

THE BUCKEYE Harness Horseman

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The Official Publication of the
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association



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2020

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(4) Suanne Kochilla
(7) Steve Bateson

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Scott Mogan

2021

Breeders

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Brad Wallace

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Melsheimer
(5) Dayle Roof
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BREAK THE BANK K \$5,000

T,2, 1:55.3f; 3, 1:51.3 (\$1,104,630)

Revenue S — American Misty — American Winner

ONE OF OHIO'S LEADING MONEY WINNING TROTTING STALLIONS

- World Champion multiple Stakes Winner earning \$236,910 as a 2 year old
- Winner Breeders Crown Final plus elimination of \$1 million Canadian Trotting Classic, finishing 2nd in the final earning \$774,455 as a 3 year old.
- Sire of DYLAN THE GREAT (1:53.2h \$197,662) 2019 Ohio Sires Stakes leg winner and PARTY AT THE BANKS (1:52.3f \$312,173), 2019 Sires Stakes Champion 4 year olds and up



WESTERN TERROR \$4,000

P,2, 1:54.2; 3, 1:48.3 (\$1,164,174)

Western Hanover — Arterra — Artsplace

CONTINUES TO BE THE INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR PEDIGREE AND PERFORMANCE

- 3 Year old Pacing Colt of the Year and Breeder Crown Final Winner plus multiple Grand Circuit Races
- Sire of 11 with earnings over \$1 Million and 268+ with lifetime earnings over \$100,000
- 2019 successes include: TAKE IT BACK TERRY (1:50.0f \$1,518,557), UP THE CREDIT (1:48.3s \$1,346,199), SAFE FROM TERROR (1:50.3f \$1,092,451) and many more



LANE OF STONE \$3,500

T,2, 1:58.2f; 3, 1:53.1f (\$440,172)

Wishing Stone — Wisteria Lane — Lindy Lane

OHIO 2 YEAR OLD TROTTING COLT OF THE YEAR IN 2018!! OHIO 3 YEAR OLD TROTTING COLT OF THE YEAR IN 2019!!

- 2019 Winner of Scarlet and Gray Invitational, Ohio State Fair, 3 legs Ohio Sires Stakes and \$300,000 Sires Stakes Championship
- Winner in 17 of 23 Lifetime Starts, finishing 2nd 3 times. Set New Track Record at Northfield!
 - Superior Performance and Consistent Race Success at 2 and 3
 - Bred, Born, Raised, Trained, Raced and Now Standing in OHIO!



NOB HILL HIGH \$3,000

P,2, 1:54h; 3, 1:50.1f (\$1,104,203)

Mcardle — Anniecrombie — Abercrombie

PHENOMENAL SUCCESS FROM ONLY 2 SMALL RACING CROPS

- \$71,982 AVERAGE EARNINGS PER STARTER!!!
- 2019 Successes include GIGGLES IN DREAMS (1:50.1s \$265,636) multiple Sires Stakes Winner and New Track record holder at Dayton Raceway!! SNOBBYTOWN (1:51.0f \$170,465) Sires Stakes Winner and STANFORD COURT (1:52.4f \$84,710) 2 year old Winner Ohio Sires Stakes Consolation
- Millionaire Stallion sired by a Millionaire Sire out of a Millionaire Dam. PEDIGREE UNMATCHED!!

Calendar of Events

MARCH 13TH - 16TH

USTA Annual Meeting
Hilton Columbus
at Easton
Columbus, OH

MARCH 25TH

**Ohio State Racing
Commission Monthly
Meeting**
Rife Center, Rm 1948
Columbus, OH

APRIL 2ND - 5TH

Equine Affair
Ohio Expo Center
Columbus, OH

APRIL 22ND

**Ohio State Racing
Commission Monthly
Meeting**
Rife Center, Rm 1948
Columbus, OH

APRIL 23RD

**Ohio Harness Horsemen's
Association 2nd Quarter
Board Meeting**
OHHA Office, 2237 Sonora Dr.
Grove City, OH

A Good Night at Mercer County *By Thom Pye*

Celina, Ohio – The Eagle Club #1291, located on the shores of Grand Lake was host as the Mercer County Harness Horsemen's Association presented its 49th Awards dinner and auction on Saturday, February 8th.

MCHHA President Derek Menchofer started the ceremonies by presenting awards and plaudits to the divisional winners which included Celina's Phil Belanger pacing gelding Big See (Big Bad John-Eagle See) who earned a tab of 1:51.1 at Hollywood Dayton in the Fair Finals this past September as a three-year-old.

The filly 3-year-old pacing counterpart went to Gibsonburg's Suzanne Bates I M McCited (McCardle-Exciting Ideal) as she picked up \$35,027 in 2019 with a mark of 1:57.3 at Scioto Downs in June.

Slated To Win, the Hatfield Stable-bred gelded son of Uncle Peter, was the top 3-year-old trotter posting a win in a quick 1:57.3 at Hoosier Downs.

Steve Boroff's aged trotting gelding The Triple Lindy, a 12-year-old by Credit Winner with a standard as a 6-year-old of 1:53, garnered the plaudits of his hometown of Mendon, Ohio by adding to his lifetime earnings total of \$345,072.



Cindy Wallace and Roger Wilkin from Van Wert, fresh off a week-long turnout in the Caribbean, were among the many successful bidders at Celina.

The gelding Dont Say Goodby (Dontgetinmyway-Good by Albatross) was named Aged Pacer of the Year award for owner/trainer Derek Menchofer. He continued his winning ways with a mile in 1:51.4 at Hollywood Dayton in December as an 11-year-old while chalking up another \$51,125 in 2019 to his already impressive lifetime totals of \$423,173.



The bidding was fast and furious in the auction.

one in farms, owners, mares bred, foal registrations, and fair racing for the last 6 years. She also emphasized that we should all stay involved and be supportive of our legislators to help keep Ohio number one.

It was a great homestyle dinner of chicken, turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, salad, with a full range of desserts

When the tables were cleared, the action was fast and furious. Auction items included: harnesses, wheels, a sulky from Superior Sulky, buckets of grooming essentials, coolers, gift certificates from Northfield, Dayton, Delaware, Hoosier, Scioto, and Miami Valley, prize packages, and an assortment of homemade foodstuffs that included several jars of Aunt Edith's Quick Chili sauce. It was enjoyable to watch a two-way bidding war over a pair of rooster metal sculptures. Perhaps we'll see them again on that antiques TV show where the appraiser says "It's such a great find! In its present condition, a conservative estimate would be..."

And with that we'll close with a hearty "thank you" and "Good job! Well done!"

Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Executive Director Renee Mancino was asked to give an impromptu speech and she expertly covered the new changes in the Ohio Staking Guide and addressed some of the issues in our neighboring states. Mancino reiterated that Ohio is number

OHIO HORSEMEN KEEPING EYES ON PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf sent shockwaves through the state's horse racing community when he announced a plan to raid the Race Horse Development Trust Fund to fund scholarships in the state. Wolf's proposal would redirect \$204 million dollars earmarked for purses and breeder funds.

Wolf's plan would create a tuition program to assist students in the state colleges. "I'm proposing a historic \$200 million investment in scholarships for the young Pennsylvanians attending our state system universities. That means 25,000 students will be able to get a degree without crushing debt. We'll do it by repurposing existing tax dollars that are right now flowing into the horse racing development fund" says Wolf.

In a news release, Pete Peterson, executive director of the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition, which represents the Standardbred and Thoroughbred industries in Pennsylvania says the Governor's plan would be devastating to racing, breeding and the state's agricultural economy.

"If approved by the legislature, this raid would result in the end of horse racing in Pennsylvania by eviscerating the primary funding source for the purses and breeder incentives that serve as the lifeblood of the industry," Peterson said in the release. "This scheme would destroy an industry that provides a \$1.6 billion economic impact and supports an estimated 16,000 to 23,000 jobs in the agriculture, manufacturing, construction, retail, and hospitality industries here in Pennsylvania."

Renée Mancino the executive director of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association says Ohio horsemen should take notice. "If we have an economic downturn, or are in a situation where we are in budget crisis in Ohio, the revenue share allocation can be impacted just like it can anywhere."

Mancino says to make sure what is happening in Pennsylvania does not happen in Ohio, horsemen as small business owners must be active in their local communities. "Horsemen are located statewide and need to be involved at the local level with their county commis-

sion, the state level with their representatives and senators. All the way up the chain." She says it is important for horsemen to be aware of the implications in their local community and the reach they have in their community as a small business owner.

Following the Pennsylvania Governor's proposal, cries went out in Pennsylvania that the industry needs to do a better job of marketing, something Mancino says the OHHA has been doing since 2015 and has plans to expand.

In 2020, the OHHA is planning marketing and promotional campaigns to support all four standardbred pari-mutuel tracks as well as local radio advertising and promotional outreach at the county level and the "We Are Racing" outreach program to promote harness racing at the 66 county fair and independent fairs statewide.

A half hour radio show promoting harness racing is now on the air in Central Ohio (See story page 16) and preliminary plans are in the works for a half hour television show.



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MILLER COLLECTS TWO MILESTONES

February 11th will be a day Brett Miller will remember. Miller won his 8,500th race and topped the \$90 million mark in earnings at Miami Valley Raceway.

Miller collected the career milestones as he drove Motor City Man to the win for owner Jeanette Conrad and trainer Greg Henderson.

The 46-year-old Miller has 60 wins so far this season. He began driving in 1991 and returned to his native Ohio last year after a very successful career on the East Coast. Miller won 518 times last year on the Miami Valley, Scioto Downs, Dayton Raceway circuit. He has exceeded \$5 million in purse earnings in nine of the last ten years.

(From Press Release)



Brett Miller is congratulated by Miami Valley Racing Operations Manager Helen Carlo and Race Secretary Gregg Keidel on reaching both the 8500 wins and \$90,000,000 earnings plateaus

Blooded Horse Winter Sale

BY ROGER HUSTON

The 57th Winter Sale of The Blooded Horse was held on February 11th at the Champions Center in Springfield, Ohio. Sale Manager Jerry Haws says it was one of the strongest sales ever. "I thought it was a very good sale. I enjoyed the interest the Burke-Weaver trotters brought and liked doing it for them. I don't know how often you can have two horses that match like those did, but we would do it again under the right circumstances".

The two 4-year-old mares by Explosive Matter, Wildfire Seelster and Matterlei, had been dominant in their last eight starts at the Meadows. The winning bid of \$43,000 was made by Herman and Morgan Hagerman of Millersburg, Ohio. The Hagermans chose Wildfire Seelster over Matterlei, who will continue to race for the Burke Stable. After the purchase Morgan Hagerman said "Wildfire Seelster sparked my interest first. We really liked her. We are going to race her at Northfield Park and potentially make her a broodmare".



The sale topper went to Michael Miller of Dundee, Ohio who had the final bid of \$49,000 for Sneeker Hanover, by Donato Hanover out of Slow Dance Hanover. The 5-year-old mare, consigned by Cactus Acres, is in foal to Kadabra.

U Need Stones brought the second highest price and was hammered down at \$45,000. The 5-year-old gelding, by Wishing Stone out of Sequin Hanover, was purchased by Adriano Sorella, Of Guelph, Ontario. The conditioned trotter was consigned by Burke Racing Stable.

Wildfire Seelster (left) was bought by Herman and Morgan Hagerman.



Morgan Hagerman with new purchase Wildfire Seelster

A 'superfecta season' for Chris Page

BY KEN WEINGARTNER, USTA MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER

Chris Page put together quite the superfecta in 2019. The 36-year-old driver piloted Ohio's Horse of the Year in 2-year-old male pacer Elver Hanover, notched career victory 5,000, increased his workload on the Grand Circuit, and got married.

"It was the best year of my life, horse racing wise and in my personal life," Page said. "I was very happy with all of it."

Page won more than 400 races for the seventh consecutive year in 2019 and nearly set a career high for purses despite taking off all but one day in December for his honeymoon. The Ohio resident visited the winner's circle 435 times and earned \$5.94 million. Although his purses failed to eclipse his \$6.19 million in 2018, his average earnings per start were better in 2019.

In addition to driving Elver Hanover, who was undefeated in nine races, Page drove Ohio champion 2-year-old filly pacer Looksgoodinaromper and had occasional drives with 4-year-old Mission Accepted, who was named Ohio's best older trotter. All three horses were from the stable of trainer Ron Burke.

"It was a very good year," Page said. "Honestly, I've got to thank the Burkes. They're the ones that made it possible. Between them and (trainer) Brian Brown, they've been very good to me."

"Everything just came together. The good thing about 2019 going into 2020, those horses that were 2-year-olds are coming back as 3-year-olds here in Ohio for the stakes program. With a little luck, we'll have a great year this year too."

Page drove Elver Hanover, by Yankee Cruiser out of Edra Hanover, in all but one of his nine races last season. Yannick Gingras was

in the bike for the gelding's 1:48.3 world-record score in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes at Lexington's Red Mile. Page was back behind Elver Hanover the following week when he

closed his season with a win in a division of the International Stallion Stakes.

"It's tough to say anything is perfect, but how do you say that he's not? More importantly, the horse got put away on top," Page said. "Anytime in the year, the horse never was taking tired steps. He was always pacing forward late. And he is user friendly. That makes my job so much easier when you can do whatever you want with a horse."

"I saw a picture of him the other day and he looks like a tank. He might have grown a little bit, in height and filled out, and he's always been a good-looking horse, anyway. It makes 2020 exciting driving horses like that."

Page drove Looksgoodinaromper in all 12 of her races, winning five. She became the fastest 2-year-old filly pacer on a half-mile track with a 1:52.3 victory at Northfield in a division of the Ohio Sire Stakes.

"You can't forget about her," Page said. "I really liked her. I think she maybe got a little bit tired late in the year and we were drawing terrible, but she's a world-record-holder too."

Page, who studied to be a veterinarian before turning his full attention to driving, got his first win in 2001 and topped 1,000 starts and 300 wins for the first time in 2009. With the exception of last season when he took his honeymoon break, he has been one of the five busiest drivers in North America on a regular basis.

"The (young horses) I drive, the first few starts I kind of babysit them. I race them off a helmet and make sure they're pacing late. Once they get that figured out, then you can add another element. Most horses can leave

or can learn to leave very easily. But on the flip side, not as many can race off the pace, do stuff like that, because they get hot. I really take pride in my work and really try to do best by the horse."

Page was happy to take time off with his wife Brianna at the end of last year to enjoy a honeymoon, which included a week in the Bahamas and a week skiing in Michigan. The couple was married in September.

"I never take time off," Page said. "I might take a day or two here or there, but not really any significant time since I started racing. She works in an orthodontist office. She works in the morning, I work at night, so to get to spend some time together is nice. Plus, it was Christmas time and we got to spend time with the families. We just had a ball. It was the quickest month of my life."

Was it difficult to adjust to not rushing around?

"No, not at all," Page said. "I'm usually always looking at my watch because I have stuff to do, but for a whole month I didn't pay attention to the time. I kept telling myself I was on vacation and it didn't matter. My biggest chore was figuring out what to eat that day."

A very good way to end a very good year.



Chris Page won more than 400 races for the seventh consecutive year in 2019 and nearly set a career high for purses. USTA/Mark Hall photo.

Chris Page pilots Elver Hanover to his first win of 2019 at Scioto Downs.



Conrad photo

Conrad photo

Chris Page got his first win in 2001 and topped 1,000 starts and 300 wins for the first time in 2009.

20 questions with Ronnie Wrenn Jr.

What is your first memory of a horse?

I grew up in the business, when I was really small being in the barn helping out with my parents with the horses.

When did you realize harness racing would be your livelihood?

Not for a while. I grew up playing middle and high school sports, never was around the horses, never wanted to be around horses. I went to college for a little bit and started working for my Uncle Peter, who is a horseman in the business. Then I got the bug, so they say. I wanted to be heavily involved but never thought it would really turn out as well as it has. I am very happy with the decision I made.

What is your favorite sport outside of harness racing?

Golf. I love golf. Watch it every weekend and play as much as I can.

What is your favorite vacation spot and does it include golf?

If it is just me and my buddies, yes. We went to Scottsdale last month and that was a lot of fun. Anytime I go with my wife and son, anywhere warm that doesn't involve horses where I can relax and take it easy, anything like that is great.

If you weren't driving what would you be doing?

As much as I am addicted to golf, I wish I could be a professional golfer and play every weekend where the weather is nice and warm, and I don't have to race in the cold, rain and snow. That would be fun.

Who is your biggest fan?

I don't know. There is a guy that drove me all over to different tracks, Road Dog, he still hangs out here. I would probably say he is my number one fan if you ask somebody.

What is your favorite driving moment?

In 2015 when I won a couple Sires Stakes, The Jim Ewart Memorial and a couple of other big open races that night. I was able to make a lot of money that night which was great. That was the coolest moment of my career.

If you had all the money in the world how would you spend your days?

Hanging out with the family, relaxing. Playing a lot of golf, traveling the world.

Probably wouldn't think about racehorses too much if I didn't need the money.

When you were a kid what did you want to be?

Probably a professional athlete of some sort. I played a lot of baseball and football. I probably would say one of them.

What is the craziest thing you have ever done?

I've done a lot of stupid things in my life. I've crashed some cars, a whole bunch of stupid things, I'd rather not say.

What's the last book you read or last movie you saw?

I haven't read a book in a long time. The last movie I saw was the Green Mile last week. I thought it was a really good movie.

What is on your bucket list?

Just to keep traveling, somewhere new. I tend to take a couple of weeks off in January every year with racing, traveling with my wife and son. I don't really have any specific places I like to go, anywhere that is different, something new.

If you could go back in history who would you want to have dinner with?

The first thought in my mind would be my Dad. I lost him in 2014. Someone famous, probably a president, George Washington.

Who is the most famous person you have ever met?

I met a guy named Aaron Merriman, he's pretty famous, at least he thinks he's famous. No, he's a good dude. I've met a few professional athletes. In Las Vegas I met a couple football player, guys like that.

What is your favorite horse you have driven?

I have driven some nice horses in my career but since I drive him week in and week out, I would say Southwind Amazon. He's a true war horse. He tries hard every week and usually has the 8-hole at Northfield. It is a tough post to win from and he does a good job doing it.

What is the best advice you have received about harness racing?

Stay in school and get my education. Take one day at a time. It is a tough business it's a grind. It truly is a marathon. You are going to have a lot more bad nights than good nights as a driver, and just be able to handle the bad



JJ Zamaiko Photography

nights and when you have good nights be thankful you can win some races and make some money for people and have that right attitude.

What one word what describes harness racing to you?

You've got to be passionate about it. To really do this sport as a living and as a career you have to love it. I think if you ask anyone in the business, they will say they are passionate and love the sport.

What is one thing people don't know about you?

A lot of people know I'm kind of a crazy weird guy. I take a lot of pride in being a true family man, being around for my family.

If you got three wishes from the equine genie what would you wish for?

My first one would be never lose another race. Own horses that make tons of money. The third one, that's a good question. I don't know. I don't think about stuff like this very often so I could only come up with two.

What are you most proud of?

Being able to come to the track every night with a good attitude, have a mindset that the races aren't going to work out the way I want them to. Over the last few years I've gotten better at once the race is over moving onto the next race which wasn't the case when I first started racing. I just wanted to win every race. I still do but I understand now that there are nine other guys trying to do the same thing I am trying to do and it's not always going to work out. Having that mindset really helps me to be successful.



Dublin Valley Farms Stallion Roster 2020



Hambletonian Elimination winner

ENTERPRISE

2,1:58.1f; 3,1:52 (\$423,121)

Chapter Seven - Shes Gone Again - SJ's Caviar

By the red hot sire **Chapter Seven**, Enterprise was a multiple stakes winner at 3. He is from the top producing dam SHES GONE AGAIN whose first three foals all trotted in 1:52.4 or faster (including LIVE LAUGH LOVE, BT1:50.2).

His dam is also a half-sister to Breeders Crown champion **Poof She's Gone** 3,1:53.1 (\$1,312,093).

Enterprise won half of his 12 starts in 2017, including an elimination of the Hambletonian, and finished fourth, placed third in the \$1,000,000 final at the Meadowslands. Enterprise has won on all sized tracks, including a 1:55.4h victory against older horses at Yonkers.

Standing his second season, Enterprise was well received in the Buckeye State and is highly fertile. He bred well over 100 mares with better than a 90% conception rate.



ENTERPRISE

2020
STUD FEE
\$4,500

International Champion

VOLSTEAD

1:51.3f (\$773,903)

Cantab Hall - Madame Volo - Yankee Glide

- CANTAB HALL is a proven sire of sires including, Father Patrick, Uncle Peter, and Explosive Matter.
- VOLSTEAD is a European Group 1 winning stallion.
- A serious racehorse that won in 1:51.3 on the 5/8 mile track at Solvalla, a season's leading record in 2017.
- Winner of 23 races, including the prestigious Sweden Cup, defeating top horses such as Elitloppet winners Ringostarr Treb and Magic Tonight on multiple occasions. (73 starts: 23-10-2)
- From an outstanding family of multiple stakes winners:
 - Dam: MADAME VOLO 2,1:56.4 (\$32,504, also the dam of HIGH BRIDGE 1:54.3f (\$327,544, etc.)
 - 2nd Dam: MISSYS GOAL 3,1:56 (\$28,252). Dam of MISSY'S GOALFIRE 3,1:57.1h (\$329,939), HAVE YOU EVER 3,1:55.2 (\$204,280), PRIVATE PENNANT 1:55.2f (\$177,887), etc.



VOLSTEAD

2020
STUD FEE
\$4,500

Standing his first season!

Full brother to World Champion Pampered Princess

NOTHING BUT CLASS

3,1:53.3f; BT1:52 (\$449,259)

Andover Hall-Bold Dreamer-Donerail

Multiple stakes winner at 3 in the U.S. and at 5, 6 & 7 in Europe.

Full brother to World Champion **PAMPERED PRINCESS** 2,1:54.4; 3,1:53 (\$1,648,362).

Half brother to **WAS IT A DREAM** 2,1:57; BT1:54.1 (\$896,000-Int'l).

A Gorgeous, royally-bred son of Andover Hall

Standing his second season, he is highly fertile.

During his first season he had better than a 95% conception rate.



NOTHING BUT CLASS

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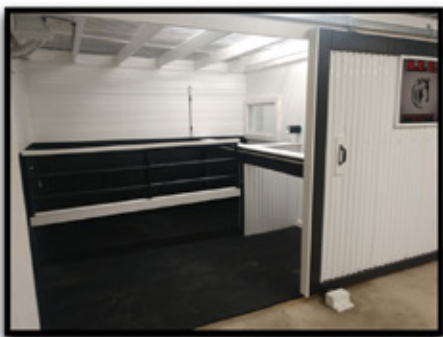
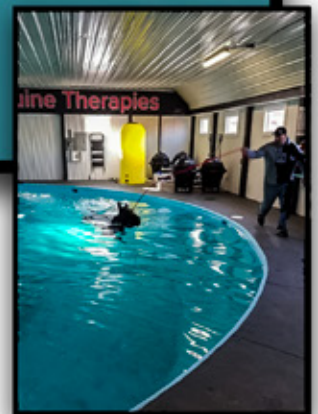
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Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

The Dan Patch Awards Dinner was held in Orlando, Florida, on February 23rd. Awards were presented to the brightest and best of Harness Racing for lifetime achievements and 2019 accomplishments.

Tom Charters, a native of Springfield, Ohio, will be inducted into The Harness Racing Hall of Fame on Sunday July 5th, in Goshen, New York. Tom began his racing career as a caretaker. At one point he worked with Delvin Miller. One of his most notable charges was the great Delmonica Hanover.

He then branched out to work as race secretary at The Meadows and Macau in the late 70's and early 80's. From there he became the executive director of The Breeders Crown in 1984, The Hambletonian Society in 1994 before his retirement in 2017.

No matter what his position at the time he dealt with increasing race handle, simulcasting, television production and international racing. Tom had the ability to juggle many tasks while working with a wide range of personalities.

Phil Pikelný, noted author and publicist, has been named to The Communicators Hall of Fame and likewise will be inducted in Goshen in July. After graduating from Northwestern University, he worked for The Horseman and Fair World Magazine, publicity director of the USTA and Scioto Downs.

He teamed with Don Evans to write the book "Rambling Willie: The Horse That God Loved". The title was chosen since Robert and Vivian Farrington chose to donate 10% of Willie's earnings to their church.

Aaron Merriman for the sixth straight year was The North American Dash Champion. He is the first driver in history to record three straight years of at least 1,000 wins in a season of racing. Following an accident at Northfield Park in February, Merriman was told not to fly for a month and did not attend the dinner.

Jazmin Arnold, a native of Melrose, Illinois and now a resident of Xenia, Ohio, was presented the 2019 Amateur of the Year Driving Award. At the age of 26, in her first year of racing she won 23 of 59 drives, to earn the title. In 2020 she has been to the winner's circle on 4 of 10 occasions in this young season which gives her a UDRS lifetime of .512.

At the beginning her family was not thrilled that she chose to drive. The family quickly changed their mind when she started winning with regularity. She has competed at county fairs in Ohio and at pari-mutual tracks as well.

As great as the 2020 Dan Patch Dinner was, my moment in time which will stick with me forever was my return to Grove City on Monday. For several reasons my flights were either missed or delayed despite arriving at the airport three hours in advance. I was scheduled to leave at 12:15, then 2:40,

then 5:40 and finally at 6:30pm. It made for a long day.

However, I am a believer that things happen for a reason. With all the delays I was quite perturbed and upset. That all changed around 3:00 when the phone rang for a fellow passenger that I had spent a couple hours with. He was experiencing the same problems. Richard, who is 82, was notified by relatives that his 83-year-old brother had passed in Lancaster, Ohio. He was traveling alone and returning to Dublin.

I was there for him as he talked about his brother and their life events. Can you imagine what he was going thru at that time? Richard, who is recovering from a hip replacement, has spent many a night at Scioto Downs enjoying the races. We will talk again and even go to Scioto this season. If I can arrange it, The Little Brown Jug on September 24th.

My phrase of "Be There" on February 24th had a very special meaning this time around.

Be There!



Ohio Horses Earn Canadian Honors

A pair of Ohio horses were honored at the 2019 O'Brien Awards in Mississauga, Ontario. The O'Brien Awards honors Canada's best in harness racing.

Only Take Cash, the 2019 Ohio Three-year-old Trotting Filly of the Year, was named the co-winner of the O'Brien award for three-year-old trotting Fillies. She shared the award with Evident Beauty. Only Take Cash finished in the top three in 12 of her 13 starts, including a wire-to-wire victory in the Ohio Sires Stakes Final on the way to earning \$462,708. She also won two Ohio Sire Stakes events and scored a win in a division of the Casual Breeze. Only Take Cash was bred by CSX Stables of Liberty Center, Ohio and the Robert McIntosh Stables of Windsor, Ontario.

In the Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly division, Sunny Dee was named the O'Brien Award winner. The Sunshine Beach filly raced 23 times, winning 13 times and finishing in the top three in 21 races. She earned \$478,070 last year. Her stakes victories included a sweep



Only Take Cash wins the Ohio Sires Stakes at Northfield Park.

of the Standardbred Breeders of Ontario Association Stakes, two Ontario Sires Stakes events, and the USS Indianapolis Memorial. Sunny Dee is owned and bred by CSX Stables of Liberty Center, Ohio, the Robert McIntosh Stables of Windsor, Ontario and Al McIntosh Holdings of Leamington, Ontario.

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Golden Paradise

has 'exceeded all our expectations'

by Ken Weingartner, USTA Media Relations Manager

What a difference a year makes.

Last January, female pacer Golden Paradise was competing in the Claim to Fame Series at Miami Valley Raceway. This year, she is already a two-time winner of the fillies-and-mares open at the same track.

And in between, she won the Indiana Sire Stakes championship for pacing mares.

So, it's safe to say trainer/co-owner Tyler George is very grateful Golden Paradise was not claimed a year ago.

"No kidding," George said with a laugh. "I would have been kicking myself, that's for sure."

Golden Paradise, a 6-year-old daughter of Allthatgltrsisgold out of Paradise Island began her career on the Indiana fairs circuit.

For her career, Golden Paradise has won 30 of 87 races and \$262,002. Her current ownership group, made up of George, Sam Schillaci, and Wrenn Jr. Racing, came together in November 2018. After working with the mare to resolve tying-up issues and changing her routine, she began to click on a more consistent basis. Since the beginning of 2019, she has won 12 of 29 starts and \$160,375.

"She hasn't really changed much, physically," George said. "She calmed down a little bit, just kind of matured. She's become a professional. We've had some nice mares that are



Credit: Brad Conrad

Golden Paradise with Trace Tetrack wins at Miami Valley Raceway

faster than her, but she just never has a bad day. She just always puts in a good effort every time.

"I really appreciate that about her. She's very consistent. And she's very easy to drive. Trace said the other day he could drive her with no handholds right now. That's hard to find. Plus, she's very versatile. She'll race just as well off a trip as if you put her in play."

Golden Paradise's current form shows three wins, two seconds and a third, in her past six races. George, who was among the horse's trainers prior to owning the mare with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Schillaci, said her breeding also might be a factor in her development.

"She's out of an Abercrombie (sired) mare, you don't see that very often in the program anymore, and those horses, years ago,

just got really good when they got older," George said.

After the mare began to show improvement last year, her connections supplemented her to the Indiana Sire Stakes. She will compete in the sire stakes again this season.

"She fits pretty good with those horses, I think," George said. "Beyond that, it would probably be hard for her. We'll just keep her around here and have a little fun with her. We'll race at Miami Valley and Hoosier a little bit, maybe Scioto. She's already exceeded all our expectations."

Regardless of where Golden Paradise does compete, it is safe to say where she will not race anytime soon.

"No more claimers," George said, laughing.

OHHA Sponsors TV GIVEAWAY

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will conduct a Big Screen TV giveaway at Miami Valley Raceway on March 13th. A total of five 55" large screen televisions will be given away throughout the evening.

Beginning with the third race, a fan will be selected for each horse entered in the race. If the fan's horse wins the race, they will win the television. The other contestants will receive a consolation prize and be re-entered into the drawings to win a television.

WLW radio personality Seg Dennison is scheduled to appear at the track as part of the promotion.

The OHHA plans to at least one big screen television giveaway at each of the four pari-mutual tracks in Ohio this year.



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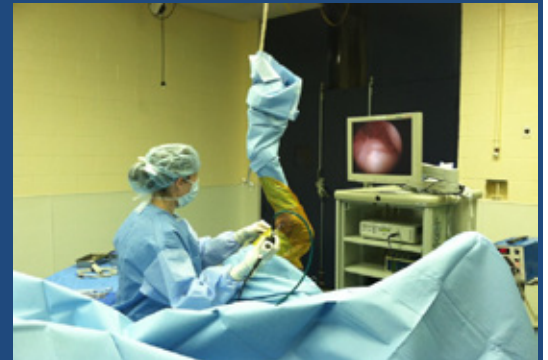


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OHHA Back at Equine Affair

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association will once again participate in the Equine Affair at the Ohio Expo Center April 2 - 5, 2020 in partnership with United States Trotting Association

There will be a booth to promote the Standardbred breed as well as an interactive area.

The interactive area will include a virtual reality race bike to give people the feeling of driving a racehorse, and a station to apply bandages and boots to a plastic horse leg.

There will also be a bone box where children can hunt for bones and compare the horse bones to their own.

Stop by our booth in the Breed Pavilion in the Voinovich Building. We'd love to see you if you are attending.

*OHHA sends our condolences
to family and friends of*

Charlotte 'Cookie' Hillen who passed away at the age of 72. Charlotte was a long-time gate guard at Northfield Park and was named to the Northfield Park Wall of Fame.

George C Taylor III who passed away at the age of 74. George operated the Executive Standardbred Training Center and Breeding Facility in Thornville, Ohio.



A youthful Walter "Longshot" Cox in the 1890's. Cox would eventually congratulate Steve Phillips' on his invention, shake his hand, and say "good job."

The bicycle sulk.

CONTRAPTIONS

BY THOM PYE

In 1892 Edward "Pop" Geers, so named after becoming a father at 38 and someone saying "you're a 'Pop' now," was the first of the big-time trainers to use pneumatic wheels on a sulk.

He had borrowed the sulk from Bud Doble at the old Hamtramck Track in Detroit. Doble, of Dexter, Goldsmith Maid, and Nancy Hanks fame, received the complimentary sulk from the manufacturer and had promptly stuck the new contraption in the dark end of the barn.

Geers post-paraded in the new sulk and was "almost laughed off the track." No one was laughing when his horse won. That prompted Doble to try it that day also. His horse also won. "The bicycle sulk was made that day," Geers would say 25 years later in an interview with legendary writer John Hervey.

A young trainer/driver from Poughkeepsie, NY by the name of Tom Murphy would become known as "The Wizard of the Reins." From 1909 until his early retirement in 1927, he was the leading money-winning driver in 16 of the 19 seasons. We still remember him daily, as the "Murphy Blind" was his "contraption."

Walter Cox who completed a grand slam when he finished 1-2-3-4 with his quartet of trotters in the 1929 Hambletonian, which he won with William H. Cane's Walter Dear. When Cox first saw recently retired Grand Circuit Starter Steven G. Phillips unveil his mobile starting gate in 1937, he bellowed "get that contraption off the track!" Phillips had originally gotten the idea while watching a movie crew film horses head on from the back of a truck. Phillips, a native of Xenia, Ohio was not deterred, and he kept offering it for use.



Steve Phillips and his mobile starting gate.

A young 30-something Delvin Miller, the only professional of any sport whose career spanned 8 decades, was perhaps the first to go behind the mobile starting gate and he quickly became an advocate. In 1940 Miller pressed Roosevelt Raceway founder George Morton Levy to use the gate for his new

concept of night harness racing and single heat dashes. After WWII was over, Levy finally incorporated Phillips' "contraption" in 1946 and the sport of harness racing went from the County Fairs to the Big Time and ushered in the days and nights of the first million-dollar handle at Hollywood Park a year later.

Wheel disks were introduced in the 1960's and, while the old-time grooms called them "speed wheels," they were not readily accepted.

The "modified sulk" first appeared in 1976 and some veteran trainer/drivers thought them dangerous. They claimed the horse could step into the forks and refused to use them.

Canadian veterinarian Gordon Gilbertson came out with his Quick Hitch in 1980 and all those tie downs, breast plates, and thimbles became obsolete. The hitch freed up the horses in the turns yet many of the old "Farmers" continued to use the old-style harness for a few years afterwards.

Ah, contraptions... I wonder what's next in store for us.

CRASH INJURES TWO DRIVERS

A horrific crash at Northfield Park on Saturday February 15th involving five horses sent two drivers to the hospital.

The crash involved Aaron Merriman, Hunter Myers, Ryan Stahl, Jason Thompson and Greg Grismore. Merriman and Myers were taken to the hospital and treated and released. The others refused treatment at the track.

Myers was back driving the following Monday night, but Merriman was sidelined for a week.

Merriman was driving My Three Girls and sitting in third place entering the fourth turn when she broke. Myers with Big Bad Ashley tried to avoid the wreck but veered into the path of Scarlet Desire and Thompson. Stahl with Together Forever and Grismore with Becks Wood Place were also caught up in it wreck.

All the horses involved in the crash were able to walk off the track.

Bill Rhoades, the trainer of My Three Girls, says she is healing up, but her days on the track are over. "The track was pretty hard, and it looked like her legs flipped out from under her. She doesn't wear wraps and when she fell, she landed on her knees and it ripped them into the joints." Rhoades says there is no infection and she is brighter and brighter every day. "She could race again, but I am not going that for her, so I am going to breed her."

OHHA and WDLR Unveil New **RADIO SHOW**



Kelly Bell

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association in partnership with WDLR Radio of Delaware, Ohio unveiled a new half hour radio show on February 15th. "Horsing Around" will focus on harness racing in the Buckeye State.

Michelle Gatchell will co-host the show with Kelley Bell of the Little Brown Jug Radio Network. The show will feature interviews with breeders, trainers, owners and other involved in harness racing.

Bell's guest for the inaugural show included Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Brand Ambassador Roger Huston and Joe McLead of Sugar Valley Farm in Delaware. "If you like horses, harness racing or the Little Brown Jug, you will love this show," said Bell.

WDLR General Manager Mike Schnell said horsemen have been asking for a show like this. "As the home of the Little Brown Jug, Delaware is a major hub of activity for horsemen. It is only natural that we developed a show focusing on the equine industry and its value to the state of Ohio."

The show will air Saturday mornings on WDLR-Delaware, Ohio (92.9 FM and 1550 AM) at 9:00AM. Listeners outside the station's signal will also be able to listen to the show online at wdlr.com as well as via the Tune In app.



Michelle Gatchell

“If you like horses, harness racing or the Little Brown Jug, you will love this show.”

— Kelley Bell

Charley Barley

P, 2,1:53.3s; 3,1:52.2f (\$385,855)
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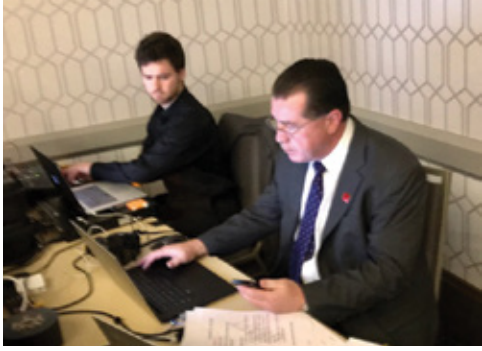
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Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and United States Trotting Association's District 1 Annual Awards Banquet was held at the University Area Marriott in Columbus, Ohio January 18, 2020. Thanks to all who joined us, and congratulations to the winners! We are looking forward to another exciting year of racing in Ohio.





A quick look at the two-year-old resume of **Elver Hanover** shows why he was named the **2019 Ohio Horse of the Year** after winning the Ohio Triple Crown and setting a world record

Elver Hanover, the son of Yankee Cruiser – Edra Hanover by The Panderosa won all nine of his starts for trainer Ron Burke, his stable and ownership group of Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky, Jason Melillo, J&T Silva - Purnel & Libby earning \$363,450. He was purchased for \$50,000 at the Ohio Selected Jug Sale as a yearling.

Elver Hanover set the world record in the first division of the Stay Hungry Bluegrass Two-Year-Old Colt Pace at Lexington in 1:48.3. Elver Hanover trailed the favorite, Catch The Fire, before popping out of the pocket at the top of the stretch and pulling away to finish in record time.

Chris Page drove Elver Hanover to eight of the nine victories and says the colt just knows how to win “Elver Hanover is a true

professional. He drives perfect and does everything you want.” Page says Elver Hanover is one of the best two-year-olds he has ever driven.

Melillo says Elver Hanover can win from any part of the track. “At Delaware they had that big tussle for the lead and he just hung back. When he saw his opportunity, Page let him go and he wasn’t even at his best and he won again. You don’t see that often.”

Elver Hanover wintered in North Carolina and is back in training for his 2020 campaign. “He’s a much more solid horse, about 150 pounds heavier” said Jablonsky. “I’m optimistic about this year. He should give a good account of himself as a three-year-old.”



Conrad Photo

ELVER HANOVER

Horse of the Year

2-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year

Yankee Cruiser – Edra Hanover –
The Panderosa

World Champion

Ohio Triple Crown

1:48.3M

\$363,450

Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC (Fredricktown, PA), Dr. Bridgette Jablonsky (Hanover, PA), Jason Melillo (Powell, OH), J&T Silva - Purnel & Libby (DelRay Beach, FL)

Breeders: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. (Hanover, PA)

Trainer: Ron Burke



L-R Teresa & Jerry Silva, Dr. Bridgette Jablonski, Dr. Jason Melillo, Mike Latessa, Mickey Burke Jr., John Konesky III

Looksgoodinaromper rounded into form midway through the 2019 season as she won five straight starts on the way to being named the **2019 Ohio 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year**

Looksgoodinaromper the daughter of Pet Rock – Don't Blame Her by Village Connection hit the board in eight of 12 races for trainer Ron Burke, his stable and Weaver Brusceci LLC, earning \$321,873.

Looksgoodinaromper won the Ohio Triple Crown and set a world record in the Sires Stakes at Northfield Park in 1:52.3.

In the Sire Stakes, Chris Page took Looksgoodinaromper to the lead at the quarter pole. A mid-race challenge by Artful Dancer was shrugged off and Looksgoodinaromper pulled away to win by eight lengths in world record time.

Page says Looksgoodinaromper holds a special place in his heart, "I drove her mother Don't Blame Her. I loved her mother and Looksgoodinaromper is a lot like her." Page says she is a very nice filly that loves her work.

Bred by Robert and Barbara Bongiorno, Looksgoodinaromper also set a new stakes record in win-ning the first division of the Ohio Breeders Championship in August at the Delaware County Fair-grounds.

Mickey Burke says she is back from North Carolina and is looking fit. "She gained a little weight and a little mass." He says they will probably race her in some stakes races outside of Ohio.



LOOKSGOODINAROMPER

2019 Two-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year
World Champion

Ohio Triple Crown

Pet Rock – Don't Blame Her -
Village
Connection

1:52.3H

\$321,873

Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC
(Fredricktown, PA), Weaver Brusceci LLC
(McKees Rocks, PA)

Breeders: Robert & Barbara Bongiorno
(Monroe, NJ)

Trainer: Ron Burke



L-R Mickey Burke Jr., Senena Esty, Amy Hollar

It was an action-packed year for the **2019 Ohio 2-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year**

as **Action Uncle** made the most of his three wins in 2019

Action Uncle, the son of Uncle Peter – Action-Broadway by Broadway Hall hit the board in all six of his starts in 2019 for trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. and owners The Kenneth A. Sommer Trust. Action Uncle earned \$225,575.

Action Uncle was bred by Kenneth A. Sommer of Sheffield, Ohio.

Action Uncle, an Ohio Triple Crown winner, set a new stakes, track and world's record by winning the second division of the Ohio Breeder's Championship at Delaware County Fair in 1:54. Driver Brett Miller sent Action Uncle to the lead before the opening quarter in :28 and cruised to the victory.

Trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. trained Action Uncle's Dam Action-Broadway, "It was special to have the mom and break her and then have the first foal and start from scratch with him." Morgan says he knew Action Uncle was going to be special, "He's very athletic, he's not the biggest trotter but he was very handy last year and I'm just glad I have him."

Action Uncle is back in training and Morgan says he has come back in good health and they are looking to possibly racing outside of Ohio in 2020. "We are talking about that right now. We'll probably dabble outside the state considering how he ended up. There is enough money in Ohio, but we'll take a shot at anything that that falls in the cracks."



ACTION UNCLE

2019 Two-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year

Uncle Peter - Action-Broadway - Broadway Hall

World Champion

Ohio Triple Crown

1:54.0H

\$225,575

Owner: Kenneth A. Sommer Trust (Sheffield, OH)

Breeder: Kenneth A. Sommer (Sheffield, OH)

Trainer: Virgil Morgan Jr.



L-R Trey Morgan, Virgil Morgan Jr., Brian Southward, John Konesky III

Named after a female house spirit in Slavic mythology, **Kikimora** is the **2019 Ohio 2-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year**

Kikimora, the daughter of Triumphant Caviar – Nessa Rose by Chip Chip Hooray won three of her nine starts and finished second in three other races for owner-trainer Chris Beaver and co-owner Sandra Burnett. Kikimora earned \$210,196 in 2019.

In addition to co-owning Kikimora, Burnett of Wilmington, Ohio is also the breeder.

Kikimora won the Ohio Sire Stakes Finals at Northfield Park to highlight the year. With driver Aaron Merriman sitting third until halfway down the home stretch, Kikimora dug deep to nip Globetrotting by a nose at the wire.

Owner-Trainer Chris Beaver says Kikimora is not big but shows a lot of heart, especially when she won the Ohio Sires Stakes, “I thought we were done on the backside. She looked like she was done, but she kept coming.”

Burnett says Kikimora may be the best trotter she has ever owned and is looking forward to seeing her race in Ohio as a three-year-old.



Conrad Photo

KIKIMORA

2019 Two-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year

Triumphant Caviar – Nessa Rose – Chip Chip Hooray

1:57.0H

\$210,196

Owners: Sandra Burnett (Wilmington, OH), Christopher Beaver (Radnor, OH)

Breeder: Sandra Burnett (Wilmington, OH)

Trainer: Christopher Beaver



L-R Chris Beaver, Senena Esty, Sandra Burnett

It was a late start to the 2019 campaign for **Bllack Hole**, but he made the most of it as he was named the **2019 Ohio 3-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year**

Bllack Hole, the son of Mr. Apples – Feel The Thunder by Modern Art won six of seven starts and earned \$226,948 for his owners, L & L Stables. He is owned and trained by Clarence Foulk of Springfield, Ohio,

Recovering from surgery, Bllack Hole didn't start racing until July. Chad Foulk, the son of the trainer says, they bought Bllack Hole's dam for \$ 50,000 and she broke down before she ever made it to the races. "We bred her and that's why I named the foal Bllack Hole, because that's what she was to me after I paid that much for her and she wasn't able to race."

Bllack Hole won his first start at Wellston and then pulled an upset his second time out in the Ohio Sire Stakes.

The biggest win of the year was in the Ohio Sire Stakes finals at Northfield Park, when Bllack Hole charged down the stretch to overtake Yankee Boots at the wire for the win in a lifetime best of 1:49.4.

"We knew he was good, but we didn't think he was as good as he ended up," said Foulk.

The unusual spelling of the gelding's name, with two "L's" instead of one, is in reference to Chad's two children and Clarence's grandchildren Luke and Lilly.



Conrad Photo

BLLACK HOLE

2019 Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year

Mr. Apples - Feel The Thunder - Modern Art

1:49.4H

\$226,948

Owners: L & L Stables (Springfield, OH)

Breeder: Foulk Stables Inc. (Springfield, OH)

Trainer: Clarence Foulk



L-R Chad Foulk, Clarence (Ed) Foulk, Trish Foulk, John Konesky III

The well-traveled **Queen Of The Pride** is the **2019 Ohio 3-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year**

Queen Of The Pride, the daughter of McCardle – Lionness Hanover by Western Ideal raced in five states, Ohio, Indiana, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, as well as Canada in 2019. She was the winner of eight of 19 starts. Owned by Frank Chick and trained by Kevin Lare, Queen Of The Pride earned \$385,597 this year.

Queen of The Pride, the daughter of McCardle – Lionness Hanover by Western Ideal raced in five states in 2019: Ohio, Indiana, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, as well as Canada. She was the winner of eight of nineteen starts. Owned by Frank Chick and trained by Kevin Lare, Queen of The Pride earned \$385,597 last year.

Queen Of The Pride's biggest win of the year was the Ohio Sires Stakes at Northfield in August winning in 1:51.3. Queen of the Pride led the entire way, fighting off a challenge from Snobbytown in the fourth turn and a late charge down the stretch from favorite Giggle In Dreams to get the win by a head.

Tony Hall drove Queen Of The Pride to five of her eight wins in 2019 and says she always had a winning attitude. "She is a very athletic filly with a lot of natural desire that made her a force to be reckoned with. She wanted to win as badly as I did."

In her career, Queen of the Pride has hit the board 23 times in 33 starts, winning 13 races. She has earned \$ 739,551.



Conrad Photo

QUEEN OF THE PRIDE

2019 Three-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year

McCardle - Lionness Hanover - Western Ideal

1:51.1F

\$385,597

Owner: Frank E. Chick (Harirngton, DE)

Breeder: Bradley Wallace (Findlay, OH)

Trainer: Kevin Lare



L-R Senena Esty, Florence Wallace, Brad Wallace

Eight straight wins during the summer put **Lane of Stone** on the path to being named the **Ohio 3-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year**

Lane of Stone, the son of Wishing Stone – Wisteria Lane by Lindy Lane started the streak at the beginning of July and included his win at the Ohio Sires Stakes finals at Northfield Park in September.

Owned by Harry Horowitz and trained by Mark Winters, Lane of Stone won \$295,279 in 2019. Horowitz and his late wife Iris were also the breeders of Lane of Stone.

Trainer Mark Winters says Lane of Stone is a very competitive horse, “I didn’t know he would be quite as sharp as he was. As for as racing, he lets you do what you want to do rather than what he wants to do.”

Lane of Stone was born, bred and raised at Hagemeyer Farms and that is where he will stand in 2020.

“We have known this horse from his first breath and his first step. We are really excited to have him back at the farm,” says Scott Hagemeyer. Hagemeyer said they knew Lane of Stone was special from the beginning. “There is no doubt out of the group of yearlings we had running in the field which one Lane of Stone was. He was very aggressive towards some of the other horses and we would have to single him out and chase him around the field with the Gator to calm him down and get him to quit picking on the other horses.”



Conrad Photo

LANE OF STONE

2019 Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year

Wishing Stone – Wisteria Lane - Lindy Lane

1:53.1F

\$295,279

Owner: Harry Horowitz (Brooklyn, NY)

Breeder: Harry & Iris Horowitz (Brooklyn, NY)

Trainer: Mark Winters



L-R Mark Winters, Jeff Nisonger, Scott Hagemeyer, John Konesky III

Only Take Cash was money in the bank, hitting the board in 12 of 13 races on the way to being named the **2019 Ohio 3-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year**

Only Take Cash, daughter of Cash Hall – Ambro Affair by Garland Lobell was a seven-time winner for trainer Robert McIntosh, his stable and ownership group of Dave Boyle and Mardon Stables, earning \$462,708.

Only Take Cash was bred by Robert McIntosh Stables and CSX Stables of Liberty Center, Ohio.

The biggest win of 2019 for Only Take Cash was the \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes at Northfield Park. The 1/9 favorite was in

control the entire race and fought off a late charge by Weslynn Quest and Aunt Rose

Aaron Merriman drove Only Take Cash to five of her seven wins, “She is a very smart filly for her age with a great attitude. I was blessed to pick up the drive.”

In her career, Only Take Cash has won 15 of her 22 starts and has missed the board only once. She has earned \$734,848 in her lifetime.



Conrad Photo

ONLY TAKE CASH

2019 Three-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year

Cash Hall - Ambro Affair -
Garland Lobell

1:53.4F

\$462,708

Owners: Robert McIntosh Stables Inc. (Windsor, ON) Dave A. Boyle (Bowmanville, ON), Mardon Stables Loretto, ON)

Breeder: Robert McIntosh Stables Inc. (Windsor, ON), CSX Stables (Liberty Center, OH)

Trainer: Robert McIntosh



L-R Senena Esty, Marvin Chantler, Dr. Moira Gunn, Randy Haines

A quick start to the year set the pace for **Sectionline Bigry** as he doubled his win totals from 2018 on the way to being named the **2019 Ohio Aged Pacer of the Year**

Sectionline Bigry, the son of Pet Rock – Aquatic Yankee by Cambest won 12 of 20 races for owner Harold Lee Bauder and trainer Steve Bauder, earning \$222,420 in 2019.

The highlights of the year were winning the Ohio Sires Stakes Aged Pacing Championship at Scioto Downs and the Gene Riegle Memorial Open Pace at the Great Darke County Fair.

Sectionline Bigry was bred by Bauder of Delaware, Ohio, Michael Dixon of Hilliard, Ohio and Harold L. Bauder of Delaware, Ohio.

Driver Tyler Smith says Sectionline Bigry is an unbelievable horse, “He showed up for every big dance we had. He is such a handy horse that is so fast, and has a will to win.”

Bauder says Sectionline Bigry is back in training. “He’s training really well and we are planning on staking him out in more open company this year. We are expecting some good things.”



Conrad Photo

SECTIONLINE BIGRY

2019 Aged Pacer of the Year

Pet Rock – Aquatic Yankee - Cambest

1:48.4F

\$222,420

Owners: Harold Lee Bauder (Delaware, OH)

Breeder: Harold Lee Bauder (Delaware, OH), Michael Dixon (Hilliard, OH), Harold L. Bauder (Delaware, OH)

Trainer: Steve Bauder



L-R Senena Esty, Harold Bauder



L-R Harold Bauder, Joy Hawkey, Steve Bauder, John Konesky III

Ohio-bred **Mission Accepted** raced at 11 different tracks in two countries, winning five times on the way to being named **2019 Ohio Aged Trotter of the Year**

Mission Accepted, the daughter of Manofmanymissions – Witty Girl by S J's Photo won three of her five Ohio races for trainer Ron Burke, his stable and ownership group of Knox Services, David B. Wills and Weaver Brusceci LLC earning \$422,595.

Mission Accepted was bred by Knox Services in Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Mission Accepted scored his biggest win of the year in the \$250,000 Harry Harvey Invitational Trot at Yonkers Raceway.

Mickey Burke says he's a good all-around trotter. "He raced against the best in the country and did us proud everywhere he went. He's just the nicest horse to be around."

Burke says he is training in New Jersey and is expecting big things in Mission Accepted's five-year-old season. "Four-year olds going against the aged horses it's a little tough on them. He did it so well as a four-year-old when he gets a little maturity and gets some experience against the older horses, I think he might show some more."



Conrad Photo

MISSION ACCEPTED

2019 Aged Trotter of the Year

Manofmanymissions – Witty Girl - SJ's Photo

1:50.2M

\$422,595

Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC (Fredricktown, PA), Knox Services Inc. (Mt. Vernon, OH), David B. Wills (Newark, OH), Weaver Brusceci LLC (McKees Rocks, PA)

Breeder: Knox Services Inc. (Mt. Vernon, OH)

Trainer: Ron Burke



L-R Mickey Burke Jr., Senena Esty, Mark Adams

Defiance County Area Horsemen Association

Receive Dick Brandt Sr. Extra Effort Award



L-R OHHA Executive Director Renee Mancino, Bill Peters

The Defiance County Area Horsemen Association (DCAHA) was honored as the recipient of the 2019 Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Dick Brandt Sr. Extra Effort Award. The award is presented to local horsemen's associations and matinee clubs who have made a commitment to county fair racing. It is

based on involvement with their local fair board, local matinees, community involvement, improvements to racing and barn areas and assistance with racing programs during the fair week.

Bill Peters accepted the award and said cooperation is the key. "The best way to operate county fairs is to have a cooperation between the horsemen and the fair board. That's the way we operate at the Defiance County Area Horsemen Association. We try to cooperate and contribute to the fair as much as possible."

The DCAHA was formed in 2010 to save harness racing at the Defiance County Fair in Hicksville, Ohio. The Association conducted harness racing at the fair from 2011 through 2016. In 2017, the Defiance County Fair Board took over operation of the program. The board has managed racing the past three years with the assistance of the Defiance County Area Horsemen Association.

The Association sponsored a matinee racing program in May that offered horsemen in the tri-state area of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan the opportunity to school their two-year-olds behind a starting gate. They also contributed to the purses for the races at the Defiance County Fair.

The award is named for Dick Brandt Sr., who served as president of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association in 1984 and 1985. He was a past chairman of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Fund and Treasurer of P.A.C.E.R. (Political Action Committee for Equine Racing). He also served as a member of the United States Trotting Association's board of directors and treasurer.

Amstutz and Wiley Presented OHHA Special – Service to Harness Racing Award

The Ohio Harness Horsemen honored Julie Amstutz and Gene Wiley with Special Service to Harness Racing Awards.

Amstutz of Pandora, Ohio, worked for forty-seven years as a clerk of the course and a charter. Amstutz comes from a harness racing family; her parents, Dr. Clyde and Bess Field, were heavily involved as harness racing officials. Amstutz followed in her parents' footsteps by becoming a clerk of the course at several county fairs in 1972. She expanded that position at other fairs and then added the duties of charter to her responsibilities. Her final year of charting was in 2018.

"County fairs are a culture all in their own and it takes a team to come together to set up the success for a county fair race program" said Amstutz. "When you are part of the team you do whatever you can to make sure the fair has success. It is a very rewarding experience."

Wiley of Richwood, Ohio was honored for his service as a race official. Wiley has been a harness racing official since the early 1970s, when he was as a starter at fairs in Indiana. In early 1975, he earned his license to judge at county fairs. His first assignment as a presiding judge came later that year at the Huron County Fair in Norwalk, Ohio. He soon received other positions as a presiding judge throughout the state. Wiley believes that he has worked for at least one fair in every colt circuit that Ohio has ever had, except one.

"I have a good time doing it except when I have to be a bad guy. That's not fun, but we have to do what we have to do."



L-R Julie Amstutz, OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston



L-R OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston, Gene Wiley

Lindsey named 2019 OHHA Outstanding Groom



L-R OHHA Executive Director Renee Mancino, Ben Lindsey

Dedication to the job is one of the reasons Ben Lindsey has been named the 2019 OHHA Outstanding Groom.

Lindsey of Chillicothe, Ohio has worked for the Steve Carter Stables for over five years. Lindsey's duties include caring for ten horses as well as performing maintenance at the Carter Stables.

"Without Ben my life would be impossible. Not only does he care for the horses, but he also jogs and trains them daily" says Carter. In five years, Lindsey has only missed two days of work and that was because he broke his arm and needed surgery.

Lindsey handled five horses at Delaware last year, winning four of the five races. "At the time, they asked me if I wanted to say something, I said 'I'm just a groom'. I realized thinking about it now, the groom is the one that spends most of the time with the horses. A lot of things would not be possible without the grooms." Lindsey also thanked Steve Carter for the opportunity.

Conley Newberry named 2019 OHHA Terry Holton Youth Award Winner



L-R Ryan Holton, Conley Newberry, Mike Polhamus, State Representative Jim Buchy

The Terry Holton Youth Award is awarded to a youth between the ages of 13 and 19 who has actively participated in harness racing during 2019 as a driver, trainer, groom, breeder, race office/publicity assistant, track maintenance crew or has provided outstanding service to harness racing.

Newberry, a senior at Beavercreek High School is heavily involved in harness racing. He has worked for the Mike Polhamus Stable in Troy, Ohio. Constance Polhamus says Conley is a hard worker, "He is knowledgeable and dependable working in the stable and is very interested in the future of harness racing."

Newberry started in the harness racing business at the age of 12. He worked with his father Matt Newberry and has progressed from doing little things around the stable to cleaning stalls, harnessing horses and jogging horses.

This year Newberry obtained his fair qualifying license and raced at seven fairs and picked up his first win.

The award is named for Terry Holton, a 2005 inductee into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Holton of Newark, Ohio, was the winner of over 1,700 races in his career. He overcame many obstacles in his life, including pancreatic cancer.

Burke, Page Receive Jerry Kaltenbach Memorial Award BY KIMBERLY RINKER

The powerful one-two punch of trainer Ron Burke and driver Chris Page captured both Kaltenbach titles in 2019.

The Jerry Kaltenbach Memorial Trophies were established in 1988 and are awarded annually to the driver and trainer who have earned the most dollars competing in Ohio Sires Stakes events that season.

Trainer Ron Burke captured his second Kaltenbach training title in 2019 as his assortment of 2- and 3-year-old pacers and

trotters earned \$1,121,850 from 22 wins, 10 seconds and 12 third-place finishes.

Driver Chris Page captured the 2019 Kaltenbach title for the fourth time in six years. Page piloted 23 winners, nine second-place finishers and 11 third-place finishers to \$1,085,100 in OSS earnings from 94 starters.

The 2019 Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Maynard and Stella Hagemeyer Significant Contribution Award was presented to **Robert K. Schmitz**



L-R Scott Hagemeyer, Robert Schmidt, Jenny Schmidt, Kirby Boda, Mark Boda, OHHA President Steve Bateson

The 2019 Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Maynard and Stella Hagemeyer Significant Contribution Award was presented to Robert K. Schmitz.

Robert K. Schmitz has an extensive knowledge of harness racing. Schmitz has been an owner and breeder of Standardbreds since

1983. He was appointed to the Ohio State Racing Commission in 2011 by Governor John Kasich and served two terms as Chairman of the commission. His term expired in March of 2019. He lobbied for the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association from 2001 until 2011. He was appointed to the Standardbred Development Fund in 2001 and served until his appointment to the commission in 2011.

Schmitz says the harness racing industry must continue to work diligently to keep what we have. "We have come a long way. Let's keep our eye on the ball and participate. Participate with county commissioners and state legislatures. Not many industries have the grass roots industry we have."

Schmitz has over 45 years of experience working with the Ohio General Assembly. Schmitz is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in Political Science. Schmitz and his wife Jenny live in Bexley, Ohio.

The Maynard and Stella Hagemeyer Significant Contribution Award is given to an individual that has made a significant life-long contribution to Ohio harness racing. The individual possesses a passion and advocacy for Ohio harness racing and spends a lifetime educating and involving local and state legislators as to the importance of the harness racing industry.



OHHA ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The Buckeye Harness Horseman

The official publication of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is published four times a year. Deadline for the Spring issue is February 14th.

For more information e-mail: publications@OHHA

Top Of The Stretch Podcast

Hosted by OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston, the Top Of The Stretch podcast will look at harness racing in the Buckeye State. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information e-mail:

podcast@OHHA.com

Racing with the Stars

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is on location at county fairs across Ohio educating the public about harness racing and engaging fans with contests and more. Engage your business with thousands of Ohioans. For more information contact

Frank Fraas at ffraas@ohha.com

Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

Mares registered in 2016 (Foals of 2017) mare registration date 12/31/16

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2016	Grace Period, No Membership Required
Foal Born 2017	No Membership Required
Yearling 2018	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2019, 2020	Membership Required

Mares registered in 2017 (Foals of 2018) mare registration date 12/31/17

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2017	Membership Required
Foal Born 2018	Membership Required
Yearling 2019	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2020, 2021	Membership Required

Mares registered in 2018 (Foals of 2019) mare registration date 11/30/18

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2018	No Membership Required
Foal Born 2019	Membership Required
Yearling 2020	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2021, 2022	No Membership Required

Mares registered in 2019 (Foals of 2020) mare registration date 11/30/19

Registrations received from 12-1-19 to 12-30-19 must be accompanied by a \$100 per-mare late fee in addition to mare registration fee.	
Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2020	Membership Required

Registration Fee: \$20 per mare

Membership Requirements: All owners of the mare (including those in businesses or stables) are required to join as Active OHHA Members. All business entities or stables listed as owners are required to join as Associate Members.

Mare Residency: Mare must be Ohio resident, foal in Ohio and remain in Ohio for 187 consecutive days.

Ohio Chapter of USHWA Hands Out Year End Awards BY JAY WOLF, CHAPTER SECRETARY

Gerald Bookmyer, one of the most talented drivers to ever hail from Ohio, was enshrined as the newest member of the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Known as “Bookie,” Bookmyer enjoyed success for many years. He was such a dominant force in the sulky that Northfield Park was often referred to as “the house that Bookmyer built” in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Bookmyer was the leading driver over Northfield’s Flying Turns in 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1987. His success did not end in Cleveland. He has a flock of Windsor Raceway Championships, as well as being a chart-topper at Raceway Park, Wolverine Raceway and Scioto Downs.

Gerald Bookmyer, 78, is synonymous with notable horses such as Adios Skipper, Bench Mark, Durango Kid, Hambooger, Kissing Almahurst, Spastic, Set The Trap, Silent Syd and Waycount Hanover.

According to official records of the United States Trotting Association Bookmyer drove 3,316 winners with earnings over \$8.4 million. Included in his win tally are Ohio Sire Stakes Championships with Beacon’s Star in 1990, Set The Trap in 1986, Good Motor in 1978, Hambooger in 1984 and It’s A Date in 1985.

The Ohio Chapter also honored Chris Page as the recipient of the Winner’s Circle Award for the Ohioan who has achieved outstanding accomplishments in the past year; Pierce Henry as the Peter Haughton Memorial Award winner as the young Ohioan who is an “up-and-coming” star among harness horsemen; Ed Mullinax into the Immortal Hall of Fame; Golly Too into the Standardbred Hall of Fame; and Scott Mogan as the winner of the Rambling Willie Award for the Ohioan who has done the most for harness racing over the past two decades.

Page recorded 435 seasonal wins and \$5.9 million in seasonal earnings. He captured the Ohio Sire Stake’s Kaltenbach title for the fourth time in six years, piloting 23 winners and earners of \$1 million in OSS earnings. He was the regular pilot behind divisional champions, Elver Hanover and Looksgoodinaromper.

Henry is a 23-year-old resident of Lipsec, Ohio. He enjoyed a tremendous early career success with 238 driving wins and earnings approaching \$1 million in purse money.

Mullinax was one of the largest Ford car dealers in the United States. In 1993, he started buying harness horses. His P Forty Seven won the Little Brown Jug in 2005 and he campaigned Dragon Again, who left his mark on the track and in the breeding shed. He also raced horses under the Up Front Racing banner as a tribute to his dealerships ‘up front’ pricing. He passed away in August 2018 at the age of 85.

Golly Too was a four-time Ohio Sire Stakes Champion. The Final Score gelding went undefeated in his two-year-old season. As a sophomore, he captured the American-National at Sportsman’s Park and was third in the Breeders Crown Final. He finished his four-year career with \$694 thousand in earnings thanks to 29 wins in 49 career starts.

Trainer Scott Mogan was born and raised in Circleville, OH. He began working in the business in 1974 at the age of 15 and opened his public stable in 1983. He conditioned two Ohio Horses of the Year – KF Pro Sam and J J Hall. He trained the winners of six Ohio Sire Stakes Champions. Mogan has been a director of the OHHA for the past six years.



L-R Wendy Ross, Hall of Famer Gerald Bookmyer, Carol Cramer, Amy Hollar



L-R Wendy Ross, Joe McLead (accepting for Ed Mullinax), Carol Cramer



L-R Wendy Ross, Colton Hay (accepting for Pierce Henry), Carol Cramer



L-R Wendy Ross, Scott Mogan, Carol Cramer

TRACK NOTES

Claim to Fame Series at Miami Valley

Foolish Heart took the top honors in the final of the Filly and Mares \$8,000 Claiming Pace division. Trace Tetrick drove the six-year-old daughter of Foreclosure N to victory in the \$17,500 final. Foolish Heart was claimed by Carl Howard, Dana Parham and trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. for \$9,600 out of the first preliminary leg of the series and immediately rewarded the new owners.

In the Male \$8,000 pacing division, Legal Transfer with Jeremy Smith driving beat Beachboydesire by a head in 1:55.4 to win for owner trainer Adam Short. Legal Transfer has now won over a quarter of a million dollars in his career.

Smash with John DeLong in the bike was crowned the winner of the \$12,500 Filly and Mares division. Smash, trained by Peter Redder, went in 1:55.4 to beat Galyns Gift and M E Radar Girl.

Hal N Sammy with Brett Miller in the bike won the Horses and Gelding division for \$12,500 claimers in 1:54.1. The gelded son of Yankee Cruiser won \$26,250 including the winner's share of the \$25,000 final in the three-week span sweeping the preliminary legs and the final.

Danikova, with Chris Page driving, also swept the preliminary legs and final on the way to being crowned queen of the division for \$20,000 claiming filly and mares. The daughter of Bettor's Delight claimed the title with a win over Velocity Lana by a nose. Danikova's series earnings, including the winners share of the \$30,000 final, is \$36,250.

Pet Shark was claimed out of the final preliminary leg by Ryan Bellamy and Chris Bulak. The new owners didn't have to wait long for a return on their investment as the 7-year-old Shadyshark Hanover gelding held off a couple of late chargers to win the \$20,000 Horses and Gelding Pace division.

The Dark Shadow was an upset winner in the finals of the \$30,000 male pacers division. Driver Sam Widger held off Street Boy

on the way to the win. Owner-trainer Adam Short claimed the 6-year-old son of Shadow Play from the first leg of the series for \$30,000. With wins in the second leg and finals the new owner has pocketed \$32,500.

The crown in the \$15,000 Trot division went to Insomniac. Driver-trainer Brady Galliers was in control for most of the race as he led the 8-year-old gelded son of Crazed to the victory. Insomniac has now pocketed over \$350,000 in lifetime earnings.

(From Miami Valley Releases)

In a battle of heavy hitters, Southwind Amazon, Carolina Beach and Windsong Leo squared off in a \$16,000 Open Pace at Northfield Park on February 10th.

When the dust settled, Ronnie Wrenn Jr. took Southwind Amazon to the lead and he held off Carolina Beach for the wire to wire victory with Windsong Leo close behind for third.

The win was Southwind Amazon's third in a row against Northfield's open competition. The 10-year-old gelded son of Cam Luck is just nine wins away from 100 in his career.

The third-place finish for Windsong Leo snapped a six-race winning streak dating back to last year. This year, the eight-year-old gelded son of Jereme's Jet has hit the board in all seven starts, winning five times. Windsong Leo has won \$65,045 for trainer Ron Burke this year.

Hello Peggy Sue! Good bye heart!

The 5-year-old Donato Hanover lass, named after the 1957 Buddy Holly tune, won the hearts of her current faithful harness racing followers on February 4th at Miami Valley Raceway, winning the \$24,000 Open Handicap Trot in 1:54.2 for driver-trainer Brady Galliers over a sloppy surface.

2020 OHHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member ID # _____

(Please Print, * Fields Required)

*Name _____ *Address _____

*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____ *County _____

*Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____ *E-mail _____

Active Membership includes free sulky coverage up to \$3,000 (wheels & discs excluded). NOTE: The sulky owner(s), driver, trainer & all owners of the horse involved must be OHHA members and sulkies must be registered. Stables/Business Entities require an Associate Membership. All affiliates of any Stable/Business Entity must be full active members

Active \$65 ____ Associate \$25 ____ Please check one: Owner Driver/Trainer Breeder Groom

Check here if you were a member the previous year ____ USTA# _____ Date of Birth _____



THE OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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Donate by sending a personal check, LLC check* or money order to:

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Must include employer information, type of business and occupation.

All P.A.C.E.R. donations go to a candidate's campaign funds.

The OHHA offices receive calls every week from state legislators asking for campaign donations as they attempt to raise campaign financing throughout the year.

Corporate checks are not acceptable for PAC donations.

Personal or LLC checks only are acceptable for PAC donations.

If donating in "cash" to a PAC the limit for a cash donation from a single individual on a yearly basis is \$100. This does not include checks, only physical cash bills.

A special Thank You to those who donate!



2019 *IT'S A WRAP*

From 2015 to 2019 Association membership has been stable year-over-year with a cumulative increase of 54%. In 2015 membership was up 22% over 2014, 2016 saw an additional 31% increase, and 2017 membership was up an additional 22%. In 2018 membership was down 4% (in-part due a Breeder's Awards membership rule change), and 2019 saw a 5% increase over 2018.

The OHHA continues with a growth mindset and continually challenges the status quo with statewide outreach and promotion. The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association's Board has been proactively pursuing a marketing program since April 2015. The association has promoted harness racing in a myriad of new and interesting ways. It continued in 2019 with graphic wrapped trailers, comprehensive online digital advertising, digital billboards, digital geofenced tracking, "Top of the Stretch" podcast, a revamped harness racing fantasy league, and three "Racing with the Stars" fully stocked and manned fair-promotional tents that traversed 13,146 miles from June to November.

Outreach and promotion were brought in-house, in September 2019 when Frank Fraas joined the OHHA team as the Publications and Outreach Coordinator. In November, Roger Huston came on board as an OHHA Brand Ambassador. Both are two more forward thinking initiatives for outreach and promotion. With the board affirming a new and comprehensive 2020 statewide advertising plan at the first quarter board

meeting on January 17th, the outreach will continue with growth advertising planned in new veins for 2020.

In 2019 the Seventh Annual Charity Night at the Races donated \$63,000 to twenty charities, including Mid-Ohio Food Bank, Canine Companions for Independence, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Girls on the Run of Central Ohio, Haven House of Pickaway County Inc. In conjunction with the charitable outreach, Charity Night introduced hundreds of first time patrons to the racetrack for a super night of fun.

Inside the industry, the OHHA has also been a long-time supporter of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF), assisting them with youth camps across the state of Ohio, and promoting educational experiences to a diverse group of youngsters. In 2019 HHYF camps welcomed 45 kids at 4 individual Fair locations: Bucyrus, Marysville, Van Wert, and Greenville. From June 13-26, 2020, HHYF will again offer several youth camps: Bucyrus (2-day), Van Wert (1-day), Greenville (3-day), Marysville (1-day), and Washington Court House (1-day). The other charitable partnership benefi-

ciaries include the Ohio Farm Bureau, The Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, 4-H Extension, and many other agricultural organizations. Additionally, the OHHA continues for a second year to offer youth scholarship opportunities to graduating high school seniors, college, and graduate students.

On the operational side of things numerous IT improvements continue to be made. The IT infrastructure improvement project continued with the IT systems upgraded to enhance security and mobility for employees. The membership, nomination, breeder's awards, healthcare, and retirement database continue to be refined to finalize the IT modernization in the office. It is projected that 2020 will result in the segue of many services to an online version of the IT database. Roll-out will include membership renewals and nominations first and plans to follow with other online Member Services throughout the year, such as online mare registration for breeder's awards.

On the benefits side of the association, full-time Ohio resident horsemen saw

added monies allocated from VLT Discretionary funds to their health, welfare, and retirement benefit programs. In January 2019, \$1,000,000 was allocated to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Health Plan by the OHHA Board to shore up the required minimum balance and solidify the fully Obama Care compliant medical benefits plan for all eligible participants. In June 2019, an 8% premium cost increase was implemented. However, with the cost for self-pay at \$354 for a single and \$821 for Family coverage monthly, the plan's premiums continue to be less than half the open-market rate for any equivalent healthcare coverage.

In January 2019, the Board also allocated \$630,000 to the statutory Harness Horsemen's Health and Retirement Plan (H.H.H.R.P.) and the trustees will approve a second 2019 distribution (in addition to the statutory breakage) to all eligible and active horsemen's retirement accounts as they have in the previous four years. The medical benefits plan saw a slight increase in member participation, the Retirement Trust saw a 4% increase in 2019 member participation. Plan contributions for 2019 will be finalized and apportioned by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

In 2019 the Ohio Sires Stakes for Two and Three-Year Old Ohio sired horses raced for over \$9,000,000 in purse monies. 2020 will continue with four divisional legs and guaranteed purses by number of divisions per leg, \$40,000 for three or more, \$50,000 for two divisions and \$60,000 for one division. The "Super Night" Ohio Sires Stakes Finals will be held at Eldorado Scioto Downs, Saturday September 5, 2020 with the Super Night final purses at \$300,000 for each division. Ohio Sires Stakes Consolation Races on Saturday October 17, 2020 at Northfield Park for each division remain at \$75,000. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton will showcase the four \$85,000 divisional 4-year-old and up Veteran Sires Stakes Championship races on Friday, October 16, 2020. Overall estimates project the 2020 program in excess of \$11,000,000 in purses.

In 2019 the OHHA branded Second Tier Stakes program the, "Buckeye Stallion Series", continued with four legs for the two and three-year-olds, inclusion of three Fair locations (Bucyrus, Urbana, and Delaware), and a boost in purse by division to \$17,500 minimum guaranteed. The Buckeye Stallion Series Final purses increased to \$60,000 per

Division. A 5th leg is added to the Buckeye Stallion Series in 2020 and retains the same three Fair Locations as hosts. OSS Championship eligible horses are excluded from entry in the 5th Leg and the Final. The Buckeye Stallion Series Finals for 2020 will be raced Friday, October 3, 2020 at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway. OSS Consolation eligible horses remain eligible for the 5th Leg and the BSS Final.

The Ohio Fairs Championship offered \$40,000 purses per division in 2019 and required a minimum of 4 starts in Ohio Fair Fund stakes races for eligibility. 2019 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship horses were not eligible to the Fair Championship Final. For 2020, the four-start minimum requirement and purse money remain the same. However, in 2020 the ineligibility of Ohio Sires Stakes Championship horses has been retained and expanded to include the Ohio Sires Stakes Consolation horses. The Ohio Fairs Championship Finals will be hosted by MGM Northfield Park on October 10, 2020.

Statewide, in 2019 the Board provided \$5,642,898 million dollars to the OH Fair System for Racing and Related Expenses. Including \$12,000 to spend on whatever their racing fair needed and \$2,000 to each non-racing fair. The goal with supplemental funding is to cover the costs for live racing (dependent upon the racing program's size). Supplemental funding permits a fair to consider as straight income, any added gate admission, grandstand admission, program sales, pari-mutuel wagering profits, and increased profits on vendor sales at the fairgrounds, or any other initiative in place during the racing programs.

Not included in the \$5.6 million total, is a new program that was introduced in 2019. The Fair Capital Improvements Grant program. The grants are in place to facilitate construction and fund expenses for capital improvements solely to, or specifically for, a Standardbred Fair Live Racing Program. This program is a "100% Matching Funds" Grant Program, all funds requested must be matched in their entirety. Allocations have been made for 2019 and 2020. Twenty-two separate capital improvement projects were approved for 2019 and ten additional and distinct capital improvement projects were approved for 2020 at twenty-six racing fair locations. The next deadline to apply is November 30, 2020 for the 2021 Capital

Improvement Grants. Applications are online at ohha.com.

Ohio's horsemen have contributed more than \$21 million since 2015 in support of Ohio's sixty-six racing fairs via capital improvements grants, stakes purses, signature race grants, on-track insurance, and the Little Brown Jug sponsorship.

Ohio's pari-mutuel racetrack action has provided a lot of racing opportunity. The most recent statistical data is for 2018, which shows:

Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway - 78 racing days, 999 races. Gross Purse: \$8,371,750

Eldorado Scioto Downs - 90 racing days 1,104 races. Gross Purse: \$17,077,681

MGM Northfield Park - 220 racing days 3,365 races. Gross Purse: \$31,450,157

Miami Valley Gaming - 87 racing days, 1,185 races. Gross Purse: \$14,511,788

With Fair Racing there were 606 Live days (475 + 131 Fairs) of standardbred racing in Ohio

Total number of races in 2018 was: 8,089, the county fairs hosted 1,436 races,

Total number of standardbred horse starts in 2018: 8,138 starts at the county fairs, 57,739 starts at the four pari-mutuel harness racetracks in Ohio, with five total catastrophic losses statewide, which resulted in a .08/1,000 start fatality rate.

Total amount wagered in state was \$158,521,375. Total wagered at county fairs: \$2,573,256.80, pari-mutuel tracks: \$24,678,346.70 (live), \$128,678,536.80 (simulcasting), \$2,591,234.60 (Cedar Downs OTB).

Ohio's breeding farms have also played a large role in bringing significant stallions to Ohio to stand and purchasing or servicing black-type broodmares. In 2013 Ohio was in second place behind Pennsylvania by 364 mares bred and ahead of Indiana by 236 mares bred, 2015 saw 2,478 mares bred, 2016 mares bred was 2,537. In 2017, 2,639 mares were bred to Ohio Stallions. In 2018 there were 2,864 mares bred. In 2018, Ohio was 961 mares above Pennsylvania's total bred in-state and 452 above Indiana's in-state-sired total and 624 above New York's in-state total.

In 2018 the top four states for Breeding Standardbred racehorses behind Ohio were Indiana with 2,412, Pennsylvania with 1,903, and New York at 1,240.

Aside from being Number One in mares bred, Ohio is:

Number one for standardbred foals born

Number one for the total number of registered owners of Standardbreds.

Number one in the country for county fair racing with 66 fairs

Number one for registered stallions and breeding farms

In April 2017 the OHHA paid out the first ever Standardbred Breeder's awards to the breeder listed first on the registration of Ohio Standardbred horses that were born in 2013 and thereafter, sired by an Ohio Standardbred stallion registered with the Ohio State Racing Commission for the applicable breeding season that earned stakes money. For mares bred in 2016 with foals of 2017 and thereafter, the mare must

be registered by December 31st of the year bred, the foal must also be born in the State of Ohio, and the dam must reside in the State of Ohio during the year of foaling for a continuous period that is not less than one hundred eighty-seven (187) days. The first two years that required mare registration 997 mares bred in 2016 with foals of 2017 were registered, with 937 mares bred in 2017 registered. Mare residency continues to be checked in partnership with the United States Trotting Association using the services of their Identification Technicians, which will continue going forward due to the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the joint endeavor. In addition, a cooperative information share is in place with neighboring states to ensure compliance with residency programs with those states.

Prior to the residency and registration requirements, each award calculated was roughly equivalent to 5% of the horse's purse earnings in Ohio stakes races for the non-registered mare's Breeder's Awards.

The board has again allocated \$1,000,000, for 2019 Breeders Awards on horses that

earned stakes money in Ohio, with the first class of registered mares and residency in place for 2 year-olds for 2019 payouts. The non-registered and resident mares with 3 year-olds remained at 5% of the horse's purse earnings in Ohio Stakes races. With the registration and residency requirements in place, the Breeder's Awards' payout doubled to an average of 10% on the total dollar amount of stakes purse money won by those Ohio Sired 2-year-old recipients. For Breeders Awards calculated in 2020 and paid in 2021, both the 2 and 3-year-old classes will be divided among those that registered their mares bred in 2016 and 2017, and were resident in state for 187 days.

That wraps up 2019. I want to close out with a thank you to the efforts of many in 2019, the horsemen, staff, board members, regulators, fairs, permit holders, vendors, and everyone else that we did business with in 2019! We look forward to 2020 and wish everyone a safe, healthy, and prosperous racing year!



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Proven Ohio Stallions For 2020

THE PANDEROSA

p,2,1:51.3; 3,1:49.3 (\$1,452,418)
Western Hanover-Daisy Harbor



Multiple stakes placed 3YO and
Ohio Sire Stakes Final Runner-up at 2
CARMEN OHIO

With total progeny earnings over \$116.3-million, The Panderosa ranks among the leading pacing sires in all-time money-earnings! He is the sire of 9 millionaires, 344 \$100,000+ winners, 536 in 1:55 and 43 sub-1:50 winners, including:

World Champion Racehorse & Sub-1:49 Sire
SHADOW PLAY p,4,1:47.4 (\$1,549,881)

World Champion Racehorse & Sub-1:48 Sire
PONDER p,1:48.1 (\$1,522,936)

World Champion
MYPANMAR p,1:48.3 (\$1,490,996)

Multiple Stakes-Winning Racemare
YAGONNAKISSMEORNOT
p,1:49.3 (\$1,458,850)

The Panderosa's top performers in 2019 were led by
Multiple stakes placed 3YO; OHSS Final runner-up at 2
CARMEN OHIO p,2,1:55.1h (\$206,165)

Multiple Ohio Fair Stakes winner
MCDREAMY AGAIN p,2,1:56.3h-'19 (\$26,907)

His broodmare sire credits include World Champion and 2019 Ohio Horse of the Year

ELVER HANOVER p,2,1:48.3-'19 (\$363,450)!

2020 Fee: \$3,000



FULL COUNT

2,1:59f; 3,1:57.2f; 4,1:55.4f (\$238,692)
Striking Sahbra-Sibyl Score-Final Score



2019 Buckeye Stallion Series
2YOCT Championship Winner
HERECOMESCHARLIE B

Full Count's top 2019 performers included:

Buckeye Stallion Series Final winner

HERECOMESCHARLIE B 2,1:57.2h-'19 (\$83,890)

Multiple stakes placed 3YO; OHSS Final runner-up at 2
PRINCESSOPINK 2,1:58h; 3,1:56h-'19 (\$150,198)

Multiple Ohio Sires Stakes winner
FULL SURGE 1:53.1f-'19 (\$273,342)

Ohio Sire Stakes Consolation runner-up
COUNT ON BARNEY 2,Q2:00f-'19 (\$51,128)

From just 184 foals, Full Count is the sire of 141 starters (77%) and 106 winners (58%). He has 62 in 2:00 and 23 \$100,000+ winners, with average earnings per starter of over \$51,612!

His leading stakes winners include:

Ohio Sire Stakes Champion
COUNT ME IN 4,1:53.2f (\$443,019)

2-time Ohio "Triple Crown" winner
CONTESSA LEIGH 3,1:56.4f (\$300,442)

ANASTASIA WHINNIE 1:56.1f (\$261,558)

COUNT ON KAMI 3,1:57.3h (\$232,396)

2020 Fee: \$2,000

MARVIN RABER FARM

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2020 Ohio Sires

2 & 3-Year-Old Nominations due
March 16, 2020



Download nomination forms & schedule at
www.racingohio.net

Mail Forms to:

Kimberly Rinker ~ OSDF Administrator
Ohio Sires Stakes, 77 S. High Street, 18th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108
614-779-0269 kim.rinker@racing.ohio.gov