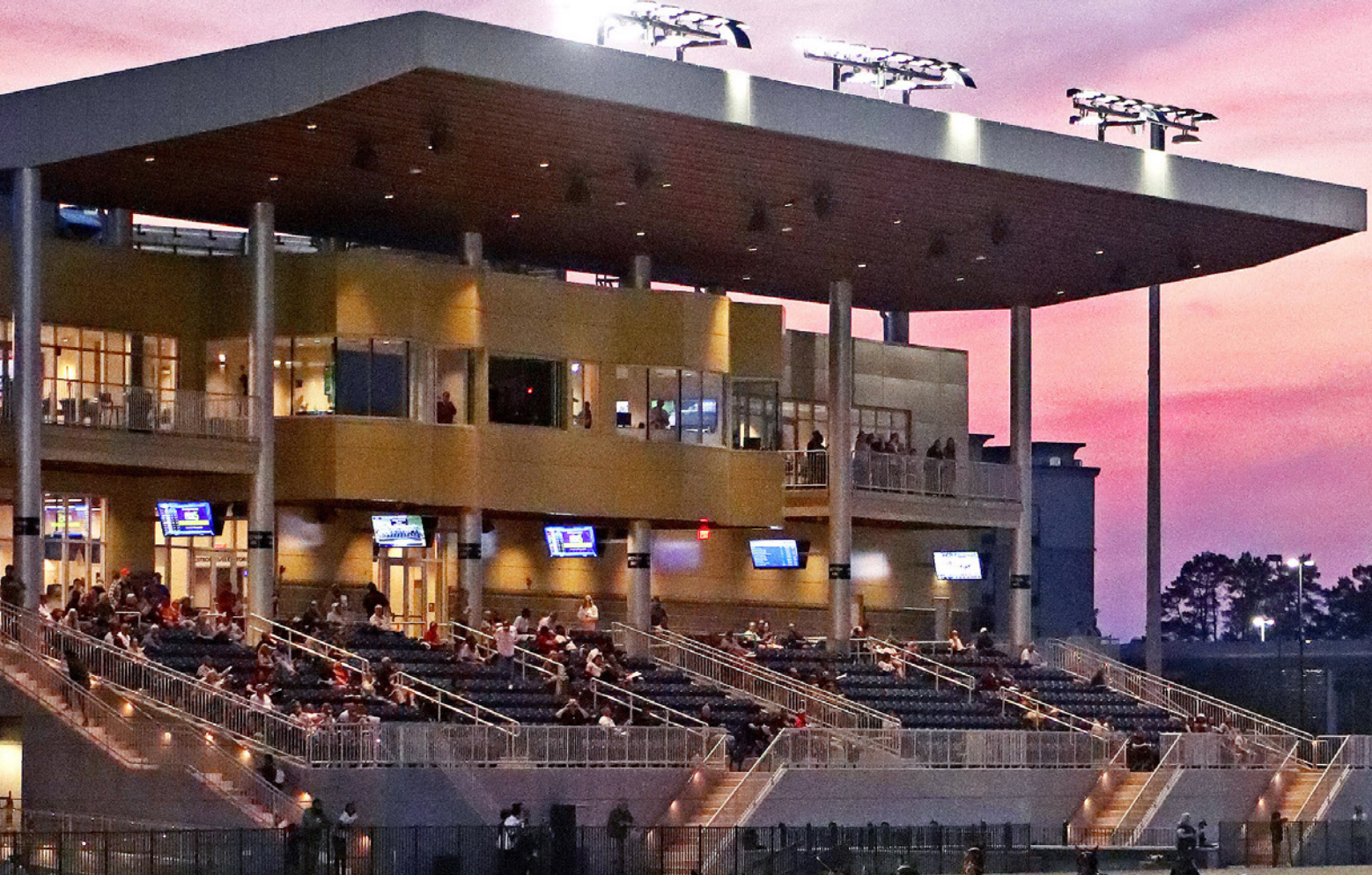


# *THE BUCKEYE* Harness Horseman

MAY 2023 | VOLUME 53 | NUMBER 2

The Official Publication of the  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association



**ELDORADO  
SCIOTO DOWNS  
OPENS NEW  
GRANDSTAND**





# GLOBAL REPUBLIC S

MUSCLE HILL - SERENE YANKEE - CONWAY HALL

In this first crop, GLOBAL REPUBLIC S produced stakes winners including GLOBAL GIRL, 2,1:56.4f-'22 (\$152,064), who was the winner of two legs of the Ohio Sires Stakes at both Northfield Park and Scioto Downs.

GLOBAL GIRL was also second in the \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Final as well as the Ohio Breeders Championship and in a leg of the OSS.



*From an extremely limited first crop,  
GLOBAL REPUBLIC S's ranking in 2022 was:*

- 8th overall in North America for "Leading Sires Average Earnings per starter for 2-year-old trotters."
- Proven sire from a World Champion family.
- Lifetime shares: \$8,000. Breed two mares the first year, and one mare every year after for the breeding life of the stallion.

**2023 Stud Fee:  
\$4,000**

*Crystal Springs*  
STABLES

Phone: (330) 231-2776  
Barn: (330) 600-4654  
4351 SR 557  
Millersburg, OH



# Table of Contents

- 4 Scioto Downs Unveils New Grandstand
- 7 Delaware County Grandstand Repairs/ Next Generation
- 8 The Road to Repeat
- 10 Stakes Season Underway
- 12 Remembering Pacey/Miami Valley Honors Pacey
- 13 Ocean Rock Retires
- 14 Tetrick, Brewer Grab Miami Valley Titles
- 15 Rose Run Yolanda 2022 Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year (correction)
- 16 Be There
- 17 Track Notes & Milestones
- 18 Meet the New Director Keith Gisser
- 19 Meet the New Director Rusty Vorhees
- 20 Keidel Wraps Up Long Career
- 21 MGM Northfield Park Names New Announcer
- 22 FFA Convention
- 23 20 Questions with Barry Vicroy
- 24 War Horses
- 27 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors/ Ohio Breeders Award Requirements
- 29 Regularly Scheduled Safety Committee Meeting Recap
- 30 OHHA Board Meeting Notice

## Office Staff

**Executive Director** Renée Mancino  
**Office Administrator** Cheri Johnson  
**Outreach and Public Relations Coordinator** Frank Fraas  
**Public Relations, Outreach and Marketing Assistant** Cheyenne Christman

**Public Relations, Outreach Assistant** Kim Poma  
**Benefits Administrator** Linda Nance  
**Project Coordinator** Susan Schroeder

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

OHHA Board of Directors **President** Steve Bateson **Vice President** Scott Mogan

<p><b>2024</b>  <b>Breeders</b>                  Senena Esty                  Dr. Lauri Gallatin                  Brad Wallace  <b>Owners By District</b>                  (2) John Ryan                  Melsheimer                  (8) Rusty Vorhees  <b>Trainer / Driver</b>                  Rick Martindale                  Ryan Holton                  Mark Winters, Sr.</p>	<p><b>2025</b>  <b>Breeders</b>                  Scott Hagemeyer                  Dr. Randy Hutchison                  Jacob Mossbarger  <b>Owners By District</b>                  (3) Mary Jo Bross                  (6) Randy Leopard                  (9) Kent Saunders  <b>Trainer / Driver</b>                  Jim Arledge, Jr.                  Chris Beaver                  Roy Burns</p>	<p><b>2026</b>  <b>Breeders</b>                  Randy Haines                  Joe McLead                  Ayers Ratliff, Sr.  <b>Owners By District</b>                  (4) Keith Gisser                  (7) Steve Bateson  <b>Trainer / Driver</b>                  Chris Page                  Brian Brown                  Scott Mogan</p>	<p><b>Track Directors</b>  <b>Miami Valley Gaming</b>                  Mike Polhamus  <b>MGM Northfield Park</b>                  Vacant  <b>Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway</b>                  Mike Polhamus  <b>Eldorado Gaming at Scioto Downs</b>                  Hugh "Sandy" Beatty, Jr.</p>	<p><b>Advisory Committee Active; Past Presidents</b>                  R. Kevin Greenfield                  Donald "Skip" Hoovler                  John Konesky, III                  Steve McCoy                  Dr. John Mossbarger</p>
---	---	--	---	---

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** If your mailing address has changed or is changing, please contact the OHHA at 614-221-3650 or 800-353-6442. Without an updated mailing address, you will not receive OHHA publications and delivery of breeder's award checks may be delayed.

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



## THE BUCKEYE HARNESS HORSEMAN

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

**Cover Photo:** Conrad Photo | **Layout/Design:** Brelsford Creative



IT'S NEVER BEEN BETTER

## *Scioto Downs Unveils New Grandstand*



Scioto Downs General Manager Amy Ankerson cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new Scioto Downs grandstand. **Photo:** Brad Conrad

Charlie Hill had a dream to build a state-of-the-art racetrack to replace the old grandstands at Hilliard Raceway in suburban Columbus. The plans were for a futuristic-looking grandstand that would hold nearly 3,000 fans.

Ground was broken for the new facility in 1958, but a cold wet winter pushed the opening to the fall of 1959.

With the opening, Scioto Downs became “The Showplace of Racing.” In addition to harness racing, Scioto Downs hosted a variety of events including concerts, motorcycle racing, and the Ohio High School Athletic Association cross-country championships.

Fast forward to 2017. Time had taken a toll on the old grandstand, so much so that the City of Columbus condemned the facility. As the grandstand continued to crumble, plans for a new structure were in the works.

The plans called for a \$20 million 30,000 square foot structure. With other improvements and rising costs due to the Covid pandemic, the final price tag rose to \$30 million.

The new grandstand has 732 seats, a private box seat area, a picnic area, and two meeting rooms with viewing platforms. Other improvements were made to the existing clubhouse and patio which included a new teller area and new televisions for patrons to enjoy the racing action. There is also a new winner’s circle and fencing around the front of the track.

Crews began tearing down the old structure in early 2022 with the goal of opening

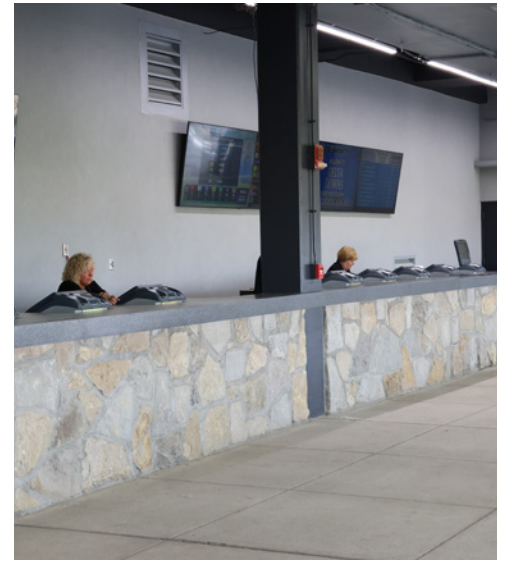
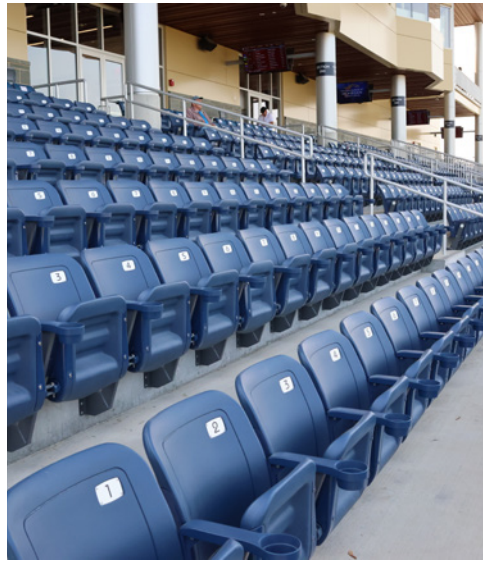
the new grandstand in time for the 2023 racing season. While the old grandstand was reduced to rubble, it played an important part in the construction--the concrete was crushed and used in the base supporting the new grandstand.

Over 11 straight months, construction crews poured more than 4,000 cubic yards of concrete for the building and the site around it. An average of 40-50 workers were on site every day straight for over a year.

During the summer construction, Scioto Downs was able to continue racing.

From his office, Eldorado Director of Racing Jason Roth enjoyed seeing the new grandstand being built. “I enjoyed the process of everything--from tearing the grandstand down to the construction of a facility like this. There are a lot of aspects involved, all the different vendors that need to be here.”





Roth started at Scioto Downs in 2005 and has seen the highs and the lows. “There have been three owners since I have been here. I remember when we had the news crews out here talking about closing this place before VLTs became legal,” said Roth. “We were racing for \$1,600. That’s when people raced just because they loved it.”

Roth says they don’t want to just put on horse racing at Scioto Downs. “We want to make this the best facility ever and put on a show for everyone to come out to watch the races and have them enjoy themselves. We plan on making this the best race track it has ever been.”

“I watched the comments on social media. There were complaints that it was small and looked like a fair grandstand,” said Roth. “Once the fans get here and look at it, they will be excited to see it. It’s nothing like a fair grandstand. It’s going to be fun.”

Roth’s boss, Caesar’s Senior Vice President of Racing Joe Morris is pleased with the way things turned out. “I had high expectations, and we exceeded those expectations.”

Morris said they did make a few changes to the original design. The grandstand was moved closer to the track, and they added more party areas to get the fans closer. “Going to the races is about having a party.”

The goal is to attract more families and young people. “Harness racing is all about families and the younger generation. We don’t do a good job of developing our next level of players. Columbus is an alive town, and we want the younger Columbus people to come to the track and enjoy it and have a party with us,” said Morris.

He also said they want more owners to come out to the track. “We don’t have enough owners in the sport here. We want

them to be here and be treated as they should be.”

Roth says there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. There are plans on the books to continue improvements. Following this year’s race meet, work will begin replacing the clubhouse roof. They are also looking at building a new 16-race paddock and making more improvements on the backside of the track.

“We keep on working to be elite. That is where we want to be,” said Roth. “Hopefully in the next few years, we will have a new paddock and a new tote board. We are going to keep working on the clubhouse. And hopefully, this place will be back to ‘The Showplace of Racing.’”

While Roth is looking down the road, his boss likes the way it looks now. “It’s Never Been Better!” said Morris.



# *Fast forward to Summer!* **NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES**

for the Blooded Horse Sales Company's

## **SUMMER MIXED SALE**

THE CHAMPIONS CENTER • Springfield, Ohio

**ONE DAY! AUGUST 30, 2023**

*FEATURING A BLACK TYPE YEARLING SESSION*



**One of our most popular sales of the year!**

As the summer racing season approaches, racehorses will again be highly sought-after as trainers will be restocking their stables.

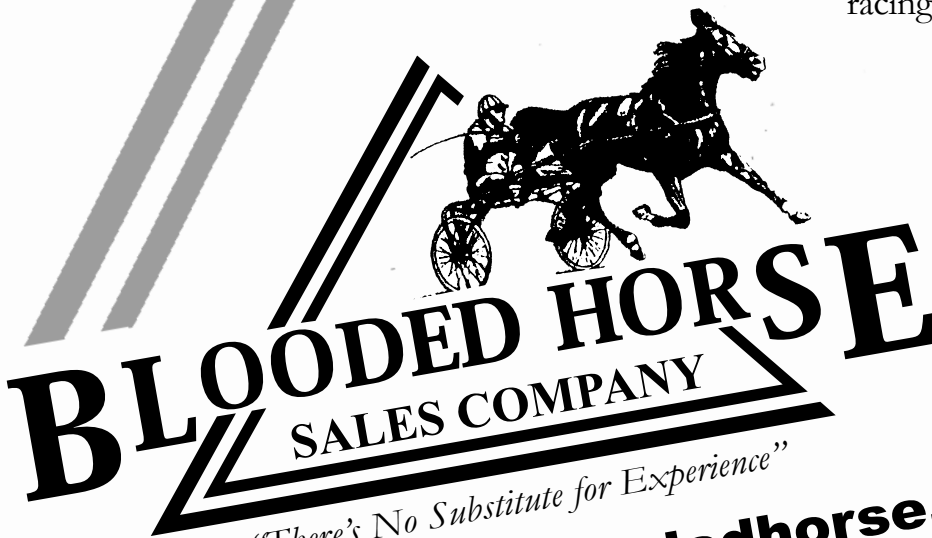
This sale also provides a "first stop" for buyers looking to purchase 2023 yearlings.

It's the perfect time and place to consign racehorses, racing prospects, breeding stock and yearlings at the sale that provides **proven** results year after year!

### ***BONUS!***

Selling with us gives your horses added exposure with our printed catalog and racelines posted on our website.

**PLUS** we never charge a commission for RNAs.



Enter online at **[www.bloodedhorse.com](http://www.bloodedhorse.com)**



Send e-mail to Jerry Haws at: [jhaws@bloodedhorse.com](mailto:jhaws@bloodedhorse.com)

INQUIRIES TO ANY ONE OF THESE:

JERRY HAWS • P.O. Box 187 • Wilmore, Kentucky 40390 • Phone: (859) 858-4415 • Fax: (859) 858-8498  
CHARLES MORGAN • (937) 564-2477 • SHETLER & ASSOCIATES, Auctioneers



# DELAWARE COUNTY GRANDSTAND REPAIRS

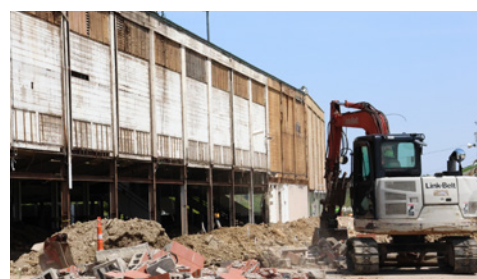


**Construction has begun on Phase 1 of the Delaware County Fairground grandstand remodel.** Phase one of the estimated four-million-dollar project calls for the replacement of men's and women's bathrooms in the grandstand, updated electrical wiring, new betting windows, and new siding on the outside of the structure.

"We are also building office space for our simulcast production, tote system, and mutuels," said Tom Wright, Little Brown Jug Race Secretary. "Our goal is to have everything completed by the fair. Getting all the fixtures installed may come down to a game-day decision."

Phase 2 of the project will focus on the seating area of the grandstand.

The project is being funded by the county hotel tax as well as a matching grant from the state.



## Next Generation

The fourth edition of the Next Generation returns to Scioto Downs on July 1. Four fields of nine two-year-old pacers and trotters will compete for a purse of \$150,000.

All nine spots in the four races have been secured, according to Scioto Downs Race Secretary, Jason Roth.

Only one entry per division is available to a trainer or owner giving smaller stables

a chance. "You like seeing the guys with smaller stables pop up and win this race. Some of the bigger stables don't like only having one entry, but this allows everyone a shot," said Roth.

Roth says entries can again be sold or traded if a trainer's plans change. "I have heard trainers wheeling and dealing, getting 10% of what the horse wins in the race."

This year, those interested in buying a slot had extra time to decide. "We changed the nomination date from March 15th to May 1st to help the horsemen," said Roth. "They pay a lot of money on March 15th and this gives them a break. Roth says the later date helps the horsemen as their two-year-olds develop and they know what they have.

### NEXT GENERATION PAST WINNERS

	Colt Pace	Colt Trot	Filly Pace	Filly Trot
<b>2022</b>	Act Fast	John Dutton	My Red Sea	Swinging Senorita
<b>2021</b>	Sling Shock	Chulo	Sea Silk	Be My Baby Now
<b>2020</b>	Charlie May		Winella Hanover	



# THE ROAD TO REPEAT

Each year only four horses are honored with the title of Two-Year-Old Pacing or Trotting Colt or Filly of the Year. The quest is to repeat and earn the honor again as a three-year-old. But how hard is it to repeat?

In the past 25 years, fewer than 25% of the top two-year-olds have been able to do it again as three-year-olds. The filly pacing division has produced the most repeat winners over that time with eight repeat winners. The division with the smallest number of repeat winners was colt trotters, where only three have won the title back-to-back. It has happened six times with colt pacers and there have been four repeat champions in the filly trotter division.

As the stakes season for three-year-olds kicked off in May, the 2022 divisional winners have set their sights on adding their names to the list.

Colt pacer Racing Rampage, colt trotter Rumble Strips, filly pacer McSeaside, and filly trotter Rose Run Yolanda took the first step to repeating in the first leg of Ohio Sires Stakes action at Miami Valley Raceway.

## Racing Rampage



Two-Year-Old Ohio Colt Pacer of the Year - Racing Rampage **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Darren Dowler who trains Racing Rampage didn't wait long to get his colt some rest. He turned the son of Racing Hill out two days after the Sires Stakes final and brought him back in to begin training the first of the year.

"He grew some during his break," said Dowler, "but not as much as I hoped for."

Dowler says he's surprised by some of the early times turned in this year. "It is going to be tough to repeat, but I think he can still go faster. I'm optimistic."

Racing Rampage tuned up with a pair of qualifiers, finishing second in the second qualifier in 1:52.1.

The first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes at Miami Valley was to be his first start of the year. "I am hoping he can be competitive in his first race," anticipated Dowler.

Starting from post position eight, Racing Rampage was sitting sixth at the half when Aaron Merriman pulled him three-wide down the backstretch. Around the final turn, Racing Rampage made his move, picking off the leaders before finally pulling into the lead mid-stretch.

The long trip took something out of Racing Rampage as he was caught at the wire by Wicked Character who stopped the clock at 1:51.3.

Dowler was still pleased with the way his horse raced. "He was awesome!"

Racing Rampage will next see action in the second leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes and then it's on to the North America Cup in Canada. "It's been on our schedule," said Dowler. "The way he raced, I'm sure he can go with those horses. Why not take a shot?"

## Rumble Strips



Two-Year-Old Ohio Colt Trotter of the Year - Rumble Strips **Photo:** Conrad Photo

For two-year-old colt trotting champion Rumble Strips, the start to the 2023 campaign was not what trainer Mike Polhamus expected.

Rumble Strips made breaks in his first two qualifiers before finally putting it together and staying flat the third time out.

The first race for Rumble Strips was the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes. The qualifying miscues were a thing of the past. Kayne Kaufman took the son of Long Tom to the lead at the quarter pole and led the rest of the way, holding off a late charge at the wire to win by a neck in 1:54.1.

It was Rumble Strips' fifth lifetime win in ten starts and raised his career earnings to \$323,135.

## Rose Run Yolanda



Two-Year-Old Ohio Filly Trotter of the Year - Rose Run Yolanda **Photo:** Conrad Photo

On the filly side, Rose Run Yolanda will try to make it as back-to-back champion in the filly trotting division. Gabby's C Note was the two- and three-year-old champion in 2021 and 2022.

Trainer Todd Luther says it will be hard to repeat. "There are a lot of horses that may not have raced last year or had some health problems that forced them to take a step back. If they are healthy this year, who knows what might happen?"

Rose Run Yolanda spent the off-season in Kentucky where Luther said she had a good winter. "She grew up a lot. I didn't want her to grow too much since she was big already."

Rose Run Yolanda kicked off the defense of her title in the James Hackett Memorial where she won her elimination and then finished second in the final.



“It is going to be tough to repeat, but I think he can still go faster. I’m optimistic.”  
 Darren Dowler, Racing Rampage Trainer

The Triumphant Caviar filly then made a statement in the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes with a convincing win at Miami Valley.

Brett Miller moved Rose Run Yolanda from the back of the pack heading to the half-mile and never looked back, pulling away to win by six lengths in a track record time of 1:53.2.

Luther says the plan is to spend most of this year out of state to showcase Rose Run Yolanda. “We have high hopes this summer. I think she is better than what people might think of her. We are close to her and I’m not sure if she’s that caliber yet, but she reminds me of Katie.”

“Katie” is Katie’s Lucky Day who won the 2021 Kentucky Filly Futurity for Luther and his brother Greg, owner of Greg Luther Racing.

“I think Yolanda will be very game in any race we put her in,” said Luther. “She was never stressed last year and hopefully that carries over to this year for the big races.”

**McSeaside**



Two-Year-Old Ohio Filly Pacer of the Year - McSeaside **Photo:** Conrad Photo

McSeaside is hoping to follow in the footsteps of her Burke Racing stablemate Sea Silk. Sea Silk repeated as the top Ohio pacing filly in 2021 and 2022.

“We have had the last four two-year-old filly pacers: Looksgoodinaromper, Summer Touch, Sea Silk, and McSeaside,” said Ron

Burke. “Only one of those has repeated, so it is not easy.”

McSeaside did not get much of a break following her two-year-old season. Her last race of 2022 was the Breeders Crown at the end of October.

Burke says the Downbytheseaside filly is pretty much the same horse as last year. “She consistently gives a good effort every time,” he says.

McSeaside started the 2023 campaign in April. She finished fourth in the James Hackett Memorial elimination at Miami Valley but won the final a week later.

Chris Page settled McSeaside at the back of the field through the first half mile but rushed her up the backstretch into conten-

tion. Around the final turn, McSeaside dug in, pulled even with the leaders mid-stretch and got up at the wire for the win.

In the first leg of the Ohio Sires Stakes, McSeaside again got away near the back of the pack. Page worked his way up through the field but could not find racing room. McSeaside settled for fourth place.

Burke says McSeaside will get her Ohio races in but is staked to others outside the state.

Only time will tell if any of Ohio’s four two-year-old divisional winners will be able to repeat and wear the crown again as a three-year-old.

REPEAT DIVISIONAL WINNERS SINCE 1998			
Filly Pace		Filly Trot	
<b>2021-22</b>	Sea Silk	<b>2021-22</b>	Gabbys C Note
<b>2018-19</b>	Queen Of The Pride	<b>2018-19</b>	Only Take Cash
<b>2008-09</b>	Best Of Ball	<b>2012-13</b>	Contessa Leigh
<b>2006-07</b>	Osborne’s Gypsy	<b>2008-09</b>	Rose Run Keepsake
<b>2005-06</b>	Van Anna		
<b>2002-03</b>	CC Spice		
<b>2001-02</b>	Sand Squaw		
Colt Pace		Colt Trot	
<b>2020-21</b>	Charlie May	<b>2019-20</b>	Action Uncle
<b>2012-13</b>	Feelin Lika Winner	<b>2018-19</b>	Lane Of Stone
<b>2009-10</b>	Trick Man	<b>2013-14</b>	Rompaway Galaxy
<b>2006-07</b>	KF St Patrick		



# STAKES SEASON UNDERWAY

Ohio three-year-olds have wrapped up the first leg of stakes action in both the Ohio Sires Stakes (OSS) and the Buckeye Stallion Series (BSS). In the Ohio Sires Stakes, 60 horses were entered with two races in each division. The Buckeye Stallion Series saw 218 horses entered in a total of 24 races in the four divisions. Ninety-eight trainers entered horses in the BSS.

## OHIO SIRES STAKES

The final day of racing at the Miami Valley meet was highlighted by Ohio Sires Stakes action. Each of the eight races carried a purse of \$55,000.

The sophomore fillies took the track first. Rose Run Yanae went wire-to-wire to win for the second time this year. The daughter of Triumphant Caviar tripped the wire in 1:55.3. Chris Page drove for trainer Ron Burke. Rose Run Yanae is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services, and Weaver Brussemi. Swinging Seniorita was second with Along In Time finishing third.

Rose Run Yolanda and Brett Miller took the second division. The Triumphant Caviar filly took the lead at the half-mile pole and cruised to a six-length victory in 1:53.2. Rose Run Yolanda has hit the board in all three starts winning two. She is owned by Greg Luther Racing and trained by Todd Luther. Global Girl finished second with Waddupgee third.

Downbytheseaside fillies swept the two three-year-old filly pace races. Dragon By The Sea and Tyler Smith battled down the stretch to win a photo finish in 1:52. Tyler Smith drove for his father Jeff. Owned by John Van Horn, Dragon By The Sea has won both her starts this year. Kassagi was second with Tarapasta third.



Hey Hey Mama set a track record in OSS win **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Ronnie Wrenn Jr. and Hey Hey Mama set a new track record, winning the other division in 1:50.2. Brian Brown trains for Country Club Acres, Milton Leeman, Joe Sbrocco, and Acadia Farms. Hey Hey Mama is four for four this year. Cruise Alert was second with Seaside Tina third.

Rumble Strips picked up where he left off last year winning his first start of the year. The son of Long Tom with Kayne Kauffman grabbed the lead at the quarter pole and hung on down the stretch to win for trainer Mike Polhamus in 1:54.1. Rumble Strips

is owned by Constance Polhamus and Mary Beth Walters. Grand Revival was second with A Real Legend third.



Rumble Strips won in his first start of the year **Photo:** Conrad Photo

In the second division of three-year-old colt trotters, Jet Hill with Kurt Sugg held on at the finish to win by a nose in 1:54.2. The son of What The Hill is owned by Serenity Racing Stables and is trained by Edward Miller. Jogging Full Trot finished second with John Dutton third.

The three-year-old colt pacers wrapped up the day as Brett Miller won his second sires stakes win when he drove For Once Inmy Life to a two-length victory for trainer Noel Daley in 1:50.1. It was also the second win of the night for owners Country Club Acres and Joe Sbrocco, who own the Downbytheseaside colt with John Fodera and Steve Wienick Racing. Act Fast was second with Mossy's Dragon third.

The first leg wrapped up with Wicked Character and Tony Hall charging from the back of the pack, with Wicked Character winning by a neck in 1:53.1. It was the second OSS win of the day for trainer Ron Burke. Owned by Mark Adams, Timothy Sullivan, Robert Jackson, and Tom Wilson, the son of Yankee Cruiser won for the second time this year. Racing Rampage finished second with Rockmelikeyameanit third.

## BUCKEYE STALLION SERIES

The first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series kicked off at Miami Valley Raceway with the three-year-old filly trotters. Each race in the first leg carried a purse of \$20,000.

Doc's Boo Boo, the two-year-old Buckeye Stallion Series finals winner, began the defense of her crown with a gate-to-wire win in 1:58.3. Jeff Nisonger drove the daughter of Downbytheseaside for trainer Mark Winters. Doc's Boo Boo is owned by JR Stable.

The fastest time of the five divisions went to Pariso. The Creatine filly with Ronnie Gillespie driving grabbed the lead at the three-quarter pole and won in 1:58. Dalton Walls trains and owns Pariso with Bruce Soulsby and Alan Weisenberg.

The other winners included Crysta's Legacy, Smokinhotirishgirl, and Vandy's Star.

Crysta's Legacy, trained by Brian Miller and owned by Leroy Keim was a winner in 1:59.3, while Smokinhotirishgirl won in 1:59 for trainer Jason McGinnis and owners Thestable Smokinghotirish and



Hutchison Harness. Scott Cox trainee Vandy's Star won for the first time this year in 2:00.3 for owners David and Cody Vanderhyde.



Beautiful Seaside had the fastest time among three-year-old filly pacers  
**Photo:** Conrad Photo

Beautiful Seaside sent a message to her rival three-year-old filly pacers. The daughter of Downbytheseaside clocked the fastest time of the seven divisions as she romped to a nine-length victory in 1:53.4. Trace Tetrick took Beautiful Seaside three-wide down the back stretch grabbing the lead and cruising to victory. Beautiful Seaside is trained by Melby Ober Jr. and owned by Matt Rowe.

The second fastest time among the sophomore filly pacers was recorded by High Flyin' Filly and Chris Page. The daughter of Domethatagain, High Flyin' Filly stopped the clock at 1:55 in a wire-to-wire win. High Flyin' Filly is trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Brusceci.

Page picked up another win as he drove Stormy Serena to victory in her first start of the year for trainer Melanie Wrenn. The Fear The Dragon filly is owned by Emerald Highlands Farm, Dolne Farm Services, and Wrenn Racing.

Emerald Highlands Farm also owns Fear Of Sports which was a winner for trainer Kelly O'Donnell.

Other winners included Tre Rock, Seaside Show, and Racing For Three. Tre Rock is trained by Vernon Beachy who co-owns with First Up Racing Stable. Seaside Show is trained by Jessica McGown and owned by Joel Miller. Racing For Three is owned by Carlo Racing and C2G Stable and trained by A.J. Carlo.

Brett Miller won two of the five divisions of three-year-old colt trotters. Miller drove Burton's Hill and Vondell Kemp to victory.

Burton's Hill overcame a break at the quarter pole, rallied from ten lengths back, and won by two lengths in 1:57.1, the best time among the colt trotters. The son of What The Hill is trained by Virgil Morgan Jr. and owned by Joyce McClelland.

Miller took Vondell Kemp to the lead at the three-quarter pole to win by a length in 1:57.2. Tyler Bates trains the What the Hill gelding for Suzanne Bates and Joel Shivak.

The other winners were Long Tom Jess in for trainer Rosy Weaver who co-owns with Heartland Acres; Senterprise, a Christi Noble trainee that is owned by Dennis Owens, Norman Rae Racing, and James Morris; and Fiesty Sam who is driven, trained, and owned by Matthew Brown.

The final day of the first leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series wrapped up with seven divisions of three-year-old colt pacers. Tony Hall, Chris Page, and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. each won two races with Brady Galliers getting the other win. Trainers Ron Burke and Brian Brown each scored a pair of victories as well.

Five of the seven winners were sired by Downbytheseaside.

Wrenn Jr. and Brown teamed up to win two of the races. Seafire and Surfside Beach, sons of Downbytheseaside were easy winners. Seafire, unraced as a two-year-old, won by three lengths for owners Country Club Acres, Joelyn Ridder, Mark Kantrowicz, and Scott Davis. Surfside Beach grabbed the lead at the half-mile mark and never looked back winning for the ownership group of Lombardo Racing & In The Gym, Acadia Farms, VIP Internet Stable, and Joe Sbrocco.

Page and Burke also teamed up to win two races with sons of Downbytheseaside. Gettingyoursealegs rallied down the stretch to win going away for owners Burke Racing Stables, Knox Services, Weaver Brusceci, and Wayne Zollars. The other win came with Boardwalk Jack who went gate-to-wire. Boardwalk Jack is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services, and Joe Sbrocco.

Tony Hall's two wins came with Under Your Scars and Don'ttouchmytruck.

Owned and trained by Anette Lorentzon, Under Your Scars, son of Downbytheseaside. Under Your Scars went three-wide around the final turn and rallied down the stretch to win by three lengths.



Don'ttouchmytruck rolled to victory in 1:51.1 **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Don'ttouchmytruck, son of Racing Hill, took the pocket trip and got up at the wire to win for owner-trainer Judy Roegner. The 1:51.1 clocking was the fastest among the three-year-old colt pacers.

The other winner was Primary Driver. Galliers Racing owns and Brady Galliers trains the son of Fear The Dragon. Primary Driver went three-wide around the final turn to win for the first time this year.

The second leg of the Buckeye Stallion Series begins May 27 at Northfield Park.



# REMEMBERING PACEY

BY ROGER HUSTON



and a handicapper. He worked as a judge at area tracks and county fairs. He owned nearly 150 horses in his lifetime and as a breeder produced 79 registered foals.

His well-known horses included Lightning Wave, winner of a division in the Little Brown Jug in 1969, and Good Bye Columbus who finished second and third in the 1972 Jug won by Strike Out.

I worked many racing programs at county fairs and tracks where Pacey served as a judge. With the passing of Corwin Nixon, the USTA President and operator of Lebanon Raceway, it was my honor to work with Pacey on several broadcasts honoring Nixon.

Even in failing health, Pacey continued his handicapping duties. One of my favorite handicapping stories involving The Wizard took place at the Darke County Fair. On that night, the winners were few and far between. Pacey could be heard reporting that he had just picked a Superfecta Box.

Harness Racing lost one of its iconic figures with the passing of Pacey Mindlin. “The Wiz” was 81 years old and worked his handicapping skills at Miami Valley and Yonkers Raceway until the very end.

I have known Pacey for over 60 years. He was truly a man for all seasons. He was a racing fan, an official, an owner, a breeder,

He failed to mention, however, that the race was made up of just four horses.

There was a non-racing side to Pacey. He met and fell in love with Debbie Ratner more than 34 years ago. When I asked Debbie to remember Pacey, she reflected on the good times they had traveling, building their home, decorating the house for holidays, and gardening. She said he was smart, fun, and sweet and he loved burgers, pizza, and orange juice.

She also told me that Pacey never met a camera he didn't like, even waving at a security camera.

Debbie was with Pacey when he passed away and said “I stayed with him for some time once it came time to go. I hated leaving him there. For the very first time, I was going home without my dear husband. Pacey is always on my mind and will remain forever and ever in my heart.”

Pace Baby Pace.

## MIAMI VALLEY HONORS PACEY



Little Rocket Man wins Pacey “The Wizard” Mindlin Memorial **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Miami Valley honored Pacey Mindlin's legacy with the \$100,000 Pacey “The Wizard” Mindlin Memorial. The invitational drew a field of nine but was scratched down to eight as Let It Ride N came up sick.

Little Rocket Man, despite drawing the outermost post position, won a cavalry charge to the wire to win the inaugural event. A neck separated the first four

horses, all of whom were timed in 1:49.3. This Is The Plan was second and favored Ruthless Hanover, who cut the mile, was third. Hemsworth N was fourth and Bernie claimed the final paycheck by finishing fifth.

Little Rocket Man never saw a pylon during the mile. The seven-year-old son of Rockin Image was parked in eighth in the early going, advanced to seventh in the outer flow



It was only fitting that the mare Pace Baby Pace gave birth to a Downbytheseaside filly at 9:01 on the day of the race to honor Pacey Mindlin.

at the half and sixth at the three quarters, then fifth at the head of the stretch before winning the mad dash to the wire.

Russell Beeman and Jack Freeman own Little Rocket Man, who is trained by Ken Rucker. It was the winner's 43rd career triumph in 79 tries, good for lifetime earnings of \$796,249.



# Ocean Rock Retires

By Frank Fraas



Ocean Rock wins the Sires Stakes Finals for 3-Year-Old Pacing Colts  
**Photo:** Conrad Photo

Great athletes sense when their skills are diminishing and it might be time to contemplate retirement. For racehorses, it's usually the driver or trainer that notices something is amiss. That's what Dan Noble noticed while training Ocean Rock for the 2023 campaign.

Noble, who drove Ocean Rock in all but eight of his career starts, says the final retirement decision was made off his last qualifier on March 31 at Miami Valley Gaming.

He pushed Ocean Rock, winning the qualifier in 1:53.4 over a sloppy track. "I really chased hard in the mile. I know it was muddy, but he just wasn't the Ocean that I knew."

Even during training prior to the last qualifier, Noble said there were times that he would be calm, and you would say he just seemed off this week; this was one of them.

Following the qualifier, Ocean Rock made a trip to the veterinarian to make sure everything was ok. "I thought to myself, if it was injecting an ankle to get him from :53 to :49 tomorrow let's do it, but I think we would be chasing a dream," said Noble.

A Breeders Crown champion in 2021, the son of Rockin Amadeus was named the 2020 three-year-old Ohio pacing colt of the year and the Aged Pacer of the year the following year.

Ocean Rock holds two world records, both of which he set at MGM Northfield Park. In 2019, Ocean Rock set the world record for two-year-old geldings on a half-mile track when he won in 1:51.1. He set the record for four-year-old geldings on a half-

mile track in 2021 with a clocking of 1:48.1. Both records still stand today.

In his career, Ocean Rock won 22 of 44 starts and earned \$1,289,326.

Among his career victories, Ocean Rock won the Ohio Sires Stakes final as a three-year-old and as an aged pacer. He was victorious in the Myron Charna Pace at MGM Northfield Park, the Jim Ewert Memorial at Eldorado Scioto Downs, the Hoosier Pacing Derby at Hoosier Park, and the Dayton Derby at Hollywood Dayton Raceway.

When it came time to the final decision, Noble says they took Ocean Rock's legacy into consideration. "He has \$40,000 in his last four starts. He has to go into the Open. It would take six weeks to become tight and now I have cheapened him. And if he doesn't take off, then it's 'what did he do to the horse?'"

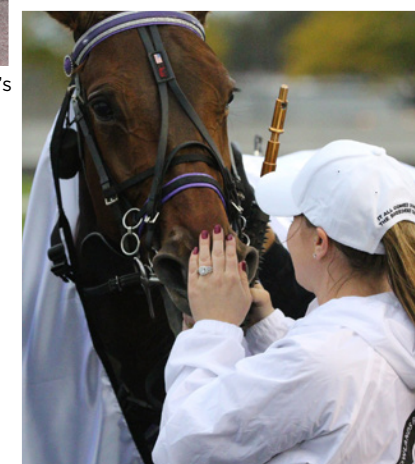
Noble said it wasn't right to continue to push the animal. "That's not what we are here for. I believe you shouldn't continue to race or sell a horse like Ocean Rock because they are plateauing or going downhill a bit. That's their retirement time. I think he served his purpose and now it is time to relax."

For Noble, his wife Christi who trains Ocean Rock, and the Burnett family which owns him, it has been a fairy tale story come true.

"You never think you are going to be associated with a horse like that," said Jim Burnett, the son of owner Sandra Burnett. "Just to be around him and say we owned him and raised him is just a thrill. It's a special feeling for all of us."



2021 Breeders Crown Winner's Circle **Photo:** Mark Hall USTA



Ocean Rock - 2021 Breeders Crown Aged Pace Champion **Photo:** Lisa Photo

The Burnett family bought their first racehorse in the early '70s. In 1988 they purchased the mare Ruthett Hanover who was in foal at the Harrisburg sale. That foal was Moonlight Romola. Five generations later, Ocean Rock fulfilled the family's dreams.

Burnett says father time has caught up with Ocean Rock and they didn't want to break him down or cheapen him. "He has paid his dues. And now he's at the farm with a couple of other horses turned out."

"The only thing Ocean Rock needs to do now is learn how to relax," said Burnett. "I think he'll get used to it. I know he doesn't like it. Like all of us, when we get to retirement, we don't know what to do with ourselves and finally we learn that we just have to relax."

While Ocean Rock enjoys his time in the field, the Burnetts and Nobles can always enjoy looking back at what is a Hall of Fame caliber career.

"I still watch that Breeders Crown race every other week," said Burnett. "It was the right place, right time, with the right horse. We're just happy he came along."



A Full line of Equine Products

Elite Nutrition

Edge EQ

Foal Mineral Blend now available in tubes.

Quick Hitch Harness with Breast Collar or Buxton

6188 TR 419 Millersburg OH 44654  
Ph# 330-893-3723  
a.tlsupplies@plainemails.com

# Tetrick, Brewer Grab Miami Valley Titles



Trace Tetrick and Jason Brewer took home the driving and training titles at Miami Valley. L to R: Brett Merkle (OHHA), Trace Tetrick, Race Secretary Gregg Keidel, Jason Brewer, Director of Racing Ken Rambo **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Trace Tetrick won his second Miami Valley driving title in 2023. Tetrick started 834 races and piloted 154 winners. His \$1,902,655 is the highest earnings total of any driver in the history of Miami Valley.

Brett Miller was second with 131 wins, while Dan Noble was third with 120 wins.

It was the seventh year that Tetrick has finished among the top-three drivers at a Miami Valley meet.

In addition to Tetrick, six other drivers surpassed the million-dollar mark. The others include Brett Miller, Dan Noble, Chris Page, Tyler Smith, Sam Widger, and Kayne Kauffman.

On the training side, Jason Brewer won his first training title at Miami Valley. Brewer had 267 starters with 57 of those finding the winner's circle. Brewer earned \$837,501.

Tyler George was second with 53 wins. George's streak of finishing in the top three is now at seven years.

Ron Burke was third with 50 wins. Burke's entries earned a meet-leading \$881,318.

A total of 26 trainers notched double-digit wins. Other top ten trainers were Virgil Morgan Jr., Brewer Adams, Steve Carter, Peter Redder, Michael Hitchcock, Pat Melloy Jr., and Todd Luther.



In the 2023 February issue of the Buckeye Harness Horseman magazine, the photo in the recap of Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year was not Rose Run Yolanda. We apologize for the error and have reprinted the recap with the correct picture on the next page.



# Rose Run Yolanda

## 2022 Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year



Rose Run Yolanda - 2022 Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year Photo: Conrad Photo

### ROSE RUN YOLANDA

2022 Two-Year-Old  
Filly Trotter of the Year

TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR - ROSE  
RUN KEEPSAKE - AMBRO LASER

Ohio Triple Crown Winner

1:56.2H

\$290,528

**Owner:** Greg Luther Racing  
(Blacklick, OH)

**Breeder:** Rose Run Farm (Sugar-  
creek, OH)

**Trainer:** Todd Luther



Left to Right: Todd Luther, Trevor Smith, Greg Luther, John Konesky III Photo: Brad Conrad

In the words of Greg Luther, “When you work with family, some days are good and some days are bad.” But Luther wouldn’t have it any other way working with his brother Todd when it comes to Rose Run Yolanda.

From the beginning, there was something special about Rose Run Yolanda and Greg credits his brother with finding her. “We

bought a lot of babies, and I picked every single one. I let Todd pick one and that was Yolanda,” joked Greg.

Todd liked the daughter of Triumphant Caviar from the start. “From day one I liked her video. She was a little tough to get gaited, but once she figured it out you knew she was going to be something special.”

And special she was. If not for a break in the first turn of her first race, Rose Run Yolanda might have had the perfect freshman campaign. She rallied to finish second in that first race and then won the rest of her races on the way to winning the Ohio Triple Crown and being named the 2-Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year.

“It was nerve-racking all year,” said Greg. “There’s nothing scarier than having a 2-year-old trotter and the only thing worse is having a filly trotter. It was phenomenal not only to win the Sires Stakes final but also the Triple Crown.”

For Todd, the Triple Crown made the year that much more special. “You always see horses win a triple crown and think to yourself it would really be nice to have one that good and then Yolanda wins it. I can’t wait to see what next year brings.”

Rose Run Yolanda will be busy in 2023. “Greg and I talked at the end of the year, and she will be staked to everything,” said Todd. “She’ll be racing in Ohio for the Sires Stakes, but we’ll take her to the big grand circuit races and hopefully she can step on that stage.”



# Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON



This is my 64th year announcing horse races all over the world. During that time, I have called harness, thoroughbred and quarter horse races, but, by far, more harness races.

As time progressed, I was asked to call other special events. Those have had a broad range from babies in diapers at the Pittsburgh Zoo to the latest event in downtown Washington, Pennsylvania in early May. The Washington Business District put on the "Running of the Wools," the first-ever sheep races in the world.

The program had four divisions of five sheep each, with the four winners returning for the World Championship. The course was on South Main Street at a distance of 30 yards.

The very first division established the World Record of 7.28 seconds. The other divisions were timed in 10.54, 56.88, and 2:03.33. The slower-timed races were the result of the sheep going around in circles before crossing the finish line.

The four heat winners returned for the championship and Baad Company showed why he was the World Champion, winning the championship in a time of 8.55 seconds.

I can now add sheep to the list of animal races I have called which include dog, turtle, pig, and duck races.

But animal races are not the only races I have called. There have been winged auto sprints, Soap Box Derby races, and even the Penn Relays at the University of Pittsburgh.

One of the biggest productions was a race on the 100th Anniversary of the Duquesne and the Monongahela inclines.

They are located about a half mile from each other, so they put me in medevac helicopter from Children's Hospital, 2,000 feet above the Three Rivers to call the race. After the race, the pilot took me to Pittsburgh International Airport to catch a flight to Stewart, New York for the Hall Fame weekend at Goshen that year.

The same radio station came up with an event the weekend before the Indianapolis 500 known as the "Undie 500." Men and women in their underwear raced a half mile at a Motor Speedway near Pittsburgh. The race had two pit stops made up of chugging a 12oz drink and changing their shoes.

One of the most creative endeavors of the OHHA was our production of fantasy races during Covid. We developed races with trotters and pacers of different years to compete in make-believe contests. We created a race call and added photos of the horse to the audio.

Over the years, there have been some challenges calling races. The names of horses that found their way to the same race were a bit trying. At Pompano Park in the same race were Sandy Sam, Pams Ram, and Sassy Pam. There was a quarter-horse race with Bull Sit followed by Scoop It Up. And at The Meadows Mister Rogers chasing Silk Panties.

There have been many other wild things in the 182,610 races I have called in 64 years, but we will save those for another time.

**Be There!**



# Track Notes & Milestones

## WORLD RECORDS SET AT NORTHFIELD

The “Flying Turns” at Northfield lived up to its billing in the month of May. Three world records were set.



Eye Ofa Tiger **Photo:** Casalinova Photography

Eye Ofa Tiger AS turned in a jaw-dropping track and world record in the Open Trot on May 7. The son of Chapter Seven stopped the timer at 1:52 to set the record for aged gelding trotters on a half-mile track.

The old record was held

by Smoking Jet. Eye Ofa Tiger AS is owned by ACL Stuteri AB and Kjell Johansson and trained by Mark Headworth. Eye Ofa Tiger AS has 39 victories in 149 starts and earnings just shy of \$875,000.

Eight days later, Winning Ticket equaled the record. In the open trot on May 14, Winning Ticket with Aaron Merriman took the lead heading into the backstretch for the final time and held off a late charge to win in 1:52.



Winning Ticket **Photo:** Casalinova Photography

The son of Triumphant Caviar is owned by trainer Chris Beaver, Steven Zeehandelaar, Tim Homan, and Jim Burnett. Winning Ticket has won 20 of 41 in his career and has earned \$587,580.



Caviar Gold **Photo:** Casalinova Photography

Beaver picked up his second world record of the night when Caviar Gold set a world record for four-year-old geldings on a half-mile track. Merriman grabbed the lead and never looked back, cruising to a six-length victory in 1:52.1. Caviar Gold

is also a son of Triumphant Caviar. He is owned by Beaver, Bill Manes, Leo Fleming, and Zeehandelaar. Caviar Gold has hit the board in 19 of 26 races, winning nine. He has earned \$371,218. The old record was held by Amigo Volo, who trotted a 1:52.4 mile at Yonkers Raceway in December 2021.

## TRACK RECORDS SET AT MIAMI VALLEY

The closing weekend at Miami Valley produced three track records. Two of the records were set on the final day of the meet in Ohio Sires Stakes action.



Rose Run Yolanda **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Rose Run Yolanda set a new track record for three-year-old trotting fillies. Brett Miller guided the Triumphant Caviar filly to an easy six-length victory in 1:53.2. The clocking was also a new lifetime mark for the Todd Luther trainee.

In the three-year-old filly pace, Hey Hey Mama and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. set a new Miami Valley track record with a blistering 1:50.2 which was also a new lifetime mark. The daughter of Downbytheseaside is trained by Brian Brown and owned by Country Club Acres, Milton Leeman, Joe Sbrocco, and Acadia Farms.



Hey Hey Mama **Photo:** Conrad Photo



Ocean Music **Photo:** Conrad Photo

Ocean Music turned in a record-setting performance in the Open Mares Pace on the penultimate day of the 2023 meet. The 4-year-old daughter of Racing Hill with Dan Noble in the bike covered the mile in 1:50.1, shaving three-fifths off the old mark. It was the oldest standing divisional track record in the 10-year history of Miami Valley. The old record was set in 2014 when Shebestingin won the Chip Noble Memorial Grand Circuit Stake for David Miller. It was the fourth win of the year for Ocean Music, who is trained by Christi Noble and owned by Sandra Burnett.

Ocean Music turned in a record-setting performance in the Open Mares Pace on the penultimate day of the 2023 meet. The 4-year-old daughter of Racing Hill with Dan Noble in the bike covered the mile

**MILESTONES** Ron Burke crossed the \$300 million dollar mark in earnings on May 6. It was almost a sure thing that Burke would reach the mark as he sent 39 to the gate that day at seven different tracks. Burke reached the plateau with an Open Handicap win at the Meadows.



# Welcome our new directors!

## MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR KEITH GISSER



Keith Gisser was elected to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Board of Directors in January to represent the owners of District 4.

Gisser has done everything imaginable when it comes to the harness racing industry. He has owned, trained, driven, called races, and coordinated many promotional projects/events for the sport.

"I started going to races as a teenager and making dollar bets with my buddies," said Gisser. "Once I graduated, I bought a horse and decided I wanted to become a trainer."

After training for a few years and managing a 12-horse stable, Gisser decided to turn his attention to promoting harness racing. "I still continued to be a racing fan for many years, but felt the sport wasn't getting enough media coverage."

"In the 80s, I approached a local sports radio station near Cleveland about doing a harness racing show," said Gisser. The show aired every Saturday before the races at Northfield Park.

That led to him landing a full-time job at Northfield Park as the Publicity Director. It was a position he held for ten years until 2011.

Since 2011, Gisser has stayed involved in the industry working with the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, the Little Brown Jug Radio Network, and writing for the Daily Racing Form.

He has also assisted the OHHA with the live stream of county fair racing and emceed the annual banquet.

Currently, he works as a herpetology educator and educates people across the United States about reptiles. "I came up with a program called The Handicapping Herpetologist combining my love of the

sport with showing educational reptile displays at the tracks. I would co-handicap with the track handicapper or do a tv segment. We have brought that program to Dayton, Northfield, Delaware, and many other tracks."

### What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?

I think we are in a great position right now. Ohio has different levels for your horse to compete in. Having 65 county fairs to compete at, the Buckeye Stallion Series, and our top level being the Ohio Sires Stakes, it gives horsemen of all backgrounds a chance to be competitive and make a profit.

### What can be done to improve the sport?

I think we can do a better job of publicizing the sport in more traditional means. I feel we need to put our harness racing personalities in front of the public eye more. We need our product to be easily accessible to the public in every way possible because that helps us bring in new fans.

### How do you feel about joining the Board of Directors?

I feel this will be a great opportunity for me to help the sport and for my voice to be heard. I'm a strong believer that if you're not a part of the solution, you're a part of the problem. I come at it from a different aspect since I've done just about everything there is on the back side and on the front side.

### What is your favorite harness racing memory?

My favorite harness racing memory is when Ohio-bred B J Scoot won The Little Brown Jug in 1989. My buddies and I followed B J Scoot across the country for all of his races. Even though he was fast, some people accused him of having no heart. His mother was Terrys Woe who was the gutsiest mare who raced in Ohio. I was in tears when B J Scoot crossed the wire even though I had no personal ties to the horse.

### What was the horse that made you fall in love with the sport?

The horse that most recently renewed my love for the sport was a horse I owned a small percentage of named Osceola Hanover. I trained claimers my whole career. So, to be in a Buckeye Stallion Series leg going for \$17,500 and winning the race was very exciting. That win renewed my love for the sport as an owner.

### What is your favorite Ohio Fair?

Besides Delaware, it would have to be Darke County. I drove a horse by the name of Moorelands Ruggles for Dean Beachy in an Amateur Trot race in 2003 and finished second. The Beachys were thrilled about the second-place finish, but I told them he felt a little tired coming down the stretch. That's when I found out that they raced him the day before in a maiden and finished third and didn't want to tell me because they didn't want me to drive the horse any differently.

# MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR RUSTY VORHEES



Allan "Rusty" Vorhees was elected to the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association Board of Directors in January to represent owners in District 8.

Vorhees has been involved in harness racing for many decades, first watching the fair races as a child with his family. "We lived a block away from the Celina Fairgrounds, so I just naturally gravitated towards harness

racing with my dad," said Vorhees. "My dad would follow some horses around from fair to fair and even Lebanon Raceway."

As Vorhees' interest in the sport grew, his father bought him a trotter while he was in junior high to learn the fundamentals of harness racing. "The horse wasn't very fast, but I gained a lot of experience from him. I learned how to groom, train, and jog which helped me become more confident around horses."

Vorhees has raced mainly in Ohio, but he did dabble in Indiana racing and was competitive in the Hoosier state. Vorhees said he and his father decided to give Indiana a try because of the state of racing in Ohio. "At the time, racing was going downhill in Ohio. So, when Hoosier Park opened, we decided to start racing out there for a few years."

His success in Indiana included a 2000 Fair Finals win with Indy Siege. The three-year-old pacer made 19 starts, winning 11 times, and finishing second once. At the end of the season, Indy Siege had enough points to enter either the Indiana Sires Stakes Final or the Indiana Fair Championship. "We had a choice to make. Either go for \$150,000 in the Sires Stake final or \$35,000 in the Fair Finals," said Vorhees. "He was a talented horse, but we felt he would compete better in the Indiana Fair Final."

When he's not working with his horse, Vorhees says he mows grass and washes his vehicles. "When I open that barn door and see that horse looking at me wanting to be fed and wanting to go on the track, it makes me realize every day is my favorite harness racing memory. It's a good day to be alive and enjoy every moment."

## What are your thoughts on the current state of harness racing?

I think everything is going well. There is an upward trend in Ohio as well as harness racing in general. Adding slots and partnering with the casinos has benefited horse racing as well as the horsemen. We are doing way better than we were fifteen years ago.

## What are some things that can be done to improve the sport?

We need to get younger people involved and be more transparent with the public. Seeing people on Twitter saying harness racing is scripted, that's not good. We need to make it so harness racing is viewed more positively by the public. I also think having uniform rules for each state would help us immensely. Each state has different rules and policies for certain things which can confuse the public as well as the horsemen.

## How do you feel about joining the Board of Directors?

It's too early to tell, but I'm excited to be a part of the Board of Directors. There's strength in numbers. I'll do the best I can and offer insight on different things. I have been racing in Ohio for most of my career.

## What is your favorite harness racing memory?

Going to the Little Brown Jug. I remember going there when I was in sixth grade. My dad let me miss school to watch The Great American Harness Race. My first Little Brown Jug was in 1969 when Laverne Hanover won. I remember when Most Happy Fella won the Little Brown Jug and Stanley Dancer was walking back to the paddock. My cousin asked if he could shake his hand and Stanley said, "Why would you want to do that, son? My hand is the same as yours." That kind of stuck with me because it showed how humble Stanley Dancer was regardless of all the success he had.

## What was the horse that made you fall in love with the sport?

This horse wasn't my favorite, but I would have to say it was the first horse my father bought me. Even though he wasn't fast and couldn't stay trotting most of the time, he taught me the basics which made me appreciate a horse like Indy Siege. Indy Siege was my favorite. He won several Indiana Sire Stakes races and some Indiana Fair races too.

## What is your favorite Ohio Fair?

Even though Delaware is a fan favorite, I love Mercer County. I grew up there and grew my love for harness racing there as well.

**WE'VE CHANGED  
THE WAY THE  
BUSINESS WORKS™**



**Buy and Sell Racehorses, Broodmares,  
Breeding, Shares, Yearlings, Weanlings,  
Equipment, and Services**

**If you're without a computer,  
call Maurice Chodash at**

**1-561-706-4839**

500 NE Spanish River Blvd., Suite 204-C, Boca Raton, FL 33431



# Keidel Wraps Up Long Career



Gregg Keidel has had a storied career in harness racing. He has been an owner, driver, trainer, publicity director, judge, and race secretary. Not bad for a guy with a journalism degree.

Keidel went to Ohio University to study communications; he graduated in 1970. That degree landed him his first job as a sports editor at the Parma Sun newspaper.

Keidel went from the newsroom to the boardroom as he started to buy community papers, eventually owning seven papers.

Thanks to the success of the newspaper business, Keidel branched out to the Standardbred industry, purchasing his first two horses in 1979.

He was licensed as a trainer and grew his stable to over 20 horses before he had to sell his stock when he went to work at Northfield Park.

"I was racing, and I got a call in the paddock from Northfield GM Dick Wilson who

heard I had a degree in communications, and they were looking for a publicity director," said Keidel.

Keidel says he thought about it for a day or two before accepting the offer. "That's when my sons were about 10 and 12 and wanted to come to the barn all the time. I didn't really think racing was going to survive. I didn't want them getting involved in the business so after thinking about it I told him I would do it."

Keidel spent two years as the publicity director before being promoted to the Director of Racing. As the Director of Racing, he was instrumental in developing races like the Battle of Lake Erie, the Cleveland Classic, and the Courageous Lady.

While working for Northfield Park, Keidel continued driving as an amateur. "Northfield was really good about allowing me to continue to drive in amateur races while I was working there."

Keidel won 108 races in his career. His last win came with Milford's Z Tam in a Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association event at Hollywood Dayton in 2020. Keidel made his last start in 2022.

As an amateur, he represented the United States in the 1998 International Friendship Amateur Driving Tournament in Munich, Germany. Team USA finished second to Italy in the competition.

The following year, he was named the National Amateur Driver of the Year by the United States Harness Writers Association.

In addition to working at Northfield Park, Keidel has held positions at Pompano Park, Running Aces, Hoosier Park, Hollywood Dayton, and Miami Valley.

While Keidel once thought the industry was dying, he is amazed at where it is now. "Ohio was one of the last states to get slots. Indiana had the slots and so did The Meadows' that's why I got discouraged and retired the first time." Keidel said Northfield





L to R: USTA Director Mark Loewe, Hall of Fame drivers Dave Palone, John Campbell, and David Miller, and Gregg Keidel



Rollinlikethunder and Trace Tetrick win the Gregg Keidel Retirement Pace **Photo:** Conrad Photo

was one of the top tracks in the country in handle, but then it went down, down, down as Indiana and Pennsylvania grew. “It was discouraging for me. We were doing nothing but going uphill and then we were on a downhill slide the first time I left.”

Keidel says the racing in Ohio can continue to get better as long as the money continues to grow. “I still worry that sooner or later the subsidy will go away. I hope it’s not in my lifetime. Twenty or thirty years down the road the subsidies might dry up and that is disheartening.”

Keidel’s final meet as the race secretary at Miami Valley did not start off as planned. Keidel suffered a stroke but returned to work shortly after to resume his duties.

On the final day of the Miami Valley meet, Keidel was honored with the Gregg Keidel Retirement Pace which was won by Rollinlikethunder and Trace Tetrick in 1:49.3.

The 75-year-old Keidel retired once before in 2010 while at Northfield Park. He says he is looking forward to this retirement. “I will be moving to Ocala, Florida, and am

planning on playing some poker and golf. I’ve always shot in the ’80s. One of the last things on my bucket list is to shoot my age and when I get to Florida I’m moving up to the senior tees.”

Keidel says with four grandchildren living in Hilliard he thinks he will be back in Ohio often.

As for harness racing, Keidel says he will miss it, but he’ll be watching the races when he’s not on the golf course.

## MGM Northfield Park Names New Announcer



MGM Northfield Park has a new announcer. Kenny Livengood will serve as the track’s announcer beginning in June. Livengood replaces longtime announcer Ayers Ratliff who stepped down at the end of 2022.

The 24-year-old Livengood has served as the backup announcer at Saratoga Casino Hotel.

“I’m excited that I can continue to live my dream at MGM Northfield Park,” said Livengood. “It was a tough decision to move away from home for the first time in my life for an extended period. However, life is about taking risks and never giving up on your dreams.”

Livengood called his first professional horse race at Arapahoe Park in 2016. After spending two summers at Chippewa Downs in North Dakota in 2017 and 2018, Livengood turned his attention to harness racing in his home state of New York in 2018.

Livengood is an avid handicapper in his spare time, participating as a finalist in the NTRA National Horseplayer Championship in 2021 and 2023.

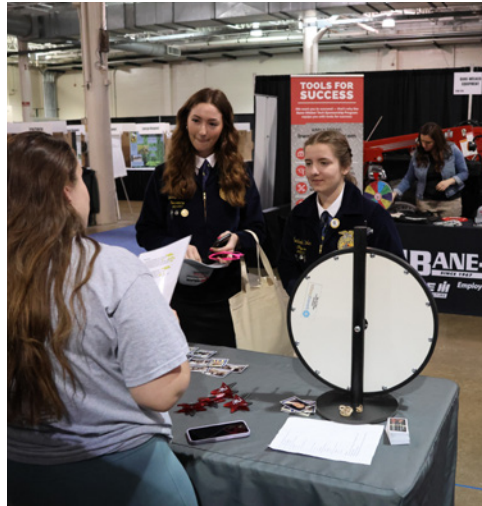
“We took our time to find the right person for the job, and we believe Kenny is ready for the challenge,” said MGM Northfield Director of Racing Dave Bianconi. “There have only been three full-time announcers in Northfield’s nearly 70-year history (Andy Cunningham, Greg Young, and Ayers Ratliff), so Kenny has big shoes to fill.”



# FFA CONVENTION

The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association was on location in May at the Ohio FFA convention in Columbus. About 9,000 students from around the state attended the two-day event. The students attended general sessions with inspiring keynote speakers and were able to visit a career show to network with agricultural professionals.

The OHHA's virtual reality race bike allowed students to view a race from the driver's point of view. Students were also tested on overall horse knowledge with the trivia wheel and got hands-on experience at the leg-wrapping station. Natalie Rider of Celina had the fastest time, wrapping a leg in 16 seconds.



Galbreath Equine Center

## Advanced Specialty Equine Veterinary Care

- Comprehensive equine medical, surgical, reproductive & dental care
- Board-certified sports medicine & rehabilitation specialists
- Performance evaluations
- Diagnostic imaging services
  - MRI, nuclear medicine, digital X-ray, ultrasound, CT
- Emergency & Critical Care 24/7 365 days a year
- Ambulatory service (Columbus metro only)



*Working in partnership with your veterinarian*



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

614-292-6661

[vet.osu.edu/vmc/equine](http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/equine)

# 20 questions with Barry Vicroy



## What is your first recollection of horses?

I was going to Lebanon Raceway with my dad. He had a couple of friends that had horses and there was a guy that worked with my mom who had horses. Whenever they would race, we would go to

Lebanon or Latonia. Every summer we would hit six or seven fairs on what is now the Ohio Colt Racing Association circuit.

## So that makes you a first-generation horseman?

There are some stories that on my mom's side, my grandmother's brother had horses in the Xenia area. So, I would be the first generation and I didn't start going to the backside until I was 22!

## What sports were you involved with growing up?

When I was in high school, I played soccer, basketball, and baseball. In junior high, I ran some track but I talented myself out of the speed game.

## Was baseball your favorite sport?

That was the main game. That was the goal to be a baseball player. That was the focus in high school. Unfortunately, when I went to college, I was so focused on baseball I didn't keep up with my academics. That was a lesson learned.

## How long did you play?

I played until I was 26. I played one year of Double-A pro ball but got hurt that year. I was not able to pitch after that.

## Baseball did lead to a big moment in your life. What was that?

One of the amateur associations in Dayton was the Dayton Amateur Baseball Commission. They ran levels from little league to the highest level which was the Double-A league which was mostly former pro, Division 1, and Division 2 players. I played in that league for four or five years. I was inducted into the Montgomery County Baseball Hall of Fame in 2014.

## You have a love for music. How did you become a disc jockey?

I started to do the PA announcing in high school. I went to Valley View High School, and they had a really good girls' team, but no one did the PA announcing so I volunteered. One of my stops in college, the women's team did not have a PA announcer, so I did PA an-

nouncing there. I really enjoyed music and at a couple of the stops I put the music with the PA Announcing and I became a night club deejay.

## Who got you the early experience in harness racing?

One night when I was working at the club, I ran into a couple of the drivers. They were looking at the Lebanon program and we started talking. We became friends. That was Randy Tharps and Eric Ledford. The more they came in, the more I went to the track. I was talking to Sam Coven and he said, "You look like you want to learn and we need the help, so why don't you come by." I started helping Sam and Mary Coven. That was a relationship that, while I was on the backstretch, continued and no matter where I stopped it always went back to Sam and Mary.

## You started driving in 2000. Do you remember the first winning drive?

The good thing about having four career wins is it's easy to remember each one of them. I had only been down to the Red Mile a few times and they had a meet that fit my horses better. I had a horse (Lightning Killean) and everything kind of worked out that day. I got a good trip, and I got some room in the stretch. I remember crossing the wire and I looked to my left and there was nobody there or in front of me and I looked to my right and there was nobody there or in front of me and as I crossed the line I was like I just won the race so I figured I would head back to the winner's circle.

## Why did you decide to give up racing?

Things were getting very tough in Ohio in 2005-2006, particularly for me. Because of the size of the purses for the lower-level horses, which is what I had, it was hard to make a living.

## How did your announcing career in harness racing begin?

Being a former PA announcer, and having a bit of a mockingbird in me, I could do some impersonations of different announcers. People would ask me to do 10-15 second impersonation of race calls and they would say you have to do that. In 2007, I kind of got shanghaied to go to the qualifiers at Scioto Downs under the pretense that we were going to watch a horse that was going to qualify. I couldn't figure out why we were going to drive from Lebanon to Scioto to watch qualifiers. When I got there, I found out I was announcing the qualifiers.

## In your career, does one race you've called stand out?

There are a lot, but the two top ones are world records. Pet Rock in 1:47.2 at Scioto and

Always B Miki in 1:47 at Scioto Downs. Those are still the two I can see with my eyes closed.

## Away from the track, what do you like to do with your free time?

Basically, spend time at home with my girlfriend, Kim, and my dogs. I'm a big Columbus Blue Jackets fan, occasionally a little bit of golf and video games. I'm pretty simple.

## Do you have a favorite vacation spot to get away from it all?

I'm not much of a traveler or vacation guy. I like to stick to my routine. Ohio just seems to be the place for me. I don't mind seeing the things in Ohio, but I'm kind of a homebody.

## With your schedule, do you have much downtime?

It keeps me busy. I complain about it, but I probably wouldn't want it any other way. Typically, you don't take a whole lot of days off. I'm particular about how I want the program to go and how the broadcast is handled. I'm lucky I have a couple of guys that I trust to replace me when I need a couple of days off.

## Do you have a favorite TV show you like to watch?

I like to watch the NCIS shows. There are a few that filter in but they come and go. We watch three or four seasons or binge-watch something to get through it, but NCIS is my go-to show.

## What was the last movie you watched, either on TV or in a theatre?

I can't even remember. Nothing really sticks out. We haven't been to a theatre in seven or eight years. I'm not a big movie guy.

## Do you have a favorite sport to watch?

Mostly hockey and golf. In the summertime, golf will replace hockey. Unfortunately, as a Blue Jackets fan, golf has replaced hockey a little earlier than I would like most years.

## What's your favorite food?

I'm not sure you've seen me in person, but there is not a lot I don't like to eat. I typically avoid anything spicy. Steak, pizza, and City Barbeque has become a favorite recently.

## Is there anything on your bucket list that you want to do?

I'm a day-to-day person for the good and the bad. Sometimes the lack of planning will come back to bite me. I don't really look that far ahead; I just look to get through the next week. I don't have any big bucket list plans or dreams.



# WAR HORSES

by Cheyenne Christman

A warhorse is described as a horse that goes out and battles against the best in its field and has a long career in racing. In harness racing, Standardbreds can race up to the age of 15, but many retire before then to pursue other endeavors. It's those that stick around that earn the admiration of the fans.



## ER ROOM

ER Room is in his last year of racing. Foaled in 2009, the son of Cambest out of First Taste has made 331 starts with 50 wins and has earned \$460,000. His first win came in a two- and three-year-old non-winners of one at Woodbine. He took his lifetime mark of 1:51.3 as a ten-year-old.

ER Room is trained by Robert Rogan, who claimed him in 2021 for \$8,000. "There's a specific type of horse that I look for and he fits that mold perfectly," said Rogan. "I usually get older horses because of it."

Last year, ER Room missed the first six months of the season due to soreness. Since then, he has put up some of the best numbers of his career. In his last 30 starts, ER Room has hit the board in 14 races with nine wins.

Rogan said once he figured the horse out, he just took off. "He was phenomenal at Dayton last fall. I never had a horse that raced as well as he did for that length of time."

"When you are talking about a war horse, you are talking about ER Room."

The horse gets along with almost every driver, according to Rogan, even if he is difficult to drive. "He doesn't wear an overcheck or a head pole to race, which sounds odd since he gets on the left line so badly."

Rogan says once the gate swings open, ER Room is all business. "He straightens up and does his job. ER Room is an awesome horse."

When his career does end, Rogan would like to work with a race-horse retirement foundation to help ER Room find a new home for life.



## KJ'S FOXY LADY

KJ's Foxy Lady is a 13-year-old mare with a colorful racing history.

During her career, KJ's Fox Lady has had 20 different owners. She has made 373 starts with 61 wins and earnings of \$440,300. Her first win as a three-year-old came in a non-winner of 1 at Tioga Downs.

Parker Smith owned her in late 2022. "I like claimers and try to look for older horses who have experience and have a decent amount of money in their career. She just fit what I was looking for."

Smith said in the beginning she was a handful to deal with and raced very poorly her first few starts. A veterinarian found that KJ's Foxy Lady suffered from Atrial fibrillation, an abnormal rhythm of the heart. Smith gave her some time off and changed her nutritional regimen. "Once I gave her some time to heal, she got a lot better. She's a plain Jane, but she's a really nice mare, has a great attitude, and is never moody," said Smith.

Last year was KJ's Foxy Lady's best year in terms of wins. She crossed the wire first in 11 races, eight of which were driven by Smith's father, Jeremy Smith. "I would say my dad was 90% the key to KJ's Foxy Lady success. They just clicked."

KJ's Foxy Lady's success did not go unnoticed as she was claimed five times in the 2022 season.

“I like claimers and try to look for older horses who have experience and have a decent amount of money in their career. She just fit what I was looking for.”  
Parker Smith, KJ's Foxy Lady owner



### NUCLEAR DRAGON

Nuclear Dragon is a horse that has made a name for himself on the Ohio Fair circuit in the Signature Series. The 11-year-old son of Nuclear Breeze has made 225 career starts with 53 wins and earnings of over \$700,000.

Nuclear Dragon's first win came as a two-year-old when he won at Ocean Downs. Since then, he has won in Open competition and claiming ranks.

His best earnings year was in 2018 when he earned \$185,150. During that season, he finished second in the Jim Ewart Memorial Pace at Scioto Downs and won the Gene Riegler Memorial Pace at Greenville.

Like a fine wine, Nuclear Dragon continues to age well. In 2022, he made a career-high 43 starts with 13 wins and earned \$143,470. His wins included all three legs of the Bill Dailey Memorial at Miami Valley.

The current owner Tonya Nichols has a sweet spot for Nuclear Dragon as she claimed him three times in 2021.

Jason Brewer trains Nuclear Dragon and said you wouldn't know he has earned over \$400,000. "He's not very big and does whatever he wants. He'll trot, gallop, and occasionally switch to pace, but when it's time to race, he's all class."

Nuclear Dragon set the world record for a 5/8-mile dash on a 5/8-mile track at Miami Valley in February of 2022 which he won in 1:07. That record was broken earlier this year by Rose Run Uriah at Dover Downs.

Brewer says they are looking forward to a great 2023. "He has an owner that loves him, and she enjoys seeing him compete at all the fairs in the Signature Series. We are excited for this year."



### ST LADS GIDGET

St Lads Gidget did not start her career until her three-year-old season. The daughter of Jereme's Jet has raced over 283 times with 41 wins and earnings of over \$350,000.

Until last year, all but six of St Lads Gidget's races were at Northfield Park. She had two starts as a three-year-old at Woodbine and four starts at Scioto in 2020. Last year she became a bit of a traveler, hitting all the tracks in Ohio as well as a stop in New York and a qualifier in Michigan. This year it is back to Northfield Park.

In her career, St Lads Gidget has started 40 or more races four times and has won seven races in three different years.

One of those years was her freshman season when she won seven of 14 starts.

Cory Kreiser trained St Lads Gidget last year and says she is laid back and easy to get along with but can be moody. "I know it's odd, but I liked her when she was moody because when she was moody, she went out and won. When she was an angel, she didn't race well. She's a class act overall though." Kreiser says she knows her job and what she's supposed to do.

St Lads Gidget was trained by Jessica Roegner in 2021. Roegner recently brought the mare back to her barn, claiming her in April.

Look through any racing program and you will find horses that have given it their all on the track and can be considered... War Horses.

Article Photos: Conrad Photo



# SCIOTO DOWNS WIENER DOG RACES

#WIENERTAKESALL



## SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

Wiener Takes All in our first annual Wiener Dog Race!

Join us for an unforgettable night at the track and make sure to bring the family to this free event. First post time starts at 5:50pm and will feature multiple heats between the harness races for our Dachshund friends. Plus, enjoy your favorite food trucks at the track!

The fun doesn't end there. Save the date for July 1st! The \$150,000 Next Generation Races return to the Scioto Downs track with action-packed race cards.



**CAESARS**  
**RACEBOOK**



**ELDORADO**  
G A M I N G  
SCIOTO DOWNS

GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER OR 1-800-589-9966 FOR HELP.

# Thank You to our 2023 P.A.C.E.R. Contributors

## OHHA Pacesetters as of 5/21/23

James Arledge	Tiffany Liles
Ernie Ayers	Greg Luther
Stephen Bateson	Rick & Donas Martindale
Harold Bauder	David McElrath
Marion Beachy	Joe McLead
Donald Bean	Mel Rose Stable LLC
Christopher Beaver	John Ryan Melsheimer
Lucinda Belcher	John W Melsheimer
Andrew Betts	Shawn Melsheimer
Brad & Lisa Bixler	Jerry Miller
Tracy Bower	Ben Miller
Mary Jo & Doyle Bross	Dean Miller
Jim Buchy	Jacob Mossbarger
Steve Bush	Jay Mossbarger
Urie Byler	Dr. Hallie Nesselroad
Stephen Collins	Ora Petersheim
Cool Winds Farm	Mark Pfeiffer
Patricia Davis	Marvin Raber
Jason Elser	Matt Rowe
Rebecca Ewing-Buckner	Dean Santantonio
Kevin Greenfield	Melvin Schmucker
Kathy Grose	Susan Schroeder
Moria Gunn	Andrea Siedgel
Scott Hagemeyer	Perry Soderberg
Daniel Hale	Sweiger Stables
Tami Hartman	Charles Taylor
Jonas Hershberger	Randy & Jennifer Turner
Calvin & Amy Hollar	Allan & Ann Vorhees
Aaron Hollar	Brad Wallace
Carson & Joe Hollar-Kale	Matthew Waltz
Ryan & Holly Holton	William Webb
Roger Huston	Jayne Weller
JNL Equine	Casey Wolfe
John Konesky	Ola Yoder
Timothy Konkle	Randy Young

## OHIO BREEDERS AWARD REQUIREMENTS

**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	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

**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

**Mares registered in 2022** (Foals of 2023)  
**mare registration date 11/30/22**

Foal Age	Membership Requirement
Foal Born 2023	Membership Required
Yearling 2024	No Membership Required
2 & 3-Year-Old 2025, 2026	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.

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

Bernice Burris • Jim Haines • David Jenkins  
 Wayne Willis Johnson • Jack Schliesser



# SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS!



Huge savings for the Horse World!

Call Equine Equipment today to get your industry discounts from...



Dedicated Discounts



Great Savings



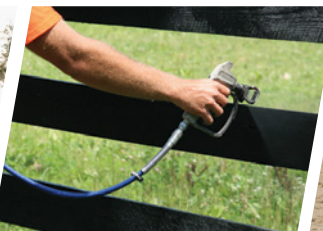
Special Pricing



Call for Pricing



www.Tenda.com



We offer additional equine discounts at your local dealer!

1 (877) 905-0004 / [www.EquineEquipment.com](http://www.EquineEquipment.com)



Serving USA and Canada





## Regularly Scheduled OSRC Meeting Recap Wednesday, February 15, 2023 By Renée Mancino

Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person, Commissioner Patmon not present.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the February 15, 2023, minutes were offered for ratification. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the February 15, 2023, meeting minutes and the Executive Director's Approval Items.

In the matter of ratification of Harness Horseman's Health and Retirement Program Trustee Sandy "Hugh" Beatty Jr. under R.C. § 3769.21. Under R.C. § 3769.21 and the H.H.H.R.P. Trust documents, the H.H.H.R.P. Trustee appointments are on staggered three-year terms. Hugh "Sandy" Beatty's third term expires on February 28, 2023. Discussion occurred regarding Mr. Beatty's lifetime in harness racing as a second-generation horseman, an OHHA Director since 2000, and a private trainer since 1991. Commissioner Thomas Winters asked about supplying the HHHRP's financials, which occurred with the prior Racing Commission. It was set forth that the HHHRP's 990s would follow and be submitted as requested. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously ratified Mr. Beatty's appointment as an HHHRP Trustee with his term to expire on February 27, 2026.

Resolution 2023-03 Title Vested When Horse Becomes Starter was not discussed but was tabled for additional discussion.

In the matter of settlement for Charles Taylor on August 16, 2019, on Rockin Deo's post-race sample contained the common human class 3 therapeutic medication, gabapentin. The Judges issued a \$500 fine, 15-day suspension, and return of the \$4,350 purse. Upon appeal, Mr. Taylor signed a settlement agreement to pay \$500 and return the purse by March 1, 2023. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously ratified the negotiated settlement agreement.

In the matter of settlement for Christopher Short held over from the January meeting, August 8,

2021at Scioto Downs, Medowbranch Memo post-race sample contained 255 ng/ml of flunixin, a class 4 regulated therapeutic medication. That exceeds the 20 ng/ml threshold regulatory threshold. The original infraction levied by the judges included a \$1,000 fine and return of the \$6,000 purse. Mr. Short represented himself before the Racing Commission, his view was the initial settlement agreement did not require him to return the purse. He paid the fine he said he believed he had completed the terms for settlement. When discussions with the Racing Commission occurred relative to payback on the purse money, Mr. Short appealed. A hearing was held on October 7, 2022, and the report and recommendation were issued on October 31, 2022. The Hearing Officer affirmed the original ruling for a \$1,000 fine and return of the purse. Mr. Short agreed to return the \$6,000 purse. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously voted to ratify the Hearing Officer's report and recommendation.

In the matter of Sandra Hennessey at the Ottawa County Fair on July 20, 2022, Lady With No Fear's post-race sample contained the class 4 regulated therapeutic medication, dexamethasone at 60 pg./ml. (+/- 9 pg./ml.), which exceeds the regulatory threshold of 5 pg./ml. The Judges issued a \$1,000 fine and \$2,133 purse redistribution. Ms. Hennessey appealed then entered settlement with the Racing Commission. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously ratified the negotiated settlement agreement.

The monthly financial Report by Fiscal Officer Sheri White reported January revenue was up \$202,000 over 2022 due to the 4th quarter casino revenue distribution, disbursed and discussed in January's Racing Commission meeting. Overall revenue is up \$93,000 which puts fiscal year revenue up \$17,000. Reduced expenses reflected a \$150,000 decline (6%), which was attributed to savings in legal expenses, payroll, and equipment costs. Chairman Scott Borgemenke asked about projections for year-end. It was noted fiscal projections were on track with prior years and revenue should be as projected.

having most in the state under contract. Executive Director Chris Dragone noted that the thoroughbred regulatory veterinarians are being paid more and that will make hiring at the standardbred racetracks even more difficult. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously approved Scioto's application.

Consideration of Administrative Code Rules, 3769-4-33, 3769-14-34, and 3769-16-29. Rules 3769-4-33 and 3769-14-34 are being changed to require a Judge that doesn't agree with a majority ruling to write the minority opinion report and submit it to the Racing Commission. Rule 3769-16-29 provides direction on a new safety protocol for a three-light warning system, when a race is to be declared a no-contest, and horses are to stop racing for safety purposes. The three-light warning system and sirens have been installed at all pari-mutuel racetracks. The Judges will meet with horsemen before and during the meet to discuss application of the system. After discussion the Racing Commission unanimously approved submission of the rules to the Common Sense Initiative.

Discussion about a gate scratch incident at Hol-

Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson provided a recap on the horse racing fatalities. 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 April 2022 records are kept following a horse post-injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes one thoroughbred fatality in February. The 2023 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses were one (training) and no standardbreds.

Commissioner Hansen Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee had no report.

Commissioner Simpson Chairman of the Safety Committee had no report.

Commissioner Winters Chairman of the Standardbred Committee had no report.

In the Chairman's comment section, Chairman Scott Borgemenke reminded permit holders that the Racing Commission must be contacted upon cancellation of a live racing day. The Chairman further commented that they are interested in being a good partner with the permit holders and everyone else for the good of racing. Facilities are expected to be kept and maintained to standard with working starting gates, potholes filled, and anything else taken care of promptly. He outlined the expectation that as a standard operating procedure, all facilities must have basic services, equipment, and upkeep without a prompt from the Racing Commission.

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

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is March 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>

## Regularly Scheduled OSRC Meeting Recap Wednesday, March 15, 2023 By Renée Mancino

Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person, Commissioner Patmon not present.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director Chris Dragone's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the February 15, 2023, minutes were offered for ratification. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes and the Executive Director's Approval items.

The Executive Director's Report included live 2023 meet requests for Thistledown and Eldorado Scioto Downs. Thistledown and Scioto submitted requests to: (1) Waive their surety bond for 2023 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. There were questions raised regarding hiring officials and notations that the permit application would be amended pending HISA changes. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously approved Thistledown's application. Scioto expressed similar hiring issues with state veterinarians due to HISA

lywood Mahoning Valley: A horse balked at the starting gate and refused to come out. The jockey dismounted and the horse was removed from the starting gate and scratched. The race was released without the scratched horse. Normal protocol is to unload the other horses from the gate and reload them all for clarity with wagering purposes on the scratched horse, and to provide the wagering public on the scratched horse an opportunity to change their tickets off of the scratched horse. After discussion the matter was tabled pending further investigation and report from Mahoning Valley and will be placed on a future agenda.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson 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 April 2022 records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date,



the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes no thoroughbred or standardbred fatalities in March. The 2023 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses were five (three training, two racing) and three standardbreds (all racing).

Monthly financial Report by Fiscal Officer Sheri White reported monthly revenue was down \$53,000 due to seasonable tax deposit timing. Reduced expenses continue with a decline in legal expenses, payroll, and equipment costs. With overall revenue on track from prior years, there is an expectation of a positive cash flow for the remainder of the year.

Commissioner Hansen, Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee, had no report.

Commissioner Simpson, Chairman of the Safety Committee, discussed the three-light warning system and no contest declarations. The systems are being used pending final legislative approval on the newly

passed rules. There was discussion regarding the heat index on calling a race due to heat. The discussion provided detail it is discretionary by permit holder. There were potential heat index readings discussed, but no formal consideration on a policy. Issue will be tabled pending further discussions.

Commissioner Winters, Chairman of the Standardbred Committee, had no report.

In the Chairman's comment section Chairman Scott Borgemenke outlined detail that the Federal Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit will take over medication and testing at the thoroughbred racetracks only as-of March 27, 2023. The Racing Commission will work with HIWU to make sure the two regulating agencies (state and federal) work together for thoroughbred testing. There has been no clarity on when or how often HIWU will test horses and questions regarding that by thoroughbred

horsemen should be directed to the Horse Racing Integrity and Safety Authority. There was discussion regarding escrow for the thoroughbred testing costs as historically charged against the potential for HISA being invalidated completely in one of the court cases. After discussion no action was taken, it was noted that these issues will become clearer as the new system proceeds.

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

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is April 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at the Riffe Center, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at, <http://www.racingohio.net>.

## Regularly Scheduled OSRC Meeting Recap Wednesday, April 19, 2023 *By Renée Mancino*

*Roll Call, all Commissioners in-person, 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 15, 2023 minutes were offered for ratification. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the March 15, 2023 meeting minutes and the Executive Director's Approval Items.

The Executive Director's Report included discussion of the Thistledown finalization of the horsemen's agreement. Live 2023 meet requests for Thistledown and Belterra Park submitted requests to: (1) Waive their surety bond for 2023 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. Belterra Park Racing Specialist Ashley Holliday appeared on behalf of Belterra Park to discuss replacing listed officials on the permit application. After discussion, the Racing Commission unanimously approved Thistledown's and Belterra's applications.

Caesars Scioto Downs appeared to provide an update on facility construction, operations, and the 2023 live race meet. Joe Morris - Senior Vice President of Racing, Caesars Entertainment, Amy Ankersen - Senior Vice President and General Manager, Caesars Scioto Downs, Jason Roth - Director of Racing, Caesars Scioto Downs, Kacie Klarer - Director of Marketing, Caesars Scioto Downs, and Molly Baggett, Caesars Scioto Downs Marketing Coordinator. SVP Joe Morris provided an update on the facility with \$3mm spent on the clubhouse, and capital approved to spend \$1.5mm more on that structure for the roof, \$27mm on the new grandstand, and bringing on board Molly Baggett and Jenna Otten to extend the reach of marketing. Jason Roth provided detail on the live racing. 2022 averaged 178 horses in the box and fifteen races with purses at \$250,000 per day. This year reflects opening with an equivalent program. Discussed what was being offered in Las Vegas this year. Discussed the 15% takeout Pick-8 wager from last year with opening day resulting in five winning tickets and eight winning tickets overall with the highest payout \$109,000. This year, the Pick-8 wager may be offered after Labor Day but not

definitive. Instead, they may have a full selection of added offerings with other Pick-n wagers. Projected live handle increases of 61% and 8% on export are being set for 2023. Kaycee Klarer and Molly Baggett discussed marketing, sales, and advance sales on grandstand special event rooms and box seats being sold out for 2023.

Agenda item for Alejandro Murrillo-Rodriguez was removed from this agenda and moved to the May meeting.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. Dr. Robertson 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 up to 72 hours after a race. From April 2022 forward records are kept following a horse post injury, with post-injury tracking of up to ten days from the race date. To date, the monthly report on catastrophic losses includes one thoroughbred in March, two thoroughbreds in April, and no standardbred fatalities in March or April. The 2023 year-to-date thoroughbred catastrophic losses were six (two training, four racing) and no standardbreds. Dr. Robertson also commended Belterra Park for being below the national average on catastrophic loss in the recently concluded live meet.

Monthly financial Report by Fiscal Officer Sheri White reported monthly revenue was down one percent due to export being down 3% and an increase in revenue of \$80,000. Overall revenue is on track with prior years, with the expectation of a positive cash flow for the remainder of the year despite a \$29,000 year-over-year increase in veterinarian, payroll, and office supply expenses. The operating fund balance is \$2,669,000, with the Thoroughbred Development and Standardbred Development Fund balances in good form.

Commissioner Hansen, Chairwoman of the Medication and Testing Committee, reported the medication and testing committee has tentatively set a meeting for May 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.; invitations will be sent to those on the Committee. Dr. Robertson said topics for discussion and consideration are the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory violation penalties, which as written are too lenient and hav-

en't been updated to the most recent Association of Racing Commissioners International standards.

Commissioner Simpson, Chairman of the Safety Committee, had no report.

Commissioner Winters, Chairman of the Standardbred Committee, had no report.

In the Chairman's comment section, Chairman Scott Borgemenke outlined detail on proposed amendments in the biennial budget to make sure everyone was aware of the items to review and comment on them, including sports wagering amendments to permit fixed odds and exchange wagering, integration of horse racing with sports wagering proprietors having to offer live in-state wagering, and a gaming expansion study.

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

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is May 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in person only at Caesars Scioto Downs, 6000 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Triple Diamond Room. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at: <http://www.racingohio.net>.

### OHHA BOARD MEETING NOTICE

The Ohio Harness Association will conduct its 2023 third-quarter board meeting on July 20, 2023 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. The meeting will take place in the Three-Diamonds Room.

The General Board Meeting will begin at 11:00 AM.

RSVP by calling the OHHA office at 614-221-3650.



*Mark your calendar for  
these 2023 events:*

**Saturday, July 15**

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



**Saturday, August 5**

\$1,000,000 Hambletonian and  
the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks  
at the Meadowlands  
*ELIMS FOR BOTH JULY 29*



**Friday, October 27  
& Saturday, October 28**

All 12 Breeders Crown  
Events Worth Over  
\$7.2-Million at  
Harrah's Hoosier Park



# Plan to join us!

There is nothing like being here in person to see history in the making!



2022 Champion – Bythemissal (Chris Page) 1:51.1

## Delaware, Ohio's Grand Circuit Events

----- Featuring The -----

78<sup>th</sup> Little Brown Jug (Thursday, September 21) and  
the 53<sup>rd</sup> Jugette (Wednesday, September 20)



### Reserve Seats

Grandstand Seats (Thursday) – Starting at \$30 each

Box Seats (All Week) – Starting at \$80 each

Hospitality Tents – Includes drinks, buffet lunch, TVs and more

Backstretch Tent -- Jugette Day \$60 – Jug Day \$100

Top Of The Stretch Tent -- Jugette Day \$60 – Jug Day \$100

Pavilion Hill – Jugette Day \$180 – Jug Day \$265 – Both Days \$375

To purchase tickets, please call us at (740) 362-3851 or  
(800) DEL-FAIR. Visit us at [DelawareCountyFair.com](http://DelawareCountyFair.com)  
or [LittleBrownJug.com](http://LittleBrownJug.com) for more information.