

*THE BUCKEYE*  
**Harness Horseman**

WINTER 2020 | VOLUME 50 | NUMBER 4

The Official Publication of the  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

Hatfield Stable's  
**KISSIN IN  
THE SAND**

Wins the **Breeders Crown**



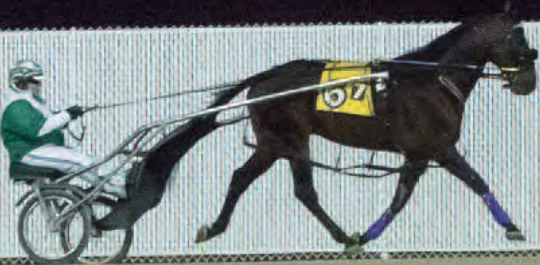
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The Buckeye Harness Horseman 120-850 (ISSN 0194-7842) is published four times annually by the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, OH 43123. Phone 614-221-3650 or 800-353-6442. Single and back issues, if available, \$2.50. Periodical postage paid at Columbus, OH. Postmaster, send address changes to OHHA, 2237 Sonora Drive, Grove City, OH 43123.



## THE BUCKEYE HARNESS HORSEMAN

The Official Publication of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association  
2237 Sonora Dr. Grove City, OH 43123  
614-221-3650 | 800-353-6442 | (f) 614-221-8726  
www.ohha.com | Facebook: OhioHarnessHorsemenAssociation

Cover Photo: Jim Lisa

# Third Time a Charm for *Kissin in the Sand* BY FRANK FRAAS



Kissin In The Sand wins the Breeders Crown **Photo:** Dean Gillette

## *In baseball, three strikes and you're out!*

For Kissin In The Sand, after swinging and missing in her first two attempts at winning the Breeders Crown, the five-year-old daughter of Somebeachsomewhere took advantage of her third try and hit it out of the park, capturing the Breeders Crown Open Mare Pace.

As a three-year-old, Kissin In The Sand was the favorite, but starting from the ninth post position. That year, trainer Nancy Tatker accepted a bye and went directly to the final. By accepting the bye, she forfeited the opportunity for an inside position and ended up drawing post nine. In the race, Kissin In The Sand was parked the entire race, finishing second by three-quarters of a length.

As a four-year-old in the Mare Pace, Kissin In The Sand again had the misfortune of drawing outside, this time post seven. In the race, she went to the lead at the start, but finished third.

Again, this year, Tatker was offered a bye, but declined and would have to race in the elimination. It must have felt like a bad dream as Kissin In The Sand drew the ninth post.

Coming off of four consecutive wins, Kissin In The Sand fired again, taking the lead at the half-mile mark and pulling away to win by three-quarters of a length to secure an inside post position for the final.

In the final, Kissin In The Sand with Dexter Dunn was hoping that post three would be the lucky charm as she tried for a third shot at a Breeders Crown title.

Dunn took the 2-5 favorite to the lead before the half-mile pole in 54.2. She fought off a charge by Warrawee Ubeaut around the final turn and had to hold off a hard-charging Shartin N down the stretch to win by a length.

With the win, Kissin In the Sand has won six straight, four with Dunn.

"She's been extremely powerful the last six weeks of the season," Dunn said. "She got

the lead and really kicked well down the stretch. She's just been vicious lately."

Dunn said drawing the three-hole made the job a little easier.

"The way she is racing, I would have been confident no matter what post position she drew," Dunn added.

Three also was a lucky number for trainer Nancy Tatker, who picked up her third Breeders Crown victory of the night with Kissin In The Sand. Tatker also conditioned Manchego in the Mares Trot and Peaky Sneaky in the three-year-old filly pace.

"She's my girl," Tatker said. "She's been a little cursed when it comes to the Breeders Crown."

Tatker drew high praise from co-owner Bud Hatfield.

"She has done a great job with this horse," he said. "Nancy says this is her favorite horse and I believe that; they bond."

Before her string of wins, Hatfield said the horse suffered from allergies, but Tatker never gave up.

"She would not give up on the horse," he said. "She believed in her so much. Nancy said the horse was going to be fine."

And fine is what she was.

After a scratch in the Roses Are Red at Woodbine, Kissin In The Sand won a qualifier and then reeled off five consecutive wins on the way to the Breeder's Crown.

"All of a sudden, I think she got over the allergies and just ripped them off," Hatfield said. "She got better and better every week and was the best she's ever been. We knew she was really, really sharp."



Kissin In The Sand's connections celebrating the victory **Photo:** Dean Gillette



Driver Dexter Dunn and trainer Nancy Tatker celebrate the win **Photo:** Adam Ström

Hatfield said when the race started, he felt really good about the horse.

“She was looking like her old self and she was ready to go,” said Hatfield, who is waiting for the win to sink in. “Every now and then I think about it and get a big smile on my face. There is nothing like watching her come down the stretch, it’s just amazing. It’s a very special feeling. We love this horse. I can’t be any happier than I am right now.”

Following the Breeders Crown, Kissin In The Sand had one more start in the TVG Female Open Pace. After that race, her racing career is over, Hatfield said she’s proven herself on the track, now it is time to prove herself in the breeding shed.

“It’s kind of exciting,” he said. “She’s bred really well and has all the credentials. She’s a big good-looking mare and has great conformation. We are looking forward to it.”

The victory has just added to Hatfield’s long history in harness racing. In addition to

owning, Hatfield is also an accomplished amateur driver and promoter of harness racing. He has two Billings Amateur Driving titles to his credit and in 1992, he was awarded the Frederick L. Van Lennep Memorial Award, which is presented by the Breeders Crown committee of the Hambletonian Society to select individuals and organizations for extraordinary contributions in the Standardbred industry.

As a Columbus auto dealer, the 71-year-old Hatfield has seen the highs and lows not only in harness racing, but also in the car business. Hatfield says he has been involved with harness racing for more than 30 years because he loves the business.

“I love the sport, the good and the bad you have to take that,” Hatfield said. “Over the years, I have been able to keep myself refocused. You have a bad year, and you say, ‘Oh man, why am I doing this?’ Then, all of sudden, you realize why you’re doing this – because you love the sport.

“I’ve had a lot of good horses. I’ve been very fortunate,” Hatfield added.

Those good horses include Ready for Moni, which finished second in the Hambletonian this year and fifth in the Breeders Crown for three-year-old colt and gelding trotters. Ready For Moni has nine lifetime wins and earnings of \$898,420.

Another of those good horses is Bar Hopping which won the 2016 three-year-old colt and gelding trot Breeders Crown in a stakes’ record 1.51.4. Bar Hopping is currently standing at Hanover Shoe Farms.

You Know You Do and Wolfgang, two others owned by Hatfield, also started in the Breeders Crown.

Hatfield’s success carried over to Ohio with It’s Academic and A Fancy Face this year.

It’s Academic, the three-year-old son of Uncle Peter, has won 12 times in 23 career starts, earning \$437,234. The world champion won the Ohio Breeder’s Championship as a two- and three-year-old and won the Ohio Sire Stakes as a two-year-old. This year at Delaware, It’s Academic set the world record for a three-year-old trotter on a half-mile track, winning the Ohio Breeder’s Championship in 1:53.5. The record was held by Action Uncle, who reclaimed the record later that day, winning in 1:52.4.

A Fancy Face, which recently sold, won six races this year and earned \$211,625. A Fancy Face finished second in the Ohio Sire Stakes and the Ohio Breeder’s Championships.

Based on this success, Hatfield is high on racing in the Buckeye state.

“I think Ohio is in pretty good shape,” Hatfield said. “I bought more Ohio bred this year than anything else. The tracks understand what’s going on and are getting the purses where they belong and getting the horsemen excited. I am looking forward to next year.”

Hatfield said years ago, a record month at the car dealership might have topped a big win on the track, but right now winning the Breeders Crown is tops.

“I really like where I am right now,” he said. “It’s really exciting to watch the horses race. I really love following them around.”



Breeders Crown Champion Kissin In The Sand **Photo:** Dean Gillette

# Breeders Crown Ohio Recap

The highlight for the Buckeye state in the 2020 Breeders Crown held at Hoosier Park Oct. 30-31 was Kissin In The Sand winning the Open Mares Pacing Crown for co-owner Bud Hatfield and the Hatfield Stables.

Horses with Ohio connections were represented in all of the other championship races except the two-year-old and three-year-old filly trots.

## Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot

The Buckeye state was represented in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot by Brookview Bolt. The son of Swan For All is co-owned by Knox Services of Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Brookview Bolt finished 10th with Matt Kakaley. The winner was On A Streak with Bob McClure in 1:52.4, a stakes record. It was the first win for driver McClure in the Breeders Crown.

## Two-Year-Old Filly Pace

The state of Ohio had a couple of connections in the Two-Year-Old Filly Pace. Paulas Bet Hanover was driven by Chris Page and finished fifth. Also, in the race was Somethingbeautiful, co-owned by Richard Lombardo of Solon, Ohio, who finished eighth with Scott Zeron. The winner was Fire Start Hanover with Dexter Dunn in 1:50.4, which equaled the track record.

## Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace

There were four horses in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace with ties to Ohio. Southwind Gendry, co-owned by Knox Services of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, finished third with Yannick Gingras. Literl Lad Hanover finished seventh in the race with Matt Kakaley and is owned in part by Wingfield Five LLC of Kenton, Ohio. Finishing eighth was Captains Place with Tyler Smith. Captains Place races out of the John Ackley barn. And finishing ninth in the race was Bayfield Beach and Trace Tetrick. Brian Brown trains for the ownership group which includes County Club Acres of Findlay, Ohio, Rich Lombardo Racing of Solon, Ohio and Joe Sbrocco of Brecksville, Ohio. The dead heat winners were Summa Cum Laude with Brian Sears and the undefeated Perfect Sting with David Miller in a track record 1:50.2.

## Three-Year-Old Filly Pace

In the Three-Year-Old Filly Pace, Pettycoat Business, trained by Brian Brown finished eighth with Trace Tetrick. She is owned in part by Michael Robinson of Lewis Center, Ohio, Robert Mondillo of Delaware, Ohio and Gilbilly Stable of Archbold, Ohio. The winner was Peaky Sneaky with Yannick Gingras in a stakes' record 1:49. Party Girl Hill who was undefeated going into the race finished third.



## Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot

Ready For Moni, the son of Ready Cash represented the Buckeye state in the Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot. Ready For Moni is co-owned by Bud Hatfield of Columbus, Ohio and finished fifth with Yannick Gingras. The winner was Amigo Hall with Dexter Dunn in 1:53.

## Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace

The Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace was without question the best of the Breeders Crown races as eight of the 10 finished across the track. The photo finish showed Sandbetweenmytoes who was nearest the grandstand the winner. The winner was driven by Scott Zeron who beat Tall Dark Stranger by a nose in 1:48.3. Elver Hanover was one of the eight at the wire and finished seventh for co-owner Jason Melillo of Powell, Ohio. Chris Page was the driver.

## Open Mare Trot

In the Open Mare Trot, there were three Ohio connections. When Dovescry, owned in part by Singh & Soulsby of Powell, Ohio, finished third with David Miller, while Grand Swan, owned in part by Bruce

Soulsby of Powell, Ohio, and Alan Weisenberg of Hilliard, Ohio, finished fifth. Trainer Chris Beaver also carried the Buckeye flag, sending out Weslyn Quest who finished eighth. Manchego and Dexter Dunn were the winners in 1:52.

## Open Mares Pace

The favorite Kissin In The Sand co-owned by Hatfield Stables of Columbus, Ohio, was the winner with Dexter Dunn for Nancy Takter in 1:48.4, which was a track record. It also equaled the stakes' record. Sweet Lucy Lou and Stonebridge Soul were also in the race. Sweet Lucy Lou is owned by Royal Wire Products of North Royalton, Ohio, and finished fourth with Brian Sears. Stonebridge Soul, owned by Robert Mondillo of Delaware, Ohio, and driven by Brett Miller, finished fifth.

## Open Trot

In the Breeders Crown Open Trot, Chris Page drove Mission Accepted. Co-owned by Knox Services of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Mission Accepted finished sixth to the winner Gimpanzee and Brian Sears in 1:51.3.

## Open Pace

In the Open Pace, four horses claimed Ohio connections. The favorite was Bettor's Wish, co-owned by Bella Racing of Delaware, Ohio. Bettor's Wish, driven by Dexter Dunn, finished second. Chris Page drove Filibuster Hanover to a fifth-place finish. While Dorsoduro Hanover, owned in part by Wingfield Five, LLC of Kenton, Ohio, finished seventh for Matt Kakaley. Sectionline Bigry and Tyler Smith finished eighth for owner Harold Bauder and trainer Steve Bauder. The race was won by Century Farroh with the "Buckeye" David Miller in 1:49.

In the two races without Ohio connections, Lady Chaos and David Miller won the Two-Year-Old Filly Trot in 1:54.4, while in the Three-Year-Old Filly Trot, it was Next Level Stuff with Tim Tetrick winning in 1:52, a stakes and track record.

# OHIOANS DOMINATE

## Breeders Crown Undercard

BY ROGER HUSTON



Catch the Fire **Photo:** Jim Lisa

On Saturday night of the Breeders Crown at Hoosier Park the undercard of seven races was dominated by Ohio connections.

The \$55,000 Pegasus Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot was won by It's Academic, co-owned by Joe Sbrocco and Hatfield Stables. The Uncle Peter-Annapolis colt, trained by Ron Burke and driven by Chris Page, was timed in 1:53.2. The World Champion has won six of 12 races with earnings of \$273,232 this season.

The Senditin \$100,000 Claiming Challenge for a purse of \$40,000 was won by Tivo Hanover in 1:51 with driver Brett Miller.

The Jerry Landess Memorial for \$60,000 went to Miss You N with Dexter Dunn for Virgil Morgan Jr. in 1:50.2. The Betterthancheddar out of Woman In Black is co-owned by Carl Howard. Miss You N has earned \$108,080 this year while winning seven of 14 races.

The \$60,000 Pegasus Three-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace was won by Catch The Fire, with Mike Wilder for John Ackley and owner CT Stables in a lifetime-best 1:49.1. Catch The Fire is by Captainthacherous out of Dream Outloud. For the year, The Adios winner has won four of 13 races with earnings of \$377,254.

The Phil Langley Memorial for \$60,000 went to Stars Align A with Dexter Dunn for Christi Noble in 1:49.2. The Art Major out of Nosetros has now won nine of 21 races this year with earnings of \$152,105 this season.



Stars Align A **Photo:** Jim Lisa



Miss You N **Photo:** Jim Lisa

# Ohio Connections Shine Out of State



Southwind Gendry with Yannick Gingras **Photo:** Fotowon

On Nov. 6 at Hoosier Park, two of the top three finishers in the \$160,000 Monument Circle Pace had Ohio connections.

The race was won by Cattlewash with David Miller in 1:48.3. Cattlewash took the lead at the half and opened up to win by two lengths over Elver Hanover with Catch the Fire finishing third.

Leonidus A with Austin Siegleman won the race in 1:48. Buckeye connections finished in the next three spots. Bettor's Wish was second, World of Secrets was third and Stars Align A was fourth.

Stars Align A with Corey Callahan for Christi Noble raced to the lead in a Rosecroft record first quarter of 25.1. Through three quarters, Stars Align A held the lead with 1-5 Bettor's Wish, which is owned in part by Bella Racing of Delaware, Ohio, parked four-wide in the final turn.

Horses with Ohio connections continue to shine out of state.

On Nov. 5 at Dover Downs, Southwind Gendry won the \$193,000 Two-Year-Old Colt Pace Matron Stakes. The son of Always B Miki is co-owned by Knox Services of Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Southwind Gendry tripped the wire in 1:50 for his 10th win of the year.

Elver Hanover is co-owned by Jason Mellillo of Powell, Ohio and driven by Chris Page. Catch The Fire is out of the John Ackley barn and owned by CT Stables.

On Nov. 15 at the \$100,000 Potomac Pace Invitational at Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington, Md., Ohio horses took three of the four top spots.

Bettors Wish stuck his nose out front at the top of the stretch, but Leonidus A stormed down the stretch to win by three-quarters of a length over Bettor's Wish. World of Secrets with Aaron Merriman and trainer Bill Rhoades shot up the inside to get third while Stars Align A held on to finish fourth.



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# 20 questions with Hunter Myers

BY ROGER HUSTON

One of the up and coming young drivers in the Buckeye state is 22-year-old Hunter Myers. He was born in Columbus and now resides in Williamsport, Ohio. His career started in 2014 when he won 19 races in just 110 drives for a UDRS of .342 with earnings of \$40,055.

Myers has more than 650 victories and \$4 million in earnings to his credit. In 2020, despite a racing shutdown for two months and recuperating from injuries suffered in an accident at MGM Northfield Park in February, Myers is closing in on 200 wins and has won over \$1.3 million. Those figures top all of 2019.

## What is your first recollection of harness racing?

Going to the fairs at old Lebanon Raceway with my dad and enjoying every minute of it.

## Did you always want to be a driver?

When I was growing up, I never really thought about it, but when I started jogging horses and training, I just kind of got set on it.

## Do you remember that first win in 2014?

I drove a mare, Uptown Dreamer at the Wellston fair and won. I won two more with her in the next week or so.

## What about that first Pari-Mutuel win?

It was with Ride A Cowboy for Brian Haynes. He told me, I am going to give you your first win tonight at Miami Valley. I was parked out the whole mile and the mare raced excellent and raced tough. We held on for the win.

## Is there much of a difference between the fairs and racetracks when it comes to racing?

A little bit. At the fairs, it is more laid back and relaxed. It is a different group of people and you have more fun. At the tracks, you have fun and enjoy everything, but it is more serious with bigger purses and different scenarios you have to deal with.

## Do you have a favorite horse?

At the fairs, Dad had a trotter named Simmy. We would always come from the back of the pack, where he loved to race. He would race well and loved to pass horses, and it was a lot of fun with him.

## What has been your biggest win so far?

So far it was the Signature Series final at Delaware in 2017 with Harvard Z Tam.

## What was the best advice that someone has given you?

Stick at it, your time will come. Show your hard work and let people know you are here, and your time will come.

## Are you able to move on after a bad race you have driven?

At first, I would get mad about it, but now, I am able to move on and focus on the next drive. You can't let a race ruin your day since you have to move on and focus on the next race.

## How do you prepare for races in advance?

I go back and look at replays. Check out Pathway to see about the horse I am driving and check how he has been racing. You want to do well for the owner and trainer.

## Do trainers tell you how to drive or do they just hand you the lines?

I like the trainers to tell me about the horse; how he races best, but some do just hand you lines.

## Is there a race that you want to win?

The Little Brown Jug, the Hambletonian would be nice, too.

## Now let's get away from racing a bit. Do you have a favorite sport?

I would say baseball.

## Have you worked outside of racing?

I have always done things around the barn or work for other trainers, usually 365 days a year.



Photo credit: Brad Conrad

## Your favorite food?

Skyline Chili, I could eat it seven days a week.

## Do you have a favorite vacation spot?

I have been to South Carolina a few times. Recently, I went to Las Vegas for the AFR to watch Scarlett Wilder barrel race. It was a culture shock, but I loved it.

## How do you keep in shape?

I have some equipment at home for my upper body and I try to eat right.

## What is your favorite movie?

No question, it is Saving Private Ryan.

## Your favorite County Fair and fair food?

I love to race at Rock Springs. It is not the best track, but the people are great. As for fair food, it is a tenderloin or cheesesteak sandwich.

## What would you say to youngsters who are just starting in harness racing?

If you have the determination and are a hard worker, in time things will fall into place. You will be successful. It is all about determination, and you will get there.

# 50 WIN CLUB

*Cambassador Cops 50th Win at Hollywood Dayton* BY GREGG KEIDEL



Cambassador is greeted in the winner's circle at Hollywood Dayton by owner-trainer Parker Smith, his parents Jeremy and Brandi Smith, his grandfather Frank Myers and his girlfriend Ginna Climer. (Conrad photo)

Thirteen-year-old Cambassador, who has won at least one race in 10 of the last 11 years, won for the 50th time Oct. 19 at Hollywood Dayton Raceway.

Current owner-trainer Parker Smith, the son of driver Jeremy Smith, has won seven of those 50 races with Cambassador and said he is his favorite horse ever.

"I've claimed him three times and hope I can keep him through his mandatory retirement next year," Parker Smith said. "I think he has got a lot more wins in him."

Cambassador came along at the right time for Parker Smith, who was getting by as a warm-up driver and doing catch paddocks. Ready to make the leap to fledgling trainer, he plucked down a hard-earned \$6,000 to claim his prize possession with high hopes.

"He sort of put me on the map," Parker Smith explained. "He tries so hard and shows up every time we race. To me, he's as special as they get. He may only be a bottom claimer at this point in his career, but he's still a warrior."

Cambassador has won at eight different tracks and had 16 trainers during his lengthy career. The highest purse he has ever raced for is \$16,000 and he has faced the starting gate 332 times. His speed badge is 1:50.4 taken as a 6-year-old at The Meadows. The son of Cam's Card Shark has hit the board 152 times and earned \$574,270 in purses.

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## *Get Your Armor Post Gets 50th Win at MGM Northfield* BY AYERS RATLIFF

Get Your Armor paced home for her 50th career victory, winning the fifth race at MGM Northfield Park on Oct. 24. The 10-year-old veteran, with 293 career starts, also has 49 second- and 45 third-place finishes.

Get Your Armor (American Ideal-Mystic Money-Nihilator) has career earnings of \$518,367 with a lifetime mark of 1:52.2, taken at Northfield Park at age seven. The pacer's richest win was for a purse of \$14,000 in a Fillies and Mares Open at Northfield Park, an event she has won multiple times. Get Your Armor has only won on two racing surfaces. She has six victories at Saratoga Raceway in 2014. Since then, she has scored 44 times on Northfield's Flying Turns.

Get Your Armor started from the rail in the \$5,500 conditioned event at MGM Northfield Park. She sat forth through the 26.3 and 55.1 initial panels before starting her first-over bid. Get Your Armor took the lead by the 1:24.1 three-quarter clocking and won by 2 ¼ lengths. The \$4.20 winner posted a final time of 1:53.

Sam Schillaci Jr. of Silver Springs, N.Y. owns Get Your Armor. Trainer Sam Schillaci called upon Ronnie Wrenn Jr. for the winning drive.



Ronnie Wrenn Jr. drives Get Your Armor to her 50th career win at MGM Northfield Park (JJ Zamaiko Photography)

# Drama Act Wins Courageous Lady At MGM Northfield Park

BY AYERS RATLIFF



Drama Act wins the Courageous Lady at MGM Northfield Park (JJ Zamaiko Photography)



Drama Act (JJ Zamaiko Photography)

Drama Act overcame post-8 to prevail against Grand Circuit stock in the \$120,000 Courageous Lady at MGM Northfield Park on Oct. 17.

Driven by Matt Kakaley, Drama Act sat sixth through the 27.2 opening quarter.

“I was just trying to get her around a few and then drop in,” Kakaley explained.

Drama Act found herself second-over through fractions of :55.4 and 1:23.3. Kakaley moved her three-wide in the final turn and she bested her competition by a head in 1:51.1.

“I moved her three-wide and she got the job done,” Kakaley said. “She is a really nice filly.”

Harness racing’s all-time leading trainer Ron Burke conditions Drama Act for owners The OK Corral.

Completing the field were Perfect Storm, Pettycoat Business, Keystone Eureka, Ellagator, JK Finendandy, Dance Club and Blazin Grace.

Drama Act (Well Said – Lounge Act – Cam’s Card Shark) now has eight wins in 15 lifetime starts. The victory at MGM Northfield Park increased her career bankroll to \$225,482. She returned \$5.60 to win.

## 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

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2020	Membership Required
Yearling 2021	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2022, 2023	No Membership Required

### Mares registered in 2020 (Foals of 2021) mare registration date 11/30/20

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2021	Membership Required
Yearling 2022	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2023, 2024	No Membership Required

**Registration Fee:** \$20 per mare. For mares registered in 2019 forward, in addition to the \$20 registration fee per mare, registrations received from December 1st to December 31st must add a \$100 per-mare late fee. Registration will not be accepted until all fees are paid in full.

**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 also required to join as Associate Members.

**Mare Residency:** Mare in foal to an Ohio Stallion, must foal in Ohio, and reside in Ohio for 187 consecutive days in the year of foaling.

# Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

During this Thanksgiving season we should all realize that it is not just family and friends but a number of other things as well to be thankful for.

2020 will be a year that we will remember very well for years to come. For the youngsters, including those of school age, their birthdays, graduations, sports participation and the wearing of masks in public will stand out in their memories forever.

For others, no matter their age, they will think back on weddings, funerals, family functions, working conditions, wearing a mask and daily activities. No matter what we did, COVID-19 changed our way of life. What may have been normal in 2019 had a new normal for 2020, and it changed our lives in so many ways. The prospect of normalcy as we once knew it may never return.

Those involved in racing, no matter what their role, saw it change drastically. It did not matter what one's connection to the sport was, we had a set of protocols and mandates for each to follow. While everything was so different from how we did things in the past, one thing remained the same and that was the races themselves.

It was normal from the moment the horses stepped on the track until the race finished. Protocols were in place in the paddock or barn area before the contest and as soon as it finished, protocols were in place before the trip to the winner's circle. The only thing normal in 2020 was the actual race. We should be thankful for that since even the way we watched the race was different. At one time, owners and fans alike were not permitted to attend races and as the season progressed, there were limits on attendance by owners and fans.

The bottom line is that we should be thankful we had racing, except for the two-month shutdown without racing. Many people involved in our business should be thanked for their hard work and extra efforts that resulted in the resumption of racing. Many hours of time with seemingly endless meetings were held to bring racing back in late May. We should also be thankful to those who worked tirelessly for fair racing to return even without normal fair activities.



The sales which have occurred in the Buckeye state all have been positive, and some were record breaking. Protocols had to be followed such as social distancing, limited attendance and online bidding. The people who worked tirelessly to make that happen should be thanked as well.

There is one thing that turned out to be a major plus during the pandemic and that was the broadcasting of county fair races on Facebook Live. That feature allowed owners and others involved in racing with the ability to watch races while they occurred. Another advantage to those broadcasts was what we hope to be a new fan of our sport of harness racing. The broadcasts will continue for the 2021 racing season. Thank you to those involved in making that happen.

When all is said and done, let us be thankful for what was accomplished in 2020 even with all of the setbacks that occurred. Be there!

# ATTENTION STALLION OWNERS & BREEDERS



Harness Racing's Year-End  
Championship Series

Nominate Your Stallion by January 15 to Make Foals Eligible  
To The Sport's Most Prestigious Program

## BREEDERS CROWN NO. 38 FOR FOALS OF 2022

### TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE — \$6,000,000

**STALLION NOMINATION FEE:** Due and payable January 15, 2021, in the amount of the advertised stud fee for the 2021 breeding season (\$500 U.S. funds minimum) -- plus an additional surcharge as indicated below -- provided, however, that for first-year stallions placed in commercial service (which would not include test breedings) after January 15, the nomination must be paid within 60 days after the stallion first breeds a mare. In no event will any first-year stallion nomination fee be accepted after December 31, 2021. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to determine the stallion nomination fee of those stallions whose 2021 service is advertised as private treaty, or if the amount of the fee is not advertised. This payment covers 2021 matings (foals of 2022).

In addition to the 2021 service fee, the amount of the stallion nomination fee must include a surcharge as follows:

a) For stallions that stand for a fee from US\$3,000 to \$5,999 (or \$3,996 CAD (Canadian Dollars) to \$7,990 CAD), an additional amount equal to 40% of 2021 service fee must be paid;

b) For stallions that stand for a fee from US\$6,000 to \$9,999 (or \$7,992 CAD to \$13,319 CAD), an additional amount equal to 75% of 2021 service fee must be paid;

c) For stallions that stand for a fee of US\$10,000 (\$13,320 CAD), or more, an additional amount equal to 200% of 2021 service fee must be paid.

For stallions that stand for a service fee of less than US\$3,000 (or \$3,996 CAD), no additional surcharge is necessary for nomination.

*Note: For the purpose of determining the surcharge in other than U.S. funds, the November 1, 2020 exchange rate is used; a rate of \$1.332 CAD per US\$.*

Stallion nominations for other than first-year stallions that are postmarked after January 15, 2021, but on or before December 31, 2021, will be accepted upon payment of an additional penalty amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge). Likewise, stallion nominations for first-year stallions that are postmarked after the above sixty-day deadline, but on or before December 31, 2021, will be accepted upon payment of an additional amount equal to 50% of the above stallion nomination fee (including the above surcharge).

Any payment on a stallion that does not commercially conceive a foal or breed a mare by any means during the entire 2021 breeding season may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for refund by December 31, 2021.

Moreover, if a nominated stallion does not breed more than twenty (20) mares in 2021 or produce more than fifteen (15) registered foals in 2022, up to 50% of the stallion nomination fee may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for adjustment by December 31, 2021 (mares bred) or by December 31, 2022 (registered foals). No stallion nomination fee will be reduced to less than \$500.00 U.S. funds.

Any payment on a North American stallion that has been nominated by January 15, 2021, and is subsequently exported prior to February 15, 2021 and that does not commercially breed a mare in North America by any means during the entire 2021 breeding season, may be refunded, provided, however, that it shall be the obligation of the stallion nominator to notify the Society in writing of any request for refund by December 31, 2021. With the exception of supplemental nominations or declarations as provided in the conditions, foals of 2022 by a stallion for which the above nomination fee has been refunded will be ineligible to the Breeders Crown unless an additional amount equal to the amount of the refund is paid.

Except as provided above, stallion nomination fees shall not be refunded.

Stallion payments may be made in the local currency of the nation in which the stallion stands, or in equivalent U.S. funds (\$500 U.S. funds minimum).

Conditions for nominating yearlings will be published in the U.S.T.A. Stakes & Futurities Nomination Book. Specific conditions for the races for which these foals are eligible will be published in the U.S.T.A. Stakes Guide in the year of the races. The Hambletonian Society reserves the right to add to, amend or delete the conditions of all or any part of the Breeders Crown program, without liability.

In 2021, 2-year-old, 3-year-old and open Breeders Crown events will be conducted under the conditions of Breeders Crown 2021. All of these races are closed with sustaining payments due in 2021, with the exception of supplemental nominations.

For more information contact: The Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown at (609) 371-2211 or [www.hambletonian.com](http://www.hambletonian.com)

### BREEDERS CROWN STALLION NO. 38 NOMINATION BLANK

Name of Stallion \_\_\_\_\_ Age/Foal of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021 Service Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Sire \_\_\_\_\_ Dam \_\_\_\_\_ Sire of Dam \_\_\_\_\_

Farm \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check [√]: [ ] In-production stallion (by Jan. 15, 2021) [ ] With penalty (additional 50% after Jan. 15, 2021)

[ ] First-season stallion (within 60 days of 1<sup>st</sup> cover) [ ] First-season with penalty (additional 50% after 60 days)

The Stallion Nomination Fee is the amount of the 2021 Service Fee plus the above surcharge for fees \$3,000 US (\$3,996 CAD) or over

2021 Service Fee \_\_\_\_\_ + Surcharge ( % ) \_\_\_\_\_ = Nomination Fee enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to  
and Mail to:

Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

THE HAMBLETONIAN SOCIETY, INC. City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cranbury Gates Office Park Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

109 South Main Street, Suite 18

Cranbury NJ 08512-3174

# Treat `em like a *Lady* BY THOM PYE



Thom Pye cares for Hookami (left) and Amylin

It was an undefeated season for the Weller's two-year-old trotting filly Designer Specs, who had caught our eye in her very first start this year. She had been interfered with behind the gate, spotted the field 20 lengths, and under a well-measured drive by Jay Weller, had marched determinately past the stations to grab win No. 1 by half a length.

The daughter of Full Count, Avalon Hall rattled off open-length wins, cutting her own miles during the summer, but her most impressive effort was in \$40,000 Ohio Fair finals at Northfield Oct. 10. Ryan Stahl sat her in the pocket and followed Virgil Morgan's Boujee Girl and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. until tipping her out at the three-quarters in 1:27.1.

The two squared off around the last turn nose to nose and the freshman winner of more than \$56,000 yielded somewhat halfway down the stretch only to battle back – reminiscent of Wiggle It Jiggle it against Loss For Words in the 2016 Little Brown Jug – and take her 14th consecutive win in a lifetime best of 1:57.4.

But this was a two-year-old trotting filly, on a half-mile track, in the final start of her year.

And still at the top of her game.

Anyone who has ever campaigned a two-year-old – particularly a filly – knows how

difficult it is to keep them healthy and happy and wanting to race throughout the long season.

Plaudits to Team Weller.

A two-year-old, especially a filly, will sour up on you quicker than milk in the hot sun if they get a little sore. And if you don't get along with them, and they don't like you... hang it up since they'll refuse to go to track or will even plant 'em behind the gate.

I learned my lessons 45 years ago in upstate New York from a chestnut pacing mare named Avalon Amy, who ironically was bred in Tiffin, Ohio, and had taken a two-year-old mark of 2:11.2 at Wellington in 1972. She was by Avalon Doc p2, 2:09h who had only earned \$883 during his racing career that started and ended in 1953, BUT he was a son of Curly Smart's Ensign Hanover, the winner of the first Little Brown Jug in 1946.

She wouldn't stand when you went to hook her up, instead hopping around as I bellowed at her. The girl who had been rubbing her would say, "she always stood for me," in a sing-song voice as I'd just grunt.

"Five-years-old," I'd growl as I'd try to "correct" her. It didn't work. I admit that I was a little rough with her since her habits grated on my nerves.

She knew it and it showed. She finished last in her next three starts.

"That's why I won't rub a mare," said my more experienced co-worker. "You've got to baby them or else they'll race like crap if they don't like you."

So, begrudgingly, I had to mellow out and began to talk to her sweetly, "Good girl," "Baby doll," "Honey bunch." I shook my head as I worked around her. I'd give her a carrot or a cube of sugar every once in a while, too, just for good measure.

She began to nicker when she saw me.

And stood like a lady when I hooked her up.

She went on to compile a record of eight wins, six seconds, and eight thirds in her 37 starts that year. She took several lifetime tabs, including her best of 2:07f that December... smokin'!

She picked up the equivalent of \$25,000 in today's money and gave me an important lesson that you can't put a price on.

Don't rush them, don't fight with them, and you've always got to... treat `em like a lady.

# Thank You to our 2020 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

## OHHA Pacesetters as of 11/22/20

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MacKenzie Ater	Aimee Hock	Marjorie Polhamus
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# OCRA HOSTS *87th Annual Awards Dinner* BY THOM PYE

The Ohio Colt Racing Association held its 87th annual awards dinner Nov. 14 at the Champaign County Fairgrounds in Urbana, Ohio. OCRA is comprised of 20 Fairs located in the Southwest of Ohio that is part of the 66-member Ohio Fair Circuit that hosts harness racing throughout the Buckeye State.

Nearly 100 people attended the event and many of them were not immediately recognized since they were wearing masks, but with a well-planned evening, we were able to be sociable and practice social distancing at the same time.

The officers of OCRA – President Dr. Robert Schwartz, Vice President Dennis Fricke, Secretary Judith Foureman, and Treasurer Lisa Schwartz – held the organization's annual business meeting, which was followed by an abbreviated social hour and a sit-down, homestyle dinner catered by The Farmer's Daughter of Urbana. OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston, a veteran of many banquets during his 60-plus years as an announcer, remarked, "this is good food."

Master of Ceremonies Mike Woebkenberg started the awards ceremony by announcing the first winner with the Well Said 2-year-old colt pacer Woo Said for owner, trainer and breeder Donald C. Williams of Quincy, Ohio.

Boom Dynamite, a gelded son of Broadway Hall bred by Midland Acres, by virtue of his seven wins on the OCRA circuit earned 2-year-old trotting colt honors for trainer and part-owner Kim Dailey along with Randy Leopard and Todd Woodruff.

The We Will See 2-year-old filly pacer Ball Diamond earned plaudits for breeder Chuck Grubbs, owner Dannie Ray Hostetler and trainer Lonnie Graber as well as picking up more than \$56,000 at OCRA fairs.

Trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. and his 2-year-old filly trotter Boujee Girl, owned by Carl T. Howard, Joyce McClelland, and Larry Willis, secured top honors thanks to the Ken Sommer-bred daughter of Uncle Peter's six wins on the OCRA circuit.

With five wins each at OCRA fairs, the 3-year-old pacing colt division was shared by Fifty Flat for breeder and owners Scott and Mel Hagemeyer's American Native gelding



Alexa and Abby Nisonger accept the Leading Driver and Trainer award for their father Jeff Nisonger from OCRA Vice President Dennis Fricke.

trained by Jeff Nisonger as the Mister Wiggles gelding Snow Moon, bred by Crawford Farms and owned and trained by Jessica Smith of Xenia, Ohio, chilled out on the OCRA circuit with 2020 OCRA earnings of \$79,585 and a mark of 1:50.1f at Dayton.

The Hanover Shoe Farm-bred Big Box Hanover, owned by Bruce Soulsby and trainer Dalton Walls, took home the 3-year-old colt trotter award as the Uncle Peter gelding grabbed eight victories on the OCRA circuit.



Trainer Dalton Walls accepts the Parshall Trophy for top two-year-old trotter Malibu Kid from OCRA President Dr. Robert Schwartz.

John Van Horn's 3-year-old Art's Chip filly pacer Treasurethosechips was the best in 2020. Bred by Pacey Mindlin and Kenneth Cohen, the Jeff Nisonger trainee posted nine OCRA wins.

The Hickory Lane Horse Farm stallion Uncle Peter produced another stake winner on the trotting distaff side with Mary Ann George's and Arnold White's Sittin Pretty as the Brian George student was tops in her class.

Malibu Kid took the "Doc" H.M. Parshall Award as the 2-year-olds stake record setter trained by Dalton Walls, for trotting colts as the pacer Charlie May for conditioner Steve Carter reset the books in 1:55.2h at Greenville.

The Signature Series, a late closing event at 23 of Ohio fairs where the four circuits (OCRA, OFRC, HTCS and SVCC) are raced, were held throughout the summer. The horses are awarded points for each start and the eight-highest point earners face off at Delaware during Little Brown Jug Week. This year's \$2,000 bonus winner was Starry Night Teen, Gabrielle O'Hearn's 6-year-old gelding by Art Official that raced in seven SS events for trainer Ron Moawad of Michigan.

Rebecca Sugg's Star Chip was the top for trotters as the 9-year-old Pine Chip gelding participated in nine SS races for trainer Edward Miller.

Jeff Nisonger, by virtue of his 80 driving wins and 29 training victories, was once again awarded the top driver/trainer prize for his achievements.

The Dr. H.D. Schoonover Award, which epitomizes the optimism, passion and patience associated with the love of harness racing is named in honor of "Doc" Hobart Schoonover of Findlay, Ohio, who drove in his last race at the age of 93 in 2011. This year's award was presented on the web to an unsuspecting Doug Ballinger, our 47-year-veteran announcer of numerous fairs throughout Ohio. The native of Celina, Ohio, brings his style and enthusiasm to every race he calls. He just did not bring himself to the dinner this night.

**Congratulations to all of the winners!**



# Ohio Fair Racing Conference *Champions for 2020*

An undefeated two-year-old and a couple of repeat winners highlight the 2020 Ohio Racing Conference champions for 2020.



Designer Specs - OFRC Two-year-old filly trot champion  
**Photo:** Brad Conrad

Designers Specs won all 14 races and earned \$56,664 in her freshman year to capture top honors in the two-year-old filly trotter division.

Three-year-old colt trotter Timestorm and three-year-old filly pacer Tiny Bit Of Sky were repeat winners after winning the two-year-old awards in 2019.

Timestorm collected 10 wins in 17 starts this season, earning \$51,001, while Tiny Bit Of Sky won seven races in 2020, earning \$32,191.

Designer Specs, Timestorm and Sweet Oliver were eight-time winners on the 2020 Ohio Fair Racing Conference circuit.

Sweet Oliver was the top point-earner during the season, collecting 487 points. Timestorm was second with 453 points.

The Ohio Fair Racing Conference races at 21 county fairs across Ohio. OFRC Coordinator Bill Peters says despite COVID-19, it was a great year of racing in the OFRC.

“Several adjustments were made at the fairs in the Ohio Fair Racing Conference to abide by the pandemic protocols,” Peters said. “Most of the horsemen and race officials adapted well to the changes, and the season went relatively well.”



Sweet Oliver was the top OFRC point earner in 2020 **Photo:** Brad Conrad

The top driver on the circuit this year was Cam McCown, who collected 27 victories this year to win the title for the fourth consecutive year.

The top trainer was Chris Beaver, who sent 21 horses to the winner's circle. Beaver also won the title in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Due to the pandemic, the OFRC did not host an in-person banquet. Instead, a virtual award show was streamed on YouTube. The presentation featured a message from the OFRC's Bill Peters to highlight of the champions and runners up.

## 2020 OFRC CHAMPIONS

	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP
<b>Two-Year-Old Colt Pacer</b>	Rock N Republic	Rally Your Crew
<b>Two-Year-Old Colt Trotter</b>	Omyheart	PC's Cruiser
<b>Two-Year-Old Filly Pacer</b>	Feverslastcruise	Sister Said
<b>Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter</b>	Designer Specs	Wishful Mar
<b>Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer</b>	Sweet Oliver	Chris Will See
<b>Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter</b>	Timestorm*	Trottin For Cash
<b>Three-Year-Old Filly Pacer</b>	Tiny Bit of Sky*	Bad Ms Johnson
<b>Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter</b>	Electric Ridge	Cell Service

\*Repeat Champion

## OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Jonah "Joney" Adkins Sr.  
Mary Katherine "Kathy" Brickler  
John Phillip "Phil" Fitzwater  
Kennard "Sonny" Grieser,  
Steven Perkins  
Kathie Ann Pfister  
Dr. H Gene Shafer  
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William Harvey "Bill" Sterritt

## Breedings for Sale to Top Sires for 2021

If you are looking for trotting or pacing mares.....CALL ME!

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Bettor's Delight	Rockin Image
Catch The Fire	We Will See
Fear The Dragon	Well Said
Lather Up	Western Vintage

Book early to avoid a shut out!

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Equine Agent, Breeding Consultant

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Email for complete list: [cbrault2@cogeco.ca](mailto:cbrault2@cogeco.ca)



## OHIO DRIVERS AND TRAINERS

Ohio Drivers and Trainers continue to be ranked in the top ten in the country.\*

### DRIVERS

1. Aaron Merriman 647
3. Ronnie Wrenn Jr 432
6. Brett Miller 355
6. Kurt Sugg 355
9. Chris Page 333

### TRAINERS

3. Virgil Morgan Jr 195
4. Bill Rhoades 188
8. C Brian Loney 141

\*Through 11/18/20

## COAT DRIVE BENEFITS DAYTON-AREA CHARITY

Hollywood Dayton Raceway, in conjunction with the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, donated more than 200 new and gently used winter coats to the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Dayton's annual Holiday Coat Drive.

It was the fourth consecutive year the horsemen at the track have supported the charity.

Quentin Herman of the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Dayton expressed gratitude for the donation.

"Our mission is to provide assistance, shelter and hope to people who need it," Herman said. "This support from Hollywood Gaming and the horsemen and women who race there will go a long way toward helping us accomplish our goal of keeping as many local people facing hardship in their lives as warm as possible."

Horsemen's bookkeeper Terri Mt. Pleasant spearheads the local coat drive with help from Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association track representative Brett Merkle.

"We're glad to support worthwhile area causes," said Jason Bluhm, director of racing. "We really appreciate the generosity of the horse community in helping us to lend this helping hand to those in need."



Quentin Herman of the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Dayton accepts a donation of more than 200 new and gently used winter coats from Brett Merkle, Lynda Brewer, Terri and Bill Mt. Pleasant and Director of Racing Jason Bluhm. (Conrad photo)



Bluebird Cammie and Brett Miller (Conrad photo)

# TRACK NOTES



Stars Align A and Dan Noble **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Stars Align A made it four consecutive wins in Dayton, Ohio. Dan Noble guided the Australian import to the win for his wife Christi in 1:49.2. Noble had high praise for the 7-year-old son of Art Major.

“He’s probably the best horse we’ve ever trained in our stable,” Noble said. “In fact, he’s one of the best I’ve ever driven. I really believe he could go in 1:47 over this track.”

Stars Align A now has 32 career wins in 88 tries and has banked \$418,198.



Spirit Bell and Aaron Merriman **Photo:** JJ Zamaiko Photography

Spirit Bell set a new track record at MGM Northfield Park Nov. 3. Aaron Merriman took Spirit Bell to the lead and coasted to the 1:54.1 mile, the fastest ever by a 4-year-old trotting mare. The previous mark was 1:54.2, set by Joyfultriumphant in 2018. Spirit Bell is owned by Melissa Patterson and Daryl Sherman.

The Logan County Fair Board has announced that they will not host harness racing during the 2021 Logan County Fair. Racing this year was moved from the fairgrounds in Bellefontaine to Urbana because of COVID-19.

# DRIVER NOTES



Ronnie Wrenn Jr. **Photo:** Raymond Lance Jr.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. has reached the \$40-million mark for earnings as a driver. Wrenn crossed the milestone with his second-place finish behind Pretty Sammie on Halloween at MGM Northfield Park. Wrenn began his career in 2008 with two wins in nine drives. He is closing in on 6,000 wins. On the same night, he hit the \$40-million mark he also tallied six winners.

Mandy Jones scored in the 2020 Lady Driver’s Challenge at MGM Northfield Park. Jones drove In Trouble Again to the win in 1:55.1. Jones was dominant on the fair circuit this year, sporting a .533 UDRS. The win at Northfield Park was her first win at a pari-mutuel racetrack.

Jeremy Smith collected half of the wins on the 14-race card at Hollywood Dayton Nov. 5. The seven wins fell one short of the track record of eight on a single program. Brett Miller collected six winners on Nov. 10. At the halfway point of Dayton’s 74-day meet, Smith and Miller are battling for the lead. The meet ends Dec. 30.

Aaron Merriman had a four-day stretch when he captured five winners on each of the programs at MGM Northfield Park. The streak of five winners started Nov. 7 and ended Nov. 10. Earlier in the month, Merriman recorded seven wins on a 15-race card.



Jeremy Smith **Photo:** Brad Conrad

# OUTSTANDING GROOMS



Jessica Noe



Lily Spurlock

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association would like to congratulate our Outstanding Grooms Lily Spurlock of Lockbourne, Ohio and Jessica Noe of Lebanon, Ohio.

Spurlock is working with trainer Tim Lane. She started out eight years ago when she was in high school in the barn of Jim Arledge. "I absolutely love the horses and learning new things every day." She says she has her sights on being a trainer someday.

Noe got her grooms license at 12 and currently works for her mother Carla Asher, helping out at the farm in Wilmington and training at Lebanon. She takes care of the horses and does extra work around the farm. Asher says her daughter is a super hard worker, "She does a great job with the horses and has a special way with them. She can keep the wild ones calm."

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# PETER AT LAW *was an Ashland Equine Champion*

BY LORI ADAMS, ASHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



This collage depicts racing photos of Peter At Law along with a photo of Cliff Gongwer accepting a trophy from Ohio Governor George White at the Ohio State Fair circa 1933. Courtesy Ashland County Historical Society

Early on, harness racing became a popular activity in recreational circles. Nearly every one owned horses, so racing them as a fun, neighborhood activity was bound to happen. After all, who doesn't like a little friendly competition?

Races were originally held on village streets and country roads among neighbors but as early as 1825, racetracks started growing in popularity. By the mid-20th century, harness racing was the fastest growing sport in the United States with most county fairs having a racetrack.

The breed of horse used for this type is racing the Standardbred. It was bred in the United States in the 19th century and primarily used for harness racing. The horse, Messenger, an English Thoroughbred, was imported to the United States in 1788. His descendants were bred with other horses, such as the Morgan Horse, to produce trotters and pacers that were very fast. Messenger's great-grandson, Hambletonian (1849-1876) was an outstanding Standardbred sire and it's his descendants that now dominate this breed.

In Ashland, Ohio, harness racing was first held on the track located at the old fairgrounds along Sandusky Street, but the barn

burned down. In 1924, the annual Ashland County Fair started in the new location at the corner of Claremont Avenue and Baney Road.

The original racetrack was built right at the corner of the intersection, which is now a parking area.

Ashland had its own famous harness racing horse in the 1930s. Peter At Law was born in 1927. At the age of 4, he was purchased by local businessmen David Reed and Clifton Gongwer. They noticed the horse when he

ran a 2:06 mile at the fairgrounds in Darke County, Ohio.

Peter At Law raced the Grand Circuit, which was the "big leagues" of harness racing.

The Grand Circuit was originally known as the Quadrilateral Trotting Combination and established in 1871 by a Cleveland businessman. In 1879, the standard for a horse racing at this level was to run a mile in 2:30 or less.

As a pacer, Peter At Law won 51 races and finished second 29 times in his nine-year racing career. He never finished out of the money and interestingly enough, he never raced in Ashland during that time but was stabled there and had a huge fan base in the area. His career peaked at age 10 when he first ran a 1:59¾ in Indianapolis, Ind.

Peter At Law sired three foals at the age of 6, but not anymore until he was a 10-year-old. Peter At Law was officially retired by 1939 but made a few special appearances when he was past his prime.

The current racetrack at the Ashland County Fairgrounds was dedicated on Sept. 19, 1939. The high point of the track opening

was an exhibition race that featured Peter At Law racing against his son, Peter At Last.

In the sulky for Peter At Law was his caretaker Charley Adams and the son was piloted by Jess Brinkerhoff. Out of respect for the elder Peter, the race started slowly, but they went at it hard the last quarter mile and finished in a dead heat. Drivers of harness racers carry a light whip and use it to make a tapping noise on the shaft of the sulky to coax horses to go faster.

Peter At Law was one of only two horses in his era with records better than two minutes that also won more than 50 career races. He won 51 times and placed second 29 times in nine consecutive years and was never out of the money. He reached his peak as a 10-year-old. As a 3-year-old he ran a 2:09. As a 10-year-old, he ran his fastest race with a 1:59¾.

It is unknown exactly when Peter At Law died, but he is buried at the fairgrounds in the area of the current racetrack.

For more information about the Ashland County Historical Society call 419-289-3111.



Belden Hotel trophy was won by Peter At Law in Canton Ohio. Courtesy Ashland County Historical Society



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# S AND M STABLE

## Wins Fantasy Racing League

The 2020 Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Fantasy Racing League reached the finish line and S and M Stable is headed to the winner's circle.

S and M Stable narrowly defeated Lazy Hank Racing for the title, finishing the year with earnings of \$2,060,929. Lazy Hank Racing finished with earnings of \$1,995,634. Rounding out the top five finishers were Roller Stable, Scott Trot and Leeroy's Bald Head Stable. S and M Stable will receive \$2,500, while Lazy Hank Racing will receive \$1,000, Roller Stable takes home \$750, Scott Trot receives \$500, and Leeroy's Bald Head Stable will get \$250.

Momma T's was the top stable for finishing with the highest bankroll among Ohio sired horses. Momma T's will bank \$1,000.

In 2020, a prize for the Ohio sired yearling that was sold at public auction and produced the biggest return on investment was added. Black Lives Matter Stable collected the \$1,000 prize for Herculisa. Herculisa was sold at public auction for \$5,000 and recorded earnings of \$81,812, an ROI of 1,636%.

The October monthly prize will be split between 61 stables that had horses racing in the Breeders Crown finals. Elver Hanover, Mission Accepted, Sectionline Bigry and Weslynn Quest competed in the



Breeder's Crown. Split 61 ways, the \$500 prize totaled \$8.19 each. Each winner will receive a \$10 gift card to McDonald's.

A total of 154 fantasy stables participated with 211 horses selected. Ninety-seven of the horses had earnings over \$20,000, 23 horses made over \$100,000. On the downside, 43 horses did not make any money.

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## LOST FOR WORDS

### HEADED ACROSS THE POND

BY ROGER HUSTON



Lost For Words **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Lost For Words, the 2015 Little Brown Jug runner-up is headed to Ireland where he will stand for the 2021 breeding season.

The eight-year-old stallion was sold via auction via OnGait.com for \$28,500. The son of Well Said had been standing at Cool Winds Farm in Lima, Ohio.

The winner of \$937,784 with a mark of 1:49.3 was purchased by Robert McCarthy of Limerick, Ireland.

"I have seven mares I got from Harrisburg and I have at least 40 mares booked in for him already" said McCarthy. "I think he is going to be very good for the breeding of horses racing in Ireland and the UK."

Lost For Words finished second in the 2015 Little Brown Jug by a nose to Wiggle It Jiggleit. The two battled for nearly three-quarters of a mile with Wiggle It Jiggleit winning by a nose.

Brian Brown trained Lost For Words. "As a racehorse he did everything the way I wanted it done. He was a nice little horse that never disappointed. Those kinds are nice to have, but hard to get."

# Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 *By Renée Mancino*

Roll Call, all Commissioners present.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director William Crawford's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the September 16, 2020 minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. There was discussion regarding submissions. Northfield Park had a makeup day due to a cancellation and Thistledown moved a live day to accommodate a horse sale. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval items and the September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

The Executive Director's report items included the 2021 live racing approvals. Mahoning Valley, MGM Northfield Park, and Miami Valley Gaming, submitted requests to, (1) Waive their surety bond for 2021 race meets, (2) Approve listed officials, (3) Approve the number of races and wagering format, (4) Approve post times, (5) Approve their simulcasting schedule, and (6) Approve their letters to the Fire Marshall. Discussion on the live dates by facility and whether a Two-Party Agreement was complete or not necessary. Mahoning Valley applied for 103 live days no Agreement was necessary, Thistledown 100 live days, Belterra 93 live days with an Agreement in place, Miami Valley Gaming 86 live days, MGM Northfield 218 live days, Dayton 78 live days, and Eldorado Scioto 90 live days with all three harness racetracks outside of MGM having Two Party Agreements in place. Commissioner Winters commented regarding noted vacancies on listed officials' positions that need to be filled. No documents were provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all requests.

The commission unanimously passed Resolution 2020-15, the distribution of casino tax revenue for the third quarter 2020. Based on total revenue of \$2,345,682.14 for the third quarter of 2020. The Directive deposited \$2,345,682.14 of the Casino Commission into an Emergency Fund created by Resolution 2020-09 on April 22, 2020, to support and protect breeding and

racing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Directive provided for reallocation to the Commission's Casino Tax Revenue Fund for future distribution by the Ohio State Racing Commission. Casino Tax Revenue Fund distributions of \$820,631.52 were made to the Thoroughbred Race Fund and Standardbred Development Fund respectively. \$50,000 was distributed to the Ohio Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association for reimbursement.

The commission unanimously passed Resolution 2020-16, delegating to and permitting Executive Director William Crawford to approve ministerial tasks prior to Racing Commission ratification. Those tasks included (A) Authorizing changes of racing officials, (B) Authorizing the uncoupling of entries, (C) Authorizing special event status, (D) Authorizing post time change, (E) Authorizing changes in wagering formats, (F) Authorizing simulcasting for specific programs prior to noon, (G) Authorizing approval of Host/Guest product lists and changes, (H) Authorizing extension of jockey apprentice weight, (I) Authorizing approval of fine money expenditures, (J) Authorizing change of a live race day, (K) Authorizing approval of payments to owners from purse pool for a cancelled live race day, (L) Authorizing approval for requests from an agricultural fair to waive rule 3769-15-31(B)(2), (M) Authorizing approval of import and export product. All delegated tasks are to be summarized and submitted to the Commission at least monthly and the authority to delegate expires December 31, 2021.

The costs and expenses related to the Ohio Attorney General's representation of the Racing Commission were discussed. Commissioner Winters provided detail on the cost-effectiveness of this arrangement as a non-General Revenue Fund Agency. There are currently more than 30 cases on appeal. The yearly cost for the representation is approximately \$71,000 for a set-percentage allocated by individual Assistant Attorney General's time. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Memorandum of Understanding.

In other business, the Racing Commission considered the Simulcast Collection and Settlement Agent approvals for the permit holders. MGM Northfield Park will act as the Settlement Agent for themselves, and Belterra Park. Eldorado Scioto Downs, Thistledown, Miami Valley Gaming, Mahoning Valley, and Hollywood Gaming at Dayton applied to have their collection and settlement handled on their own in conjunction with United Tote. The Racing Commission unanimously approved the Settlement Agent and Simulcast Collection requests for 2021.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to October 20, 2020 was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. It was noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From the last report there were no standardbred, and seven thoroughbred fatalities. Year-to-date total catastrophic losses are twenty-eight Thoroughbred fatalities and two Standardbred racing related fatalities statewide.

There was no discussion on Belterra Park's extension for closing on the real estate sale for Boyd Gaming and Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI).

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. The Racing Commission's loss overall is \$143,000, which beat the projected loss of \$200,000, which optimistically will result in a break-even year. Revenue is down 24%, Expenses are down 11% Licensing and fingerprinting revenue are up, fines are down. Payroll costs are up with one less pay period. Legal costs, travel, and fair racing expenses are down.

Commissioner Hansen provided the next date for the Medication and Testing Committee meeting of October 22, 2020, which will occur via Webex. Discussion topics will include, endogenous and exogenous substances, and anabolic-androgenic steroids.



Commissioner Simpson discussed plans for the Safety Committee meetings to resume. He anticipates virtual meetings to begin in November. Head numbers and review of the whip or crop rule will be Safety Committee topics.

Issues related to a Motion to Disqualify a Hearing Officer by Attorney John Izzo were discussed. Commissioner Winters provided detail on legal precedence in a Dental Board case that provides authority for an Administrative Agency to move a proceeding to another Hearing Officer if a Motion to Disqualify is filed. The Racing Commission unanimously moved to permit Executive Director William Crawford to refer technical issues in a case administratively to a new Hearing Officer.

In the Matter of Dan Ater. Settlement Agreement resulting from a January 21, 2020 TCO2 post-race test at Miami Valley Gaming on Strong Playin King at 39.1 +/- 0.7 mpl which exceeds the O.S.R.C. regulatory threshold of 37.0 mmol/L. Settlement includes a full suspension of fifteen (15) days starting October 23, 2020 through November 6, 2020; a fine in the

amount of \$1,000.00; and return the purse of \$3,000.00. The Racing Commission unanimously approved adoption of the Settlement Agreement.

In the Matter of Jeff Ebersole. Settlement Agreement resulting from two medication positive tests at Northfield Park that were found to contain strychnine. One November 20, 2019 from the horse I'm Hungover, a second from November 26, 2019 and the horse Saint George P. Settlement includes payment of a \$1,000.00 fine, and return on the purses of, \$3,100.00 and \$3,500.00. The remainder of a two year suspension will be held in abeyance, if Ebersole receives another drug positive before April 29, 2022 he would be required to serve the remaining days of this suspension, plus any additional days required by the new drug positive. The Racing Commission unanimously approved adoption of the Settlement Agreement.

In the Matter of William Cowans. Settlement Agreement resulting from possession of an injectable substance, (acepromazine), without a prescription found after a barn search at Thistledown. Settlement includes a 180 day suspension and \$1,000 fine. The

settlement permitted 75 days of the 180 days to be served during the COVID-19 shutdown from March-June 2020. The remaining 105 days will be served to commence November 8, 2020. The Racing Commission unanimously approved adoption of the Settlement Agreement.

In Chairman's comments, Chairman Borge-menke discussed uncashed ticket monies and return of purse orders on rule violations, and questioned whether they could be used for other purposes? For example, to seed pari-mutuel pools. Commissioner Winters inquired as-to using part of the purse pools or fine money to fund those items.

No Executive Session was needed, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn and conclude the meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is November 19, 2020. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

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1. Publication Title <b>The Buckeye Harness Horseman</b>	2. Publication Number 01947842	3. Filing Date 09/28/2020
4. Issue Frequency <b>Quarterly</b>	5. Number of Issues Published Annually <b>4</b>	6. Annual Subscription Price <b>Membership</b>
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) <b>2237 Sonora Drive Grove City, OH 43123</b>		Contact Person <b>Frank Fraas</b> Telephone (include area code) <b>(614) 221-3650</b>
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) <b>2237 Sonora Drive Grove City, OH 43123</b>		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)		
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) <b>Frank Fraas 2237 Sonora Drive Grove City, OH 43123</b>		
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) <b>Frank Fraas 2237 Sonora Drive Grove City, OH 43123</b>		
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

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 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title <b>The Buckeye Harness Horseman</b>		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2307	2503
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	77	83
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f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		2409	2611
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