



# OHHA News

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SEPTEMBER 2020

OHIO HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION | 2237 Sonora Dr. Grove City, OH 43123

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## Guinevere Hall Shines on Super Night BY FRANK FRAAS



Guinevere Hall and Peter Wrenn

Guinevere Hall made it a perfect seven for seven this year, winning the Ohio Sires Stakes Championship at Eldorado Scioto Downs for three-year-old trotting fillies, in a near track record time of 1:53.1. Peter Wrenn took the daughter of Cash Hall-Garbo Hill-Lindy Lane three wide at the top of the stretch and pulled away to win for trainer Melanie Wrenn and owners M T Pockets Stable and David McDuffie. Guinevere Hall raised her career earnings to \$415,081. A Fancy Face was second for Chris page with Robin Banks and Kurt Sugg placing third.

Action Uncle made it back-to-back sires stakes final wins as he took control after the quarter pole and cruised to a three-length victory for three-year-old colt trotters for driver Brett Miller, trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. and the ownership group of Carl Howard, Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills. The son of Uncle Peter-Action Broadway-Broadway Hall tripped the wire in 1:53, raising his career earnings to \$545,825. David Miller and Wading Boots were second while Chris Page and It's Academic were third.

Ocean Rock lit up the Scioto 5/8's mile, cruising to an easy victory in 1:49.4 for Dan Noble and trainer Christi Noble to claim the

three-year-old colt pacing title. Noble took the son of Rockin Amadeus-Ocean Pearl-On The Attack to the lead and never looked back, winning for the tenth time in his career. Ocean Rock has now earned \$495,677 for owner Sandra Burnett. Elver Hanover and Chris Page were second while Brett Miller and Gray Dragon were third.

Tyler Smith and Penpaperpaige came from the back of the pack to go three-wide around the final turn and charged down the lane to top favorite Artful Dancer (Dan Noble) by a length to win the three-year-old filly pace in 1:52.1. The daughter of Pet Rock-Park Lane Paige-Art Major claimed a new lifetime mark as she pushed her career earnings to \$273,026. Rockngo BB with George Brennan was third.



Charlie May and Brett Miller

Charlie May and Brett Miller took the early lead in the two-year-old colt pace championship, but gave way to Heart of Chewbacca and Dan Noble at the quarter pole before overtaking his rival down the stretch to win in a track and national season record of 1:50.2 for freshman pacing geldings on a five-eighths mile track. The son of McArddle-Stipple Hanover-Western Hanover is trained by Steve Carter and owned by Don

Tiger. Charlie May's earnings are now at \$295,181. Laughagain Hanover was third for David Miller.

Summer Touch made it five straight for driver Chris Paige and trainer Ron Burke, as she went wire-to-wire to win the two-year-old filly pace in 1:52.3. The daughter of Well Said-Real Touch-Real Desire is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services, Slaughter Racing and Weaver Brusceci. Rainy Day Chic (Brett Miller) was second and Leave Her Wild (Mike Wilder) was third. Summer Touch has now earned \$255,000.

Merry Ann won the championship for two-year-old trotting fillies as Chris Page took the lead just after the quarter-pole and never relinquished it, holding off a late charge from Celebrate With Me and Kurt Sugg. The daughter of Southwind Spirit-Witty Girl-SJ's Photo won for the fifth time this year and raised her earnings to \$245,200. Merry Ann is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services and Weaver Brusceci. My Jazz and Anthony McDonald finished third.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Perron won the championship for two-year-old trotters for trainer Chris Beaver. Wrenn Jr. took Perron three-wide and caught Street Gossip (Brett Miller) at the wire to win by a nose in a new lifetime mark of 1:58. Perron is owned by Steve Stewart, D. Wright, G. Wilcoxon and K. Doherty. Tango With Me (Peter Wrenn) was third. Perron's earnings are now at \$198,300.

*Continued on page 2*

**UPCOMING MEETING DATE—4TH QUARTER OHHA BOARD MEETING IS OCTOBER 22, 2020**

### Office Staff

**Executive Director** Renée Mancino  
**Office Administrator** Cheri Johnson  
**Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator** Frank Fraas

**Benefits Administrator** Linda Nance  
**Project Coordinator** Susan Schroeder  
**Brand Ambassador** Roger Huston

### Track Representatives

**Miami Valley, Scioto Downs & Hollywood Gaming at Dayton**  
Brett Merkle  
**Northfield Park**  
Amy Hollar

Two \$100,000 Invitational Pace races, the #SendItIn Invitational, were also contested on Super Night.

In the first division, Brassy Hanover and Andrew McCarthy sat patiently in second and charged down the stretch to catch Little Rocket Man (Trace Tetrack) by a head in

1:48.3 to win for trainer and co-owner Jeff Cullipher and Pollack Racing LLC.

Tim Tetrack took Working Ona Mystery to the top and never looked back, going wire-to-wire to win the second division of the #SenditIn Invitational in 1:48.3. Section-line Bigry (Tyler Smith) was second while

Escapetothebeach (George Brennan) was third. Working Ona Mystery is trained by Brian Brown and owned by Diamond Creek Racing, Stambaugh Leeman Stables, Alan Keith and Wingfield Brothers LLC.

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# OHIO FAIR RACING UPDATE

By Frank Fraas

## Attica Independent Fair August 11th

Art McIlmurray and Bob Rowland each picked up driving doubles at Attica. The fastest time of the day was by I Get It, who was owned, trained and driven by Rowland in 1:59.3.

## Hartford Fair August 15

Cameron McCown had a driving triple on the nine-race program. The Featured Free For All Pace Hartford Fair Blue Ribbon Race was won by Aeroblast with Jonas Hershberger for owner-trainer Daniel Hale.

## Muskingum County August 16th

Jonas Hershberger was the only driver to double up on the six-race card. Cody Hanover won the Southern Valley Colt Circuit three-year-old pace in 1:57.2

## Mercer County August 16th

Jeff Nisonger led all drivers with four wins while Justin Irvine and Ryan Stahl had three wins each on the 16-race card. Irvine had the fastest mile on the day with Nvrpoptdaplugs for Todd Luther. Designer Specs, the two-year-old filly trotter remained undefeated, winning for the eighth time in as many starts.

## Muskingum County August 17th

Trotter Newsboy made it five of seven lifetime with a win in 2:03.4. Alex Hawk handled the lines for the two-year-old trotter for trainer Charles Vigneron. Hawk, along with Brady Clemens, each had two wins on the card.

## Miami County August 17th

Jeff Nisonger continued with the hot hand and had a triple on the eight-race card. He drove Bargain Shopper to victory in the three-year-old colt pace in 1:55.4. In the Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series Pace, Kacey Burns rallied Norma Jean to the win for her third victory in the series.

## Henry County August 18th

Anthony McDonald picked up the driving double leading Mo Mo (2:05.2) and Changinoftheguard (2:04.4) to victories. Timestorm with John Moody made six wins in eight starts.

## Miami County August 18th

Half of the races were won by Jeff Nisonger, winning five of ten on the card. Two-year-old Atta Boy Chris made it six of nine this season by winning the colt pace in 1:59.3.

## Meigs County August 19th

Brady Clemens and Brendan Johnson each collected driving doubles on the five-race card. Clemens drove the fastest mile, a 2:02.3 effort by Real Vision.

## Henry County Fair August 19th

Dancin Fever won the Free For All Pace on the ten-race card. Cam McCown led all drivers with a triple while Greg Bateson and Bob Rowland had doubles.

## Meigs County August 20th

Three drivers: Brady Clemens, Alex Hawk and John Ryan Melsheimer picked up driving doubles on the eight-race card. Jurassic Jillian, the three-year-old filly pacer won her third in a row with Hawk driving.

## Darke County August 21st

Jeff Nisonger had the hat trick on the ten-race card. The fastest mile came from Western's Last Gun with Scott Cisco driving. Western's Last Gun tripped the wire in 1:56.2.

## Darke County August 22nd

Ken "Doc" Holliday and Jeff Nisonger each had triples on the 12-race program. Fastest time of the day went to Bad Ms Johnson in 1:56.3.

## Lorain County August 23rd

Kurt Sugg led all drivers with six trips to the winner's circle. Sugg drove Forever Missy to a new lifetime mark of 2:01 to win her third in a row and fifth win in eight starts.

## Lorain County August 24th

Kurt Sugg picked up four more wins to give him ten in the two-day meet. The fastest time of the day was by TD's Legacy. Don Irvine drove the three-year-old gelding to the maiden victory in 1:57.1.

## Lima County August 24th

A ten-race card was delayed two hours due to heavy rain. Drivers Cameron McCown, Jeff Nisonger and Sandy Beatty had doubles once racing resumed.

## Lima County August 25th

Scott Cisco and Jeff Nisonger each picked up driving doubles. Mandy Jones won the Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series with Sports Band in 2:03.3.

## Monroe County August 25th

The races scheduled for Monroe County were held in Zanesville. Driver Dustin Bothman led all drivers with three wins on the six-race card.

## Defiance County August 25th

The fastest mile of the seven-race program went to Rock N Republic with Ronnie Gillespie in 1:58. The only driver to double up was Mark Headworth.

## Monroe County August 26th

A bit of a rarity took place as owner William Hartt, trainer Clarence Foulk and driver Brendan Johnson won three straight races. Speak Well, Narina Hanover and Imma Be accomplished the feat in races four through six.

### **Darke County August 27th**

Charlie May established a two-year-old colt pacing record with a mile in 1:55.2, winning a division of the Dr. H. M. Parshall Futurity. Lane Of Stone won the \$15,000 Arnie Almahurst Trot in 1:55.4 with Jeff Nisonger for Mark Winters. Sectionline Bigry made it two straight years winning the \$30,000 Gene Riegle Memorial Pace with a mile in 1:53. The final race on the card was the Annie Oakley Shoot Out Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series. Mandy Jones was a winner with That's The Plan in 1:58.

### **Defiance County August 27th**

Designer Specs remained perfect this season with her ninth win. The filly was driven by Jay Weller in 2:03. Pierce Henry and Bob Rowland each had driving doubles.

### **Morrow County August 31st**

Anthony MacDonald had the grand slam on the 11-race card. Cam McCown and Chris Presley each picked up three wins.

### **Noble County August 31st**

Cody Hanover made it five-in-a-row, winning in 2:01.2 to highlight the seven-race program. Dustin Bothman and Brendan Johnson each picked up driving doubles.

### **Van Wert County September 1st**

Rock N Republic had the fastest mile on the 12-race program, scoring in 1:58.4 for driver Ronnie Gillespie. Mandy Jones was the winner in the Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series with Sports Band in 2:00.

### **Noble County September 1st**

The team of Brendan Johnson, Clarence Foulk and William Hartt picked up three wins on the seven-race program. Speak Well, Narina Hanover and Imma Be scored again for the trio.

### **Morrow County September 1st**

Chris Presley celebrated his birthday with a driving double on the nine-race program. Jeff Nisonger and Luke Ebersole each had three wins. T Degengold had the fastest time of the day for Nisonger in 1:58.

### **Stark County September 2nd**

Kurt Sugg and Jason Thompson picked up triples on the 11-race card. The fastest was a 2:01.2 mile by McDreamy Again with Thompson driving.

### **Hancock County September 2nd**

It was Jeff Nisonger again leading the way, this time with three wins on the ten-race

program. Designer Specs continued her winning ways with a 2:02.4 victory. She is now a perfect 10-for-10 this season.

### **Stark County September 3rd**

Kurt Sugg and Don Irvine Jr. led all drivers with doubles on the nine-race card. The fastest mile of the day went to Let's Go To Paddys in 2:02 for Sugg.

### **Hancock County September 3rd**

Trainer Christi Noble won both divisions of the three-year-old Pace with her powerful duo of Bargain Shopper and Ubuntu. Bargain Shopper with Dustin Bothman was a winner in 1:59.4, while Jeff Nisonger drove Ubuntu to the win in 1:58.4. Mandy Jones won the Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series with That's Some Plan.

### **Mahoning County September 4th**

Three-year-old trotters and pacers were featured at Mahoning County. The fastest trotter was Lightning Belle. The filly went in 2:03 to win for the fifth time this year. The filly pace went to Rocking Ferrari with Kurt Sugg.

### **Mahoning County September 5th**

The six-race card saw Lancaster Park set a track record in 1:54.3 for driver-trainer Keith Kash. It was Lancaster Park's fifth win of the year.

### **Geauga County September 5th**

Luke Ebersole, Don Irvine Jr and Anthony MacDonald each had two wins on the nine-race card. The fastest of the day was a mile in 2:00.3 in the three-year-old colt pace by Johnny Rockette with MacDonald driving.

### **Richwood Independent Fair September 5th**

An eight-race program saw Scott Cisco the only driver to double up. Medoland Bosa with Chris Presley was the fastest of the day, winning in 1:57.3.

### **Fulton County September 5th**

Seven different drivers collected wins on the seven-race program. Rock N Republic was the fastest in 1:59.1 with trainer-driver Ronnie Gillespie.

### **Washington County September 7th**

Jonas Hershberger had a driving double on the seven-race card. One of his wins included the day's fastest with Imma Be in 2:00.1.

### **Mahoning County September 7th**

Rain and lightning delayed the seven-race

card at Canfield but Wildfire Seelster had the fastest time of the day, 2:00 for Don Irvine Jr. as he won for the ninth time this year.

### **Richwood Independent Fair September 7th**

It was an eight-race card with Hank LeVan, Chris Presley and Jeff Nisonger each collecting doubles.

### **Fulton County September 8th**

Designer Specs made it 11 for 11 this season. The two-year-old filly Trotter came home a winner by 26-1/4 lengths. Eight drivers had wins as the only double went to Art McMurray.

### **Hardin County September 10th**

Jeff Nisonger and Trevor Smith picked up two wins each on the eight-race card. Medoland Scarlet made it three-in-a-row winning in 2:00.4.

### **Hardin County September 11th**

Nisonger made it five wins in two days at Hardin County, picking up a triple. Cameron McCown had a double on the day. McCown guided Snowmoon to the fastest time of the night, pacing the mile in 1:59.3.

### **Morgan County September 11th**

The fastest pacing time on the eight-race card was Cody Hanover in 1:59.4 for trainer-driver Derek Watiker. The fastest trotting time was 2:03.2 by Creekside Pete for Jonas Hershberger.

### **Morgan County September 12th**

Hunter Meyers scored a driving double on the seven-race card. He guided Suzie D to a win in 2:03.2.

### **Montgomery County September 13th**

The Montgomery County Fair races were held at Hollywood Dayton and saw Dan Noble collect five wins with Brett Miller winning four. Miller guided Artful Dancer 1:52.4 and Charlie May 1:55.4 for victories.

### **Wayne County September 15th**

Don Irvine Jr. and Jason Thompson each scored three wins on the 12-race card. The fastest mile was Tootie, winning the three-year-old filly trot in 2:00.1 while Gallant Seelster won on the pacing side in 1:58.4.

The Ohio Fair Finals are scheduled for October 10th at MGM Northfield Park.

# Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

The Little Brown Jug has been my life since 1967. In 1958, as a sophomore at Xenia High School, I went to my first Jug with Fremont Whittington of Bowersville, Ohio. We arrived at the fairgrounds around 6 AM and placed our chairs in front of the grandstand before heading to a church tent for breakfast. It was cold in the early morning hours as the tent flaps were still dropped to make it a bit warmer.

The next step was to get a racing program and try to find all the horses in the Jug. This was difficult because they were spread out all over the barn area. It is easier today because all the horses are located in the Little Brown Jug Barn. The winner that year was Shadow Wave, a beautiful chestnut who was trained and driven by Joe O'Brien.

I continued to attend the Jug every year as a fan until 1967. By then I was announcing many county fairs and the spring meet at The Red Mile. Little did I ever dream that things were about to change drastically on Adios Day 1967 at the Meadows.

Pat Boone purchased the franchise for an ABA team in Los Angeles and hired the announcer of the Jug and The Meadows, Charlie Hinkle, to be the play-by-play announcer for the professional basketball team in California. On that day, Charlie informed Hank Thomson, co-founder of the Little Brown Jug, that he was unable to call the

Jug that year. At that moment, Stan Bergstein told Hank that he could call the Jug but was unable to work the first three days. Corwin Nixon, President of the USTA, told Hank that there was a young kid in Xenia by the name of Huston that could probably do the first three days.

When Hank returned to Delaware that night he called the operator and asked how many Hustons there are in Xenia. There were seven and he started to make calls. The first was to Cecil, who was my father, and the second was to me. The conversation was very short. Hank introduced himself by saying, "I doubt that you know me but I am Hank Thomson." Little did he know that I was quite aware of the name since 1958. He told me that he needed an announcer for the first three days and was sure Stan would want me to call some races on Jug Day. I told him I would definitely fill the void.

I announced the first three days. On Wednesday, Hank apologized that I couldn't call the Jug the next day because of his commitment to Stan. In 1968 the gig was mine, and this year was the 53rd Little Brown Jug for me to announce.

There have been many memorable races in those years. The greatest Jug was won by Wiggle It Jiggleit. The biggest upset was when Nansemond beat Albatross. The most spectacular was with Herve Filion returning



to the winner's circle, standing in the sulky with Hot Hitter.

There is no question that the many trips all over the world are a direct result of announcing The Little Brown Jug. I have announced races in Canada, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Australia, Wales and Ireland. The USA makes it eight countries in my 61 years of doing what I love the most. It has been a joy meeting and working with so many people world-wide, all with a common bond of harness racing.

With Covid-19 this year, it was a strange LBJ for the 75th edition. The crowd of 45,000 was missing and reduced to owners, their guest, trainers and caretakers who race that day, people who care for horses stabled at the fairgrounds, officials, staff and media covering the races.

The 75th LBJ will be forever remembered. If you are like so many who have attended faithfully for years, the streaks were halted with an asterisk for 2020. You might not have Been There, but no doubt you'll hopefully Be There in 2021.

## Buckeye Stallion Series Winners



Elegant Gigi with Ryan Stahl

### August 11th Urbana County Fair

#### Two-Year-Old-Filly Trot

Elegant Gigi with Ryan Stahl led the way, winning in 2:01.4. The Dejambro filly was a winner by seven lengths. Other winners were Charming Nancy (2:04), Forceful Power (2:03) and Forget The Past (2:04.2).

#### Two-Year-Old-Filly Pace

In the two-year-old filly pace the track record was equaled twice. Heavenssofaraway with Dan Noble was a winner in 1:58.1. Later in the card, Noble drove Rockin The Blues to victory in 1:58.1. Other winners were Apple Soozy (1:59.3), Smothastenesewisky (1:58.4) and Pompatuse Of Love (1:58.4).

#### Two-Year-Old-Colt Pace

The two-year-old colt pace had two winners with 1:56.1 performance. Imagine It with Ryan Stahl made it 7 for 8 on the season. Twig with

Chris Page also tripped the wire in 1:56.1. Other winners were Feelin Western (1:57.4), Pine Grove Racer (1:58.4) and Rockinmyshoes (1:59).

### **August 12th MGM Northfield Park Two-Year-Old-Colt Trot**

Jason Thompson took Peter's Royalty to the lead out of the gate and went wire-to-wire in 1:58.3 to win for the fourth time in five starts. Other winners were Grafenberg (2:00.2), Csgoldenchip (1:58.2) and Peacemaker Jim (1:58.1)

### **August 18th Eldorado Scioto Downs Three-Year-Old-Filly Pace**

Bad Ms Johnson grabbed the lead just past the quarter pole and never looked back, winning in a lifetime best of 1:53.1 for Hank LeVan. Other winners included Crowntime Pet (1:53.2) and Narina Hanover (1:53.3).

### **August 19th MGM Northfield Park Three-Year-Old-Filly Trot**

Bange Bi with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. for Trent Stohler came home in the fast time of 1:54.1. Other winners were Tootie (1:55), Graceful Winner (1:55) and Electric Ridge (1:56.2).

### **August 24th MGM Northfield Park Two-Year-Old-Filly Pace**

Smothastenesewisky with Hunter Myers driving remained undefeated in six starts with a lifetime mark 1:53.2. Other winners were Apple Soozy (1:53.3) and Pompatuse of Love (1:54.1).

### **August 25th Eldorado Scioto Downs Three-Year-Old-Colt Trot**

Holton with Kayne Kaufman had the fastest time for the three-year-old trotters, winning in 1:55. Other winners were B Nicking (1:55.1) and Exhibit Class (1:56.1).



Holton with Kayne Kaufman

### **August 29th Eldorado Scioto Downs Three-Year-Old-Colt Pace**

Epic Ace with Chris Page driving for Mike Polhamus recorded the best time of the night, pacing the mile in 1:51.4. Page also drove Opportune Hanover to victory in 1:53.4. Other

winners were Ubuntu (1:53.4) and Snowmoon (1:53.3).

### **September 10th Eldorado Scioto Downs**

#### **Two-Year-Old-Filly Trot**

Charming Nancy made it four-for-four in the BSS, as Aaron Merriman drove her to a wire-to-wire victory in 1:58.2. Other winners included Forceful Power (1:57.1) and Shenzi AS (1:58.4).



Charming Nancy with Aaron Merriman

### **September 12th Eldorado Scioto Downs**

#### **Two-Year-Old Colt Pace**

Jeremy Smith took Twig wire-to-wire to win for the fifth time in six starts in 1:53.4. Other winners were Pine Grove Racer (1:53.3) and Dive Bar (1:56.1).

### **September 20th Delaware County Fair**

#### **Three-Year-Old Colt Trot**

Jeff Nisonger took Big Box Hanover to the lead and never looked back, winning in 1:59. Other winners included Holton (1:58.2), Rose Run Valor (1:57.3) and Rose Run Vindicate (1:57.2).

#### **Three-Year-Old Filly Trot**

Lights Down Low with John DeLong grabbed the lead before the half and pulled away to win by three lengths in 1:57.2. Other winners included Dream Change (1:58.1) and Susie D (1:58).

### **September 21st Delaware County Fair**

#### **Two-Year-Old Filly Pace**

Clara Lou, the second longest shot on the board, was parked most of the way but grabbed the lead at the top of the stretch to win by a head in 1:55.1. She paid \$70.80 to win. Other winners included Lovely Munro (1:55.3), Smothastenesewisky (1:55.3), and Apple Soozy (1:56).

#### **Three-Year-Old Colt Pace**

Medoland Bosa with Chris Presley went wire-to-wire to win in 1:53.4, paying \$26.40 to win.

Other winners included MC Cam (1:54.1) and Epic Ace (1:53).

### **September 22nd Delaware County Fair**

#### **Two-Year-Old Filly Trot**

Sabina and driver-trainer Ray Paver grabbed the lead at the half and rolled to a lifetime mark of 1:57.3, winning for the third time this year. Other winners included Katie's Lucky Day (1:53.3) and Boujee Girl (1:59.2)

### **September 23rd Delaware County Fair**

#### **Two-Year-Old Colt Trot**

Malibu Kid and Dexter Dunn rallied down the stretch in 2:00.1, a new lifetime mark, to win the first division for two-year-old trotters. Other winners included Cellular (2:00), Burrow (2:00) and Dontforgetlittlman (1:58.4).

### **September 24th Delaware County Fair**

#### **Two-Year-Old Colt Pace**

Tim Tetrick took Imagine It to the lead and never looked back on the way to his tenth win in 13 starts. The 1:54.1 was a lifetime mark. Other winners included Brighter Days (1:54.2), Twig (1:54.1) and Rock N Republic (1:54.2)

#### **Three-Year-Old Filly Pace**

Crowntime Pet with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. rallied down the stretch to win by a nose in 1:55. Crowntime Pet paid 28.80 to win. Other winners included Hoochie Girl (1:53.4) and Bigrisk Cruiser (1:54.3).

### **OHHA SENDS OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF**

Barry Armstrong  
Richard Bauder  
Charles Call  
Phil Carroll  
Vivian Farrington  
Barrett Filer  
Jerry Kutschbach  
Joseph (Joby)  
Blake Lanning  
Darryl Maccannell

# Noble wins Scioto Driving Crown

The 2020 driving crown at Eldorado Scioto Downs belongs to Dan Noble. Noble put the finishing touches on the title by winning 12 races during the final weekend to beat Brett Miller for the honors.

Noble went into the final weekend leading Miller by six victories. On Friday night, he cemented the title winning nine races, including five-in-a-row. Noble added three more wins on Saturday night.

For the meet, Noble finished with 154 victories in 820 starts. He added 111 second place finishes and 94 third places finishes for a winning percentage of 18.8% and a Universal Drivers Rating of .301. Noble's winnings totaled \$2,025,478.

Miller finished second in the standings, winning 143 races in 884 starts, earning \$1,838,571.

Chris Page was third with 128 wins in 815 starts, earning \$1,840,680.

Two other drivers, Jeremy Smith and Tyler Smith, surpassed the 100-win mark for the meet. Jeremy Smith recorded 111 wins, while Tyler Smith found the winner's circle 103 times.



Dan Noble wins the 2020 Eldorado Scioto Downs driving title

PHOTO: Brad Conrad

## TRACK NOTES

Tony Hall returned to Northfield Park and drove the Helping Hooves Drivers Relief Fund owned Ida Sophia to victory on August 21. Hall was injured in an accident at Northfield Park on March 16. The accident spurred trainer Bill Rhoades to create the Helping Hooves Drivers Relief Fund to help drivers that are hurt. "We weren't able to help Tony as much as I hoped, but for the future injured drivers we have a nice nest egg building up."



Dragon Striker set a new track record at MGM Northfield Park. PHOTO: JJ Zamaiko Photography

the sixth \$250,000 Carl Milstein Memorial Pace at MGM Northfield Park. Peter Wrenn moved Odds On Osiris on the final turn and was able to get by Ocean Rock for the win. Odds On Osiris, the 2019 Indiana Sires Stakes Champion, is trained by Melanie Wrenn. The 1:50.1 final time was a lifetime best for Odds On Osiris. The race honors Carl Milstein, who owned Northfield Park from 1984 until his death in 1999. The Milstein family operated Northfield Park until July 2018.

The Buckeye David Miller picked up his 13,000th career win. Miller, a Hall of Fame member, became the fifth driver to reach the plateau when he won with Mr. Censi at Harrah's Philadelphia.

Tyler Angus picked up his first driving win at the Lorain County Fair races held in Canfield. Angus drove Ruffy's Desire to victory in 1:57.3.

Dragon Striker set a new track record at MGM Northfield Park. The son of Dragon Again came home in 1:48.4 for Aaron Merriman and trainer Brian Loney. The mile also equaled the world record for aged pacing horses on a half mile track.

Odds On Osiris used a final surge at the wire to nip Ocean Rock in

## OUTSTANDING GROOMS

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association would like to congratulate our Outstanding Grooms Kim Carothers of Circleville and Ali Hudson of Delaware.

Carothers has been with trainer Jim Pollock Jr. since 2019 and started grooming when her father told her to get a job.

Hudson started in 2015 with trainer Tim Lane. She started grooming in high school as part of the equine science program.



Kim Carothers



Ali Hudson

# Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

**Wednesday, August 26, 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 July 8 and July 22, 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 Eldorado Scioto Downs adding four nights back onto the schedule to close on September 12, 2020, and move Super Night to Sunday, September 6th to accommodate the Kentucky Derby and Super Night crowds separately. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway would reduce their schedule to accommodate the transition and will start their live meet on September 14, 2020. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval items and the July 8 and July 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

In other business, the Racing Commission considered the 2020 Mahoning Valley and Delaware County Fair live racing approvals. Mahoning Valley submitted requests to (1) Waive their surety bond for 2020 race meets, (2) Approve list of officials, (3) Approve the number of races and wagering format, (4) Approve post times, (5) Approve their simulcasting schedule, and (6) Approve their letter to the Fire Marshall. Delaware County Agricultural Society requested, (1) Approve simulcast for all races, (2) Approve wagering format, (3) Waiver on administrative rule 3769-15-31(B)(2), and (4) Request two-day detention for Jug and Juliette horses. After enumerating the list as normal and customary, no documents were provided to those in attendance. There were no public comments on the agenda items after request. There was discussion on the Delaware County Fair spectator-less protocols in place, as-of the Racing Commission meeting date. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified all requests.

Consideration of approval for requested 2021 race dates by the permit holders. There was discussion regarding the various statewide racetrack schedules. No public comment when opened for input. After discussion regarding a December date for 2021 schedule consideration being too late in the year for approval, the Agenda Item was tabled until the October Racing Commission meeting.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to August 23, 2020 was provided by Racing Commission Executive Director, William Crawford. 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 last month's report there was one Standardbred, and three thoroughbred fatalities. Year-to-date total catastrophic losses are, twenty Thoroughbred fatalities and three 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). There was no status update on the permit holder and horsemen's agreement negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA).

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. The July revenue was down 39% (approximately, \$94,000), however expenses were also down 11%. Fine money is more than double, year-over-year and testing costs reflect a lower balance. The testing costs reduction is due to timing. Licensing and fingerprinting revenue is higher year-over-year, which Executive Director Crawford felt would level out by year-end. The Operating Fund is at approximately \$2,100,000 with no casino deposits since the January deposit. Year-over-year comparison for the fiscal year is difficult to gauge at this juncture, however the overall loss due to the Pandemic is expected to exceed several hundred thousand dollars.

Commissioner Hansen provided a prospective look at plans for the Medication and Testing Committee. The Committee will move to the next phase of meetings in a virtual environment in November. Discussion topics will include, environmental contaminates, out-of-competition testing, and coming off the veterinarian's list in November.

Commissioner Simpson echoed the prospective look at plans for the Safety Committee meetings to resume. He anticipates virtual meetings to begin in November with examination of a number of safety items. Chairman Borgemenke provided comment on eliminating the head numbers

at standardbred racetracks and review of the whip or crop rule as Safety Committee topics.

The Racing Commission provided an opportunity for Permit Holder and Horseman's Groups' Public Comment. Eldorado Scioto Downs' Joe Morris thanked the Commission for the schedule alteration, discussed eliminating head numbers, and the Scioto signal now being broadcast in HD. Thistledown's Patrick Ellsworth recapped their "Best of Ohio" initiatives and highlighted the Daily Racing Form Race Boost. Mr. Ellsworth felt the added advertising and promotional efforts were pivotal in a record \$1.1M handle for the day. Michael Craig provided the Belterra Park report and thanked the Racing Commission for the accommodation on their live days, to alleviate concerns on attendance for the Kentucky Oaks day. Hollywood Gaming at Dayton's Jason Bluhm outlined details regarding the process of having the paddock structure correctly classified for occupancy purposes. At this time the paddock is categorized as a storage building, which only permits a total maximum occupancy on the main footprint of 179 people. The concern is having to limit the occupancy to 89 people under the COVID-19 restrictions in place. They are in the process of amending the recording with the architects, engineers, and county. They are hopeful that process will be complete by the beginning of the live race meet September 14th. Upon amendment, the expectation is the capacity will be 5-600, which will not require restrictions in the building. Mr. Bluhm will provide an update as soon as possible.

Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA) Executive Director Dave Basler discussed Belterra Park and their export signal approval only being effective through August 31, 2020, with a potential that there will not be an extension on that approval. OHBPA President and Thistledown stable representative, Joe Poole provided insight into concerns the horsemen have at that location. There have been several issues of concern regarding disqualifications of horses not eligible to race, lost or misplaced entries, race re-draws, stakes races missing from the condition book, issues with the ambulance and post-time delays, and races conducted at a distance other than listed in the condition book and program.

OHHA's Executive Director Renée Mancino discussed the pari-mutuel racetrack and county fair racing as the Eldorado Scioto Downs meet and fair racing reach their conclusion for the year. In addition, the recent mixed and yearling sale that was held August 25th at the Springfield Champion Events Center was conducted successfully in the COVID environment. The initial feedback on results from that sale were on par, or up slightly on average over prior year's sales. Horsemen were looking forward to the Buckeye Select Yearling sale, which will be held September 18th at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds in Circleville, with virtual bidding capability.

Consideration to disqualify Attorney John Izzo from representation in case number 2019-18 was discussed. Charles Febus, Assistant Attorney General Charitable Law Section discussed the facts. The Racing Commission moved to disqualify John Izzo's as Dan Noble's Attorney. Removal was based upon two factors, first as a prior governmental employer. Under Ohio's ethics rules an attorney working as a public officer or employee of the government must receive written approv-

al prior to accepting representation of a current client in the same or a substantially related matter adverse to the prior client. John Izzo was formerly the Deputy Director and In-House Attorney for the Racing Commission. While working in that capacity, Mr. Izzo represented the Ohio State Racing Commission in a prior case against Dan Noble that concerned a similar issue. While representing the Ohio State Racing Commission they claim Mr. Izzo acquired confidential communications and had access to confidential information during the prior case that was related to his current representation of Mr. Noble. Consequently, they did not consent to the current representation of Mr. Noble. The commentary clarified this wasn't a denial based upon prior employment only, because Mr. Izzo has appeared on behalf of many Defendants before the Racing Commission since his separation and segue into private practice without challenge from the Racing Commission. There was also discussion relating to referral to the Ohio Supreme Court for disciplinary action for the ethical violation. After discussion the consensus was an ethics report was not necessary. The Racing Commis-

sion unanimously ratified the move to disqualify Mr. Izzo from representation.

In the Matter of Dennis Putman. Blood Sample #880049 on the horse Locked Up Jack from the 6th Race at the Darke County Fair August 21, 2019. Testing by the Analytical Toxicology Laboratory at the Ohio Department of Agriculture on September 5, 2019 revealed a presence of Gabapentin. Mr. Putman appealed the ruling. The Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation after appeal was for a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) fine, a fifteen day full suspension, and a return of the \$500 purse money. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendations.

No Executive Session was needed, so the motion and vote was 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 September 16, 2020. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

## Designer Specs



Designer Specs with Ryan Stahl wins at Delaware Photo: Brad Conrad

When the two-year-old filly trotters stepped on the track for the Putnam County Fair in Ottawa on June 24th, no one could have dreamed what was to take place this season. It was the beginning of what could be an undefeated season for a filly nicknamed "Chubby."

Going into the Ohio fair finals, Saturday, October 10, at MGM Northfield Park, Designer Specs is a perfect 13 for 13 this season. It will be her final start of the year.

The filly was named by breeder Marvin Raber because of a blaze with a dark spot

in the middle. Raber remembers the Full Count-Avalon Hall filly as medium sized and is not surprised by her nickname "Chubby" for her voracious appetite. Raber says, "She was a bit fiery but not bad as a yearling and trotted so easy."

Designer Specs was purchased by Louise Weller at the Buckeye Classic Sale in September 2019, with a final bid of \$13,000.

Her driver, Jay Weller, called her 'Chubby Checkers' because she was a bit hefty. According to owner Louise Weller, she looked more like a "quarter horse than a standardbred."

In that first start at Ottawa, a breaking horse ran into her before the race began. The filly quickly settled but she was 20 lengths behind the leader at the quarter. The margin was ten at the three-quarters

and three at the top of the stretch. She trotted home in 29.3 for the win by a half a length in 2:13.1.

What was to follow were 12 straight wins by over 80 lengths, including a win at Northfield in 2:00 and capped by a 1:58.3 effort at Delaware with Ryan Stahl now in the sulky. In those 13 wins, six occurred in a 25-day period of 7/23 thru 8/16. In the last 8 starts the filly has gone wire-to-wire. One of the wins was by 26-1/4 lengths at Wauseon on 9/18.

At the conclusion of the fair season she was tops in points for the two-year-old filly trot, at 663 and earnings of \$36,664.

Owner Louise Weller says, "Her performance this year has been phenomenal. Jay and I, as well as trainer Jenny have been so pleased with how she's performed and just makes it look easy. She really is a happy horse who absolutely loves what shes doing. She is truly Weller Racing Stables' once-in-a-lifetime kind of horse. We are so happy to represent the smaller operations of our business."



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

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Kyle Ater  
MacKenzie Ater  
Ernie Ayers  
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Jayne Weller  
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Steven Zeehandelaar  
Cynthia Zirkle

## Lems picks up win 2,000

Driver Chris Lems joined the 2,000-win club after winning with Hot Shot Hill on August 28th at MGM Northfield Park.

Lems went three-wide down the back stretch and drew away to win by 6 ¾ length in 1:55. Hot Shot Hill paid \$22.20 to win.

The 33-year-old Lems began his career in 2003 with three wins in 34 drives. His best year was 2019 with 283 wins and earnings of \$2,069,442. The native of Sioux Falls, SD has had five straight million dollar seasons, two of those he reached the two million dollar mark and now has over \$14.5 million in purse earnings.

Lems drove his first race in 2003 at the Canon Fair. He finished third with Beyond Bold. Later that month, he won for the first time in his career at the Oskaloosa Fair behind Beyond Bold.

Lems raced in New York for most of his career but moved his talents to Ohio in 2017.

Lems says he appreciates the drives owners and trainers have offered him. "There have been many people that have given me opportunities and I thank them all."



Lems receives his 2,000 win sign from MGM Northfield Park Assistant General Manager Mike Colacarro



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association  
 2237 Sonora Dr.  
 Grove City, OH 43213

### 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.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**OCTOBER 22ND**

4th Quarter Board Meeting  
 Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association  
 OHHA Office, 2237 Sonora Dr.,  
 Grove City, OH

**OHIO RACING SCHEDULE**

MGM Northfield Park  
 Current through December 30  
 Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway  
 Current through December 30