



OHHA News

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OCTOBER 2020

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Track Records and Lifetime Marks Fall at **BSS FINALS** BY FRANK FRAAS

The curtain came down on the Buckeye Stallion Series in record fashion at Dayton Hollywood Raceway the first Saturday night in October. All eight divisions saw their winners set or equal lifetime marks, while three track records fell.



Snowmoon with Tyler Smith
Photo: Brad Conrad

Snowmoon with Tyler Smith raced to the lead in the three-year-old colt pace and never looked back, winning in 1:50.1 for trainer-owner Jessica Smith. The son of Mr. Wiggles – Milky Way Hanover recorded the best time of the night on his way to setting a new track record and lifetime mark. With his ninth win of the year in 17 starts, Snowmoon moved his earnings to \$79,585.

Twig made it seven wins in eight starts for trainer Mike Polhamus and owner Julie Farley in the two-year-old colt pace. Chris Page fired the gelded son of Mr. Apples – Western Mandy to the lead out of the seven hole and went wire to wire to win in 1:52.1, setting a track record and lifetime mark. The win raised Twig's earnings this year to \$78,000.

Bathsheba AS picked the right time to break her maiden, doing it in record fashion in



Twig with Chris Page Photo: Brad Conrad

the BSS Final. Elliott Deaton steered the two-year-old filly trotter by Lionhunter – Nurse Conway from the back of the pack to win in a track-record 1:58 for trainer Anette Lorentzon. Bathsheba AS went three-wide and was fifth at the top of the stretch before firing down the middle of the stretch to win by a nose. The win for owners ACL Stuteri AB pushed Bathsheba AS winnings to \$42,450.



Bathsheba As with Elliott Deaton
Photo: Brad Conrad

In the two-year-old filly pace, Chris Page picked up his second BSS finals winning drive as Smothastenesewisky won for the eighth time in nine starts for trainer-owner Brian Haynes. Smothastenesewisky took control before the half pole and held off late chargers to win, equaling her lifetime mark

of 1:53.2. The daughter of Nob Hill High – Tender Spirit raised her earning to \$77,981.

Ilikedecupcakes picked up his fourth win of the year in 12 starts in the two-year-old colt trot for driver-trainer Sandy Beatty. Beatty and Ilikedecupcakes got up at the wire to win by a nose. The son of Dejarmbro – ML Cupcake tripped the wire in a lifetime mark of 1:57.4 for owner William Jeff Johnson II to raise his earnings to \$58,033.

Beatty picked up his second photo-finish win on the night with Muskingum in the three-old-filly trot. The daughter of Triumphant Caviar – Abbey Craig sat fifth past the half-pole before beginning her move, going three-wide at the top of the stretch and getting up at the wire in a lifetime mark of 1:55.4. Owned by Beatty, Johnson, Larry Riffe and Roy Thacker Jr., Muskingum won for the fourth time this year, raising her earnings to \$58,033.

Tyler Smith also was a two-time winner in the BSS Finals. Smith got his second win of the night, guiding Hoochie Girl to victory in the three-year-old filly pace. The daughter of Mister Big – Silverhill Princes took the early lead, fell back to second, but then regained control at the three-quarter pole and pulled away to win in 1:53, a new lifetime mark for trainer Ryan Miller. Owned by Miller Racing Stables, Chris Gilbert, Chad Howell and Janie Hartley, won for the eighth time this year and has now lifetime earnings of \$152,986.

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UPCOMING MEETING DATE—1st QUARTER OHHA BOARD MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING JAN 16, 2021

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In the final Buckeye Stallion Series Final of the night, Enforce The Law and David Miller grabbed the lead after the half mile and pulled away to win by five lengths. The son of Triumphant Caviar – Shez Jailbait won for the fifth time in 15 starts for trainer-owner Joseph Kramp. Enforce The Law has now won \$69,067 this year.

Each of the Buckeye Stallion Series Finals carried a purse of \$60,000.

In addition to the BSS Finals, three Grand Circuit races were held at Dayton that night. In the Dayton Distaff Derby, Kissin In The Sand equaled the track record of 1:49. Dexter Dunn rallied the daughter of Somebeachsomewhere down the stretch to reel in Shartin N to win by three-quarters of a length. Kissin In The Sand is owned by Hatfield Stables of Columbus, Ohio, and Marvin Katz.

In the Dayton Trotting Derby, Yannick Gingras took Atlanta three-wide and pulled away down the stretch to set a track record in 1:51 for trainer Ron Burke and owners Crawford Farms, Brad Grant and Howard Taylor.

Dexter Dunn took Bettor's Wish three-wide and held off a hard-charging Sweet Lou to win the Dayton Pacing Derby in 1:49 for trainer and co-owner Chris Ryder. Bettor's Wish is co-owned by Bella Racing of Delaware, Ohio, Fair Island Farm and Bettors Wish Partners.

Designer Specs Ends Year Perfect



Designer Specs win for the 14th time this year in the fair finals **PHOTO:** JJ Zamaiko

For the 14th time this season, Designer Specs ended the night in the winner's circle, as the two-year-old filly capped off her freshman campaign winning the Ohio Fair Championship at MGM Northfield Park Sept. 10.

For the first time since her last start at Northfield Park at the end of July, Designer Specs did not race on the lead. Ryan Stahl sat in the pocket through the first three quarters, stalking Boujee Girl and Ronnie Wrenn Jr. in 27.3, 57.1 and 1:27.1. Stahl moved Designer Specs out at the top of the stretch, closing the final quarter in 27.3 to win by a half-length in a lifetime mark of 1:57.4.

The daughter of Full Count – Avalon Hall is owned by Louise and Jay Weller and trained by Jay's sister Jayne. With the win, Designer Specs earnings sit at \$56,664.

Jayne Weller said Designer Specs just loves to trot. "She likes doing her business," she said.

The Ohio Fair Championship was the freshman's final race of the year. As for next year, Weller said they are not sure, but may look to the Ohio Sire Stakes.

With the win, Designer Specs tied Lazy Day Hanover and First Gunner for the most wins in North America in 2020.

One race later, Bad Ms Johnson joined the list, winning the three-year-old filly pace for her 14th win of the year.

The Big Bad John filly was parked three-wide around the final turn. Driver-trainer Hank LeVan charged down the lane with Bad Ms Johnson to win by a head for owner Rico Johnson in 1:54.2. The win raised her earning for 2020 to \$56,030.

Timestorm kicked off the night with an impressive win in the three-year-old trot. The son of Stormin Normand, with Ronnie Wrenn Jr. driving, took control early and pulled away at the three-quarter pole and cruised to victory in 1:55.1, a new lifetime mark by more than four seconds. Trained by Kent Hess, it was Timestorm's 10th win of the year and raised his lifetime earnings to \$98,076 for owner Ted Boschma.



Rockin Daddy O, an 80-1 longshot wins the Ohio Fair Finals **PHOTO:** JJ Zamaiko

In the three-year-old colt division, 80-1 long shot Rockin Daddy O blew up the tote board, winning for driver Greg Grismore and trainer Philippe Belanger in a lifetime mark of 1:51.2. The mark topped the Rockin Amadeus – Cristal Daddy Girl gelding previous effort by more than three seconds. Rockin Daddy O, owned by Belanger and Jeffery Koesters, paid \$167.00 to win. Nvr-poptdaplugs and Jason Thompson, a 30-1 longshot, finished second. The exacta paid \$2,216.20.

Electric Ridge with Aaron Merriman stalked leader Lightning Belle the entire way before

grabbing the lead at the top of the stretch and pulling away to win by two-lengths for trainer Chris Beaver in 1:56.2. Owned by Beaver, James Gallagher, Moger-Delia Racing and Steven Zeehandelaar, the daughter of Triumphant Caviar, has now won lifetime earnings of \$90,622.

Merriman earlier found the winner's circle in the two-year-old filly pace with the daughter of We Will See – A Diamond In June. Sitting dead last at the quarter pole, Merriman moved Ball Diamond, the Lonnie Graber trainee, through the field going three-wide around the final turn on the way to winning by a neck in 1:56.1. It was Ball Diamond's seventh win of the year for owner Dannie Ray Hostetler.

Wrenn Jr. picked up his second fair championship win of the night in the two-year-old colt pace as he sat in the pocket with Feelin Western the entire way, before finding some racing room on the rail to win a photo finish for trainer Brian Brown. Owned by VIP Internet Stable and Joseph Rotella, the son of Western Terror lowered his lifetime mark to 1:53.2 winning for the seventh time this year.

In the two-year-old colt trot, Checkmate and Hunter Myers took control after the three-quarter pole and pulled away to win by three lengths for trainer Bryan Weaver. The son of Broadway Hall – Dance With A Dolly shaved more than four seconds off his lifetime mark, finishing in 1:59. Owned by Donna Jean Anderson, Checkmate has six wins in his freshman campaign and has earned \$46,595.

Each of the eight finals carried a purse of \$40,000 and capped off the summer of county fair racing.

FINAL FAIR RACING UPDATE By Frank Fraas

Williams County, Sept. 16

Hank LeVan led all drivers with a grand slam on the 13-race card. In the Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series, Mary Birkhold and That's Some Plan picked up the win.

Wyandot County, Sept. 16

Designer Specs made it 12 straight, winning the two-year-old filly trot with Ryan Stahl in 2:01.2. Anthony MacDonald led the drivers with four wins while Beau Brown had a pair.

Wayne County, Sept. 16

Kurt Sugg picked up six wins on the 11-race program, three of those for trainer Edward Miller. The fastest mile of the day was turned in by Cody Hanover in 1:57.4 with trainer-driver Derek Watiker.

Guernsey County, Sept. 16

Fourteen races were contested at Old Washington with Brendan Johnson and Hunter Myers winning half the races. Johnson carded four winners, while Myers had three. The three-year-old colt pace went to Real Vision in 2:01 while Jamahl Chip won the three-year-old colt trot.

Wyandot County, Sept. 17

Beau Brown and Brian Brown made four trips to the winner's circle during the 13-race card. The Signature Series Pace was won by In

Trouble Again and Ryan Stahl for Jeff Nisonger in 1:55.1

Ashland County, Sept. 21

There were two race cards at Ashland, totaling 16 races. Dustin Bothman picked up five wins on the day while Don Irvine Jr. carded four wins. The fastest mile of the day went to Nvrpoptdsplugs and Jason Thompson winning in 1:59.4.

Tuscarawas County, Sept. 25

Five different drivers picked up wins on the short five-race card.

Justin Irvine drove Sunshine Day to the fastest mile in 1:58.3.

Tuscarawas County, Sept. 26

Kurt Sugg had the only driving double on the 10-race program. The fast mile of the day went to two-year-old filly pacer Gillas Last Call and Justin Irvine in 1:59.3.

Tuscarawas County, Sept. 27

Kurt Sugg and Jason Thompson picked up driving doubles on the seven-race card. Fastest mile of the day was in the Free For All pace with Hunter Myers driving Mackeral A to the victory in 1:55.3.

Coshocton County, Oct. 3

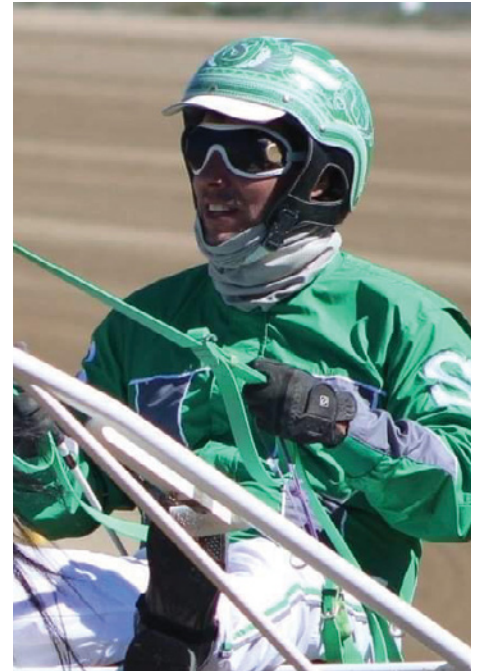
Six different drivers had winners on the short six-race card. Dian-amight with Luke Ebersole had the fastest mile in 2:00 for trainer Ron Steck.

Coshocton County, Oct. 4

Kurt Sugg picked up five wins on the 11-race card. The fastest mile of the day was Cody Hanover for trainer-driver Derek Watiker in a lifetime mark of 1:56.4. It was Cody Hanover's 10th win of the year.

Fairfield County, Oct. 14

The curtain came down on the 2020 County Fair racing season with a 14-race program. Twelve drivers picked up wins with Ken Holliday and Jeff Nisonger having driving doubles. Treasurethosechips with trainer-driver Nisonger recorded the fastest time of the day in 2:00.4. It was the 10th win of the season of which nine were in the Ohio Colt Racing Association events.



Kurt Sugg PHOTO: Raymond Lance

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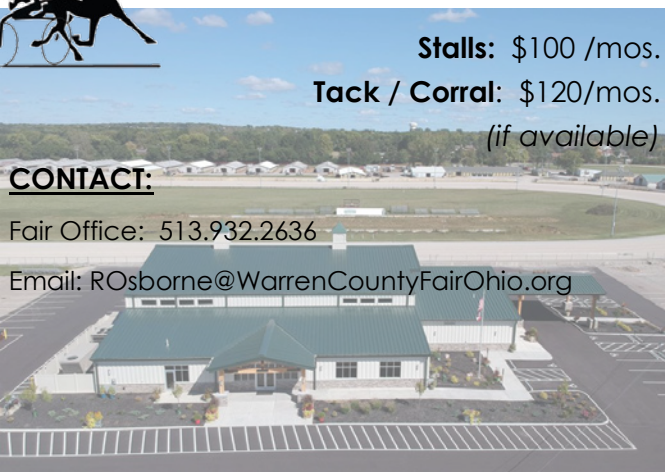
Tack / Corral: \$120/mos.

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CONTACT:

Fair Office: 513.932.2636

Email: ROSborne@WarrenFairOhio.org



IT'S CAPTAIN TIME

The 75th Little Brown Jug presented by the Ohio Harness Horsemen will be remembered as the race with no fans, but for the connections of Captain Barbossa, it's a day they won't forget.

Captain Barbossa and Joe Bongiorno waited patiently as Catch the Fire (Mike Wilder) and Sandbetweenmytoes (Scott Zeron) raced out the early lead covering the first quarter in 26 seconds.



Captain Barbossa and Joe Bongiorno win the 75th Little Brown Jug **PHOTO:** Brad Conrad

Sandbetweenmytoes pushed for the lead at the quarter pole and led until the half mile mark when Bongiorno made his move.

"I closed the hole coming out of the first turn and made Scottie (Zeron) push the tempo. I knew being first over was going to be the spot," Bongiorno said.

Captain Barbossa and Bongiorno took control at the five-eighths pole and went around the leaders with ease in the final turn drawing away to capture the \$559,000 Little Brown Jug by a length over Cattlewash (David Miller) and Catch The Fire.

Entering the Jug final, Bongiorno thought he had a very good chance.

"My horse had the most pace finishing the second heat," he said. "Being able to sneak around Dexter (Dunn's) horse (Seeyou At Thebeach) when the gate sprung, I noticed his horse was fumbly gaited, I think that was the winning move."

The win was the icing on the birthday cake for Bongiorno, who turned 27 years old the day before the Jug.

"There are no words to describe the feeling of winning," Bongiorno said. "The past couple of days have been a dream come true, being second in yesterday's Jugette... I can't thank Tony and his owners enough for entrusting me with this horse."

The Captaintreacherous gelding is trained by Tony Alagna and is owned by Robert LeBlanc,

David Anderson and the Alagnafrankinthegym Stable and bred by the Steiner Stock Farm of Lima, Ohio.

In the first \$111,800 Jug elimination, Catch The Fire sat patiently before making his move just before the three-quarter pole reeling in the leader Seeyou At Thebeach (Dexter Dunn) in the final turn to win by 4 ¼ lengths in 1:49.3. Later Dudes (David Miller) and Genius Man (Marcus Miller) finished third and fourth to advance to the Jug final.

In the second elimination, Sandbetweenmytoes and Captain Barbossa sat fifth and sixth at the half-mile mark. Entering the final turn, Zeron took Sandbetweenmytoes three-wide to go around Capt Midnight (Dexter Dunn) and Major Betts (Jordan Stratton) and pulled away to win by two lengths.



L to R: Assistant Trainer Cesar Paz, trainer Tony Alagna, caretaker Ali Hudson, driver Joe Bongiorno and Melissa Bongiorno enjoy the victory. **PHOTO:** Brad Conrad

Party Girl Hill Rolls in Jugette



Party Girl Hill and Dexter Dunn win the 50th Jugette **PHOTO:** Brad Conrad

Domination is the only way to describe the performance of Party Girl Hill as she captured the 50th edition of the Jugette at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. With the win, Party Hill Girl remained undefeated, winning for the 11th time, and stating her case for Horse of the Year honors.

Party Girl Hill with Dexter Dunn let New Year (Joe Bongiorno) and Lyons Sentinel (Tim Tetrick) race to the lead but quickly took command just past the quarter pole in 27 seconds. Party Hill Girl cruised through the half

in 55.4 and three quarters in 1:23.4, drawing away to win the Jugette in 1:50.3.

Dunn gave the filly all the credit for the easy win.

"She is an amazing animal," Dunn said. "She makes it look so easy... she's the best pacing female I have ever driven. She's exciting that is for sure."

Dunn said winning for trainer Chris Ryder was special since the two families have been friends for a number of years.

It was the second Jugette win for Ryder. He was the trainer for Luv The Nitelife in 2013.

Dunn, pulled the trifecta on the day, winning both eliminations and the final.

In the first \$47,545 elimination, New Year with Dunn went to the lead and never looked back, winning in 1:52 for trainer Chris Ryder. Peaky Sneaky (Scott Zeron) finished

second with Blazin Grace (David Miller) finishing third.

In the second elimination, Lyons Sentinel with Tetrick went to the lead and held the position until the three-quarter pole when Party Girl Hill made her move to the top. Dunn pushed Party Girl Hill to the lead through the final turn and held off a last-second charge from Lyons Sentinel to win by three-quarters of a length in 1:49.3. Perfect Storm and David Miller were third.

Party Girl Hill, the daughter of Captaintreacherous and owned and bred by Tom Hill of the United Kingdom, set a two-heat world record of 3:40.1, eclipsing the previous mark by almost two seconds.

The total purse for the Jugette was \$237,725.

In the \$82,000 Buckette for three-year-old filly trotters, Dunn swept both divisions, winning the first division with Caviart Eva in 1:54 and taking the second division in 1:55.2 with Spoiled Princess.

Delaware County Fair Notes

There were a total of 83 races during the five-day program at the Delaware County Fair.

A total of 39 drivers scored wins, with Chris Presley and Trevor Smith picking up their first wins at Delaware.

The leading driver was Chris Page with nine wins to edge out Brett Miller who had eight victories. Drivers Dexter Dunn and Dan Noble each had six wins. Four drivers – Kayne Kauffman, Dave Miller, Tyler Smith and Ryan Stahl – each had four.

David Miller leads in lifetime wins with 233, followed by John Campbell (156) and Brett Miller (129). Rounding out the top five are Chip Noble at 108 and his son Dan Noble with 103.

Sixty-two trainers picked up with wins this year with Ron Burke leading the pack with six wins during the week. Virgil Morgan Jr. and Mike Polhamus each had four, while Jim Arledge Jr. and Chris Ryder collected three wins.

Virgil Morgan Jr. leads the life-time list with 105, followed by Brian Brown (66), Jim Arledge Jr. (57), Ron Burke (43) and Marty Wollam (40).



Chris Page

Record-Setting Year at Delaware

It was a record-setting year at the Delaware County Fairgrounds with a total of nine stakes records, nine track records and eight world records being set.

In the Ohio Breeders Championships, Gold Digger King equaled the stakes record for Aged Pacers in 1:51.4. It's Academic set a stakes, track and world record in the three-year-old colt trot with a time of 1:53.1. Five races later, Action Uncle claimed the records in the three-year-old-trot with a time of 1:52.4. Lane Of Stone equaled the stakes record and set the track record in the Aged Trot in 1:53.2. Penpaperpaige set a stakes record for three-year-old filly pacers in 1:52. Ocean Rock set a stakes record and equaled the track record for three-year-old gelded pacers in 1:49.2.

In the Standardbred two-year-old trot, Arnold N Dicky set a stakes record and equaled the track and world record of 1:54. The Ms Versatility for older trotting mares resulted in stakes, track and world records for Plunge Blue Chip in 1:51.3. The Standardbred two-year-old Pace was won by Chase H Hanover in 1:51.1, a track record that also equaled the world record for gelded pacers.

In the Jugette, Party Hill Girl set a new stakes, track and world record with a time of 1:49.3. Her second heat time of 1:50.3 also was a world record and the combined total of both hearts, 3:40.1, also was a world record.

In the Little Brown Jug, Captain Barbossa broke Ocean Rock's track record for three-year-old gelded pacers with a 1:49.1 mark. The mile was a world-record second heat for the gelded pacer.

Jones Claims Lady Driving Series Title

BY ROGER HUSTON

The final of the Spring Haven Ladies Driving Series at the Delaware County Fair was won by Mandy Jones, the points leader entering the championship. Entering finals, Jones had 636 points, followed by Emily Hay (384), Amy Wengerd (375), Kacey Burns (233), Mary Birkhold (199) and Elizabeth Murphy (165)

In the final, Jones and Sports Band left from the rail and was on top by a nose at the quarter in 28.2. Murphy was hung with Rainbow Magic and tired passing the half in 59.4, while Wengerd sat third with Moreland Flash. At the three-quarter pole, Sports Band led by a length and a half over Moreland Flash in 1:27.4 as Hay moved T Red, making the final start of his career, three-wide. In the stretch, it was all Sports Band as Heather Woolums and Cenalta Power closed to finish second with T Red finishing third.

Sports Band is owned by Jones and trained by her father Brian. It was Sports Band's sixth win in 19 starts.



Spring Haven Ladies Driving Series Champion Mandy Jones

PHOTO: Chris Tully

Records Fall in Ohio Breeders Championships

BY ROGER HUSTON



Action Uncle set a new world record in the three-year-old trot **PHOTO:** Brad Conrad

It was a record-setting week at the Delaware County Fairgrounds for the Ohio Breeders Championships. Two world records, two stakes records and three track records were set while two more track records were equaled during the 18 OBC races.

The opening night of racing featured three races and the record breaking began in the first race, the Aged Pace, which was won by Gold Digger King. Brett Miller took the son of Pet Rock to the lead for trainer Scott Mogan and owner Linda Van Camp and never looked back, equaling the Stakes Record in 1:51.4.

Two divisions of the two-year-old Filly Pace saw Summer Touch with Chris Page for Ron Burke go wire to wire to score in 1:55.1. The Well Said filly is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Knox Services, Slaughter Racing and Weaver Bruscelli. In the other division, Brett Miller took Rainy Day Chic to the lead and cruised home in 1:54.4 for trainer Dan O'Mara. The Rockin Amadeus filly is owned by Marjorie Polhamus.

On Monday, there were two divisions in the three-year-old Filly Trot. The first division went to Lima Gold in 1:56.2. Lima Gold, driven by Dan Noble, sat fourth and went three-wide around the final turn to catch the leader and win by a neck. The Coraggio-so filly was driven by Dan Noble for Chris Beaver and owner Spaaartners. The other division went to the undefeated Guinevere Hall for Peter and Melanie Wrenn in 1:54.1. Guinevere Hall took control in the

final turn and pulled away down the stretch to win by two lengths. The Cash Hall filly made it eight for eight for owners MT Pockets Stables and David McDuffee.

There were two divisions of the two-year-old Colt and Gelding Trot on the Tuesday program. Aaron Merriman took Winning Ticket to the lead and held on down the stretch to win the first division in 1:57.2 for trainer Chris Beaver. The Triumphant Caviar colt is owned by Beaver, Steven Zeehandelaar, Tim Homan and Jim Burnett. The other division was taken by Street Gossip and Brett Miller for Virgil Morgan Jr. The Cash Hall gelding held off a challenge on the back stretch to win in 1:57.3 for owners Carl Howard and Jesmeral Stable.

The Wednesday card saw five OBC events on the program. The day opened with the first division of the two-year-old Filly Trot. Chris Page rallied Rose Run Whitney around the final turn and down the stretch to win for trainer Burke in 1:57.1. The Uncle Peter gelding is owned by Burke Racing Stable, William Donovan, J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby and Joe Sbrocco. In the second division, My Jazz and Anthony MacDonald went wire to wire for Jason McGinnis to win in 1:58. The My MVP filly is owned by Thestable My Jazz Group.

Both divisions of the three-year-old Colt and Gelding Trot produced new records. In the first division, It's Academic established a stakes record, track record and world record in 1:53.1. The Uncle Peter colt with Chris Page went right to the lead and easily won

by three lengths for Ron Burke and owners Burke Racing Stable, William Donovan, Joe Sbrocco and Hatfield Stables. Those records lasted only five races when Action Uncle lowered all three records with a mile in 1:52.4. Also by Uncle Peter, Action Uncle with Brett Miller took the lead at the quarter pole and pulled away to win by five lengths for Virgil Morgan Jr. and owners Carl Howard, Joyce McClelland and Larry Wills.

Those were not the only records set that day. In the Aged Trot, Lane of Stone with Jeff Nisonger made it look easy winning by four lengths for trainer Mark Winters and owner Harry Horowitz in 1:53.2. The mile was a track record and equaled the stakes record.

Jug Day started off with the first division of the two-year-old Colt and Gelding Pace. Heart Of Chewbacca with Dan Noble was never challenged, winning in 1:52.2 for trainer Ron Burke. The Bring On The Beach colt is owned by Dennis Owens and Norman Rae Racing. In the second division, Charlie May and Brett Miller also made it look easy, cruising to a two-length victory in 1:52.2. The McArdle colt is trained by Steve Carter and owned by Don Tiger.

There also were two divisions of the three-year-old Filly Pace. McMarkle Sparkle captured the first division with Brett Miller in 1:52.3. The McArdle filly, trained by Jim Arledge, held off a late charge to win by a nose for owners Laura and Paul Baker. In the second division, Penpaperpaige with Tyler Smith also was a winner by a nose, setting a stakes record of 1:52 for trainer Jeff Smith. The Pet Rock filly is owned by Shirley Le Vin.

In the three-year-old Colt and Gelding Pace, Elver Hanover won the opening division with Chris Page for Ron Burke in 1:51.1. The Yankee Cruiser gelding took the lead just past the quarter pole and cruised to victory for owners the Burke Racing Stable, Bridgett Jablonsky, Jason Melillo and J&T Silva-Purnel & Libby. In the second division, Ocean Rock with Dan Noble made it look easy, winning by six lengths and establishing a stakes record and equaling the track record of 1:49.2. The Rockin Amadeus gelding is trained by Christi Noble and owned by Sandra Burnett.

Be There!

BY ROGER E. HUSTON

For 61 years many have referred to me as a “County Fair Announcer,” a title I am proud to hold. From my first county fair in Lebanon in 1960 to Bucyrus in 2020, I’ve worked a total of 60 county and state fairs, including 41 in Ohio.

There is no doubt that county fairs are the backbone of the sport we love. Fairs are where so many of our horses begin and end their racing careers. So many of our drivers and trainers began their careers at the fairs as well.

The state of Ohio had 65 fairs this year that supported harness racing. Four different organizations, the Ohio Fair Racing Conference, the Ohio Colt Racing Association, the Home Talent Colt Stakes and the Southern Valley Colt Circuit make up the organizations that oversee fair racing.

This year, more than 1,000 horses were nominated to race at our fairs with 712 making it to the races in 2020. There were 400 pacers and 312 trotters in action. Many

owners, trainers, drivers and caretakers depend, in part, on county fair racing.

As I write this, two Ohio fair champions, Designer Specs (14-14) and Bad Ms Johnson (14-24), are ranked with two others, Lazy Day Hanover (14-18) and First Gunner (14-19), to lead our sport with the most wins in 2020, regardless of age or sex.

This has been a rough year for everyone with the COVID-19 pandemic. It has affected harness racing with no racing for two months. For horsemen, there was little relief for them. For owners, it was hard with no money from purses, but the bills kept coming in. This affected everyone involved, from the small stable to the much larger operations. When we returned to racing, we were faced with strict protocols. When racing resumed, owners were not permitted to attend races to watch when their horses.

As a result, the OHHA developed the Facebook Live production in cooperation with Trot and Pace Marketing. This cover-



age of county fair racing was a blessing to all owners, giving them the opportunity to see their horses compete. The added benefit was the development and education of new fans of our sport. I hope that when the 2021 fair season arrives, these new harness racing fans will make a trip to a local county fair to enjoy the great sport of harness racing.

Always remember that county fairs have been the backbone of harness racing. They will continue to be in the future, and will continue to develop many horses, owners, drivers, trainers, caretakers and fans alike.

Be There!

TRACK NOTES

The finals of the Signature Series, which is usually contested at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, was held at MGM Northfield Park. In the trot, I Get It (Dontyouforgetit – Less Stress) went three-wide into the final turn and battled Wildfire Seelster (Aaron Merriman) down the stretch to win in 1:54.1. I Get It is owned, trained and driven by Bob Rowland. In the pace final, In Trouble Again with Chris Lems went wire-to-wire to win in 1:52.2 for trainer Jeff Nisonger. In Trouble Again is owned by John Van Horn.



Bad Ms Johnson with Hank LeVan **PHOTO:** Brad Conrad

Bad Ms Johnson became the winningest standardbred this season earning victory for the 15th time this year at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds. The three-year-old daughter of Big Bad John-Jenava is owned by Rico Johnson and trained and driven by Hank Le Van.

Dan Noble got off to an incredible start October 24th at Hollywood Dayton Raceway, winning the first six races on the 14-race card. Noble finished the night with eight winners. Noble is currently fifth in the dash standings but his 25%-plus win percentage is easily the best at Dayton Raceway.



Dan Noble **PHOTO:** Brad Conrad

Hollywood Dayton Raceway is conducting its annual coat drive for the St. Vincent DePaul charity in the Dayton area. All sizes of new or gently used coats, as well as hats, gloves and scarves, are being collected. Cash donations also are accepted. Coats can be dropped off in the bookkeeper’s office.

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ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The Buckeye Harness Horseman

The official publication of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association is published four times a year. Deadline for the next issue is November 3rd. For more information e-mail: publications@OHHA.com

2021 Ohio Standardbred Stallion Directory & Membership Directory

The yearly guide to standing stallions in Ohio and the OHHA membership directory will go to print in December. Deadline to list stallions and all advertising is November 15th. For more information, e-mail publications@OHHA.com.

Top Of The Stretch Podcast

Top of the Stretch podcast is hosted by OHHA Brand Ambassador Roger Huston and looks at harness racing in the Buckeye State. Sponsorship of Top of the Stretch includes :30 second commercial within the podcast. For more information e-mail: podcast@OHHA.com

Regularly Scheduled Meeting Recap

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 *By Renée Mancino*

Roll Call, all Commissioners present.

In normal business for the Commission, Executive Director William Crawford's Report and Approval items were introduced, and the August 26, 2020 minutes were offered for ratification. There were no documents related to the Executive Director's approvals disclosed or provided to those in attendance. The Racing Commission unanimously ratified the Executive Director's Approval items and the August 26, 2020 meeting minutes.

A recap on the horse racing fatalities to September 16, 2020 was provided by Racing Commission Consulting Veterinarian, Dr. James Robertson. It was noted that the numbers reported since 2009 are for training and racing related catastrophic breakdowns, analogous to the Jockey Club's reporting requirements for sudden deaths that occur during training, racing, or 72 hours after a race. From last month's report there was one Standardbred removed from the June report because it was not a catastrophic breakdown. From the last report there were no standardbred, and four thoroughbred fatalities. Year-to-date total catastrophic losses are, twenty-two Thoroughbred fatalities and two Standardbred racing related fatalities statewide.

There was no discussion on Belterra Park's extension for closing on the real estate sale for Boyd Gaming and Gaming and Leisure Properties (GLPI). There was a status update on the permit holder and horsemen's agreement negotiations between Belterra Park and the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA) and export signal shutdown. The HBPA has approved export to commence at Belterra.

The Monthly Racing Commission financial report was provided by Fiscal Officer Sherry White. The August revenue and expenses continue to be down, particularly the live pari-mutuel tax. The Racing Commission's Operating Fund is at approximately \$2,000,000.

Chairman Borgemenke provided comment on the Delaware County Fair protocol and that the final protocol put in place was dictated by the local and state Health Departments and Fair Board. That they had limited jurisdiction over the protocol and event.

Commissioner Hansen outlined plans for the Medication and Testing Committee. The Racing Commission has had several meetings in-house regarding direction for a Resolution that will be provided in November's Racing

Committee Meeting. The Committee will meet to discuss in a virtual environment in mid-October, look for an announcement to follow. Discussion topics will include, endogenous and exogenous substances, anabolic-androgenic steroids, environmental contaminants, out-of-competition testing, and coming off the veterinarian's list.

Commissioner Simpson echoed the prospective look at plans for the Safety Committee meetings to resume. He anticipates virtual meetings to begin in November. Head numbers and Emergency Medical Technicians with racetracks and review of the whip or crop rule as Safety Committee topics.

The Racing Commission provided an opportunity for Permit Holder and Horseman's Groups' Public Comment. There were no public comments.

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 October 21, 2020. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at www.racingohio.net and post-time delays, and races conducted at a distance other than listed in the condition book and program.

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

Consideration to disqualify Attorney John Izzo from representation in case number 2019-18 was discussed. Charles Febus, Assistant Attorney General Charitable Law Section discussed the facts. The Racing Commission moved to disqualify John Izzo's as Dan Noble's Attorney. Removal was based upon two factors, first as a prior governmental employer. Under Ohio's ethics

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

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

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

For a transcript of the meeting contact the Ohio State Racing Commission. The next scheduled Racing Commission meeting date is September 16, 2020. The Agenda and Meeting Information can be found at the Ohio State Racing Commission's website at www.racingohio.net.



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

Ohio Breeders Award Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 16, 2021

1st Quarter Board Meeting and Annual Meeting
Location - TBD

OHIO RACING SCHEDULE

MGM Northfield Park
Current through December 30

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway
Current through December 30