

THE BUCKEYE
Harness Horseman

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The Official Publication of the
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

**GABBYS
C NOTE**

Looks to Repeat
as Sires Stakes
Champion





\$150,000 NEXT GENERATION

MONDAY, JULY 4
POST TIME 3:15PM

FEATURING 4 DIVISIONS OF 2-YEAR-OLD OHIO SIRE



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Table of Contents

- 4 Filly Champions Shine in Ohio Sires Stakes First Leg
- 7 First Leg Of Buckeye Stallion Series In The Books
- 10 Charlie May Shines in 4-Year-Old Debut
- 12 Ohio Mares Head East/Herculisa Shocks Atlanta in Miss Versatility
- 13 Action Uncle To Stand Stud
- 14 Monte Miki Retired After Sustaining Tendon Tear/Condolences
- 15 Miller, Burke Win Titles at Miami Valley/Driver Milestones
- 16 Outstanding Grooms
- 17 Track Notes
- 18 Scioto Downs to Race During Construction
- 20 20 Questions with Chris Lems
- 22 Be There!/Gaming Revenue Rises Again
- 24 A Life Powered by Love
- 26 Ohio FFA Converges on Columbus
- 28 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors/Ohio Breeders Award Requirements
- 29 Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap
- 30 Regularly Scheduled Safety Committee Meeting Recap

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FILLY CHAMPIONS SHINE IN *Ohio Sires Stakes First Leg*



Sea Silk **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Two of last year's divisional winners wasted no time as they set out to try and repeat as Ohio champions. Two-year-old filly trotting champion Gabbys C Note and pacing champion Sea Silk were easy winners in the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes at Miami Valley on May 1.

When the two-year-old colts took the track, three of the four race favorites came out on top.

A total of eight Sires Stakes races went to the gate in leg one, with each carrying a purse of \$55,000.



Kirsi Dream **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Three-Year-Old Filly Trotters

In the first Sires Stakes race of the year, Kirsi Dream with Tony Hall fired at the start and took the lead, covering the first quarter in 28.2. Kirsi Dream gave way to Toes In The Water, the 4-5 favorite, who held the lead heading into the stretch.

As the field headed to the final turn, Hall popped the pocket and Kirsi Dream took control at the top of the stretch, pulling away to win by three and a half lengths tripping the wire in 1:54.4. Brekkenridge with Aaron Merriman was second, while Toes In The Water and Trace Tetrick finished third.

The daughter of Uncle Peter won for the second time this year and with the win has earned \$31,250 this year. Kirsi Dream is trained by Miles Wollam and is owned by Dark Horse Farms.

In the second trotting division, Aaron Merriman took Gabbys C Note to the lead at the quarter pole in :28.3 and the 2-5 favorite never looked back. Gabbys C Note cov-



Gabbys C Note **Photo:** Brad Conrad

ered the half in :58.3 and the three-quarters in 1:27 and pulled away down the stretch to win in 1:55.2.

Favorite Aunt with Brett Miller was second by a head over Toast The Host and Trace Tetrack.

Gabbys C Note won for the second time in three starts pushing her earnings to \$50,000. The Uncle Peter filly is trained by Chris Beaver. Beaver co-owns Gabbys C Note along with his mother Johanna and Steve Zehandelar.

Three-Year-Old Filly Pacers

In the first division for the filly pacers, it took a photo finish to decide the winner as Secret Side Piece, Cape Cod Hanover, and Do It Like Bobbi hit the line together.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. raced Twenty to the lead covering the first quarter in :27. Twenty gave up the lead to stablemate and 4-5 favorite Cape Cod Hanover and Chris Page as they hit the half in :55.3.



Secret Side Piece **Photo:** Brad Conrad

The field bunched up down the back stretch with Cape Cod Hanover holding on to a slight lead over Do It Like Bobbi at three-quarter pole. As they turned for home, Cape Cod Hanover started to pull away.

Cam McCown and Secret Side Piece were sitting sixth and kicked it in

gear heading home. The daughter of Downbytheseaside pulled three-wide around the final turn and stormed down the lane covering the final quarter in :27.3, catching the favorite at the wire in a new lifetime mark of 1:51.4 for her first win of the season. Do It Like Bobbi finished third.

Trained by Brian Brown and owned by Black Magic Racing, Secret Side Piece won for the third time in her career and raised her lifetime earnings to \$135,449.

In the final division for the sophomore filly pacers, Sea Silk made it look easy as the 1-9 favorite. The daughter of Downbytheseaside set a new track record winning in 1:50.2 in her seasonal debut.

Chris Page and Sea Silk let Dragon's Revenge and Cold Hearted Gypsy take the lead, before reeling them in and grabbing the lead at the half in :54.3.

Sea Silk maintained her lead at the three-quarter pole in 1:22.3 and pulled away down the stretch to win by two lengths. Dragon's Revenge was second, while Coastal was third.

Sea Silk is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver-Bruscemi, Knox Services, and Hatfield Stables. The win was her tenth in 12 lifetime starts and pushed her earnings of \$611,592.

Three-Year-Old Colt Trotters

In the first division of sophomore trotting colts, Doo Wop Kid set a new lifetime mark as he was the only non-favorite to win in leg one.

Starting from the rail, Tony Hall settled Doo Wop Kid in the pocket behind What The Blaze and Dan Noble.

What the Blaze set fractions of :27, :57.1, and 1:25.4 only to see Doo Wop Kid make a move at the three-quarter pole and blow past the race leader.

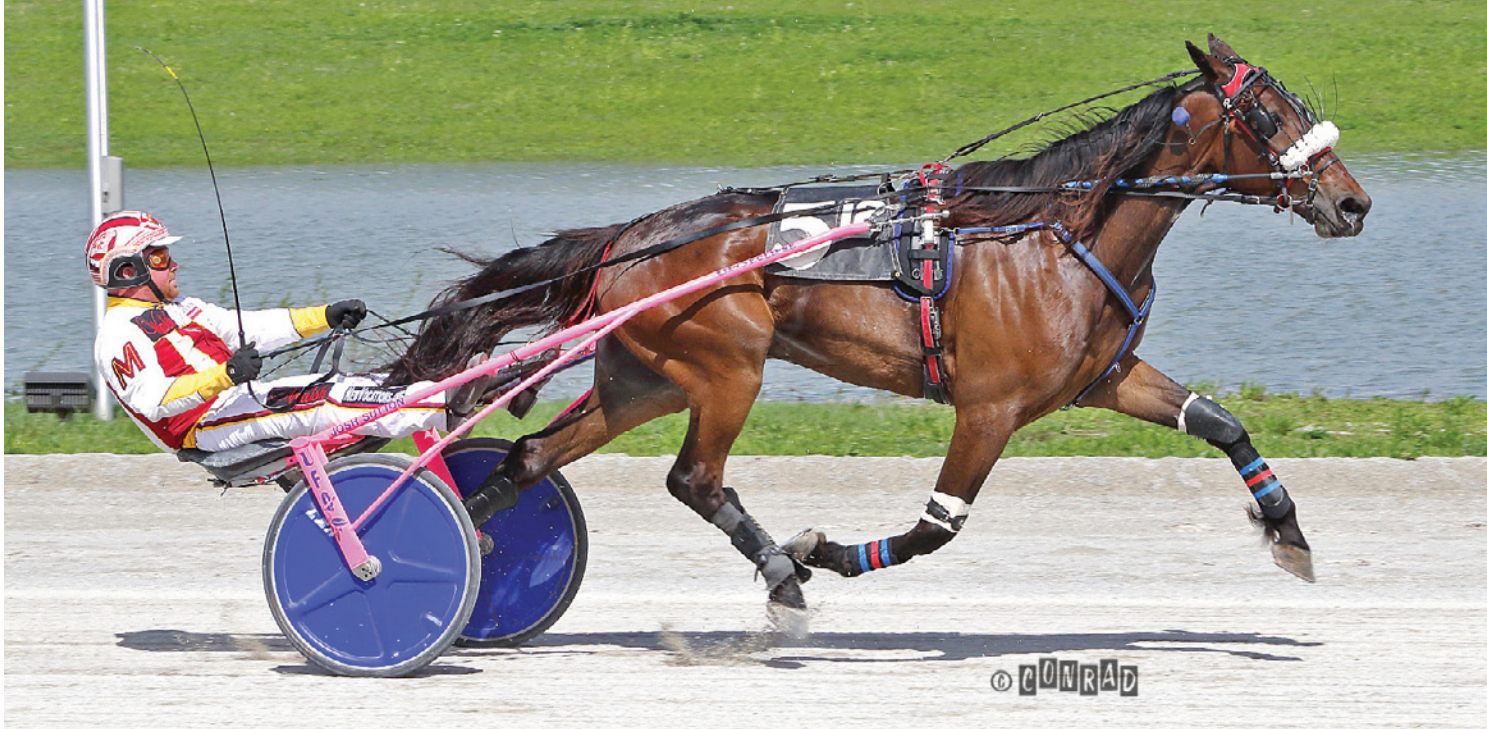


Doo Wop Kid **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Race favorite Rose Run Xtra and Chris Page tracked Doo Wop Kid down the stretch but could get no closer than a length. Doo Wop Kid crossed the line in 1:54.3 to win by a length and a quarter. Gabbys Bit Coin finished third.

The victory was the first in six starts this year for Doo Wop Kid and trainer Dalton Walls.

The son of Wishing Stone is owned by Walls and Bruce Soulsby. Prior to \$27,500 payday, the largest purse won by Doo Wop Kid was \$5,000 from his maiden victory last year.



Caviar Gold **Photo:** Brad Conrad

In the second division, Caviar Gold showed why he was the 2-5 favorite. Aaron Merri-man took the son of Triumphant Caviar to the lead at the start, yielding the lead at the quarter pole to Motto and Tyler Smith in 28.2.

Caviar Gold immediately retook the lead and never looked back, cruising to a two-and-a-quarter length victory in 1:54.0. Caviar Gold was the only winner not to set or tie a lifetime mark, missing by just a fifth of a second.

Motto hung on for second while Chulo finished third.

Trained by Chris Beaver, Caviar Gold is owned by Beaver, Bill Manes, Leo Fleming, and Steve Zeehandelar.

The win was Caviar Gold's second in three starts this year. He finished second in the other. With the win, Caviar Gold pushed his lifetime earnings to \$146,500.



Barry's Berries **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Three-Year-Old Colt Pacers

In the first division for the pacing colts, Tony Hall picked up his second Sires Stakes win of the day as he took even money favorite, Barry's Berries to the lead and cruised to an eight-length victory in 1:50.1. Seaside Way finished second with Sling Shock finishing third.

Barry's Berries cut fractions of 27.2, 55.2, and 1:23.1 and finished with a final quarter of :27.0 to win for the third time in four starts this year. With the win he has now earned \$62,500 this year.

The son of Downbytheseaside is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci, Knox Services, and J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby.

In the final OSS race of the first leg, Bythemissal and Chris Page waited until just past the half-mile pole to make their move. Page pulled with cover and rolled down the back stretch going three-wide to grab the lead at the three-quarter mark in 1:23.2.



Bythemissal **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Bythemissal, by Downbytheseaside, cruised down the stretch to win by two-lengths in 1:51.1, a new lifetime mark. Terminator finished second with Risenshine Seaside finishing third.

Bythemissal has won his three lifetime starts, two this year and one last year.

The win was the second of the day for Burke. Bythemissal is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Eric Good, Rich Lombardo Racing, and Weaver Brusceci.

Ohio Sires Stakes action resumes June 4 at Eldorado Scioto Downs as three-year-old filly pacers will square off in the second leg. The sophomore colt pacers will compete in the second leg on June 11 at MGM Northfield Park. Filly trotters will head to Scioto Downs for the second leg on June 17, while the colt trotters will wrap up the second leg at Scioto Downs on June 25.

First Leg Of Buckeye Stallion Series In The Books



Prancing Queen **Photo:** Brad Conrad

As the calendar turned to May, the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series got underway at Miami Valley Raceway. Three-year-old fillies took the stage May 1, while the colts hit the track on May 2 and 3. A total of 23 divisions went to the gate with each race featuring a purse of \$17,500 for a total purse of \$402,000 for the first leg.

Ninety-six trainers sent 205 horses to the gate, setting their sights on the Buckeye Stallion Series crown. Virgil Morgan Jr. led all trainers with 14 starters, followed by Ron Burke's 11 starters.

Three-Year-Old Filly Pacers

The first Buckeye Stallion Series race of 2022 went to Factory Girl with Tony Hall. Factory Girl topped Fantasy Life by a neck in 1:53.2. Bowery finished third, giving Downbytheseaside daughters a sweep of the trifecta. Factory Girl is trained by Steve Walters for owners Lone Wolf Stable and Tar Heel Racing.

Dan Noble drove Sleepwithoneyeopen to victory in the second division, besting Nevada Rock and Pronto Tonto. The daughter of Well Said covered the mile in 1:54.3 for her second career win. Sleepwithoneyeopen is trained by Clarence Foulk for the Foulk Stable and William Hartt.

Noble went back-to-back in the pacing division, as he steered Prancing Queen to the fastest time among the sophomore filly pacers, winning in 1:52.1. Mrs Teachy was second and Love Me Hill was third. The daughter of Downbytheseaside set a new lifetime

mark, taking four seconds off the old mark for trainer Scott Cox who co-owns the filly with Jason Ash and B.C. Parent.

A second set of Downbytheseaside daughters swept the fourth pacing division as Allnight Micki with Mike Wilder led Seaside Flirt and Mermaid By The Sea across the line in 1:54.1. Tim Twaddle trains Allnight Micki for the Micki Rae Stables.

When You Kiss Me and Tyler Smith were heavy odds-on favorites and did not disappoint, winning in 1:53.2 for trainer Jeff Smith. The daughter of Arthur Blue Chip beat Coach Keri and Party Cruiser to the line to win for owners Bet The House.

The final pacing division for the fillies went to Spitting Image and Chris Page. Ocean Music and Mcwitched rounded out the top three. Trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Brusceci, Spitting Image won for the third time this year.



Alana Hill **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Three-Year-Old Filly Trotters

Five divisions of trotters went to the gate with Virgil Morgan Jr. winning two of the five.

In the first division, Morgan picked up the first of his two wins when Alana Hill lowered her lifetime mark to 1:55.4. The time was the fastest among the filly trotters. The daughter of What The Hill with Brett Miller in the bike took the lead before the half-mile mark and won easily by 3¾ lengths over Sweet On Pete and LB's Legacy. Alana Hill is owned by GC Gold Racing, Walnut View Farm and J.J. Schlabach.

Gracious Triumph with Don Irvine Jr. was an upset winner over Rosanna and Madame Madelyn in the second split. Trainer Rosy Weaver and Heartland Acres co-own the daughter of Triumphant Caviar who broke her maiden with the win. The 17-1 longshot tripped the wire in 1:59.3.

Favorite I'll Annie Up with Chris Page picked up her first win of the season as she rallied down the stretch to nip Toscano Girl at the wire. The Ron Burke trainee sired by Uncle Peter was a winner in 1:59.2, a new lifetime mark. Onetwoskipafew finished third. It was Burke's second BSS win in the first leg. I'll Annie Up is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci, J&T Silva Stables and Joe Sbrocco.

Lady Is Great and Mike Wilder raced from the outside post position and was an upset winner in 1:58.2. The daughter of Creatine corralled Queen's Future and Miss Cowboy Star in the stretch to pick up the win for trainer Matthew Burkholder. Lady Is Great is owned by Acadia Farms.

In the final division for the filly trotters, Morgan picked up his second win of the day when Lady Camryn and Mitchell Cushing got the best of Wegothatsright and Flawless Wish in 1:58. Joyce

McClelland owns the daughter of What The Hill who was making her 2022 debut.

Three-Year-Old Colt Trotters

There were also five divisions for the colt trotters in the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series.

Hustlenomics and Trevor Smith picked up his first win of the year in four starts. The son of Full Count went gate to wire to win in 1:56.2, a new lifetime mark, for trainer Todd Luther and Black Magic Racing. Still On Gap and Pine Rocket completed the top three.

Creatine Star and Brett Miller also went gate to wire to win the second division and break his maiden in 1:56.3. Trained by Virgil Morgan Jr., the son of Creatine beat My Guy Wrapsitup by three-quarters of length while Prince Of Sussex finished third. Creatine Star is owned by Carl Howard, Joyce McClelland, and Larry Wills.



Surgeonemoretime **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Miller and Morgan Jr. teamed up to win the next division with Surgeonemorettime, who sped to a 1:55.3 clocking to just eek out the victory over favored All Gas No Brakes and Floyd Of Rosedale. Surgeonemorettime was sitting fifth at the half, eight lengths back and rallied to win. Jesmeral Stable owns the son of Uncle Peter who won for the first time in five lifetime starts.

Uncle Leon gave Brett Miller his third BSS win topping Said N Done AS and Striking Count in 1:56.1. Fresh off a maiden victory at Miami Valley, Uncle Leon won for the second time in as many starts. Dustin Arledge trains the son of Uncle Peter and co-owns with Gregory Clark, Mary Thompson, and Tamara Hoovler.

The final division was captured by Phantom Tom and Trace Tetrick in 1:57. Phantom Tom charged down the lane to Catch Mo Bay and Dirty Money at the wire. The victory was the first of the year for Phantom Tom who is trained by Scott Cox. Jughead Stables, G. Peters, and David Lindsey own the son of Long Tom.

Three-Year-Old Colt Pacers

The final day of the first leg saw sophomore colt pacers take the stage with seven divisions.

The seven winning horses came from seven different barns and were steered by six different drivers with Brett Miller picking up the only driving double.

Fluff Yeahh and Trevor Smith won for the second time this year as the Pet Rock colt nipped Odds On Capitalism at the wire in 1:54.4. Dragon Storm finished third. Bret Schwartz trains and co-owns with Lee Bean and Nick Fulkerson.

Miller got his first BSS win of the day behind Shane Falco as the half brother to Ohio Horse of the Year Charlie May rolled to a two-length victory in a lifetime mark of 1:53.2. Noblesunsetcruise and Dakota Pearl completed the trifecta. Owned by Don Tiger and trained by Steve Carter, Shane Falco has now earned over \$50,000 in his career.

Dan Noble drove Self Made to his first victory of the year in 1:53.3. The son of Fear The Dragon bested Dragthechipsmyway and Dirge in the third split. Ron Potter trains for the Last Laugh LLC Stable.



Fearful Intent **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Fearful Intent gave Miller his second BSS win of the day in the fastest of the seven BSS races for sophomore colt trotters. In his second lifetime start, Fearful Intent was parked in sixth place at the three-quarter pole but paced the final quarter in :28.2 to catch

Universal and Robin's Art down the stretch in 1:52.4. Kelly O'Donnell trains for owner and breeder Emerald Highland Farms.

In a battle of Downbytheseaside sons, Bettor By Seaside held off Seaside Hanover to win by three-quarters of a length in 1:53. Bettor By Seaside won for the second time despite his overcheck slipping off halfway through the race. Dean Glispie conditions Bettor By Seaside for the Always Finish Second Stable. Mr. Nuttin Nice finished third.

Our Holy Terror and Kurt Sugg found their way to the winner's circle in the next to last division. Our Holy Terror went three-wide at the three-quarter pole to grab the lead and held on to win by a head over Rose Run Xiled and Whatchawigglinwith in 1:53. Bill Webb bred, trains, and owns the Western Terror colt, who notched a trio of county fair wins as a freshman.

The final division produced the biggest upset as Dirty Harry Too and Tony Hall found the sloppy track to his liking to win in 1:54.4. The son of Nob Hill High upset Sea Luck and Medoland Terror for trainer Mark Winters Jr. and the Jr Stable LLP.

Action in the Buckeye Stallion Series shifts to Scioto Downs for the second leg of the three-year-old filly pace on June 3. The three-year-old colt pacers are back in action June 10 at Scioto Downs.

Northfield Park will host the sophomore filly trotters on June 18 and the colt trotters on June 26.

(From Miami Valley reports)

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Charlie May starts his 4-year-old campaign with a bang. **Photo:** Lisa Photo

CHARLIE MAY SHINES IN 4-YEAR-OLD DEBUT

BY DAVE LITTLE, MEADOWLANDS MEDIA RELATIONS

When it came to the Saturday night feature April 30 at The Meadowlands, track announcer Ken Warkentin said it best: “Charlie May came to play!”

The 2021 Ohio Horse of the Year made a huge splash in his 4-year-old debut, powering off cover in mid-stretch to take the \$31,500 Open Handicap for pacers in a lifetime-best 1:48.3.

“It’s interesting because every season he’s won his first race of the year,” said Charlie May’s owner Don Tiger. “It’s pretty cool. He surprised me tonight. I knew he’d be very good, but those were Invitational pacers he was facing with starts under their belts. We raced him conservatively, but the horse has his own mind. He doesn’t like to lose.”

After a 3-year-old campaign that saw him battle the likes of Perfect Sting, Lous Pearlman and Abuckabett Hanover, Charlie May won 10-of-22 starts and banked a hair under \$880,000, and off a pair of winning qualifiers at Miami Valley Raceway, the gelded son of McArdle-Stipple Hanover, who is trained by Steve Carter, was more than ready at first asking for his third season of racing.

A year ago, it was Perfect Sting gunning down Charlie May in the Oct. 30 Breeders Crown for driver Dave Miller, so it was ironic that Miller was piloting Charlie May – for the first time ever – to kick off 2022.

“I got asked to drive him and was glad to get to race him,” said the Hall of Famer. “We were going to race him from the end of it and I was able to sit quite a ways. We got some cover and he did the rest.”

Charlie May was away fifth in the early going as No Lou Zing and American History slugged it out to the quarter in :26.1 before American History made a second move to command and hit the half in :54.3. Miller moved Charlie May off the rail at the five-eighths and quickly picked up live cover from Backstreet Shadow.

American History was clear by 3 lengths at three-quarters in 1:21.4 as Charlie May continued second-over with Let It Ride N, in hot pursuit in the live flow right behind the eventual winner.

Charlie May was tipped off his cover with an eighth-of-a-mile to go and steamrolled past the field, hitting the wire 1½-lengths in front of Backstreet Shadow. Vettel N was third. Let It Ride N, the 3-5 favorite, didn’t fire off cover and finished in a dead-heat for fourth in the six-horse field.

In raising his lifetime stats to 18 wins from just 32 starts, Charlie May padded his earnings to \$1,223,777. He returned \$8.00 to his backers as the 3-1 second choice in the wagering.

“We have our schedule all mapped out, and we will show some loyalty to Ohio” said Tiger. “We’ll go to the Dan Patch because that is a neighboring state (Indiana). We’ll finish up in the Breeders Crown (at Woodbine Mohawk Park). But we’ll be at The Meadowlands for a good chunk of races.”

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OHIO MARES HEAD EAST

Five mares with Ohio connections headed to the Meadowlands to take part in the first leg of the Graduate Series for 4-year-old mares.



In the only division for trotting mares, Katie's Lucky Day and Herculisa finished first and third, while in the pace, Oakwood Annabella IR finished second.

Herculisa trained by Virgil Morgan Jr. and fresh off her win in the Miss Versatility, fired to the lead and covered the first quarter in :27.2 with Todd Luther's Katie's Lucky Day sitting second.

As the field headed to the half mile, Bella Bellini took over the lead with Herculisa in second and Katie's Lucky Day sitting third. The three stayed in that order until the top of the stretch when David Miller and Herculisa popped the pocket. Tim Tetrick followed with Katie's Lucky Day and blasted past the two to win by 2¼ lengths.

Katie's Lucky Day tripped the wire in 1:50, the fastest mile of the year by a trotter regardless of age or sex.

"She gives 110 percent every time she goes out," said Luther. "She loves a target. Loves to run them down. She hit a whole other gear that I've never seen from her. There wasn't a lot of urging from Timmy [Tetrick] and I think she had a little left in the tank."

Katie's Lucky Day is co-owned by Black Magic Racing and Patrick Hoopes. She next heads to the Maxie Lee Invitation Memorial at Harrah's Philadelphia.

In the Graduate pace, Brian Brown trainee Oakwood Annabella IR grabbed the lead just past quarter pole but Test Of Faith moved to the lead at the half in :55.1.

Oakwood Annabella IR battled back down the stretch but could not reel in the 2021 Horse of the Year finishing second by a neck. The winning time was 1:49.4.

Brown knew Test Of Faith was the horse to beat, but remains confident in Annabella.

"She's very tough, very game, has speed. You can do anything you want with her," said Brown when asked about Oakwood Annabella IR continuing on the Grand Circuit this season. "She'll represent all of us really well."

In the other division of the pace, Black Magic Racing's Off The Record went off as the longest shot on the board and finished fifth, while Always Be Laughin, owned by James Morris of Chillicothe, Ohio finished last.

HERCULISA

SHOCKS ATLANTA

IN MISS VERSATILITY

Herculisa, the Ohio Three-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year, took the show on the road to the Meadowlands and turned some heads winning a division in the first leg of the Miss Versatility series.

Atlanta, who has earned over \$3 million in her career was the overwhelming favorite while Herculisa went off at 12-1 the fourth choice among the aged mares.

At the start, Dexter Dunn took Herculisa to the lead but settled into the pocket behind Royalty Deal.

Around the final turn Atlanta made her move from third and roared past Herculisa and Royalty Deal to take the lead at the top of the stretch. The Virgil Morgan Jr. trained Herculisa was not fazed as Dunn followed Atlanta around Royalty Deal and set sights on the favorite.

Herculisa turned on the jets covering the final quarter in :25.4 and catching Atlanta at the wire to win by a neck.

The win was Herculisa's second in as many starts this year. She has now won 14 of 22 lifetime starts.



Action Uncle 2020 Ohio Horse of the Year
Photo: Brad Conrad



Action Uncle's connections celebrate winning the 2020 Ohio Sires Stakes Left to Right: Carl Howard, Brian Southward, Dick McClelland, Larry Wills, Virgil Morgan Jr., Brett Miller, Steve Jarmuz, Senior Vice resident and General Manager Eldorado Scioto Downs.

ACTION UNCLE TO STAND STUD

Action Uncle's return to the track after a year off due to injury was short lived.

The 2020 Ohio Horse of the Year made his return to Miami Valley and raced just three times before reinjuring a coffin bone that kept him out last season.

"He refractured the coffin bone in the same spot," said trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. "He will be going to stud."

In 19 lifetime starts, Action Uncle hit the board in all but one race. He finishes his career with 13 wins, three seconds and two thirds. He earned \$595,175.

Action Uncle is a two-time Ohio Triple Crown winner, having won the Ohio Sires Stakes, the Ohio Fair Stakes and the Ohio Breeders Championship as both a two and three-year-old.

Owned by Carl Howard, Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills, the son of Uncle Peter currently holds two world records. Action Uncle holds the mark for 2-year-old trotters on a half mile track, a mark of 1:54, set at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. He also holds the three-year-old mark of 1:52.4, also set at Delaware.

Morgan says no decision has been made on where Action Uncle will stand stud, "Obviously in Ohio."

MONTE MIKI RETIRED AFTER SUSTAINING TENDON TEAR

BY DAVE LITTLE, MEADOWLANDS MEDIA RELATIONS

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ – Monte Miki, the Dan Patch Award winner as the top 2-year-old male pacer of 2021, has been retired, according to his trainer, Mark Evers.

“He’s got a tear on the side of his tendon and is going to stud,” said Evers. “We were devastated. He had a little bump on the side of his tendon, and he had a 20 percent tear after we worked him the Friday before last.”

Evers was looking forward to a big 3-year-old campaign for the son of Always B Miki-Montenegro, who won six-of-seven starts a year ago, good for earnings of \$665,276, by far tops in his division.

“It’s disappointing, that’s for sure,” said Evers. “He had a lot of talent, but there are a couple of breeding farms interested in him and we are currently in negotiations.”

Monte Miki took home divisional honors on the strength of two major stakes wins – the \$650,960 Metro at Woodbine Mohawk Park in 1:52.2 and \$600,000 Breeders Crown at The Meadowlands in 1:53.2. After being driven in his first three starts (all wins) by Josh Sutton, Scott Zeron was in the bike for the remainder of the season.

Owned by Velocity Standardbreds, ‘Miki’ took his lifetime mark of 1:50.4 in a Breeders Crown Elimination at The Big M.



Monte Miki won the 2-Year-Old Colt Pacing Breeders Crown **Photo Credit:** Lisa Photo

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MILLER, BURKE WIN TITLES AT MIAMI VALLEY



Photo Caption: Leading trainer and driver awards were made on Closing Day of the Miami Valley meet. On hand were OHHA rep Brett Merkle, Racing Manager Larry Alexander, Assistant General Manager Gary DeWitt, second trainer Jason Irwin of the Ron Burke Stable, leading driver Brett Miller, Director of Racing Ken Rambo and Race Secretary Gregg Keidel. **Photo Credit:** Brad Conrad

When the curtain closed on racing at Miami Valley, driver Brett Miller and trainer Ron Burke finished at the top of the standings.

Miller won the driving title for the third time in four years winning 147 races during the 87 day meet, Burke won 59 races to claim his second title.

Miller was one of six drivers to win more than 100 races. Trace Tetrick finished second in the standings, winning 139 races. Dan Noble (127), Chris Page (123), Tony Hall (109) and Tyler Smith (109) were the other drivers to hit the century mark.

Eight different drivers earned over \$1 million in purses during the meet.

Burke's 59 winners was good for just over \$1 million in purse earnings.

Tyler George finished in second place among trainers with 41 wins. Rounding out the top five were Jason Brewer (34), Virgil Morgan Jr. (28) and Christi Noble (28).

(From Miami Valley Reports)

Driver Milestones

Kurt Sugg crossed the 30-million-dollar earning mark when he finished fifth with Champagne Line on April 30 at Northfield Park. The 52-year-old Sugg started driving in 1986. Earlier this year he picked up his 5,000th win.

Kayne Kauffman picked up his 1,000th training win at Eldorado Scioto Downs on May 13. Kauffman drove his wife Natalie's horse, Rose Run Valor, to the wire-to-wire victory. Kauffman began his training career in 1999 and now has earnings over \$7 million.



Kayne Kauffman **Photo Credit:** Brad Conrad



Kurt Sugg **Photo Credit:** Raymond Lance

OUTSTANDING GROOMS



Theresa Brown

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association would like to congratulate this month's Outstanding Grooms

Theresa Brown and Ann Tiberio.

Brown was introduced to harness racing through trainer Mike Sweeney a decade ago. While living in Michigan, Brown and Sweeney were neighbors. He later became her first boss. Today, Brown works for Todd Luther. Outside of racing, Brown takes a lot of pride in raising her daughter.

Tiberio is a caretaker for Norman Rae Racing in Xenia and is trainer Christi Noble's mother. Originally from New York, Tiberio was introduced to harness racing through marriage. After some time away from the barn, she is happy to be back. Tiberio values bonding with her horses the most. Her daughter credits her with a gentle hand and being best with troublesome fillies. In her free time, Tiberio enjoys cooking and caring for her grandchildren.

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TRACK NOTES

Smoking Jet added his name to the MGM record book when he tied the track record for 5-year-old gelding trotters. Smoking Jet with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. went wire-to-wire in 1:52.4 to win by seven lengths. Owned by Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci and Chris Page. Smoking Jet has now amassed \$141,952 in career earnings with 14 victories in 71 starts. The record is also held by Joggingtothebank (Kurt Sugg, 2020) and Winning Shadow (Chris Lems, 2021).

Winning Shadow was on a roll at MGM Northfield Park. The seven-year-old gelded son of Winning Credit won six straight and seven out of eight before heading to Eldorado Scioto Downs. The streak came to an end May 15 when Winning Shadows finished sixth after being assigned the ninth post position. Winning Shadow is trained by Jordan Hope, driven by Chris Lems and owned by Racing To Win Stables.

Cody Hanover ran his winning streak to five. In ten starts during the Miami Valley meet, the five-year-old gelded pacer has won eight of ten races and earned \$99,750. Dan Noble drives the son of Dragon Again while Andre Nared trains for owner Lionel Watiker.

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. had a couple of big days in April, winning seven races twice. Wrenn won seven times on April 18 at Northfield Park, then did it again on April 23, driving at The Meadows and Northfield. Wrenn won four in Pennsylvania before finishing the night with three at Northfield Park. Aaron Merriman was a winner six times at Northfield on April 13, while Brett Miller had six wins at Miami Valley on April 19.



Smoking Jet **Credit:** Casilnova Photo



Winning Shadow **Credit:** Casilnova Photo



Cody Hanover **Credit:** Brad Conrad

Scioto Downs to **RACE**
During Construction





When fans go to Scioto Downs this summer, things will be a little different.

The grandstand is gone, construction equipment is all around, there is no winner's circle and the area for fans has been reduced. A few inconveniences, but in the future Scioto's Director of Racing Jason Roth is looking to. "While the facility and atmosphere will be a lot different for our fans and horsemen, we all know it's to work towards a better and brighter future."

Crews are now working to ready the site for a new grandstand that will be completed in time for the 2023 racing season. "Construction will be on-going this summer each day until 2:30 p.m.," explained Joseph Morris, Senior Vice President of Racing for Caesars Entertainment. "We will have afternoon posts all season long so we can complete the card before it gets dark."

Without a grandstand, temporary accommodations had to be made for race officials, the photo finish, television cameras, and the announcer. Temporary pods were erected in the winner's circle.

Roth says the clubhouse will be open each day but due to limited seating, reservations are encouraged for the clubhouse. "Reservations will be taken but must be pre-paid for Saturdays when there will be a Clubhouse buffet."

Patio seating in front of the clubhouse will be available with a new bar and additional seating added on the south end of the clubhouse.

Scioto Downs will race 90 days of live racing Tuesdays through Saturday. Special race cards on Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Labor Day will take the place of Tuesday racing those weeks.

Stakes action includes The Next Generation (for Ohio sired 2-year-olds), Ohio State Fair Stakes, the #SendItIn and Cleopatra Invitationals, and the Charlie Hill Memorial Trot & Jim Ewart Memorial Pace. There will also be Ohio Sires Stakes and Buckeye Stallion Series action. Scioto Downs will host the Ohio Sires Stakes Veterans Championships on September 3.

Opening day created a buzz in the industry, as a new \$25,000 guaranteed Pick 8 wagering option backed by a partnership between Scioto Downs and the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association was unveiled.

Caesar's Director of Racing Gabe Prewitt says it's a unique wager that he doesn't believe has been seen in harness racing. "In a

sport that routinely has a 40-plus percentage of winning favorites, the guarantee allows fans to have a shot at a home run score if they are successful."

It didn't take long for fans to knock one out of the park as five winning tickets worth \$4,250 each were paid out on the first day.

All eight winners on the tickets were race favorites.

"It was a great reward for those that put together a very formful ticket with eight consecutive winning favorites," said Prewitt.

The \$1 minimum wage with a 15% takeout will have a 50% carryover net pool into the follow day with a 50% consolation payout to the best ticket.

Racing at Scioto Downs will continue through September 17th. All race days will have a 3:15 PM first race post time.



Rocksette & Josh Sutton take the last leg of the opening night Pick 8. **Photo:** Brad Conrad

20 questions with Chris Lems



Chris Lems

What was your first remembrance of harness racing?

I grew up in harness racing, so I'd have to say on my grandpa's farm, working with my uncles. The first thing I remember is jogging horses with my uncles in South Dakota.

Is there a lot of racing in South Dakota?

No, not a whole lot. I grew up racing at the Iowa and Minnesota fairs with my family then eventually moved to New York after high school.

Were you involved in any sports or extracurricular activities in high school?

Yes, I played football and I wrestled. I was okay. I was a lot better at jogging horses and mucking stalls.

When did you decide you wanted to be a driver?

I always wanted to be a driver. The first time my uncle let me train one in the race bike was one of the biggest rushes I had felt in my life. I guess I was hooked from then.

How did you make it from fair racing in Iowa and Minnesota to racing in New York?

I wanted to race horses out of high school but my parents wanted me to get a college

education. My uncle had sent horses to Dave McCaffery in Chicago and so my uncle asked him what he recommend for school. He said Morrisville College which was 20 minutes down the road from Vernon Downs. That's how I ended up at Vernon Downs.

What prompted you to move from New York to the Buckeye State?

One winter my buddy Jordan Hope asked me if I would want to come drive his horses for the winter in Ohio. We brought a couple horses to Sahbra Farms and had good luck while I was here. It was going good enough that I decided not to go back to New York.

Over your career what is the biggest race you have won?

The biggest purse wise was the New Jersey Sire Stakes Final. I won that with a two-year-old pacing filly that I owned and trained myself. Her name was Designated Drinker. She was a home run filly. I bought her very cheap, and she was good for me.

Is there one race in harness racing that you want to win more than any other?

I guess the Hambletonian is the one race that I've always thought would be a great race to win.

Do you have one horse in your racing career that you just love to drive?

I've had a couple over the years. Little Santa Monica, she was a tough little mare. I was very lucky and got to drive Hambletonian winner Royalty for Life. Right now, Winning Shadow is by far the most fun to drive. He's been very good over the last year and a half.

Trotter or pacers?

I guess I'm a little partial to trotters. I've had a lot of luck driving trotters.

What would you say is the best piece of advice that you've received in harness racing?

That's one thing about this business, you get all kind of advice. I would say as a driver, the best advice I've gotten is to have patience. That's one thing in this business that a lot of people do not have, and I've always tried to be patient with most things that I do.

Is there one individual in your life that means more to you than anybody else?

I would have to say my parents. They both have been very good to me and always steered me in the right direction. My parents are my go-to if I ever need any advice.

What is your favorite sport to watch on tv?

That would have to be NFL football. My favorite team is the Dallas Cowboys.

What is your favorite show?

I don't have a lot of time for TV shows, I guess it would be Swamp People.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Most my vacations are back home to South Dakota, but I've been to Florida quite a few times and I really enjoyed it there especially during the winter.

What was the last book you read?

Reading is not really up my alley.

How do you just relax?

Any night I have off from racing at Northfield Park, it would have to be hanging out with friends and a cookout would be the most relaxing to me.

Do you have a favorite food?

Growing up in South Dakota you usually like meat and potatoes. Steak and cheesy potatoes are right up my alley.

What is your favorite restaurant?

I'm not very picky, I usually like to try something new so anywhere I haven't been before with good food is okay with me.

Finish this sentence... "I absolutely would never do that"

Eat potato salad. Growing up, my mom made me go to this old lady's shack that made a bunch of potato salad. It smelled like rotten eggs. Ever since then I just can't quite do it.

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Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON



For most of us the last seven or eight months have passed by rapidly. From the purchase of yearlings to their breaking and training, schooling and qualifiers are just around the corner.

During this time our hopes and aspirations for those young horses we have purchased or raised has been filled with anticipation of a racing career with high expectations. As our Ohio breders begin their racing careers it is time to finally see what we have between the shafts.

We all have hopes of an Ohio Sires Stake horse. We also know if that doesn't work out, we have the Buckeye Stallion Series and the best County Fair program in the country with so many opportunities.

I have been fortunate to travel North America during my career making appearances at various harness racing venues. The number one question asked in the last three years has focused on racing here in the Buckeye State. The clear-cut answer is that we have the best program of all.

And now, our Ohio bred racehorses have been successfully performing on the national stage in major races. The likes of Ocean Rock, Charlie May and others are competing regularly in major stakes.

The breeding program is growing by leaps and bounds. The stallion Downbytheseaside took racing by storm last year as his sons and daughters were the talk of the sport. Others like What The Hill, Fear The Dragon and Long Tom are making a name for themselves as well.

Don't forget to catch "Freshman Focus" each Thursday night at 7pm on the OHHA Facebook page or on YouTube. Each week of the series a trainer talks about his or her top choices for Ohio fame. They give their thoughts on this year's crop of two-year-old's.

The Hackett Stakes, Buckeye Stallion Series and Ohio Sires Stake action has been held at Miami Valley. These races will now continue at Eldorado Scioto Downs and MGM Northfield Park. The County Fair racing begins June 13th at Paulding. Catch all the county fair racing again this year on our Facebook page, if you can't make it to a county fair near you.

So as the racing season begins for our young horses we wish you well with yours. Be glad you have the opportunity to live and race in the #1 state for racing in the USA.

Be There!

GAMING REVENUE RISES AGAIN

Gaming revenues across the state were up in April, bringing in \$215.6 million, making it the third best month overall since casino and racinos came to the state in 2012. The mark just missed by less than a percentage point of last April which was the best month ever, taking in \$217.1 million.

Ohio VLT gaming revenue showed a very slight month-over-month increase for March 2022 to April 2022 and a very slight year-over-year increase.

The four harness track racinos showed an overall year-to-year increase from last April. Miami Valley was up 4.43%, MGM Northfield Park was up 4.01% while Eldorado Scioto Downs was up 3.26%. Hollywood Dayton was down -7.47%.

Comparing month-to-month, April 2022 to March 2022, VLT revenue was up .03%. Miami Valley, MGM Northfield Park and Hollywood Dayton were up while Eldorado Scioto Downs was down.

Mark your calendar for these 2022 events:



Sat., July 16

**\$400,000 E.T. Gerry Jr.
Hambletonian Maturity
at the Meadowlands**

Sat., August 6

**\$1,000,000 Hambletonian
and the \$500,000
Hambletonian Oaks
at the Meadowlands**

ELIMS FOR BOTH JULY 30

**Fri. & Sat.,
October 28 & 29**

**Breeders Crown at
Woodbine Mohawk Park**

**Four freshman events on
Friday, Oct. 28
Eight 3-year-old and open
races on Saturday, Oct. 29.**

ELIMS: OCTOBER 21 & 22

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and Breeders Crown**

**109 South Main St • STE 18
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A LIFE POWERED BY *Love*

By Dot Morgan



Liz Bachhuber followed by her husband, Eric, on Riggle Wealth and a friend.

Paul Sunderhaus of Celina, Ohio, felt that Riggle Wealth was going to be something special soon after he started training him as a yearling. Unfortunately, the son of Foreclosure N chipped an ankle at two before he made it to the races. Sunderhaus and his partner Larry Agle gave the colt time to heal and mature. Their patience paid off and early at three he qualified brilliantly in 1:56, last quarter :27. That was enough to catch Burke Racing Stable partner Mark Weaver's watchful eye.

Weaver made Sunderhaus an offer that was hard to refuse. However, Sunderhaus's young daughter, Lily, had developed a strong bond with Riggs. The colt had a most endearing personality and showed unusual intelligence and kindness. It was going to be heartbreaking for Lily to part with him. Sunderhaus asked for a couple of conditions on the sale:

one, that they could buy Riggs back at the end of his career and two, that he would always have his favorite fruit snacks.

Riggs won his first two races for Burke Racing Stable, Weaver Brusceci and Phillip Collura. The following year Riggs won six more but his potential was never fully realized due to injuries. After an unsuccessful five-year-old season, Weaver contacted Sunderhaus and offered to gift Riggs to Lily. The papers were officially transferred into the 15-year-old's name on Christmas day.

Lily and her dad lovingly rehabbed and lightly raced Riggs, but it was all too evident that the handsome bay gelding needed a new career. The Sunderhauses didn't have a farm to retire Riggs, so they turned to New Vocations to help their beloved horse onto the next chapter in his life.

"Riggle Wealth arrived eager to learn a new job," said Standardbred Program Director Winnie Nemeth. "He was so easy to transition and became the barn favorite. My daughter, Clara, was the first to ride him and just loved him. All the girls in the barn loved him and he loved them."

After six weeks learning to carry a rider, Riggs was adopted by Liz Bachhuber of Wisconsin, an active eventing and dressage competitor who was looking for a quiet trail horse for her husband. She was attracted to retired Standardbreds because of their wealth of experience, and, as expected, Riggs has been a star!

"I can confidently say that Riggs is the most drama free horse I have ever known! He just takes everything in stride! He tries so hard, and has such a sweet kind soul." This past



Riggle Wealth kindly takes care of Liz's son Grady as he strengthens his riding skills.



Riggle Wealth and the Bachhuber family.



Photo Courtesy of Paul Sunderhaus

year, Riggs participated in the University of Wisconsin Equestrian Team Program. Bachhuber's eventing coach also coaches the UW riders and thought the experience would be good for Riggs. "He has done fantastic," Bachhuber said. "Not only is he learning to interact with more and different riders, but he is teaching them so much about developing green horses. He quickly became a team favorite, and they all love and dote on him whether they are riding him that day or not!"

Riggs is also exactly what Bachhuber wanted for her husband to trail ride. "We typically go out with other friends and their high strung Thoroughbreds and sport horses," said Bachhuber. "Riggs can't figure out what all the sweat and worry is about! He just cruises along, happy in the back, happy in the front...whatever!"

Early on, Bachhuber was riding Riggs with three Thoroughbreds at the back of the pack in a hunter pace. At a steep, narrow descent, Bachhuber had asked Riggs to slow to a walk to negotiate the incline when suddenly the Thoroughbreds ran off and left them. "Riggs didn't even bat an eye," Bachhuber said. "I am still shocked at that! All of my previous horses would have laughed at me if I asked them to walk as their buddies cantered away."

Riggs has developed into a seasoned trail horse easily navigating steep banks, water crossings and bridges. "His brain is the envy of all my friends," shares Bachhuber. "Not only is he talented enough to take on all of the activities I ask of him, but he is still happy to tote my husband along on a trail ride and give my 12-year-old son positive confidence boosting rides. Riggs is worth his weight in gold!"

Lily reached out to Bachhuber after she adopted Riggs. They enjoy sharing stories, past and present. And yes, Riggs most definitely still gets his fruit snacks! "He arrived from New Vocations with a large box of them," said Bachhuber. "And it was made clear to me that the fruit snacks were important to him. He still gets them, but he also enjoys carrots, apples and horse cookies on a regular basis. We all laugh; whenever you are leading him he is gently checking your hands and pockets for any treats you may be holding out on!"

Bachhuber is most appreciative to the Sunderhauses for ensuring Riggs landed in a good spot. "Riggs has a way of making us all smile," she said. "He has been such a wonderful addition to our family. I am certain Riggs will not be the last STB in my life. He is an amazing ambassador for the breed."

OHIO FFA

CONVERGES ON COLUMBUS

By Ashley Dailey

The 94th Ohio FFA Convention returned to the Ohio State Fairgrounds in Columbus for an in-person convention. During the two-day event, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association introduced harness racing to 9,000 high school students, many for the first time.

The OHHA spread awareness of our industry's impact on statewide agriculture. Ohio Colt Racing Association Secretary Lisa Schwartz says education is the key. "These students are future fair board members that will keep county fair racing strong."

Students raced to wrap bandages around horse legs, spun the trivia wheel for prizes, and experienced the thrill of driving in the virtual reality race bike.

The convention closed with Ohio harness racing's own Aubrey Schwartz being elected as the 2022-2023 Ohio FFA State President. Aubrey is the daughter of trainer Bret and Robin Schwartz. Her older sister Alexis is also heavily involved in the sport.

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association outreach will continue when the OHHA partners with the Indiana Standardbred Association, Harness Horse Youth Foundation, and United States Trotting Association to bring harness racing to nearly 70,000 attendees at the National FFA Convention in October.





Aubrey Schwartz was elected the 2022-2023 Ohio FFA State President



Thank You to our 2022 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

OHHA Pacesetters as of 5/15/2022

Jeff Allan	Teresa Marotta
Janet Banks	Rick & Marlene Martindale
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Marion Beachy	Joe McLead
Donald Bean	Benjamin Miller
Christopher Beaver	Jerry Miller
Andrew Betts	Dean Miller
Benjamin Black	Marvin Miller
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Kevin Greenfield	Matt Rowe
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Milton Leeman	Ola Yoder
Randy & Tia Leopard	Alvin Yoder
Chris & Harla Loney	Steven Zeehandelar
Greg Luther	
Timothy Maier	
Dr. Jerry Maloon	

OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

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

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Bred 2017	Grace Period, No Membership Required
Foal Born 2018	No 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
Foal Born 2019	Membership Required
Yearling 2020	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2021, 2022	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

Mares registered in 2021 (Foals of 2022)
mare registration date 11/30/21

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2022	Membership Required
Yearling 2023	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2024, 2025	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.

Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 By Renée Mancino

Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person attendance except Commissioner Patmon present by telephone.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the February 23, 2022, minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The discussion regarding the Executive Director's approval request indicated normal and customary approvals. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval and Report items and the February 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

The Executive Director's report items included the 2022 live racing approvals for Scioto Downs, Belterra Park, and Thistledown 2022 live meets. They submitted requests to, (1) Waive their surety bond for 2022 race meet, (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. No documents were provided to those in attendance.

Agenda item concerning the Caesars Scioto Downs Grandstand discussed with Scioto Downs' 2022 meet request. Joe Morris - Senior Vice President of Racing Caesars Entertainment, Amy Anker-son - Senior Vice President and General Manager Caesars Scioto Downs, Jason Roth - Director of Racing Caesars Scioto Downs, and Kacie Klarer - Director of Marketing Caesars Scioto Downs. SVP Joe Morris provided an update on the construction timeline stating the project would be "substantially complete" in March 2023. The steel for the project was ordered in November 2021, is scheduled to be delivered in July 2022. Joe Morris reiterated that project updates continue to occur by phone with the Racing Commission every Friday at 10:00 a.m. and the livestream camera broadcasting the project has 10-20 people on it all the time. Updating their operational plan Jason Roth said the live racing in 2022 will offer free racing programs online and there will be live broadcasts of weekly qualifiers. Amy Anker-son outlined the capital improvements slated for the facility to include family friendly things on the track apron for the summer meet, additional improvements to the clubhouse, and other facility projects on the remaining structures, in use for the 2022 live meet. Kacie Klarer offered information on the creation of a Driver's fan club with meet and greets, pushing out Caesars Fan Rewards across all Caesars' platforms, and a \$1 promotional initiative in May and June 2022 at Brew's Brothers on food items. The \$1 promotional proceeds will be donated to standardbred racehorse rescue and rehoming. Kacie also offered details of a commercial in the works scheduled to play on all social media outlets. In response to a question about on-air and broadcast advertising other than through social media outlets, Kacie set forth that there were none scheduled for 2022.

Scioto Down's live meet was approved, Belterra Park's live meet was approved pending supplementation of the Fire Marshall's letter. Thistledown's live meet was approved pending a new race secretary being hired. The Racing Commission unanimously approved all requests.

The agenda item for discussion and approval of the Fiscal Year 2022 Testing Costs was tabled to meet

and discuss before final consideration by the Racing Commission.

The Ohio Standardbred Development Fund stakes program and schedule for 2022 was discussed and offered for ratification. Discussion included transition of administration to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. The nomination process was complete and was evidence of the success on transition with only seven nominations being sent to the Ohio State Racing Commission. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Ohio Standardbred Development Fund stakes program and schedule for 2022.

Regarding the Settlement Agreements for Gary Johnson, Jami Poole, and Danny Bird. All three settlement agreements were ratified by the Racing Commission. No details of the settlement agreements were offered or discussed. There was discussion regarding an additional pending court case for licensee Danny Bird in Franklin County Court of Common Pleas.

Discussion on an item held over from the February 2022 Racing Commission meeting on licensee Trish Shepard. No money was paid towards the fine or prior bad check by Ms. Shepard. With no payment, as outlined in the February 2022 Racing Commission meeting, Ms. Shepard's license is revoked as-of March 23, 2022.

Regarding Franklin Court Common Pleas case 006394, Keith Kash Jr., versus the Ohio State Racing Commission being considered by the Court of Appeals. Mr. Kash was appealing a ruling by the Racing Commission that was upheld by the Court of Common Pleas. The ruling was a 180-day suspension and \$500 fine for a December 2019 search conducted. The search resulted in finding hypodermic syringes and needles in the drop ceiling of Mr. Kash's assigned tack room at MGM Northfield Park. Upon appeal and the submission of briefs by the Ohio State Racing Commission and Mr. Kash's attorney they discovered that the attorney for the Racing Commission had submitted his brief without attaching the complete transcript from the hearing being appealed from. The transcript omitted the second and third volumes of hearing testimony. The time had passed to request an exception to submit the evidence to the Court. The Court ruled against the Racing Commission on the appeal due to the missing transcripts and did not reach the facts of the case or the law as applied to the facts in reaching a decision. Due to the procedural error the appeal was granted in favor of Mr. Kash. The final order was appealable by the Racing Commission, but time lapsed on the appeal and no action was taken.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities 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. To date in 2022 the report on catastrophic losses includes two thoroughbreds from the last report to bring the year-to-date total to seven (five racing, two training). The catastrophic losses include one standardbred, for a total of four (all racing).

The monthly commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Through

February 2022 overall year-over-year revenue increase of 4%, or a \$360,000 gain due to higher-than-normal licensing and fingerprinting. Year-over-year expenses are up 11%. Increased expenses were about 10% and attributed mainly to payroll, large Attorney General's expenses. Under horse racing law from one year to the next, the Racing Commission's revenue cannot be 6% over the prior year or the excess is sent to the State of Ohio's general fund. With the racing shut-down in 2020 a revenue provision in the revised code is triggered, resulting in a claw-back in revenue based on the 2021 excess over 2020. The revenue claw back occurs within the Standardbred Development Fund and Thoroughbred Race Fund. The claw back resulted in \$325,000 in money being deducted from the Standardbred Development Fund and Thoroughbred Race Fund in December and January and going to Ohio's Nursing Homes. This anomaly occurred due to the significant reduction in revenue during COVID and isn't likely to be a factor going forward with the revenue trend.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee topics of discussion were implementation on the safety vests, track conditions, and adding lights at Miami Valley Gaming.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee topics of discussion for the next meeting would include taking blood samples from horses that are coming off the veterinarian's list. April 24, 2022, would be the next meeting.

Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) update discussion of the Racing Commission and potential optout, which cost shifts to the racetracks to pay for all covered persons in that state. The HISA Committee is struggling with implementation with thoroughbred racing and consider the act not applicable to standardbred racing. Proposed regulations had significant concerns. The federal regulations would add at least eight people per racing commission as federal agents (HISA Stewards) that work in tandem with the state racing commissions on location in each state. There continue to be no formal regulations offered related to medication and testing. The HISA Committee had hired to independent consultants Alex Waldrop and Tom DiPasquale, who are engaged in conversations with state Racing Commissions and the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

In the Chairman's comments, Chairman Scott Borgemenke provided insight into changes that were coming at the Racing Commission in staff and other operations. There was further business to conduct in executive session related to employment, personnel, and legal issues.

After the executive session no further business would be conducted, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn the general session meeting and enter executive session.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is April 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Building in Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

Regularly Scheduled Safety Committee Meeting Recap

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 By Renée Mancino

Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person attendance except Commissioner Patmon present by telephone.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the March 23, 2022, minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The discussion regarding the Executive Director's approval request indicated normal and customary approvals. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval and Report items and the March 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Consideration and approval of Resolution 2022-04, Host-Guest Directive for Scioto Downs live 2022 racing meet. Due to the earlier 3:15 p.m. post time due to no racetrack lights at Scioto Downs in 2022, the Racing Commission Directive interprets 3769.089(D) to apply to a host that normally operates in a particular time frame. Scioto Downs normally operates as a nighttime host and the 3:15 p.m. post time would result in them being a daytime host under 3769.089. Chairman Borgemenke pointed out that remaining a nighttime host maintains the status quo during construction and thanked MGM Northfield Park for the accommodation for Caesars Scioto to continue to share nighttime host despite the pre-4:00 p.m. post time. The Racing Commission unanimously approved Resolution 2022-04.

No agenda item concerning the Caesars Scioto Downs Grandstand.

The agenda item for discussion and approval of the settlement agreement of Art Gillum Jr. was not addressed.

Consideration and approval of Resolution 2022-03 1st Quarter Casino Commission Revenue Distribution April 13, 2022, from the Casino Tax of \$2,488,777.22. \$472,867.67 was distributed each to the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and Ohio Standardbred Development Fund. \$124,438.86 each to MGM Northfield Park, and Miami Valley Gaming, and to the Ohio State Racing Commission for support of commercial operations. \$124,438.86 to the Ohio State Racing Commission escrow fund held at the Racing Commission's discretion on distribution to Caesars Scioto Downs, \$91,464.72 to Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley purse pool, \$82,848.48 to Belterra Park purse pool for thoroughbred purses and \$50,000 for quarter horse purses, \$88,703.11 to JACK Thistle-down purse pool, \$132,115.71 to Miami Valley Gaming and Racing purse pool, \$355,364.76 to MGM Northfield Purse Pool, \$139,185.45 to Caesars Scioto purse pool, and \$105,604.20 to Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway purse pool. Chairman Borgemenke said the Caesars Scioto commercial operations monies being held would be released due to management's repre-

sentations on construction progress. The intent in subsequent quarters is to hold a few quarters in escrow and release based upon construction progress. The Racing Commission unanimously approved Resolution 2022-03 including escrow on the commercial operation monies for Caesars Scioto Downs.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities 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. It was noted that the records now will be kept following a horse post injury. One reported loss for this month was from a racing injury suffered ten days prior. To date in 2022 the report on catastrophic losses includes three thoroughbreds from the last report to bring the year-to-date total to ten (eight racing, two training). The catastrophic losses include two standardbreds, for a total of five (all racing).

The monthly commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. Through March 2022 overall year-over-year revenue was up \$440,000 for the fiscal year, which is \$30,000 below projected revenue due to lower legal expenses and the claw back on income going to Ohio's Nursing Homes. The claw back occurred due to the significant year-over-year reduction in revenue during COVID and isn't likely to be a factor going forward on revenue. The Racing Commission operating fund has a balance of \$2.5 million.

Agenda item updating the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) and vote on the "voluntary" HISA Agreement. After short discussion regarding the Agreement the HISA Committee had forwarded through HISA consultants, Alex Waldrop and Tom DiPasquale for signature, Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the HISA Agreement and opt-in to HISA for thoroughbreds, Commissioner Simpson seconded the Motion.

Commentary accompanying the motion was, this is coming whether we like it or not. During discussion Penn Gaming's support of the opt-in was discussed with Penn Gaming's attorney John Oberle. The Ohio HBPA Executive Director Dave Basler and Executive Director Renée Mancino were asked to provide horsemen's input as-to HISA in its current form. The discussion culminated in Chairman Borgemenke asking whether the HISA Committee could enforce what was contained in the HISA Agreement, which he didn't believe they could. Chairman Borgemenke expressed concern as-to an opt-out moving the HISA Agreement to the racetracks for mandatory collection of the fees and hiring of a medical director, safety director, regulatory veterinarian, and the other new enforcement officials the HISA Safety regulations call for. The

fees for the Ohio thoroughbreds on the safety portion of HISA only based on purse monies paid and in-state starts were \$796,794, roughly \$47.46 per start. Commentary included the fact that the Commission feels the goals are the correct goals, with everyone trying to do the right thing. However, they can't adhere to the rules and do not have the ability to enforce what is in the agreement. The discussion regarding finances resulted in Chairman Borgemenke's declaration that the only place the money can come from to pay for all this is the Casino Commission, that is the only source of money available. Executive Director Renée Mancino asked how it would work with HISA not applicable to Standardbred's at this time. Chairman Borgemenke said their interpretation is the Racing Commission can opt-in Standardbreds or the Breed Registry can. After discussion a second Motion was made by Commissioner Winters to table Commissioner Hansen's motion and work on the HISA Agreement. They are not aware of anyone being able to amend the agreement, but they would like to try. Their intent is to make the Agreement work for the industry; they will privately within the Racing Commission work on amendments to the Agreement to return to the HISA Committee for acceptance as amended. The Racing Commission unanimously approved Commissioner Winter's motion to table, work on amending and negotiate with the HISA Committee.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee topics of discussion, implementation on the safety vests was going well. Commissioner Simpson also relayed his discussions with standardbred drivers at Miami Valley Gaming requesting a meeting with him on rules.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee topics of discussion for the next meeting would include taking blood samples from thoroughbred horses that are working off the veterinarian's list to immediately follow this meeting.

Commissioner Winters Chairman of the Standardbred Committee said any rules revisions being worked on with industry stakeholders would be tabled after the Racing Commission sorted through HISA. That was likely to be July at the earliest.

There was no further business to conduct in executive session, so the motion and vote were taken to adjourn the general session meeting.

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is May 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Building in Room 1948. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.



WE ARE RACING! 2022 SCHEDULE



OHIO SIRES STAKES

2-Year-Old Colt Trot

- 1 - Northfield Park | Mon, July 18th
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Fri, July 29th
- 3 - Northfield Park | Mon, Aug 15th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Fri, Sep 9th

2-Year-Old Colt Pace

- 1 - Northfield Park | Sat, July 16th
- 2 - Northfield Park | Sat, July 30th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Fri, Aug 19th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Sat, Sep 10th

2-Year-Old Filly Trot

- 1 - Northfield Park | Sun, July 17th
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Thur, July 28th
- 3 - Northfield Park | Sun, Aug 14th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Thur, Sep 8th

2-Year-Old Filly Pace

- 1 - Scioto Downs | Fri, July 15th
- 2 - Northfield Park | Mon, July 25th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Fri, Aug 19th
- 4 - Northfield Park | Tue, Sep 6th

3-Year-Old Colt Trot

- 1 - Miami Valley | Sat, May 7th
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Sat, June 25th
- 3 - Northfield Park | Sat, Aug 13th
- 4 - Northfield Park | Sun, Sep 4th

3-Year-Old Colt Pace

- 1 - Miami Valley | Sat, May 7th
- 2 - Northfield Park | Sat, June 11th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Sat, July 23rd
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Sat, Sep 3rd

3-Year-Old Filly Trot

- 1 - Miami Valley | Wed, May 4th
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Fri, June 17th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Fri, Aug 26th
- 4 - Northfield Park | Sun, Sep 11th

3-Year-Old Filly Pace

- 1 - Miami Valley | Wed, May 4th
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Sat, June 4th
- 3 - Northfield Park | Sat, July 2nd
- 4 - Northfield Park | Sat, Aug 27th

BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES

2-Year-Old Colt Trot

- 1 - Bucyrus Fair | Wed, July 20th
- 2 - Northfield Park | Sun, July 31st
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Wed, Aug 17th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Fri, Sep 9th
- 5 - Delaware | Wed, Sep 21st

2-Year-Old Filly Trot

- 1 - Scioto Downs | Thu, July 21st
- 2 - Urbana Fair | Tue, Aug 9th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Tue, Aug 16th
- 4 - Northfield Park | Wed, Sep 7th
- 5 - Delaware | Tue, Sep 20th

3-Year-Old Colt Trot

- 1 - Miami Valley | Mon, May 2nd
- 2 - Northfield Park | Sun, June 26th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Fri, Aug 12th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Mon, Sep 5th
- 5 - Delaware | Sun, Sep 18th

3-Year-Old Filly Trot

- 1 - Miami Valley | Sun, May 1st
- 2 - Northfield Park | Sat, June 18th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Thu, Aug 25th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Mon, Sep 5th
- 5 - Delaware | Sun, Sep 18th

2-Year-Old Colt Pace

- 1 - Northfield Park | Mon, July 11th
- 2 - Urbana Fair | Tue, Aug 9th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Wed, Aug 24th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Tue, Sep 13th
- 5 - Delaware | Thu, Sep 22nd

2-Year-Old Filly Pace

- 1 - Northfield Park | Wed, July 20th
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Tue, Aug 9th
- 3 - Scioto Downs | Tue, Aug 16th
- 4 - Northfield Park | Wed, Sep 7th
- 5 - Delaware | Tue, Sep 20th

3-Year-Old Colt Pace

- 1 - Miami Valley | Tue, May 3rd
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Fri, June 10th
- 3 - Northfield Park | Sun, July 24th
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Fri, Sep 2nd
- 5 - Delaware | Mon, Sep 19th

3-Year-Old Filly Pace

- 1 - Miami Valley | Sun, May 1st
- 2 - Scioto Downs | Fri, June 3rd
- 3 - Northfield Park | Sun, July 3rd
- 4 - Scioto Downs | Tue, Aug 30th
- 5 - Delaware | Wed, Sep 21st

CHAMPIONSHIPS & CONSOLATIONS

OHIO SIRES STAKES

\$300,000 Super Night Championships

2- & 3-Year-Olds
Saturday, October 1st
@ Dayton Raceway

\$75,000 Consolations

2- & 3-Year-Olds & Up
Saturday, October 8th
@ Northfield Park

BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES

\$60,000 Championship

2- & 3-Year-Olds
Saturday, October 22nd
@ Dayton Raceway

\$25,000 Consolations

2- & 3-Year-Olds & Up
Sunday, October 23rd
@ Northfield Park

\$85,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Veteran Championships

4-Year-Olds & Up
Saturday, September 3rd
@ Scioto Downs



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Dan Patch Awards



Night of Champions



Dan Patch Awards



Night of Champions



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