimenting her equine art, but she has also partnered with at least 15 different people to own horses. The Standardbred Owner of the Month is 21-year-old Tyler Jones, a harness driver who got our attention by celebrating on social media his first purchase of a harness horse.

In addition, when we kicked off this paper, I had this neat idea of doing a page called Oddities & Entities, thinking each issue, "We could fill this with the weird, wacky and wonderful horse racing things that don't fit anywhere."

This issue has 2 pages of that stuff, proving once again, no sport is quite like horse racing.

We burst this issue from the gate a few days before the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita. That just means the next issue will have coverage of the biggest races of the year and a look at how Canadian-connected horses did.

Have I made my point that horse racing is still thrilling and sustainable and worthy?

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Can Con at the Crown

The 12 Breeders Crown finals were held at Hoosier Park in Indiana on October 27-28. No Canadian interests took top prizes in the Saturday races, but there was some maple leaf flag waving on Saturday.

The most impressive win of the night came from the wonderful 3-year-old Sylvia Hanover. She went off at 4-5 in the \$600,000 Fillies and Mares Pace. Approaching the far turn, Bob McClure had no choice but to move Sylvia Hanover first over as Twin B Joe Fresh was controlling the tempo from the rail. As they turned for home, Sylvia looked defeated. Twin B Joe Fresh opened up 2 lengths. But in the final 8th, Silvia Hanover found more and overhauled the longtime leader to win by a head in 1:49.2. McClure was amazed at his filly's stamina.

"That was a vicious move down the backside," said McClure. I thought she was going to get beat. She should have been done by the 3/4 pole. She's got 3 lungs in her. I was fortunate that she was tough enough to hang on."



Sylvia Hanover (#5) got there in time

This was Sylvia Hanover's 18th win in 22 starts. She is



A perfect 10 for Tactical Approach

owned by Hudson Standardbreds of Quebec and trained by Mark Steacy. She paid \$3.90.

The 3-Year-Old Colts and Geldings paced for \$672,000. Scott Zeron famously won the Hambletonian from post 10 with Tactical Approach, and the pair got saddled with post 10 again in this race. At Hoosier, though, number 10 horses start from the second tier and Zeron was able to work a perfect trip for Tactical Hanover. Down the backstretch, they were 3rd over and when the field came for home, Zeron was able to tilt his trotter to the centre of the track and Tactical Approach simply gobbled up everything in front of him, winning convincingly by 1 1/4 lengths in 1:51.2. Canadian John Fielding is part owner. Tactical Approach is trained by Nancy Takter and this victory produced a \$6.10 payoff. And if you're keeping score, this Breeders Crown win goes into Zeron's 2023 resume along with his Hambo win, his NA Cup, the Little Brown Jug, the Jugette, and the Kentucky Futurity.

There was one major disappointment for Canadian

harness racing fans. Tattoo Artist was seeking an 8th straight win and he was bet down to 4-5 in the \$600,000 Open Pace. The first 3/8^{ths} were just too much for Tattoo Artist. Louis-Philippe Roy wanted the lead, but Charlie May and Chase Hanover forced Tattoo Artist 3-wide into the first turn and he was not able to clear until just before the half. A :25.4 opening quarter and a :53.2 half took some starch out of Tattoo Artist. In the stretch, Bythemissal (Yannick Gingras) pounced and went by as Tattoo Artist faded to 3rd behind Lou's Perlman. Bythemissal paid \$5.80.

Max Contract pulled Andy Miller to victory in the \$400,000 Open Mares Pace. Zeron guided Millar Farms' Silver Label to a second place result.

In the other Breeders Crown races from October 28:

Bond scored for Åke Svanstedt in the \$600,000 3-Year-Old Fillies trot, paying just \$2.60.

Jiggy Jog S and Dexter Dunn produced the lowest paying winner, taking the Open Mares Trot and redeeming the successful bettors with \$2.20.

Confederate and Tim Tetric were popular winners of the 3-Year-old Colts and Geldings Pace. The win ticket was \$2.60.

And Åke Svanstedt doubled up when he delivered Southwind Tyrion in the Open Trot. This created the nicest payoff of the 8 races that night – \$14.

The suits at Harrah's Park were delighted to announce that the two nights of Breeders Crown races produced the highest betting total of all-time at that track – \$5.1 million wagered.

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Closing Day at Ajax Downs:

Hawkin the Straw Takes Futurity, Brian Bell Wins Leading Jockey, and the First Battle of the Breeds by Jennifer Morrison

The 25th and final day of the 2023 Quarter Horse season at Ajax Downs was packed with drama and excitement throughout the afternoon.

The featured race, the \$76,680 Alex Picov Memorial Futurity for 2-year-olds, one of the richest quarter horse races in Canada, was won by the rising star Hawkin the Straw, an Ontario-bred owned and bred by Erik and Joyce Lehtinen of Uxbridge, ON. The Futurity win by Hawkin the Straw also solidified the jockey title for Brian Bell.

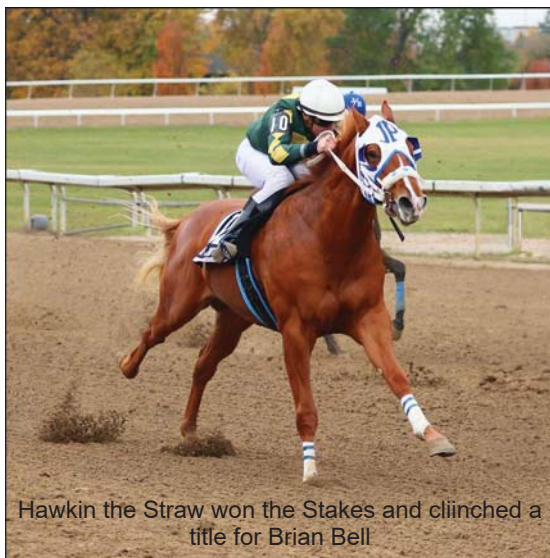
Hawkin the Straw won one of two Trials for the Picov Futurity on Oct. 4 and was sent off as the 5-2 second choice to Eye Tempt You, winner of the slightly faster Trial. Trained by Jason Pascoe, Hawkin the Straw had the smoother beginning from post position 10 at the start of the 400-yard dash and led all the way to win by half a length in a time of 20.531 for an 83 speed index. A pair of 20-1 longshots, Willie Lump Lump and General Skywalker finished second and third, respectively.

"He was really feeling good before the race," said Bell. "I had all the confidence in the world in him and once we broke from the gate, he was always in front. I was very impressed. He's one to watch for next year."

Hawkin the Straw had three starts in Indianapolis before he came to Ajax and won a maiden race and his Trial. The son of Bf Farm Boss now has 3 wins from 6 races and over \$45,000 in earnings.

For Bell, 41, this was the third consecutive year he has won the Picov Futurity from post position 10. The victory, Bell's 26th of the meeting, clinched the rider's title by wins, QROOI points (252) and purse earnings (\$269,234 US). Bell, who is closing in on 800 career victories, will spend the winter preparing young racehorses for training early in 2024.

Ajax Downs also hosted its first-ever Battle of the



Hawkin the Straw won the Stakes and clinched a title for Brian Bell

Breeds dash, an 870-yard race around a turn for quarter horses versus thoroughbreds.

The inaugural Battle of the Breeds was won by Magen Finnessy's Azures Royalty, an Ontario-bred quarter horse who battled on the lead with the thoroughbred, Red Maple, trained by Joe Humber from Fort Erie, and another quarter horse, Maryland Magic, before pulling away to a 1 3/4 length win. Ridden by Neil Husbands and trained by Brooke Sisson, Azures Royalty raced the distance in 47.07. Ajax Downs hopes to put on a couple of Battle of the Breeds races each month in 2024.

Jason Pascoe was Ajax Downs' leading trainer for the 6th consecutive year and won 37 races, with Bob Broadstock second with 23 wins. Milena Kwiecien was the leading owner with 21 wins over James Bogar who had 17.



Battle of the Breeds

The very good 3-year-olds Snow Moose and Sour Candy, both winners on the final day of the season, each won a meet-leading 5 races during the year and figure to be the top contenders for the Ajax Downs' Horse of the Year when the awards are presented in February.

Ajax Downs' General Manager, Emilio Trotta reported that wagering was up over 10 percent from a year ago. "Our Sunday race days are always packed, but now we are seeing our Wednesdays in the summer becoming more and more crowded," said Trotta. "Quarter horse racing is growing in popularity."

The 2024 Ajax Downs season is scheduled to kick off in May. The track's expansive simulcast room is open throughout the winter and spring for watching and wagering on tracks throughout the world. Visit www.ajaxdowns.com for special events during the winter.

10,000 for Filion

Anyone examining Filion's numbers on Standardbred Canada's website would have seen his machine-like progression to this elevated plateau. From 1992 into 2023, Filion had strung together 32 consecutive years in which he produced at least 100 winners. In 2005, 2006 and 2007, he exceeded the 500 mark. In that last year, with 524 wins and 1019 in-the-money finishes from 2064 drives, Filion earned a U.D.R.S. of .385. Without explaining the Sheldon Cooper-esque math that goes into the U.D.R.S., .385 is beyond sensational. Yannick Gingras is having a career year at the Meadowlands and his U.D.R.S. of .349 is much the best of all the drivers there.

In each of the last 14 years, horses driven by Filion earned at least \$4,500,000.

Filion makes the point that he's only as good as the horses he gets and he's grateful to the great trainers who supplied him with ready stock.

"When you drive for top trainers like Richard Moreau, Carmen Auciello, Dr. Ian Moore, it helps," he says. "And I drove One More Bet for Jean Tourigny, another guy from Quebec. I have driven many horses for him."

Filion is the nephew of Hervé Filion, a great pioneer of modern-day harness racing. Uncle Hervé won 15,183 races. Does the nephew plan to eclipse those numbers?

"Oh no," he says. "That would be impossible. I would have to drive until I was 100."

It's pointed out that horses driven by Filion have earned almost \$140,000,000. Does he still have any of that?

"Oh, the wife took care of that!" he cracks.

There was a small celebration in the winner's circle after Filion recorded his 10,000th win, and it prompted him to recall a couple of his more memorable drives.

"I immediately thought of my first win ever," he says. "It was with my dad's horse, Supreme Jade at Rideau Carlton. And Goliath Bayama is the horse that gave me the most thrills. He won the Breeders Crown and was second to Ponderosa in the North America Cup."

That Breeders Crown win came in 2001, and Filion roared home with Goliath Bayama. The pair was 7th as the field turned for home, but Goliath Bayama unleashed a furious rally and ended up winning by a nose in a four-horse photo. This was special for Filion, as the 5-year-old horse was trained by his father, Yves.

Another winter is about to creep towards Mohawk. At 54, can Filion take another bone-chilling night of harness driving?

"I was born and raised in Quebec, so I don't mind winter at all," he says. "When I'm done driving, I'll be done driving winter and summer too."

And is Filion contemplating the end of his sensational professional career?

"I don't see myself going like this for too long," he says, without a hint of regret in his voice.



Harness driver Sylvain Filion made some remarkable history on Monday, October 23. In the first race on the Mohawk card, he steered the 1-2 favourite, One More Bet to an easy 5-length win against 7 other 2-year-old fillies in a \$17,000 Harvest Series pace. That was Filion's 10,000th career win. He is the only Mohawk regular to reach that huge number and is the 23rd driver in North America to reach 5 figures.

"I knew I was one win away," says Filion. "But I didn't know if I was going to win. I did like my chances. I got a real nice reaction from all the other drivers. They all congratulated me. They were really sincere. Some were surprised. They didn't anticipate I was at that number."

Woodbine Stakes

August 26, \$201,500 Muskoka Stakes:

A field of eleven 2-year-old fillies went 6 ½ furlongs on the Tapeta and it was the even-money favourite, Hurricane



Michael Burns Photo

Clair ridden by Sahin Civaci, who pummeled her rivals into submission. Hurricane Claire was a patient 8th after a quarter mile, but when Civaci asked her, the response was impressive. She made an eye-catching 5-wide move around the far turn and simply galloped away with impunity, winning by 5 ¼ lengths in 1:18.46. A month earlier, in her debut, Hurricane Clair had finished 3rd in a maiden special weight. She is owned by David Rowbotham, Rodney Carpenter and Tony Boogmans, and trained by Martin Drexler. The win ticket was worth \$4.30.

\$100,000 Elgin Stakes:

Rapid Test under Kazushi Kimura went off as the even-



Michael Burns Photo

money choice and assigned 6 others a test too rapid to overcome. The 3-year-old colt was ahead of just one other halfway through 7 furlongs, but when he found his best stride, Rapid Test came into the stretch full of steam, passing others and cruising to the wire a winner by 1 ¼ lengths in 1:23.10. That was his second win in a row and his 3rd in 5 tries for trainer Catherine Day Phillips and the owners Kingfield racing Stable and Apricot Valley Thoroughbreds. Rapid Test paid just \$4.10.

\$100,000 Algoma Stakes:



Michael Burns Photo

This one was for 3-year-old fillies at 7 furlongs and the parade of favourites continued, though just barely. Souper Sinclair was taken back early by Jose Campos and had just one rival behind her at the half. Coming for home, Campos had to stickhandle through a crowd, but found a seam, lunging for the win just before the wire, a mere nose ahead of Zana (Justin Stein). It was just Souper Sinclair's 2nd win in 11 starts. He is trained by Philip Hall and owned by Praven Sorenson, and the Estate of Dennis Tucker. The win ticket was \$4.

\$201,500 Simcoe Stakes:



Michael Burns Photo

For 2-year-old colts at 6 ½ furlongs, this one had a full field of 11 and My Boy Prince under Sahin Civaci made the four Stakes races on this day a clean sweep for the favourites. My Boy Prince went off at 20 cents to the dollar and ran as if he was the only horse in the race. The son of Cairo Prince had the lead at the quarter in :23.01 and came into the stretch ahead by almost 7 lengths. At the wire, the margin was 14 lengths, and the time was 1:15.48, an excellent clocking for a 2-year-old, just a second off the record of 1:14.44. My Boy Prince is trained by Mark Casse for Gary Barber and with his 2nd win in 3 races, he paid just \$2.40.

September 3, \$150,000 Toronto Cup Stakes:



Michael Burns Photo

Eight 3-year-olds went a mile on the turf and this was yet another example of how terrific Emma-Jayne Wilson is. She was riding Love to Shop, the only filly in the race, and if the pair appeared to be browsing in 5th down the backstretch, they were appropriately focused on the cashier in the stretch. Wilson guided Love to Shop 6-wide in the stretch and one by one, they passed rivals, swooping to the finish line the best by 1 ¼ lengths in 1:34.14. Love to Shop had never missed the board in 5 races and this was her 2nd win for trainer Kevin Attard and the Repole and Elias Stables. Love to Shop paid \$7.70 to win.

September 2, Maple Leaf Trot:

There were just a couple of amazing things about the win in this \$530,000 race by Alrajah One. First, with an emphatic swoop down the stretch for driver Dexter Dunn, who rallied the trotter from 5th down the backstretch to victory by an expanding length, Alrajah One stopped the clock in 1:50.2. That is the fastest mile ever, not just trotted in this Stakes race, but in any race at any track in Canada. The other jaw-dropping fact is that Alrajah One was competing for the first time in over 12 months. That is rarely the recipe for victory in a major Stakes race. Alrajah One won for the 17th time in 44 starts. He is owned by Scuderia My Horse and trained by Åke Svanstedt. The successful bettors had to settle for \$3.80.

Canadian Pacing Derby:

Bythemissal (Yannick Gingras) went off at 35 cents to the dollar but worked a little too hard in the first part of this \$615,000 race. After hitting the half in :53.3 and the ¾ in 1:21, Bythemissal was softened up just enough. Tattoo Artist, who was 7th at the half came roaring through the stretch for Louis-Philippe Roy and looked powerful to the wire, eventually passing Bythemissal to win by a neck in 1:47.4. Now a 6-year-old, Tattoo Artist won for the 35th time in his 88th race for his owners, Let It Ride Stables, Frank J. Cannon, Diamond Creek Racing and Bottom Line Racing. Dr. Ian Moore is the trainer and Tattoo Artist returned \$15.30.

September 9, Singspiel Stakes, \$150,000:



Michael Burns Photo

This was for 3-year-olds and older at a mile and a quarter on the grass, and the 6-5 favourite, Rockemperor (Kazushi Kimura) surged to the lead as the field entered the stretch. It was, however, Palazzi under Sahin Civaci who had the most steam in the final 8th, passing Rockemperor and winning by half a length in 2:02.26. This was another win for Civaci on a horse trained by Mark Casse and owned by Gary Barber. Palazzi won for the 3rd straight time and improved to 5-3-2 in 23 career starts. The 5-year-old paid \$10.50.

Canadian Stakes, \$200,000:

This Grade 2, presented by the Japan Racing Association had a field of 6 fillies and mares, asked to travel 1 ⅛ mile on the E.P. Taylor Turf, and it featured a triumphant return to elite form by the 2022 Queen's Plate Champin, Moira. With Rafael Hernandez calling the shots, Moira stalked the pace down the backstretch in 4th, about 3 lengths behind the early front runner, Miss Dracarya



(Dylan Davis). If the backers of Moira were slightly concerned that she wasn't on the lead, they didn't need to worry. When Hernandez gave the cue, Moira responded brilliantly, making an intimidating 4-wide move into the stretch and when they straightened out, all doubt was erased, as Moira sprinted away from her rivals and found the wire much the best by 6 ¼ lengths in 1:46.04. In the winner's circle, Hernandez made an emphatic statement, "I just want to tell you guys, 'Guess who is back? Moira!'" he shouted. "They weren't going to beat her today. She's 100%. Every time I ride her, it's not just another horse. She has a special place in my heart."

Moira is trained by Kevin Attard and her owners are X-Men Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, and SF Racing. This was her 5th win in 11 starts and she paid \$7.90.

September 10, \$10,500 Zadracarta Stakes:



This was for fillies and mares at 5 furlongs on the grass. Even though Sahin Civaci had been winning Stakes races at a rate superior to all the other riders, his assignment on Sacred Dancer was ignored by the bettors, as the 4-year-old filly went off at 14-1. The bettors were befuddled, as Sacred Dancer found her best gear along the inside as the field turned for home and she scooted to the wire a head better than the 3-1 favourite, Hard Edge (Kazushi Kimura). This one is trained by Don Peterski and owned by Kata Peterski and with her 4th win in 19 starts, she paid a generous \$31.10.

\$250,000 Wonder Where Stakes:



This was the 3rd leg of the Triple Tiara for 3-year-old fillies. Elysian Field won the Oaks and Me and My Shadow won the Bison City Stakes. The outcome of this race assured that the 3 designated races would go to 3 different fillies as Tito's Calling carried Sahin Civaci to an emphatic 4-length win. Civaci had the daughter of Society's Chairman 4th after 6 furlongs and took an inside route down the stretch to pass rivals, winning the 1 ¼ grass race by 4 lengths in 2:04.90. Tito's Calling is trained by Mike De Paulo for Zilli Racing Stables and with her 3rd win in 12 starts, she paid \$9.20. This was Civaci's 12th Stakes win at Woodbine this year, of which 7 have come for trainer Mark Casse.

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



A six-pack of 2-year-old colts contested this one at 7 furlongs. Zippy Gizmo was ridden by Kazushi Kimura, who elected to keep his charge last of the 6 for the first half mile as the 5-2 favourite, Meko Makee (Omar Moreno) took the field through splits of :23.41 and :46.33. Zippy Gizmo saved ground along the inside, found the 4-path in the stretch, and surged between rivals late to get up by a neck in 1:22.77. That was the 2nd win in 4 races for Zippy Gizmo who is owned by Ivan Dalos and trained by Kevin Attard. The win ticket was worth \$9.10.

\$100,000 Victorian Queen Stakes:



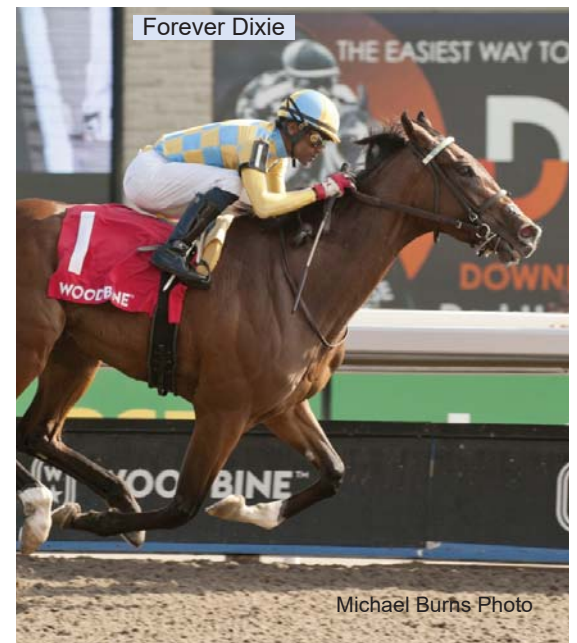
It was the same distance for the rookie fillies and only 5 contested this one. War Painter carried Patrick Husbands, and that's always a benefit. Husbands was patient in 5th for the first half mile and took War Painter to the outside as the field turned for home. War Painter was able to put away the leader, Olivia Rose (Kazushi Kimura) to win by length in 1:21.70, more than a second faster than the boys went 2 races earlier. War Painter is trained by Kevin Attard who won both Stakes on this day. The 2-year-old colt is owned by the Canuck Racing Club, and he paid \$12.80 to win.

October 1, \$400,000 Breeders' Stakes:



Among the 14 horses required to go a mile and a half on the E.P. Taylor Turf were King's Plate winner Paramount Prince and Woodbine Oaks champion, Elysian Field. The Prince of Wales winner, Velocitor was not entered. Patrick Husbands had Paramount Prince forwardly placed from the start, but the pace was too quick for the distance. In the stretch, Elysian Field, nicely rated by Sahin Civaci surged to the lead with Touch N Ride moving alongside for Kazushi Kimura. As Civaci hit Elysian Field left handed, the filly bore badly out, pushing Touch N Ride at least 8 paths wide to the far side of the track. Neither animal was conceding down to the wire, and it appeared that Touch N Ride got his nose in front when it counted. There was an inquiry concerning the first two finishers, but the head-on video clearly showed that Elysian Field caused all the interference, and no changes were made. The time for the distance was 2:27.56. This gave Kimura his first victory in a Triple Crown race. The winning trainer is Layne Giliforte, and the owners are Chiefswood Stables. Touch N Ride paid \$10.20.

\$150,000 Ontario Damsel Stakes:



Not that we needed more evidence, but this race at a mile and a 16th showed again that Patrick Husbands is the smartest jockey at Woodbine. Aboard Forever Dixie in the 5-horse field, Husbands bided time along the inside, sitting a threatening 3rd behind Sal's Blue Jacket (Kazushi Kimura) and Solo Album (Sahin Civaci) as they did the heavy lifting. When a small hole along the inside opened up at the top of the stretch, Forever Dixie shot through and powered away in the final furlong to win by 3 ¼ relaxed lengths in 1:42.96. This was the 2nd win of the year in her 4th race and her 3rd in 10 tries. The filly is owned by John Oxley and trained by Mark Casse, and she generated a \$6.40 win ticket.

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October 14, \$181,000 Ontario Matron Stakes:



A field of 10 fillies and mares contested this one at a mile and a 16th and half the field went off at odds under 10-1. The favourite, Mouffy (Kazushi Kimura) was 2.25-1, but never quite fired. Millie Girl gave rider Rafael Hernandez the winning effort, bidding her time near the back of the field early, then stick-handled in and amongst rivals down the stretch, flashing a nice burst deep in the lane to prevail by a neck over the long-time leader, Angelou (Luis Contreras). The winning trainer is Catherine Day Phillips for Kingfield Racing Stable, Braconcrest Inc. and Apricot Valley Thoroughbreds. Millie Girl is a 5-year-old mare, and this was her 4th and most impressive win in 9 races. She paid \$10.70.

\$180,000 Ontario Fashion Stakes:



This Grade 3 was also for fillies and mares and 9 of them went 6 furlongs on the tapeta. Loyalty (Kazushi Kimura) tried to sprint away from the others but zipped past the half mile in a torrid :44.24 and was clocked at :55.99 for 5 furlongs. That set it up perfectly for a well-rated Spun Glass under Luis Contreras. Spun Glass was 8th at the half, saved ground into the turn and split horses with the most momentum deep in the stretch to win by half a length at odds of 27-1 over Awesome Treat (Emma-Jayne Wilson) who was 38-1. Spun Glass is a 6-year-old mare, and this was her 7th win in 28 races. She is trained by Michael Trombetta for R. Larry Johnson, and she paid \$57.20. The Spun Glass-Awesome Treat exactor returned \$529.60 for each \$1 bet.

October 15, \$150,000 Display Stakes:



A field of eight 2-year-olds contested this one at 7 furlongs and it was the only filly in the race that proved the best. Tripolina, ridden patiently by Kazushi Kimura was 7th down the backstretch, but within 3 lengths of the leader. As the horses turned for home, Kimura let Tripolina go 5-wide and her momentum more than compensated for the lost ground as she took the lead in the final 8th and pulled away with authority to win by almost 3 lengths in the very good time of 1:21.81. Tripolina won for the 2nd time in 2 tries for trainer Kevin Attard and the owners, X-Men Racing, Madaket Stables and SF Racing – the same connections that race Moira. Tripolina paid \$4.70 to win.

\$125,000 Glorious Song Stakes: A Little Frisky



This one was also at 7 furlongs but was for fillies only and maybe the 8 that lined up were grateful that Tripolina took on the boys. A Little Frisky ran a great race for Ryan Munger. Last down the backstretch, the filly moved in and around rivals from the head of the stretch to the wire, surged in the final moments and got up to win by 3/4 of a length in 1:21.87, just 6/100^{ths} slower than Tripolina's time for the same distance. Josie Carroll trains for owner Mark Dobson, and A Little Frisky, breaking her maiden on the second try paid \$15.

October 21, \$150,000 Ontario Derby Stakes:

This one had a controversial result. Nine 3-year-olds went a mile and an 8th on the Tapeta. Through the stretch, the filly, Solo Album, under Sahin Civaci looked like the clear winner, repelling a late moving Touch'n Ride to get to the wire first by a length in the very good time of 1:48.93. (The record is 1:48.24). But within moments, the inquiry sign was flashing on the infield board – jockey Emma-



Jayne Wilson on the 5th place horse, and Twin City lodged a claim of foul with respect to an incident going into the first turn. The head-on shot showed that Twin City was pinched off by Solo Album and the stewards agreed this probably cost Wilson's ride a better result. Solo Album was disqualified and placed 5th, and Touch'n Ride was promoted to the win position. Ridden by Kazushi Kimura and trained by Layne Giliforte, Touch'n Ride adds this Stakes win to his Breeders' Stake victory from just 3 weeks earlier. Coincidentally, in that race, it was a misbehaving filly, Elysian Field, who nearly bolted in the stretch, pushing Touch'n Ride several lengths towards the grandstand. Touch'n Ride still won that race, and, in the Ontario Derby, he paid \$6.80 to win.



At 7 1/2 furlongs on the inner turf, this one attracted 7 runners. Mason's Gamble (Sahin Civaci) went off at 6-5 but took too long to get interested. It was Perfect Crime and Kazushi Kimura who stole this one with impunity, pouncing in deep stretch for the lead and winning by 1 3/4 lengths over Mason's Gamble. Perfect Crime is trained by Patrick Dixon for Colebrook Farms, and since this was the 5-year-old gelding's 5th win in his 33rd race, the win price of \$21.30 seems appropriate.

\$100,000 Eternal Search Stakes:



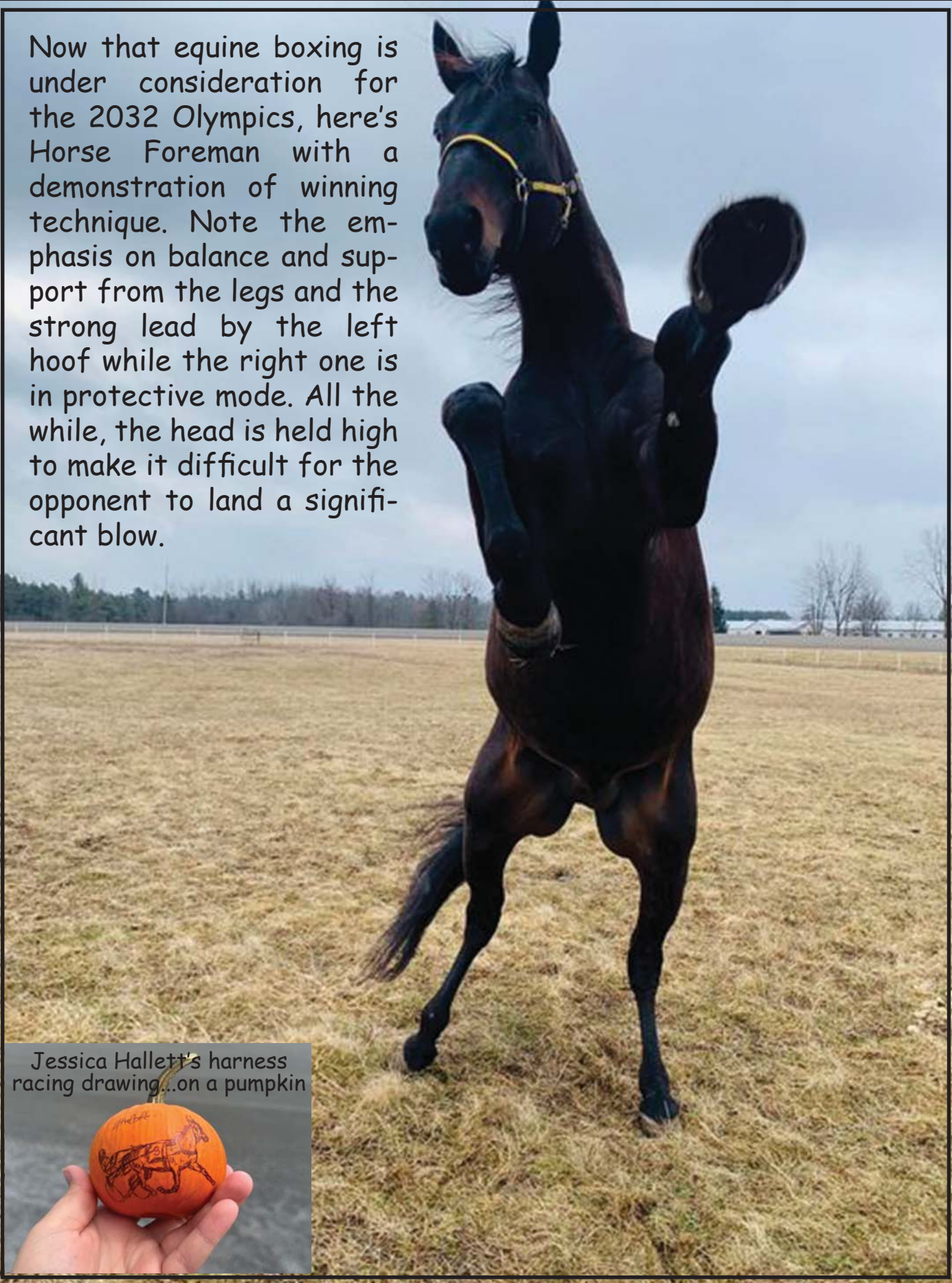
This race was for fillies and mares, also at 7 1/2 on the grass and there were 10 entries here. Fashionably Fab was ridden by Patrick Husbands and he somehow won in a furious finish as the camera showed a nose in front of Breathing Fire (Emma-Jayne Wilson). Fashionably Fab is owned by Terra Racing Stable and is trained by Kevin Attard. With her 5th win in 9 races, the 3-year-old filly paid \$7.40.

RACETRACK HUMOUR



Perry & Mooch

Now that equine boxing is under consideration for the 2032 Olympics, here's Horse Foreman with a demonstration of winning technique. Note the emphasis on balance and support from the legs and the strong lead by the left hoof while the right one is in protective mode. All the while, the head is held high to make it difficult for the opponent to land a significant blow.



Jessica Hallett's harness racing drawing...on a pumpkin

Ricoh Woodbine Mile Day:

How the Visitors Prospered

It's a tribute to Woodbine's quality of thoroughbred racing



Master of the Seas

that the world's best trainers, jockeys and horses regularly fly in to compete. On the day of the Ricoh Woodbine Mile, the out-of-towners left with some sizable cheques.

There were only 6 horses in the Woodbine Mile – a modest field considering the \$1.2 million purse. The 5-year-old Master of The Seas was making his first career start at Woodbine. Two months earlier, he had won the Grade 2 Summer Stakes at Ascot and before that he had won at Meydan and Newmarket. The bettors pounded him down to 2-5 and he performed accordingly. Under William Buick, Master of The Seas was content to be last of the 6 after a half mile, which was conducted on the front end by My Sea Cottage who hit that post in a sleepy :47.32 on turf rated as good. As the field went around the far turn, Master of The Seas began to gain momentum on the outside and came 6-wide into the stretch, passing rivals with ease. With a last quarter timed in :11.52, Master of The Seas proved to be a master of the grass, winning by 3 ¾ lengths in 1:33.79.

The victorious jockey, Buick admitted the race didn't manifest itself the way he thought it might.

"He usually breaks pretty fast. For one reason or another he didn't today," said Buick. "But there weren't many runners, and the pace was even. It's a big, fair track and he's a horse with a turn of foot, so it was kind of my job to navigate a trouble-free passage. When he won at Ascot last time, you sort of sensed he was showing his best and getting back to his best form. He had some really good 2-year-old form. I thought what he did earlier, he really showed how good he is."

That was a 7th win in 14 races for Master of The Seas, and because the Woodbine Mile was a win-and-you're-in race, it rewarded the winner with a free paid berth in the Grade 1, \$2 million Breeders' Cup Mile at Santa Anita on November 4. Last year, Modern Games won the Woodbine Mile and parlayed that into victory in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

Master of The Seas is owned by Godolphin which earned a cheque for \$600,000. The successful bettors had to settle for \$2.80 on the winning end.

Grade 1 Summer Stakes, \$500,000:

This race was also won by visitors as Carson's Run, ridden by Dylan Davis overhauled the 9-5 favourite, My Boy Prince (Joel Rosario) and romped home to win by 2

¼ lengths in 1:35.70 for the mile on the grass. Davis had the 2-year-old colt last of 9 at the half but went widest of all coming into the stretch with eye-catching momentum to pass all rivals.

Carson's Run is trained by Christophe Clement, but it



Carson's Run

race, commenting on the horse's very wide trip through the stretch.

"He did very well there because he saved all the ground he could and then when he angled him out at the quarter pole, we had to come wide obviously, but that way you don't get any traffic," said Lorieul. "He had a clear run from quarter pole to the wire and he really showed what he is today."

"He is a great ride. I've ridden him all three starts," said Davis. "Today, we wanted to go with the outside route and keep a clear trip on him. We saved all the ground going into the turn – nice real big turn here – and he was able to get it done."

Two horses trained by Mark Casse completed the triactor. He sent out My Boy Prince as well as the filly, Go with Gusto (Sahin Civaci) who finished 3rd.

This was just the 3rd career race for Carson's Run and his second win. He is owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and Steven Bouchey. Those owners got paid \$300,000 CAD. The win price was \$8.60. Carson's Run gets a free pass to the \$1 Million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf.

Grade 1 Natalma, \$500,000:

The biggest cheque here also went to non-residents as She Feels Pretty got a great ride from John Velazquez to rocket past the leaders in the stretch for a 4 ½ length victory in 1:35.34 for the mile on the lawn. Velazquez let She Feels Pretty look at things from 5th at the half in the field of thirteen 2-year-old fillies. Going wide into the stretch seemed to be the pattern of the day and She Feels Pretty was 5 or 6-wide when they turned for home. Once she straightened out, the



She Feels Pretty

race was over. She grabbed the lead near the ¾th and she was gone.

"I was very confident. I got to say she was feeling very confident," said Velazquez. "I made sure I put her in a good position behind Dylan Davis [rider of Ozara], a horse that could take me a little way down. When we turned for home, I moved her to the clear and her ears went up and I said, 'Wow, look at this.' I went after her and she instantly responded. The way she did it was very impressive."

She Feels Pretty won for the 2nd time in just 2 races. Her previous test was a maiden special weight victory in July at Ellis Park. She is trained by Cherie Devaux and owned by Lael Stables. She passes "Go" directly to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Mile Turf. Those who bet her will feel pretty – she paid \$18 to win.

Grade 3 Vigil Stakes, \$180,000:

This race at 6 furlongs was the only Stakes race this day without a "win-and-you're-in" designation. It was also the only Stakes race that day won by local interests. It's too early to say that Bob Tiller has another Pink Lloyd, but the 3-year-old Patches O'Houlihan won this over older horses, as he did on August 20. This was hardly a romp, though. Daisuke Fukumoto had Patches 2nd coming into the stretch and there would be a 3-plied battle right to the wire. Patches O'Houlihan won the photo by a nose over Last American Exit (Justin Stein) with Secret Reserve (Eswan Flores) a head better in 3rd over Rockcrest (Kevah Nicholls). The time was 1:09.16.

"This horse likes the company," said Fukumoto. "Today, he was pretty quiet, but was real sharp last time. He was



Patches O'Houlihan (#6)

calm today and followed the inside horse nicely. When the stretch came, I had confidence because he likes company."

Trainer Tiller, always a colourful post-race interview, had a unique confession after the race went official.

"I missed the race," quipped Tiller. "I got stuck on the elevator. He won without me. I don't know what happened. They must have got to the gate awful fast. I got out of the elevator, and I see this. I thought it was a rerun from last year. Apparently, we won. Did we win?"

Much like Tiller's historically great sprinter, Pink Lloyd, Patches O'Houlihan likes to string his wins together. This was his 6th straight victory and his 7th in 8 races. He is owned by Frank DiGiulio, and he paid \$4.40.

Stein and Velocitor in the Prince of Wales



We're still scratching our collective heads that Stanley House went off as the 3-2 favourite in the 88th Prince of Wales Stakes at Fort Erie on September 12. He came in with no Stakes victories and had been well beaten in both the Plate Trial and the King's Plate by Paramount Prince. The latter was the second choice at 5-2. Stanley House never got into contention, but Patrick Husbands on Paramount Prince used the same strategy that had worked in the Trial and the Plate – he took Paramount Prince to the lead and dared the rest to come get him. Ottawa (Kazushi Kimura) hounded Paramount Prince for the first half mile and the :45.99 it took to reach that post was too fast. Justin Stein rode Velocitor patiently in 3rd most of the way and when Paramount Prince passed the ¾ mark in a speedy 1:10.19, this race was ripe for the upset. Sten had Velocitor galloping strongly with a 4-wide move into the stretch and though Paramount Prince was still battling, Velocitor got the lead just before the wire and prevailed by a length over a closing Kaukokaipuu (Rico Walcott). This was just Velocitor's 1st win in 5 tries this year and his 4th in 10 races. He had been 4th in both the Plate Trial and the King's Plate.

"It's like déjà vu," cracked Stein to Julia Ezra when she rode up to him past the finish line. Ezra had been the first to him last year when he won the Prince of Wales with Duke

of Love.

"I had a great trip," said Stein. "I let Ottawa do the hard work and put the pressure on Paramount Prince. I sat in behind and had a ton of horse. I was just waiting to pull the trigger and he gave me everything down the lane."

This made Tuesday at Fort Erie a particularly good one for trainer Kevin Attard. Earlier on the card, he had sent out Fashionably Fab (Patrick Husbands) to win the \$100,000 Rondeau Stakes at 6 ½ furlongs for Terra Racing Stable. Fashionably Fab is a 3-year-old filly who has won half her 8 starts and she paid \$5.60.

As for Velocitor, this was a race that went exactly according to the trainer's playbook.

"I told Justin in the paddock I thought Ottawa would be the horse that presses," said Attard. "It worked out that Justin was able to get to the inside and save ground. He gave the horse a perfect ride."

This win probably meant more than many others for Stein. His 2023 season, to say the least, has been a struggle. Velocitor gave Stein his 16th riding win in his 217th ride. That strike rate of less than 8% is dramatically lower than the average he has carved out over an excellent 20-year career (1390 wins out of 10,248 mounts).

Velocitor paid \$17.70.

Vanek's Last Dance



The 11th and final race on Prince of Wales day at Fort Erie was just an \$8,000 claim race with a purse of \$22,000, but it had a Hollywood-esque storybook ending. Veteran jockey Helen Vanek won this 6 ½ furlong sprint with Striking Moon, taking the lead after half a mile and hitting the wire a length the best in 1:16.88. Striking Moon is a 6-year-old gelding who has 8 wins in 36 starts. He was claimed out of this race, going from Nick Mileni to Victoria Radhay and he paid \$4.80 to win. More importantly, Vanek had announced that this would be her last pari-mutuel race at a thoroughbred track. It was her 791st win from 6,424 rides, with her horses earning more than \$9 million. Vanek's riding career dates back to 1996 and we are told she will now be an outrider aboard her own horse, Chumlee.

Vanek also has 407 quarter horse victories from 2,879 assignments and it seems she will continue to ride the speedballs at Ajax Downs, where she wins regularly.



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Year of the Apprentice?

Can anyone remember a similar year at Woodbine when there were so many apprentice jockeys? We've got Sofia Vives just crushing it – we think she's a cinch to win the Sovereign Award as the country's best apprentice. Amanda Vandermeersch, Rachel Slevinsky and Desean Bynoe have all put together exciting rookie years. But to emphasize the invasion of "bugs" this year – from October 12-14, three apprentice jockeys each won for the first time at Woodbine.

On Thursday, October 12, the 8th race was for maiden fillies and mares with a claim price of \$7,500.



Cheyenne Kerr

distance was 6 ½ furlongs, and Cheyenne Kerr, who had been riding quarter horses at Ajax Downs for 2 years, was in a thoroughbred race for just the 4th time. Trainer Joe Russo showed a lot of trust in Kerr as the 3-year-old filly, Fedaline went off as the 8-5 favourite. Kerr gave the filly a relaxed start, found the rail down the backstretch and moved forward willingly. Leading by 2 into the stretch, Fedaline could not be caught and won by 1 ¼ lengths in 1:18.08.

"I've been galloping at Woodbine for three years," says Kerr. "I knew it was much more of a challenge and that's what intrigued me to ride the thoroughbreds. So, I went through and got my thoroughbred licence. The race went better than I thought it would. She broke super sharp. I was told, 'Let her run her race. If she wants to go to the lead let her.' I let her settle. We got up to the 3/8th pole and they started closing up on me. I just asked her a little bit and she just ran. I was so happy."

There's always a price to pay for jockeys who win for the first time. Kerr could not escape the traditional indoctrination.

"Oh, man. They caught me in the paddock," she laughs. "There was shaving cream, baby powder. There was a hose."

Kerr is represented by agent Ron Burke. She is hoping to get to 4 wins at which point, she will step back and allow her apprentice weight allowance to extend into next season.

The next day was October 13. The first race had a field of 6 fillies and mares who could be claimed for \$14,000.



Fraser Aebly

The distance was 5 furlongs on the inner turf, and this was the 4th ride at Woodbine for 19-year-old Fraser Aebly, who came east after a productive year out west where he won 52 races at Fraser Downs, Century Mile, and Assiniboia Downs. Aebly was on Lulu's Lullaby who went off at over 7-1. Aebly did not ride this one like a long shot.

"We broke out of the gate good," he says. "The others were going a little faster than I wanted to, so I took back and waited until the head of the lane, and the horse ran a great race."

Lulu's Lullaby had the lead as the field turned for home and was never in danger of being headed, winning by almost 2 lengths in :58.71. The horse is trained by her owner, Krista Cole-Simpson and the win ticket was \$17. Making this more interesting is that the 2nd place horse, Bellaspina was ridden by apprentice Amanda Vandermeersch and the show horse, Roses Are Free carried Sofia Vives. One of the reasons that Aebly came to Woodbine was to increase his awareness among Sovereign voters. Aebly acknowledges that Vives is the prime candidate but doesn't count himself out just yet.

"I don't think it's out of the picture," he says. "I got to catch up a little bit if I want that."

Aebly is being represented by former jockey, Gerry Olguin.

So, we had Kerr wining on October 12, Aebly on October 13 and then on Saturday, October 14, Pietro Moran also scored his first Woodbine win, but this one defied logic. Moran, the 18-year-old son of David Moran, who is riding in his 14th year at Woodbine, was aboard a 4-year-old filly, Trizzel Trazzel in a 12-horse field of \$7,500 claimers going 6 ½ furlongs. As the gates opened, Trizzel Trazzel was bumped and found herself last. At one point down the backstretch, Moran could see all 11 rivals ahead of him and was about 15 lengths from

the leader.

"The plan was not to be that far back," he admits. "It



Pietro Moran

just happened. She got wiped out. She was travelling well down the backstretch, and I didn't want to get stuck behind, so I thought the best route was to go around."

And going around was what he did, but in doing so, Moran took Trizzel Trazzel 10-wide into the stretch. That is not normally a prescription for success, but the filly had a ton of momentum as the leaders faltered and Trizzel Trazzel passed everyone to win by 1 ¼ lengths in 1:17.87.

"When I got the lead in the stretch, I just wanted to ride as hard as I could until the wire, making sure we got there ahead of anyone else," he says. "It's definitely something I won't forget."

Kevin Attard is the trainer of Trizzel Trazzel, who is owned by Attard's biggest clients, Al and Bill Ulwelling. Moran is grateful for the trust that Attard has extended.

"He's done so much for me," he says. "He's given me the opportunities on the right horses in the right races."

Moran is juggling his riding assignments with schoolwork. He's studying kinesiology at the University of Guelph at the Humber Campus just up the road from Woodbine.

And even though it took him 12 rides to score his first professional win, Moran doubled up on his very next assignment. It was the 9th race on October 20 and Attard had put Moran on the 6-5 favourite, Mo Tourist in a \$7,000 claim race at a mile and a 16th. Moran gave Mo Tourist a perfectly rated trip, holding the 3-year-old gelding several lengths behind a runaway leader until the top of the stretch when he asked, and his horse responded. Mo Tourist swooped to the lead and expanded his advantage with every stride to the wire, winning by 7 ¼ lengths in 1:43.12.

Mo Tourist paid \$4.40 to win and was claimed from this race by Philip Hall, but the teenaged rider can look forward to many more live horses from Kevin Attard.

Mohawk Million Mayhem and Miracle

Race caller Mark McKelvie –
“You’ve got to be kidding me!”



Newimage Media Photos

TCI was the winner of the William Wellwood Memorial, and with that he was the only 2-year-old trotter in the Mohawk Million whose owners didn’t have to cough up \$100,000 for the pay-to-play race. Riding a 7-race winning streak that included the final of the Peter Haughton at the Meadowlands, TCI went off as the 4-5 favourite in the Million, and certainly seemed likely to enrich the bank accounts of his owners, Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Servies and Weaver Buscemi. Except – just a few strides into the race, TCI made a break in stride and plummeted to last in the field of 10, some 15 lengths behind the early leaders.

“My heart stopped,” said Mickey Burke, acting as assistant trainer for his brother Ron. “You just don’t expect it and when it happened, you’re like, ‘Oh no.’”

Driver David Miller was certain TCI’s race was beyond recovery. Before the halfway mark, Miller was thinking of future races that the horse could win.

“At the quarter, I was like, ‘Ah, we’ve still got the Breeders Crown,’” quipped Miller.

Incredibly, TCI was not doomed. Before the race was over, 3 other horses would break stride and eliminate themselves. One of those, Drawn Impression (Louis-Philippe Roy) was the 2nd favourite. With less traffic in front of him, TCI caught the pack, but even as the field turned for home, Miller was not very confident.

“He was running in so much around the last turn and he wasn’t making up any ground,” said Miller.

With $\frac{3}{8}$ of a mile to go, TCI was 8th, but had plenty of runway out in the middle of the track and started to pass tired rivals. Announcer Mark McKelvie spotted TCI in mid-stretch and when the son of Cantab Hall was gaining momentum, McKelvie’s call reflected what just about every racing fan watching was thinking.

“TCI on the far outside is coming on. They’re 6-7 across the track,” proclaimed McKelvie. “TCI. Digging in though is Tennessee. Tom. TCI. Tennessee Tom. TCI – you got be kidding me. TCI wins the Million!”

The time for the remarkable mile was 1:54.3.

“He just put on a phenomenal effort,” said Mickey Burke. “Fortunately, the race set up for someone coming from behind. With his talent he was able to do it. I give the colt a lot of credit.”

For those curious about what TCI stands for, we’re told it’s a shoutout to the Turks and Caicos Islands. It

could also indicate This Colt is Incredible.

This improbable win extended TCI’s streak to 9 victories in a row. His earnings soared past the \$1.2 million mark, which dwarfs the win price extended to the bettors. TCI paid \$3.80.

Metro Pace:



Captains Quarters

Newimage Media Photos

There was \$970,000 on the table for ten 2-year-old pacers and Captain Quarters, steered by Jody Jamieson performed stylishly to get richer for his owner Rich Stiles. Jamieson had the colt on the lead at the halfway point in :55.1 and by throwing an eye-catching :54.2 final half at his rivals, Captain Quarters was a deserving winner by a length in 1:49.3, a time that matches the fastest mile paced in Canada this year. On September 2, the filly, Pass Line was also timed in 1:49.3 when she won a \$100,000 OSS Gold. Captain Quarters is trained by Herbert Holland and with his 2nd win in 5, he paid \$7.30.

Canadian Trotting Classic:

This \$660,000 final for 3-year-olds had a more



Celebrity Bambino

Newimage Media Photos

subdued outcome, but trainer Ron Burke and his partners aren’t complaining. Celebrity Bambino got a well-timed drive from Yannick Gingras and repelled a

late bid from Winners Bet (Dexter Dunn) to prevail by a neck in 1:51.4.

This was the 9th win in 24 tries for Celebrity Bambino who pushed his career earnings to \$936,070 for his owners Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services, J & T Silva Stables and Phillip Collura. The win ticket was \$6.80.

Elegant Image:



Bond

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Ten 3-year-old fillies trotted for \$381,000 in this one and the 4-5 favourite, Bond was obviously licenced to kill, or at least, vanquish all opponents. Driven by her trainer, Ake Svanstedt, Bond surged to the front just before the field turned for home and with a :27.3 final quarter, found the finish line in first by a head on 1:51.3. We have to point out this is a length better than Celebrity Bambino’s mile in the Canadian Trotting Classic. Svanstedt owns a share along with Little E and Berg Inc. Bond won for the 13th time in her 18th race and paid \$3.70.

She’s a Great Lady:



It's a Love Thing

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This final for 2-year-old fillies offered \$540,000 and another favourite got it done as James MacDonald delivered It’s a Love Thing safely by a length in 1:50.3. Never off the board in 9 starts, It’s a Love Thing won for the 6th time. Her trainer is Dave Menary, and she is owned by Eric Good, Thomas Biederman and Joshua Green. She paid \$4.80 to win.

Mohawk Stakes

Tattoo Artist in the Canadian Pacing Derby



Tattoo Artist

New Image Media Photo

He was the runner up to Bulldog Hanover in 2022, but this year Tattoo Artist looked great winning the \$615,000 Canadian Pacing Derby. Driven by Louis-Philippe Roy, Tattoo Artist settled in 7th early and began to reap the benefits of a strong early pace. Linedrive Hanover (James MacDonald) outdueled Allywag Hanover (Todd McCarthy) and the 1-5 favourite, Bythemissal (Yannick Gingras) to the first quarter lead in :26.4. It was Bythemissal leading at the half in :53.3, at which point Roy had moved Tattoo Artist to the outside. As they veered into the far turn, Poseidon Hanover gave Tattoo Artist cover. Bythemissal was timed in 1:21 for $\frac{3}{4}$ and that took some starch out of him. In the stretch, Tattoo Artist was full of pace and wore down a brave Bythemissal to win by a neck in 1:47.4.

The winning driver reported that the race didn't exactly unfold the way he might have preferred.

"I was hoping leaving the gate maybe Bythemissal will have to come a little bit later and I'll catch his cover," said Roy. "But then I saw him move pretty early on at the turn and my only hope then was that the horse would have to be so good, and I'm just happy I'm here."

Tattoo Artist is trained by Dr. Ian Moore and owned by Let It Ride Stables, Bottom Line Racing and Frank Cannon. With his 4th win in his 16th race this year, Tattoo Artist paid \$15.30.

Alrajah One in the Maple Leaf Trot



Alrajah One

New Image Media Photo

Even though he went off as the 4-5 betting choice, there was certainly great reason to be skeptical of Alrajah One in the \$530,000 Maple Leaf Trot. The 7-year-old horse was a late scratch due to injury from last year's Maple Leaf Trot and the 2023 renewal was his first competitive race in almost 13 months. Apparently, rust was not an issue.

Driver Dexter Dunn was patient early and had Alrajah One in 4th as It's Academic cut out a :27 first quarter and a :55.1 half. After $\frac{3}{4}$ in 1:23, Dunn had pulled Alrajah One to the outside. In the final 8th, it was no contest as Alrajah One powered by and hit the wire 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths the best in 1:50.2. That only produced 3 records – the fastest ever for this Stakes race, the fastest trot ever at Mohawk and the lowest mark ever recorded by a trotter at a Canadian track. It was Alrajah One's 17th win in his 44th race.

September 2, William Wellwood Memorial

A field of 10 rookie trotters worked for an attractive purse of \$620,000 in this one. The 1-2 favourite was TCI with David Miller, and that pair took control early, leading to the half in :56.3 and completing the mile in 1:54.3, about a length better than Mars Hill (Todd McCarthy) who was brave in the stretch, but could not get past the wheel of the winner. TCI won for the 6th time in 7 races for trainer Ron Burke, who shares ownership with Weaver Buscemi, Hatfield Stables



TCI

New Image Media Photo

and Knox Services. The win by TCI had a great bonus – he gets a free pass into the Mohawk Million; all the others have to pony up \$100,000. Bettors who predicted TCI had to settle for \$3.00.

Peaceful Way



Drawn Impression

Ten 2-year-old fillies trotted for \$425,000 and on a night when favourites dominated, it was Drawn Impression at 1-2 looking good for Louis-Philippe Roy. Roy had the filly far back early, at least 7 lengths from the front as the field approached the half mile mark. But before the field turned for home, Roy had Drawn Impression 3rd over with good flow in front. In the drive to the wire, Roy barely moved a muscle as Drawn Impression charged past rivals with powerful strides, finding the wire 4 lengths the best in 1:54.2. This was her 3rd win in her 3rd race. She is trained by Luc Blais, owned by Determination and she kicked out a \$3.00 win ticket.

Eternal Camnation



Genie Hanover

A field of eight 2-year-old pacing fillies contested the first of two Eternal Camnation finals, and the upset was executed by Genie Hanover, driven by Todd McCarthy. After a good early move to get a 2nd place trip, Genie Hanover battled Odds On Platinum (Sylvain Filion) down the stretch and got to the wire a nose the best in 1:52.2. This was a convenient



Legendary Hanover

time for the daughter of Captaintreacherous to break her maiden on the 3rd try. Trained by Tony Alagna, she is owned by Pryde Stables, One Point Six Racing, Joe Sbrocco, and Caviart Farms, and she punched a \$19.70 win ticket.

The cashing was not as generous in the 2nd division as the heavy choice, Caviart Belle pulled Yannick Gingras to an authoritative 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ length win in 1:50.1. Also a daughter of Captaintreacherous, Caviart Belle surged to the lead on the outside before the half, and after passing $\frac{3}{4}$ in 1:23.2, tossed a :26.4 final quarter at her over-matched rivals. That was the 4th win in 6 races for the filly who is trained by Nancy Takter and owned by Caviart Farms. The win ticket was just \$2.50.

Nassagaweya Stakes

A total of 26 two-year-old pacers competed in 3 divisions of the Nassagaweya Stakes. In the first \$93,700 heat, it was Legendary Hanover powering by Calicojack Hanover in deep stretch for the win. At 1-9, Legendary Hanover unleashed a :26.1. final quarter for driver James MacDonald to secure the half-length victory in 1:51.3.

"I just wanted to take care of him. I was just going to see how the race unfolded," said MacDonald. "I thought the best case would be if I could find a helmet and try and buzz him. Everyone can see what he can do on the lead and what kind of power he's got. To beat the best, you've got to be versatile and be able to do anything."

Trained by Tony Beaton, Legendary Hanover improved to 4 for 4 in his early career as he surpassed \$100,000 in earnings for owners West Wins Stable, Eric Good, and Mark Dumain. That was a tad more than the bettors got as Legendary Hanover paid \$2.20 to win.

In the 2nd division, Funtime Bayama was the best, posting a Stakes record mile of 1:50.3. With Sylvain Filion driving, Funtime Bayama took the lead early and hit the half in :56.1 and the $\frac{3}{4}$ in 1:24.1. A :26.2 final quarter discouraged all his pursuers as Funtime Bayama won by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths.

"I didn't want to rush him out of there, so I took my time to get to the front, and once we were there, he did it all by himself," said Sylvain Filion. "He's got a big strong gait that covers the ground easy."

That was Funtime Bayama's 2nd win in 4 races. He is trained by Richard Moreau for Bayama Farms and all he paid was \$2.90.

The 3rd division of the Nassagaweya went to Mirage Hanover who was put on top down the backstretch by Bob McClure after getting parked through the first quarter. The half was reached in :54.2 and Mirage Hanover was still in charge after $\frac{3}{4}$ in 1:23. Despite a gallant effort by a persistent Total Stranger, Mirage Hanover prevailed by a neck in 1:51.1.

"He did his work and got his head there. He's a classy little horse," said a guilty McClure. "It was just a terrible trip. I thought the whole thing would've gone a little better. This colt, he's special and he's proven it every week."

Trained by Scott McEneny, Mirage Hanover won for the 3rd time in 6 for owner Marvin Rounick and returned \$2.70.

Jimmy Freight and Resilience



The word for the day, boys and girls is resilience. It means “to withstand or recover quickly from difficulty.” It’s also the name of the 2-year-old filly who crushed 6 boys and another filly in the inaugural \$100,000 Jimmy Freight Stakes at Mohawk Park October 7. But “resilience” really applies to the great pacer and part-time stallion, Jimmy Freight. He returned to competitive racing after a 6-month absence and looked sensational, winning the \$36,000 Preferred Pace, the race that immediately followed the one named after him.

This means we will all have to be mentally resilient to absorb something this unusual, this rare, and this innovative.

The Jimmy Freight Stakes is the brainchild of Adriano Sorella, a fierce and creative marketing whiz who owns Jimmy Freight. He admits the concept was designed to draw the owners of mares to his stallion as only the sons and daughters of Jimmy Freight could get it. He also admits that the breeding process was challenging – a lot of the mares did not take, and the number of live foals was much lower than anticipated. Still, a nice field of 8 pacers lined up for the Jimmy Freight Stakes.

The prohibitive favourite in this race was the filly Resilience, who had won 3 of her first 5 career races, including a \$104,000 OSS Gold. Trained by Eric Nadeau and driven by Louis-Philippe Roy, Resilience went off

at the minimum 5 cents to the dollar. Roy drove her accordingly, surging to the top before the half, which was recorded in :55.1. The other 7 never stood a chance, as Resilience came into the stretch leading by 8 and with a final quarter of :28.4, coasted to the finish line 9 ¼ lengths ahead of a late moving Cowboy Cargo (Phil Hudon).



Resilience matched her career best by stopping the clock in 1:52. Driver Roy, the regular pilot for Jimmy Freight, is part owner, and Resilience paid just \$2.10.

“I’m pretty happy. We had 8 starters,” said Sorella after the race. “If you’d asked me 6 months ago, I wouldn’t have thought we would get there. Obviously, Resilience has been a different class of horse all year. She’s a nice-looking horse. She’s the best in class of all the Jimmys this year.”

Sorella was asked if there would be a 2nd Jimmy Freight Stakes race.

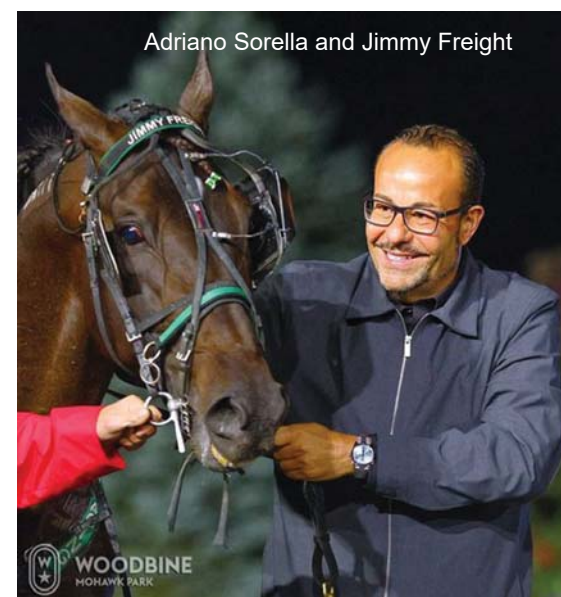
“It’s not out of the question. I had a lot of fun doing this,” responded Sorella. “If we send him out to stud again, which looks like a possibility, then I will push for another race like this, because I think it’s what the industry needs, and it was a lot of fun and the people enjoyed it.”

A race among pacers who could all claim the same daddy is certainly interesting, but jacking up the fascination on this night was the fact that Jimmy Freight was also competing. The race following the Jimmy

Freight Stakes was the \$36,000 Preferred Pace and you could have argued that the 8-year-old Jimmy Freight was probably not fully ready. He hadn’t raced since April 10 when he finished 2nd in a \$50,000 heat at Yonkers and he wasn’t exactly competing against meatballs. One of his opponents, Southside Eddy, was coming in off a 1:47.4 victory. Even his owner was not excessively confident.

“He’s been off for a little while,” said Sorella. “He’s getting up in age, so we’ll see what happens tonight.”

And we did see. Roy had Jimmy Freight comfortably in 3rd as the field approached the half with Southside Eddy (Sylvain Filion) on top and Power Train (James MacDonald) 2nd. Roy tipped Jimmy Freight off the rail to challenge for the lead and the crowd gasped as Jimmy simply paced right by Southside Eddy and quickly opened up a 4-length lead. With a :27 flat final quarter, Jimmy Freight won by a relaxed 2 lengths in 1:50.2, which means, among other things, the old man can still out pace his children. This was Jimmy Freight’s 36th win in his 82nd race. He is trained by Richard Moreau, and he paid \$6.50.



Harness horses at Saratoga under a background of fall beauty

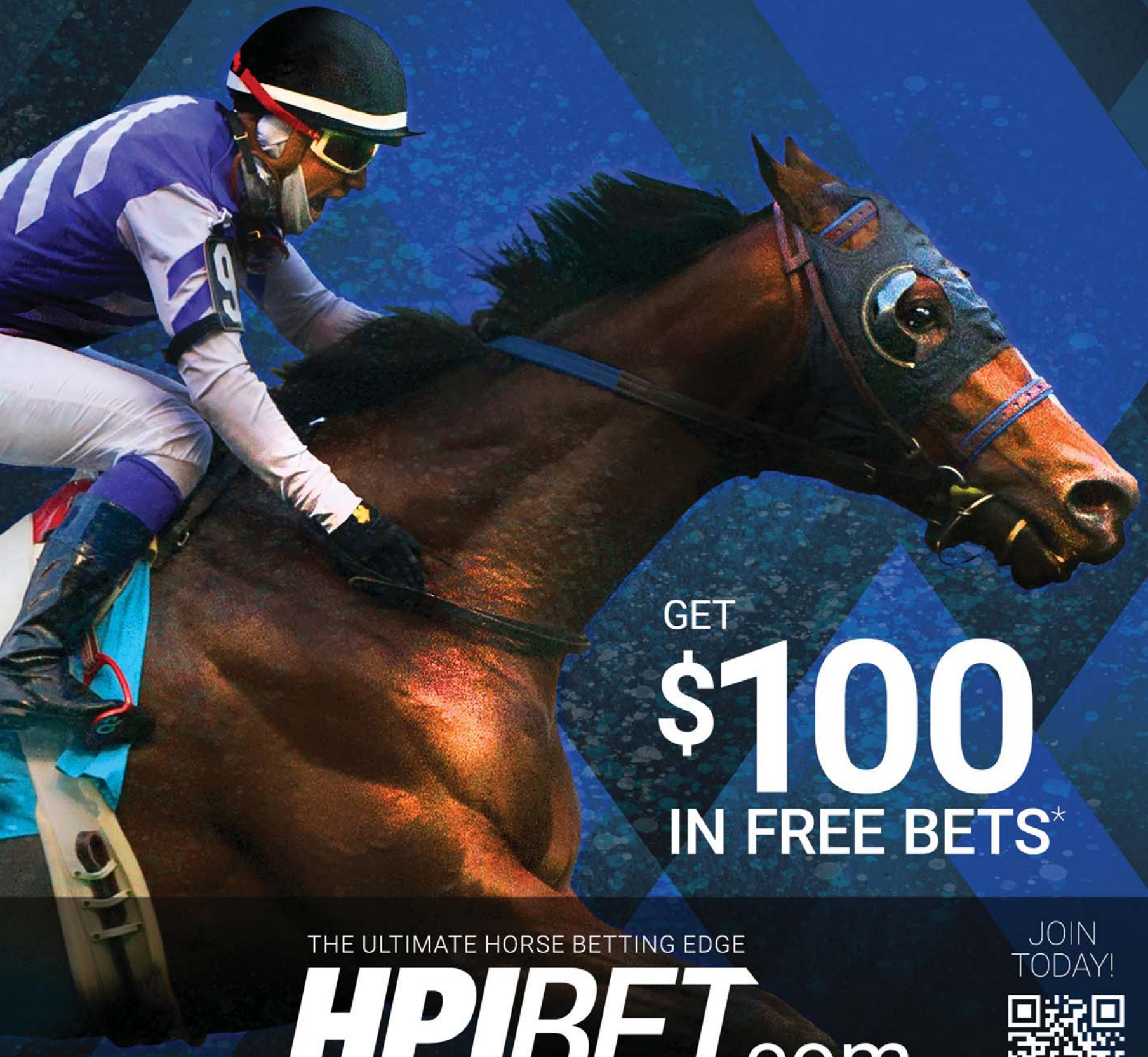


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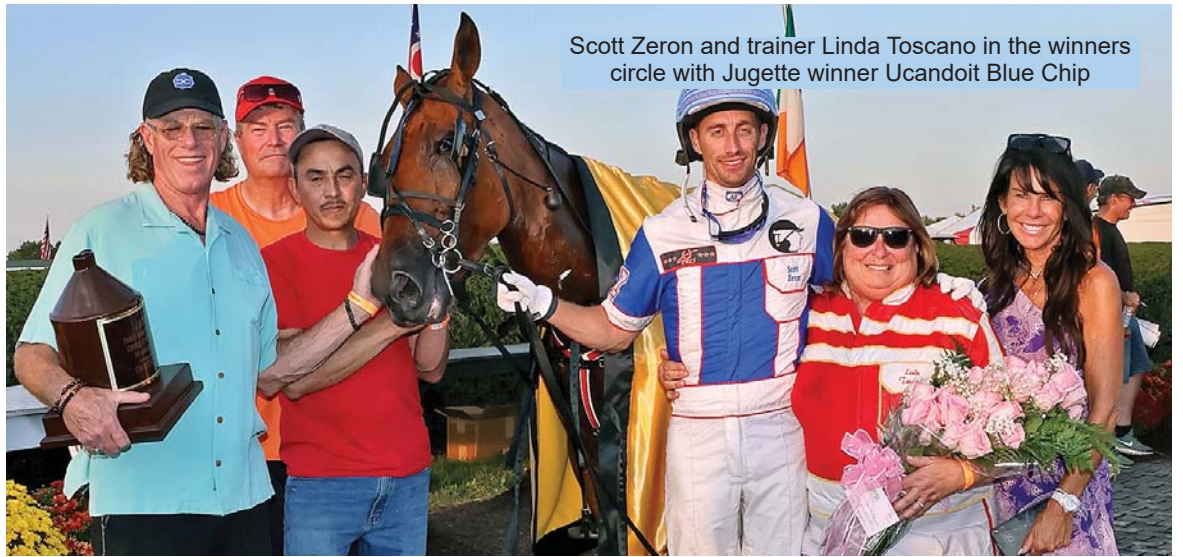
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Scott Zeron's Delightful Week in Delaware



Trainer Linda Toscano and Scott Zeron flank the Little Brown Jug trophy

Jessica Hallett



Scott Zeron and trainer Linda Toscano in the winners circle with Jugette winner Ucandoit Blue Chip

Driver Scott Zeron, who was already having an incredible year had a great week at the Delaware Fair Grounds, winning both the Little Brown Jug and the Little Brown Jugette, the definite pacing races for 3-year-old colts and fillies respectively.

Zeron was steering It's My Show in the Jug. The pair finished 2nd by a length and a half in their \$50,000 elimination heat, which was won by Cannibal (Yannick Gingras) in 1:49.1. The other heat winners were Moment is Here (Tim Tetrick, 1:50.1) and Ken Hanover (David Miller, 1:48.4). Strangely, in the \$850,000 final, none of the heat winners went off as the favourite. Seven Colours, driven by Dexter Dunn was bet down to 2.30-1, Cannibal was 2.40-1 and Moment is Here was 2.50-1. It's My Show was let loose at 7-1.

In the final of the 78th Little Brown Jug, patience was a virtue. Zeron had It's My Show trotting comfortably in 6th until the ¾ as Moment is Here and Cannibal cut out dangerous fractions of :25.4, :53.3 and 1:22. Coming off cover into the stretch, It's My Show unleashed a :26.2 final quarter, getting his neck on the wire in the final moment ahead of Seven Colors.

It's My Show posted his 9th win in his 13th race of 2023 after going winless in 8 tries in 2022, and with the \$425,000 first place cheque, became a millionaire with \$1,250,965 in the bank. The 3-year-old is owned by Richard and Joanne Young of Florida and is trained by Linda Toscano.

This was Zeron's second win in the Jug. His first came 11 years ago with the Casie Coleman-trained Micheals Power.

"When you add in a trailer, it changes everything about a race," said Zeron about his off-the-pace strategy. "Yannick timed the gate great going out of there and that made it

easy for me to not try to leave. And honestly, I've been in the position he was in, which is when you commit to the leave but there's no 'give and goes'. Your two-hole goes by pretty quick. So, when David closed up the hole, it was just tough for him. They were going at it up front, but I was still way out of it. I needed a lot of things to go right and Seven Colors raced sensational. My guy just put his nose out."

"This has been a pretty good week," said an emotional Toscano in the winner's circle. "I don't know. This has been a race that's eluded me and a race that I've wanted for so long that I'm a little choked up, as you can see."

It's My Show paid \$16 to win and completed an impressive double for Zeron and Toscano. The day before, Ucandoit Blue Chip had won both her elimination and the



It's My Show

Jugette final. In the \$255,000 championship race, Zeron capitalized on post 2, sat second most of the way and came out in the stretch to overhaul Zanatta (Joe Bongiorno), scooting away in the final strides for a widening 1 ½ length win in 1:50.2. Ucandoit Blue Chip won for the 10th time in 21 races and paid \$5 to win. She is owned by Bill Elliot of Woodstock, Ontario.

Zeron's sweep of the Jug and Jugette will have to be squeezed onto his mantel along with the NA Cup he won with It's My Show and the Hambletonian shocker he orchestrated from post 10 with Tactical Approach. The record books show that the great John Campbell, in 1993 won the Hambletonian with Tagliabue, the same year that he took down the NA Cup with David's Pass and the same year that he won the Little Brown Jug with Nick's Fantasy. But Zeron is the first driver to sweep the NA Cup, the Hambo, the Jug and the Jugette.

The homebred Sweet Lou gelding out of the champion Rocknroll Hanover mare, Put On A Show, is now nine for 13 this year after going winless in eight starts as a



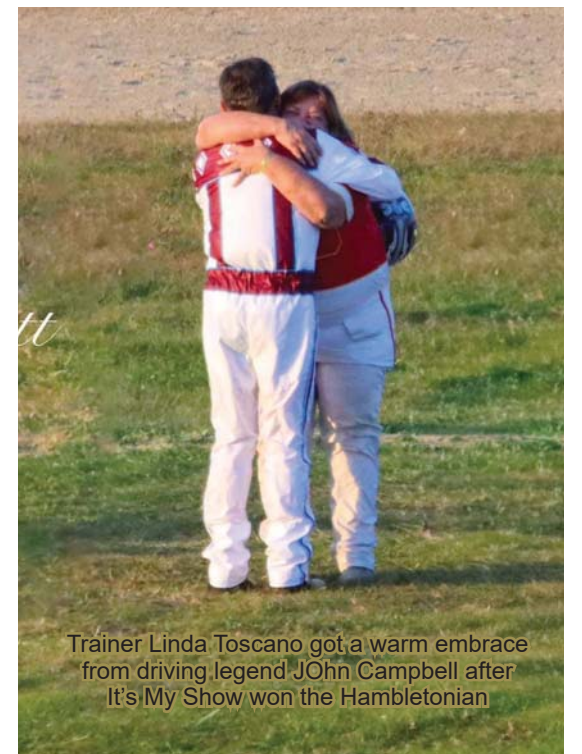
Ucandoit Blue Chip in the Jugette

freshman.

It's also been a year to remember for Zeron, who won his first Jug 11 years ago with the Casie Coleman-trained Micheals Power. It's My Show also gave the reinsman his second career victory in the \$1 million North America Cup earlier this year at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

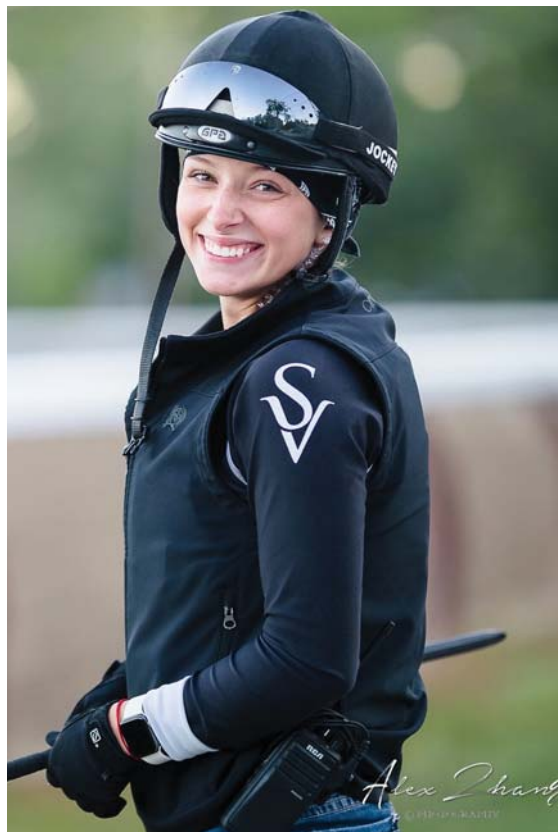
"There's been a lot of people that have been a big part of it," said Zeron. "This horse has made some amazing races for us."

The connections are hoping there's more to come with It's My Show, with plans to race next during the second week of The Red Mile's Grand Circuit Stakes meet.



Trainer Linda Toscano got a warm embrace from driving legend John Campbell after It's My Show won the Hambletonian

Why Sofia Vives Is a Lock For Her Sovereign



The Sovereign Awards for outstanding achievement in thoroughbred racing won't be revealed until next April, but we can be confident about at least 2 categories. Mark Casse trained the first two horses (Paramount Prince and Elysian Field) in the King's Plate after those two had won the Plate Trial and the Woodbine Oaks, respectively. Considering his domination of all the other Stakes races, it's a cinch that Casse will be awarded his 13th straight figure of Saint Simon and the 16th over the past 20 years. We can also say with great certainty that jockey Sofia Vives (who was mentored by Casse), is a cinch to be named the winner of the Sovereign as Outstanding Apprentice in Canada. This is because the voters in this category *always* cast for the rider who combines the most wins with the highest purse earnings.

By the end of September, Vives had an insurmountable lead. She was up to 56 wins at Woodbine and her horses had earned \$1,851,684. What she has accomplished at other tracks only adds to her appeal for the voters. Vives had 22 wins at Parx and 6 more from limited visits to Fort Erie.

As for acknowledging the obvious – that she will win the Sovereign – Vives is not so shy that she can't declare "mission accomplished."

"That's a very big goal that we were able to achieve," she says, giving props to her agent Jordan Miller. "I was blessed to have the opportunity to run for it, and if we can get it, oh, man, big dream come true!"

One thing that horseplayers are learning about Vives is that when she gets a horse to the front, she's a dangerous

woman. An extraordinary example of that occurred on Saturday, October 1. In the first race, a \$25,000 claim at 7 furlongs, she launched the 2-year-old filly, Different Drum immediately to the lead and not only kept her there, but expanded the advantage past every pole, winning by 13 lengths for trainer Stuart Simon. In the next race, she was aboard Mi Corazon at 7 ½ furlongs on the inner turf. Again, she gunned her mount to the front, dared 9 others to catch her, and they couldn't come close. Mi Corazon won by a relaxed 3 lengths for trainer, Mark Casse.

Now, you'd figure that the other riders would be wise to her tricks, but apparently not. In the 3rd race, with Confusing, a 3-year-old gelding in a field of nine \$7,500 claimers, Vives shot her ride straight to the top and scampered home by over 8 lengths. Confusing, trained by Gail Cox paid \$6.40. It was a rare natural hat trick for Vives in the first 3 races of the day. This is even more remarkable when you discover that she rode just 16 times in 2022. She'll finish 2023 with well over 600 assignments. Vives understands that in horse racing, it's all about what you have done very recently.

"This business can be a little difficult," she says. "First of all, getting the business and then keeping it. We were just blessed to have a running start at the beginning of the season. We have great trainers backing me, and Jordan is an amazing agent – always out there in the morning, hustling business, and we're just blessed to keep everybody on our side right now."

One guy on her side is Mark Casse. Casse has been friends with Vives' family since she was a little girl and has very much been her mentor. This year, Casse is reaping winners ridden by Patrick Husbands, Sahin Civaci and Vives. It's pointed out that Vives is probably 3rd on the Casse depth chart.

"Oh, I'd love to see myself as first," she laughs. "We do get a lot of opportunities with him and it's very nice for him to give me the chance. He's known my family for many, many years. I would love to see myself as the best one for him. But those two guys are great journeymen. They have worked for their spots and they're definitely jocks that you look up to."

One category that Vives has not yet conquered is in Stakes races. As willing as trainers may be to ride a hot apprentice in maiden, claiming or allowance races, they definitely side on experience when the larger pots are on the table. Vives is grateful for the few chances she's had in added money events.

"I think the weight allowance is one thing," she points out. "Apprentices cannot claim the break in weight in Stakes races, "But I rode a couple this year. I was able to go to Kentucky Downs and ride in a million-dollar race. It's definitely a good learning experience. To be able to ride in the Stakes that I've ridden in so far is actually



above and beyond what a lot of apprentices would be able to get the chance to do."

That million-dollar race was the Dueling Grounds Oaks at a mile and 5/16^{ths} on the grass on September 3. Vives had the ride on Milagre Do Sol who had broken her maiden 3 weeks earlier at Woodbine for Kevin Attard. Milagre Do Sol went off at 40-1, was up close early, but tired and finished 11th. The winning horse, Freydis The Red (Brian Hernandez) established the track record for the unusual distance – 2:06.13.

Still, 2023 has been quite lucrative for this 21-year-old rookie. By the end of September, Vives had brought in winners in at least 5 races with purses of at least \$111,000. We didn't need to point out that the rider's share in those races is about \$5,500.

"That's always something that you think about when you're first starting," she says. "But all I really think about now is just doing right by the owners and trainers and making sure the horses come back in good form and making sure that they're ready to win the next step up."

Earlier in the year, Vives was riding at Woodbine from Thursday through Sunday, then driving the 800 kilometers to Parx to compete Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Once the Fort Erie season opened, she cut down on her mileage to race at the border. But it seems she's prepared to go to any track anywhere, anytime if Miller can hook her up.

"We have a busy winter planned," she says.

She also needs to plan what she will wear to next spring's Sovereign Awards.

Canadian Hall of Fame Rider Gary Boulanger Announces His Retirement

By Chris Lomon, Woodbine Entertainment

to ease the swelling.

On two occasions, he flatlined on the operating table.

"I didn't come close to dying," he says. "I *did* die, and they brought me back. I was never supposed to ride horses again."

But after breezing horses for champion trainer Mark Casse, he rode his first race in eight years at Tampa Bay Downs in 2013. His first victory after the accident came on a Casse horse.

With a return to the saddle came a new perspective on the sport.

"I felt more in-tune with the horses, having more of a connection with them than I ever had. And it was a great feeling."

As was the feeling Boulanger got when he would bring a horse back to the winner's circle.

"I love seeing the team win. I like getting to know the horses, the grooms, everyone at the barn," said Boulanger, who won the 1996 Fountain of Youth (G2) with 143-1 Built For Pleasure. "These people in our industry work hard – the trainers, the grooms, the exercise riders, the farriers, everyone. I have a smile on my face when I visit with them. There are a lot of people that have jobs they don't want to be at. I always couldn't wait to get to the track. Who will I see? What horses can I see? What will today bring? It's something I always looked forward to."

His two biggest highlights came at Woodbine.

Moving his tack to the Toronto oval in June 2000, Boulanger partnered Dancethruthedawn, the outstanding Sam-Son Farm homebred filly, to victory in the 2001 Queen's Plate and Woodbine Oaks.

In 2017, Boulanger received the Avelino Gomez Memorial Award.

The award is given to the person, Canadian-born, Canadian-raised, or regular rider in the country for more than five years, who has made significant contributions to the sport, and is named in memory of one of the sport's most heralded and loved performers.



"It's one of the greatest moments in my career," said Boulanger, who forged a strong friendship and prosperous partnership with fellow Albertan, trainer Stuart Simon. "To be recognized by your peers and to be part of a very select group is something I will always treasure."

As he will the numerous Stakes winners, 90 in all, that he piloted to victory.

Boulanger, whose son Brandon also rides, retires with 3,685 career victories and \$83,543,336 in purse earnings.

The man with a reputation for beating the odds on and off the racetrack will now take time to ponder the next chapter in his life.

A career in racing is certainly a strong consideration and Boulanger apparently has multiple options.

"People have asked me to possibly become one of the stewards," he says. "I have been approached about becoming President to the Jockeys Association. I was talking the other day about getting into broadcasting. They're always looking for some expertise in a certain field. I'm not quite sure what is next, but I love the horses, the horse people, and the sport," said Boulanger, who also has a three-year-old son Cristian with wife Jennifer Petricca. "I would like to stay connected to racing, so we'll see what happens. For now, I want to spend time with my family and reflect on how lucky I was to be a jockey. To everyone who supported me... I can't thank you enough."



Jockey Gary Boulanger, whose numerous career highlights include a Queen's Plate victory, has decided to call it a career. He made the announcement on September 17.

"What I was being offered to ride wasn't doing it," said Boulanger, 55. "Your age and your injuries...people are shying away from offering you quality horses. Just to stick around and ride 3 or 4 races a week. It's not worth the risk anymore to me. I don't feel I have anything left to prove. I can retire injury-free. I can retire on my own terms. I am so grateful to all the trainers, owners, and my fellow riders for their support. Just like anyone who rides horses, there are many ups and downs, but you always find a way to persevere."

Boulanger, who won three straight titles in Washington State, would understand that perhaps more than most.

A 2020 Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame inductee, the native of Alberta enjoyed great success over a career that included devastating injuries. He overcame back problems, which required extensive surgery in the late 1990s, and came back from an eight-year absence precipitated by a spill at Gulfstream, which led to life-threatening injuries in 2005.

The aftermath of the spill on January 30, 2005, resulted in fractured ribs, a ruptured spleen, torn elbow tendons, a blood clot, and brain damage that required doctors to remove part of his skull



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It wasn't necessarily in the early script that Beverley Chubb would be an owner and trainer of thoroughbred racehorses. To be sure, she has always loved the animals and had her own pony when she was just 4 years old.

"I groomed show horses and showed them," she says. "As a show horse groom, you don't make much money, so I went to school to be an animator and I worked on Care Bears for a little while in Toronto. But that job moved to Taiwan, and I didn't want to go. At that time, I had a couple of horses to support, and I was at a Christmas party with Candice Allen, and she was going out with the jockey, Robbie King and he said, 'Why don't you come to Woodbine and gallop?'"

Chubb started at Woodbine, working for John Cirillo, and galloped for Danny O'Callaghan, Phil England, and Danny Vella. Chubb has fond memories of the first horse she ever owned.

"She was called Fabiana," says Chubb. "And she was a marvelous horse for me. I got her as a 3-year-old and Larry Attard rode her in her first start. She finished fourth, and he got off her and he said, 'Oh, you're going to have a lot of fun with this horse.' And I can tell you he was absolutely right. She ended up winning 5 races. I owned her in partnership with a blacksmith named Carl Grguric.

We asked Chubb to name some of her more successful horses.

"I owned a horse called Fabric," she responds. "She was a very good horse for us. Then there was a horse named Haverhill who ended up being a very good horse as well."

Fabric raced 12 times with 3 wins and over \$156,000 earned. Haverhill won 6 of his 36 starts and put \$291,000 in the bank.

Chubb points out a 4-year-old filly that has just started racing and seems to have potential.

"Souper Cop won on her second start," she says. "So, she's one to look forward to."

On October 4th of this year, Souper Cop was ridden by Juan Crawford in a \$25,000 claim race at 6 furlongs. Crawford rode a patient race, stalking the leader from 3rd down the backstretch, and came up the inside late in the stretch to win by 1 ¼ lengths in 1:11.37. She paid \$14.30.

You would be misled if you went to Equibase and entered Chubb's name. Souper Cop appears to be her only win from 16 starters in 2023. But look closer. There are at least 15 partnerships that include Beverley Chubb. For example, the group of Chubb, Luke Lombardini, David Knibbs, and Rivermead Stables enjoyed wins this



Beverley Chubb and Remembering Rhoda(AKA Scarlett)

year from My Girl Hooter and Hullabaloo. On June 1st, Chubb's partnership with Horsepower Racing saw their one filly, Remembering Rhoda (\$17) romp home under Steve Jadoo in a \$25,000 claim race.

"It's tough to carry a horse all on your own," says Chubb. "It makes it easier to survive owning if you have partners. I have a lot of horses that somebody owns a quarter, somebody owns a half or a little. It's easier to keep going that way. I don't have to foot the whole bill, yet I get a pretty big stake in the horse if she wins."

As someone who has toiled in the backstretch for 3 decades, Chubb has witnessed a fundamental change in the sport.

"It has become much more of an industry from when I first came around here," she says. "Now, the costs are so extreme you lose more money if it doesn't go well. Horses have to be really competitive now or people can't afford to keep going. The people working with horses – a lot of them were more passionate years ago. People used to stay in the barns until 2:00 a.m. Years ago, I worked for Phil England at Payson Park and often horses wouldn't run until they were 4. Now, you're expected to generate income quicker."

That Chubb has compassion for the grass roots folks in the sport is obvious in her choice of jockey. She goes with Juan Crawford. As this story was being written, Crawford had 16 wins at Woodbine, good for 22nd in the riders' standings.

"He used to come mostly to my barn and get on the difficult horses," says Chubb about Crawford. "So, in the

end it just worked out that I said, 'This guy rides all my little lunatics. Why don't I put him on the good ones too?' And that has been a good decision for me because every time he's on one of my horses, it really matters to him how this horse runs. He comes and helps me in the morning, gets on horses and it really very personal to him. He'll get on a 30-1 horse and believe he can win or run 2nd."

We ask every Owner of the Month the same question. What keeps you in the game?

"First of all, it's the relationship with my horses," she says. "I love my horses. I love all animals. There are days that are so fantastic when that little project horse you've been working on finally wins the race. That's fantastic. When the one you've had since the day it was born wins the race. It's fantastic. It's never boring. Every horse is new. Every horse is different. Every time you get a new horse, it's a mental challenge as to how to train it, how to get the most out of each horse because they're all different. You're always evolving. You're always learning."

And to end this piece is a wonderful story about Chubb when she was a young girl.

"When I was a little kid, I lived in Bermuda and the Queen came to Bermuda," she says. "I had done a little painting of horse racing and there was a little art gallery show and apparently, she admired my painting, and she sent me a letter stating that she liked my painting. So, I have a letter from the Queen that she liked my little horse racing painting."



Tyler Jones turned 30 in November. There have been a few horses that he owned in partnership with his father, Dustin. But a recent acquisition, in which the son owns a pacer outright, has given Jones reason to be pumped.

"I went to the yearling sale in London on the first day and I was kind of bored," says Jones. "I raced my own pacing filly, Momentary Control and she is a Control the Moment. I had some success with her. And I also had some success with this horse called No Control who is also a Control the Moment. When I looked through the book, I saw some Control the Moment stallion-sired horses. I came across this little colt, and he just caught my eye. He came right up to me, and his pedigree looked half decent. The mare, Tell Em Hanover is a Sportswriter, is a mare that had five wins, and this was her first foal. There's an old horsemen's saying, 'Have the first foal or the fourth foal.' Sportswriters are pretty sure-gaited, and they break pretty easily. I threw my hand up a few times and got him for \$9,000. His name is Control Em."

There are 2 pacers that Tyler shares with his dad, and he remembers owning a horse with his cousin and an uncle.

"That horse's name was Can You Swing It," he says. "She did ok. Then we sold her."

Standardbred Canada shows 15 races in which Can You Swing It raced for the Joneses. Dustin drove the mare 6 times and Tyler steered her on 9 other occasions. Can You Swing It never won for them but did earn about \$12,000.

As for Control Em, we spoke with Jones just days before the Breeders Crown at Hoosier Park and asked him if he fantasized about driving his purchases in a Crown race, or maybe the Metro Pace, or even The North America Cup.

"That would be like a dream come true," he laughs "That's not really a goal of mine at the moment, but if I could win a few Sires Stakes with him, that would be quite amazing."

It's easy to get Jones to talk about some of the terrific horses his dad Dustin owned.

"His first big horse was called Emilie Cas El who is the dam of Trixton, a Hambletonian winner and now a sire in Ontario," Jones tells us. "He owned Shanghai Phil and he owned Don't Rush, whom he bred and raced. Don't Rush was a back-to-back Superfinal winner."

Emilie Cas El is interesting. She raced from 1994 to May of 1998 and won 29 of her 55 starts, putting \$454,688 in the bank. While in the hands of Dustin Jones, she once



won 17 straight races at Blue Bonnets, Mohawk, and the Hippodrome in Quebec. Shanghai Phil raced 42 times and won 12, good for \$636,022. On May 15, 2020, he won a race at Woodbine in 1:50.2. Don't Rush had little interest in performing according to his name – he won 25 of 111 and earned \$755,433. He took down an OSS Superfinal on October 11, 2014, at Mohawk. That was so much fun that a year later he repeated it in the \$250,000 final with Chris Christoforou in the bike both times.

"Dad also bred and owns a 2-year-old trotting filly named Draw the Line that won a Grand Circuit race in Lexington this year," continues Jones. "She was racing in the Breeders Crown elimination but didn't make the final. But she's a really nice filly."

Draw the Line is off to a nice start. She earned \$43,000 for her win in the Blue Grass at Lexington on September 28 with Scott Zeron driving. There was also \$19,125 for a 5th place finish in the Peaceful Way final in later August. Draw the Line shows earnings of \$119,230 in her rookie year.

At this stage of his career, Jones likes the idea of being in the deep end of harness racing.

"My dad was pretty prominent in Montreal back when Blue Bonnet was rolling pretty good," he says. "He was a trainer owner, breeder, driver, and everything in between in the horse racing business. Those are the footsteps that I want to follow. I love driving horses, but training with my dad in the mornings is something I also love to do.

So, I definitely want to breed and buy and own and train and drive all these horses to expand myself as a foothold in the industry."

As a driver, Jones has had a number of thrilling races.

"Momentary Control was second in the Superfinal, and she won a gold leg of the Ontario Sire Stakes," he says. "I had another Gold Stake win 2 years ago with a horse called You Will Be Queen. She was a really awesome horse. She was my first big horse that I drove for my dad. He bred and raced her, and trained and raced her mother. So that was pretty cool when it came full circle. We won the last leg of the Gold Sire Stakes with her and then she was 3rd in the Superfinal. Those two and Draw the Line have been probably the best horses I've driven for him."

As a driver, Jones does find himself in the deep end, going against the best at Mohawk.

"Right now, James MacDonald is off the planet," says Jones. "Louis-Philippe Roy and Doug McNair are really good. Trevor Henry and Sylvain Filion – they've all got a lot of wins and a lot of money, and Jody Jamieson still does pretty well. It's a pretty competitive top 10 at that circuit."

There aren't too many people who get into harness racing and then decide that it's not for them. Tyler Jones loves what he does.

"There's always another race and there's always another opportunity," he says. "Just the thrill of winning a race – there's nothing like it."

WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TRADITION. WE'RE GOING TO BE HISTORY: Q AND A WITH MARK CASSE *by Sue Finley*



Mark Casse may have made more starts over dirt and synthetic surfaces combined than any other trainer in history – over 5,000 starts on synthetic and 5,000 on dirt in the past 15 years alone. He estimates that he has sent horses out to gallop, breeze, or race over a synthetic surface 150,000 times in the past 10 years. With a base at Woodbine, where they race and train over a Tapeta surface which sports one of the lowest instances of catastrophic injuries in North America, Casse offered to sit down with the TDN in the wake of another tragic day in racing to advocate for a switch to a surface which he considers far safer and easier on horses than dirt.

Q: Were you at the races at Saratoga on Saturday?

MC: Luckily, I missed (New York Thunder). I had seen the Test, and I thought, I've been doing this for 40-some years. It was the most sickening thing that I'd ever witnessed in racing.

Q: Where do we find ourselves right now in horse racing?

MC: I'm a big HISA supporter, and I believe that we've already made great strides. There's no question that, when I go over for a race, I feel like we are competing on a more level playing field. I think there's still a little room for improvement and that we'll continue to go forward, but you can look at who's winning now and who was winning before. There are lots of rules and regulations that are being put out there to make things safer or we're trying to make things safer for the horse, and I'm going to make a lot of people unhappy when I say this, but until we change the racetracks, we're going to continue to have these kinds of situations. I'm not saying that with synthetic, we will never have them. You're always going to have some injuries. I have 30 horses here at Saratoga, and the worst injury that I've had at the meet is a horse that hurt herself in her stall. When you have live animals and you have horses, things are going to happen. But we need to do everything possible to know that we are doing our very best. I am always trying to be bigger and better. I feel like if you stand still, you get run over. Currently, at my organization, we have an app where we can videotape a horse jogging, and it gets sent to Stockholm, Sweden, and within about three minutes, it sends us back a report that tells us if a horse is off on a certain limb. We use it constantly. We're always trying to take care of these horses as all of us, but things happen.

Q: So, what would you like to see happen?

MC: I think we really, seriously, need to look at more synthetic tracks. I believe in them. I believe they've got plenty of data to back that up, and I think if anybody's an expert on it, it should be me.

Q: At any given time, how many horses do you have in training on dirt and on synthetic?

MC: Right now, I have approximately 90 horses training at tracks on dirt. I have 75 at Woodbine training on synthetic.

Q: And how many starts per year do you think you make on each surface?

MC: I broke it down over the last four years. In 2022, we had 1,402 starts, 525 on turf, 432 on synthetic, and 445 on dirt. From 2019 to today, we've had 5,921 starts since the beginning of 2019, 2,766 of which were turf starts. But 1,574 synthetic starts and 1,581 dirt. So,

it's pretty close.

Q: Tell me what your observations are from your horses running on each surface.

MC: A lot of things are different. We scope every horse after they breeze and after they race. We breeze or run 50 horses a week on dirt, and I would say that at least 40% of those horses will show some type of bleeding when they're scoped, even if they're on Lasix. If those same 50 horses run over synthetic or turf, the odds of them showing any signs of bleeding would be somewhere around 5%.

Q: And what do you attribute that to?

MC: It's less stressful. I can also tell you this. A horse that you want to run on synthetic takes about half the amount of breezes to get them ready to run as a dirt horse. So, in other words, say I'm going to run a horse off a layoff, a horse would maybe need 10 or 12 breezes, and I'll run horses off of six or seven breezes on Tapeta. It's just less stressful. So, when you have less stress, they rebound quicker. They're sounder the next day.

Q: What other differences do you see in your horse population at Woodbine, in terms of the health of your horses?

MC: There's no question, over the years, if I have horses that are coming back off long layoffs, it's much easier to bring them back over synthetic. I train for a few different clients that have horses with other trainers around North America, and I actually get most of their horses that have bowed or had suspensory injuries, and the reason for it is it's much easier to bring them back over synthetic. We have a great return rate with these old injuries. If I have horses that have had physical injuries in the past, I pretty well send those horses to Woodbine to train over the synthetic. What people don't realize is this. Yes, we're seeing injuries on the dirt, and we're also seeing injuries on the turf, right? It's my belief that some of these injuries we are seeing on the turf, it's because these horses are training on the dirt. A turf horse, for the most part, a true turf horse struggles with the dirt surface. It's like having a car where the wheels are imbalanced. You're going down the road, and it struggles. It's not smooth, and all at once, the hubcap flies off. There was nothing wrong with the hubcap, but over a period of time, there's a weakness, there's a crack in the armor, and then that's what we're seeing. So, when you see a lot of these injuries, there is something that's been going on for a while. I know a lot of my good turf horses, they just thrive at Woodbine, because they get to train over the synthetic every day. Interestingly enough, Tepin won all over North America, except in Saratoga, and I always thought it was because she struggled so much with the deeper surface here. We get to breeze them on the grass once a week or something like that, but their everyday training is on the dirt.

Q: We have heard a lot of trainers say that there are more soft tissue injuries on synthetic surfaces. That was a very common theme when so many tracks switched to synthetic several years ago. What is your opinion on this?

MC: I have sent out somewhere over 150,000 horses to train over synthetic, and that could be no farther from the truth. That is an absolute falsehood. The chances of a horse hurting their suspensory, soft tissue injury, a tendon, is much greater on the dirt, and it's not even close. I base this on lots of data. I tell everybody, I do my own studies. I study every day. I've been studying for 40-some years.

Q: Several years ago, several tracks, like those in California and Keeneland, switched to synthetic, and then switched back. Why do you think this was?

MC: I think what happened was they didn't know how to handle them. They definitely didn't know how to install them, so I think there were a lot of issues with the early tracks. In California, I think they had three different tracks, and they struggled. Santa Anita struggled. Del Mar, I remember, I actually went out the

last year, the last meet that Del Mar had synthetic. I was there, and I'd have conversations all the time with trainers out there, and they were like, "Oh. We're going to be so happy to go back to dirt." And I can remember saying to them, "Be careful what you wish for. Be careful what you wish for." And we know that things didn't turn out so well. As far as Keeneland goes, I think it was 2008. I was asked to talk on a board, because they were looking at possibly putting in synthetic. I can remember Todd was there. Dale Romans was there. Nick Zito was there. We talked about it at that point in time, and one of the panel members said, "Well, we have to worry about tradition." I said to them, "We're going to be history. We're not going to have to worry about tradition." I feel that way now. We have to stop worrying about tradition or history, I'm sorry, or we're going to be history. We can't worry about tradition. Look, at Woodbine I think we just ran the 164th Plate, and the first 130 of them were on dirt, but they still made that switch, and I applaud them for that. So Keeneland put it in. That was Polytrack. Fifteen years ago, New York didn't have the money. I think if New York had gone ahead and been able to put in synthetic at that point in time, Keeneland keeps theirs. Some others would've maybe followed suit, but when New York couldn't do it, they couldn't afford to do it, Keeneland, in my opinion, felt like they were the only kind of synthetic track, and they were losing some of their Derby prospects and Oaks prospects, and they succumbed to the pressure. I was listening to a conversation 15 years ago or so at Keeneland. I heard a very good horse trainer who has since retired telling somebody, "I like synthetic, but if we run them at Keeneland and they run well, the owners will want to send them somewhere else, and we don't have synthetic in New York, so we just don't run them." I found that interesting.

Q: What do you say to the argument from breeders in Kentucky who oppose a switch to synthetic, citing not only tradition, but the investments that they've made in dirt stallions? Is there any validity to their argument, do you think?

MC: I don't think so, because if we don't have an industry, it's not going to matter. The way we're going, that's where we're headed. Look, you have two of the biggest racetracks in the world who have had crises this year. I've sat there and watched how hard Saratoga works on their racetrack. Glen Kozak does an absolute tremendous job. He is unbelievable. Churchill's the same way. They have the best of the best. They do the best they can do, but again, look at it. What if we had kept the Model T? Instead, look at what we've done with automobiles, how we've made those so much safer. We're still using a racetrack that's been around for 125 years, and there's only so much you can do for it. Patrick Husbands has been a champion rider in Canada for years, and he told me something very interesting one time. He got hurt about three or four years ago, and I didn't see what happened to him, so I called him in the hospital, and I said, "Patrick, what happened? Did a horse fall with you?" He said, "Mark, I've never had a horse fall with me on synthetic." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "The difference between a synthetic track and a dirt track, for the most part, is that the synthetic actually catches them and gives you a little bounce back. A lot of times when a horse breaks a bone, the next step is where it gets ugly. It's like a thud. There is no give to it, so it doesn't bounce back." Here's a guy that's ridden thousands and thousands and thousands of races, and for him to say that, I just found it very interesting. Look, I'm getting to the end of my career. I've been doing this 40-some years, and I feel like, and it's why I'm involved with HISA as well. I have a son, Norman, who has been very successful. I have another son, Colby, that could end up being a horse trainer as well. This industry has been very good to me. Everything I have is because of it, and I just want to try to make it better. When I leave, I want it to be better than when I started. So that's why I'm speaking out. This is not for me. I'm fine. I'm just trying to make our sport better.

ODDITIES & ENTITIES



Jockey Christopher Husbands takes the traditional leap into the pond after winning the \$30,000 Puss N Boots Cup at Fort Erie on September 3 aboard Nikolaou. This race has been held at Fort Erie since 1996 and winning connections pay tribute to the horse named Puss N Boots, who in 1961 was leading a race at the top of the stretch, but instead of galloping to the wire, chose to jump into the infield pond.

Saratoga's One-in-a-Million Finish



A Sister, a Brother, a Husband, and a Sister:

With so many horses perishing on the track in a six-week span, Saratoga desperately needed a positive, uplifting story and it got it on the penultimate day of racing, Sunday, September 4. The second race was at 7 furlongs for maidens who could be claimed for \$30,000. Katie Davis shot Bon Adieu to the top early, hit the half in a swift :45.91 and was full of energy in the stretch, winning by a comfortable length in 1:24.76. This was Davis' 7th win at the Saratoga meet, but this was all about who finished behind her. The 2nd place horse, Mim, was ridden by her brother Dylan Davis. The horse in 3rd, Embraceable Gal had Trevor McCarthy, who is Davis' husband and the 4th place horse, Sweet Liberty was ridden by Katie's sister, Jacqueline Davis. Apparently, as she was closing in on the finish line, the winning jockey was not completely sure how many of her immediate family were following her.

"I only knew that Dylan was going to be second," she says. "I saw him outside me, and I was thinking, 'Oh shit, here he comes. This is my race!' I didn't know that Trevor and Jackie were right behind us. As I came back to the winner's circle, trainer Danny Gargan said, 'Look, we got the superfecta!' It's the first time all four of us have done that."

Katie Davis finished the Saratoga meet with 7 wins, which was 3 more than her husband, McCarthy notched. That might have created some uncomfortable moments for McCarthy.

"The other jockeys like to pick on each other," she says. "And they'll tell him, 'Your wife won more races than you.' They like to egg each other on."

Brother Dylan had an excellent Saratoga. He won 19 races, which was good for 9th in the riders' standings. Jacqueline didn't get many good opportunities on good horses. She went winless in 29 races, with just a single 2nd and a single 3rd.

Katie has a good idea of how to commemorate this extraordinary race finish, thanks to a printout of the race chart.

"I'm going to have to make Christmas cards and send them out," she laughs.

A Kawartha Hie-lite



Brothers and Sisters at the Line:

It was the 8th race at Kawartha Downs on September 2, a \$5,500 pace for fillies and mares. The 3-year-old Wildcat Lisa and the 4-year-old Pop The Bubbly came flying through the stretch together and the judges had to examine the finish line picture to determine that Wildcat Lisa was the winner by a nose. That filly was driven by 72-year-old Doug Hie and the 2nd place mare was driven by 79-year-old Carmen Hie. So, the two sisters almost dead-heated while being driven by two brothers. Both horses were bred and are owned by Carolyn Jarrell. Wildcat Lisa paid \$8.20 to win

Parx Racetrack
announcer Jessica Paquette has
her own bobblehead doll



Jessica Hallett @JHallettPhoto · 2h ...
Hi Ho Silver put on a good show in honor of the Little Brown Jug day



Do people want to know where the 'unknown location' was?

9	Tabor/smith/magnier/weste									
	Purple, White Seams, Striped Sleeves									
	OPERA SINGER (USA)									123
	b. f. 2, Justify (USA)-Liscanna (IRE) by Sadler's Wells (USA) Bred in an unknown location									
Aug23-2Cur(IRE)	gd	⊕ 1 m	1:38 ⁴⁰	2F	Gr3 - Newtownanner Stud Irish European Breeders Fund Stakes	\$61				
Aug23-2Cur(IRE)	gd	⊕ 7 f	1:25 ⁴⁴	2F	ALW - \$34,000		8	2		
Jul23-4Leo(IRE)	yl	⊕ 1 m	1:45 ¹⁴	2F	MDN - \$17,000		4	1		
Jun23-2Cur(IRE)	gd	⊕ 7 f	1:25 ⁵⁰	2F	MDN - \$21,000		5	8		

ASSINIBOIA DOWNS - September 19, 2023 - Race 2
Off at: 8:02 Start: Good for all Timer: Electronic

Last Raced	Pgm	Horse Name (Jockey)	Wgt	M/E	PP	Start	1/4	1/2	Str	Fin	Odds	Comm
12Sep23 ⁷ ASD ³	4	Gentrified (Stephenson, Neville)	124	L bf	4	3	3 ³	3 ⁴	2 ²	1 ^{1/2}	3.85	frod pa
28Aug23 ⁵ ASD ³	3	Muromec (Terasenco, Timothy)	124	L b	3	4	4	4	4	2 ^{3/4}	13.05	etkd fro
13Sep23 ⁶ ASD ²	1	Little Toe (Whitehall, Antonio)	124	L b	1	1	1 ¹	1 ^{Head}	1 ^{Head}	3 ⁴	1.60	gave br
6Sep23 ⁶ ASD ²	2	Magic Carpet (Balroop, Sven)	124	L	2	2	2 ^{1/2}	2 ^{Head}	3 ^{2 1/2}	4	0.95*	frod pa

Total WPS Pool: \$85,337

Pgm	Horse	Win	Place	Show	Wager Type	Winning Numbers	Payoff	Pool
4	Gentrified	9.70	3.80	13.50	\$1.00 Exactor	4-3	29.95	12,329
3	Muromec		7.60	19.70	\$0.20 Triactor	4-3-1	14.13	8,868
1	Little Toe			15.20	\$1.00 Daily Double	3-4	14.20	7,364
					\$0.20 Superfecta	4-3-1-2	9.85	3,736

Stupid bettors trick # 351:

When a horse was scratched from the 2nd race at Assiniboia Downs on September 19, the field was reduced to just 4 runners. Strangely, the track allowed show betting. The #2 horse, Magic Carpet, a 6-year-old gelding with 4 wins in 33 races apparently towered so much over the other 3 entries in this \$3,000 claim event that he was bet down to 4-5. Recognizing a way to make easy money, an intellectually compromised individual (or perhaps a misguided consortium) bet a huge amount to show on Magic Carpet. Of the \$47,409 in the show pool, \$42,598 was on Magic Carpet, suggesting a wager of \$40,000. Needless to say, Magic Carpet fought for the lead early, but tired in the stretch and finished last, creating wonderful show prices for those who bet any of the other 3.

DOWN THE STRETCH PODCAST

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

Episode 188, August 28:

Lots of Stakes races this week - from Woodbine - the Muskoka, the Elgin, the Algoma and the Simcoe; from Mohawk - the William Wellwood, the Peaceful Way, 2 Nassagaweya finals and a pair of Eternal Camnation finals. We drop in to Saratoga for the Travers Stakes and we visit Ajax Downs and talk with the amazing **Ed Walton**, the 60-year-old jockey who is still bringing in winners.

We're on the phone with **Mark Casse** who explains why he could not tip us on his King's Plate winner or his Oaks winner. Host **Peter Gross** went to Woodstock, Ontario to participate in some virtual harness racing and the latest issue of **Down The Stretch** is now on line, and we have an 8-year-old who gives it a good review.

Episode 189, September 4:

This podcast has the Toronto Cup Stakes from Woodbine and both the Canadian Pacing Derby and Maple Leaf Trot from Mohawk. **Louis-Philippe Roy** with a candid moment. **Had to Be Ivory**, Canada's greatest quarter horse won a Stakes race at Horseshoe Indianapolis. Trainer **Carmen Auciello** hit a major milestone. After witnessing too many horse deaths at Saratoga, **Mark Casse** says American tracks need to do what Woodbine has done. **Teesha Symes** talks about the out of control starting gate at Georgian Downs. How did **Emma-Jayne Wilson** celebrate their birthdays at Woodbine on Friday? How did two senior citizens, **Doug and Carmen Hie** deliver two sisters in a pace at Kawartha Downs? Did you see how **Katie Davis** won at Saratoga with her brother, husband and sister right behind her? And were horseplayers at Fort Erie cheated out of a legitimate payoff because of a terrible rule?

Episode 190, September 11:

This week's episode is jammed with Thoroughbred and Standardbred Stakes races – from Woodbine – the Singspiel, **Moira** back in form in the Canadian Stakes, **Sahin Civaci** winning both the Zadracarta and the Wonder Where on Sunday. From Mohawk – **Bob McClure** taking down 3 of 4 OSS Golds to start the week. From the Meadowlands, another superb post-10 win with Tactical Mounds from **Scott Zeron**. **Doug McNair** winning a Stakes at Yonkers. We chat with **Dr. Ian Moore** about Canadian Pacing Derby Champ, **Tattoo Artist**, and after the interview, Moore flew to Scioto Downs to watch both Tattoo Artist and a 2-year- old **Clever Cody** win Stakes races. And irresistible jockey, **Katie Davis** relives the most remarkable superfecta finish in horse racing history.

Episode 191, September 18:

This podcast features the **Ricoh Woodbine Mile**, **Justin Stein** in the **Prince of Wales**, **Kevin Attard** on his champion **Velocitor**, **Bob Tiller** explaining how he missed his horse winning the Vigil Stakes and **Doug McNair** delivering **Grace Hill** in the Milton Stakes. Trainer **Lauren Spada** and jockey **Rachel Isaacs** each recorded their first Stakes win last Wednesday at Ajax Downs. Veteran jockey **Helen Vanek** ended her thoroughbred career with a win at Fort Erie. Two-year-olds were trotting for big money Thursday at Mohawk and did harness fans do a double take when they heard thoroughbred caller **Robert Geller** describing the standardbreds last Monday?

Episode 192, September 25:

We start with the **Bull Page** and **Victorian Queen Stakes** from Woodbine - both races won by trainer **Kevin Attard**, then go to Mohawk Park for the **Mohawk Million**, the **Elegant Image**, the **She's a Great Lady**, the **Canadian Trotting Classic**, the **Metro Pace** and another stunning win by **Tattoo Artist**. Two ends of the jockey spectrum -55-year-old **Gary Boulanger** tells us why he's retiring 36 years after his first ride and 21-year-old **Sofia Vives**, in her first full year of riding, gets the news from us that she will win the Sovereign as Canada's outstanding apprentice.

Scott Zeron won both the **Little Brown Jug** and the **Jugette** last week in the same year that he won the **NA Cup** and the **Hambletonian** so we ask, *'Is he the driver of the year?'*

A special treat for you as **Tom Durkin** interrupted his retirement to call a \$3,000 trot at the Delaware Fair Grounds. He nailed it. We look at the contentious jockeys' race at **Ajax Downs**, and some schadenfreude in this podcast - pleasure at the pain of others - someone bet \$40,000 to show on a sure thing in a 4-horse race at Assiniboia Downs. Wait until you hear what happened.

Episode 193, October 2:

This podcast is full of great races – The Breeders' Stakes, 3rd leg of the Canadian Triple Crown at Woodbine, 4 OSS Golds from Mohawk Park, **Tattoo Artist** crushing again, this time at the Dayton Raceway. Natural hattricks at Woodbine for jockeys **Sahin Civaci** and **Sofia Vives**. We check out the very close jockeys race at Ajax Downs; will it be **Brian Bell**, or **Ramiro Castillo** or **J B Botello**? Promoter and horse owner **Adriano Sorella** tees up next weekend's **Jimmy Freight Stakes**, and, appropriately, after the weekend of the Breeders' Stakes, we talk with the only woman to win this race and let's just say that **Laurie Gulas'** life has not always been in the winners' circle.

Episode 194, October 9:

It was another huge Sunday at Woodbine with the Grade I Canadian International, the E.P. Taylor, the Algonquin and the Nearctic Stakes and most of the big purses went to invaders **Resilience**, the filly won the Jimmy Freight Stakes and was resilient, coming off a 6-month layoff to win on the same night. It took another magical drive from **Scott Zeron** as **Tactical Approach** won the Kentucky Futurity, 3rd leg of the Trotting Triple Crown/Trainer **Layne Giliforte** tells us what it was like winning the Breeders' Stakes – the biggest win for him in 30 years and it came only after some heart-stopping filly on colt conflict in the stretch. Has jockey **Brian Bell** created enough wiggle room in his quest to win the riders race at Ajax Downs? And how does a horse pay over \$1,000 to show.? It happened in Summerside, P.E.I.

Episode 195, October 16

The \$250,000 Cup and Saucer is one of 5 Stakes from Woodbine featured this week. There were 8 \$300,000 OSS Golds at Mohawk. At Ajax Downs, 2 horses dead-headed for 2nd in a Stakes event, and both were elevated to the win spot. We got **Scott Zeron** on the phone. This year, Zeron won the North America Cup, the Hambletonian, the Jug, the Jugette and the Kentucky Futurity. Does that make him the **Dan Patch Driver of the Year**? You might not have heard about **Michael Copeland** taking over the job as CEO of Woodbine from **Jim Lawson**. Lawson tells us why the transition was so quiet. We have *another* (yawwwwn) 5win night for **James MacDonald** at Mohawk, and, over the span of 3 days at Laurel Racetrack, a horse named **Haint Blue** ran twice – except - it was a different horse each time.

Episode 196, October 23

We have the disputed outcome from the Ontario Derby at Woodbine. We chat with apprentice jockeys **Cheyenne Kerr**, **Fraser Aebly** and **Pietro Moran** about the thrill of winning for the first time at Woodbine. The country's leading apprentice, **Sofia Vives**, had an unforgettable ride in Fort Erie's final race. **Doug McNair** pushed his harness driving purse earnings past the \$80 million mark then drove to Indiana to win a pair of Breeders Crown Eliminations. Also good times at Hoosier Park for **Louis-Philippe Roy** and **Tattoo Artist**. And we're not worthy to be in the same room with the guy who won a lot of money when he accurately predicted the exact finish of 12 horses in a big Stakes race in Australia.

Episode 197, October 30:

We sent **Garnet Barnsdale** to Hoosier Downs and he broke down the Breeders Crown races, emphasizing the Canadian Content – how did **Sylvia Hanover**, **Tactical Approach**, **Scott Zeron** and **Tattoo Artist** do? Amazing feats by horse racing athletes – **Sylvain Filion** hit the 10,000-win mark on Monday at Mohawk Park, then added 5 more on Friday on a night when Fort Erie race caller **Doug McPherson** described the action Also with the 5-bagger stunt – **Kazushi Kimura** who swept the Saturday Stakes at Woodbine and added 3 more wins. Legendary trainer **Roger Attfield** talks to us about **Shirl's Speight**, who is back in next week's Breeders' Stakes at Santa Anita. The quarter horse season came to an end at Ajax Downs and **Brian Bell** punctuated his championship season by riding the winner in the final Stakes race. And Presque Isle race caller, **Jeff Cernik** had a bucket full of fun in a certain race last week.

ON AIR

DOWN THE STRETCH



A Podcast with Peter Gross