

# DOWN THE STRETCH

CANADA'S MOST INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING HORSE RACING NEWSPAPER



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# 2020 YEARLING SALES NOMINATIONS-

In spite of the precarious times that we are currently living in, the September yearling sales and the associated nominations are currently scheduled to go forward. Obviously this is a fluid situation and could change at a moments notice.

If you would like to discuss your yearling sales plans further, please contact me by return email or by phone at **(416) 948-4765**.

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## CANADIAN PREMIER YEARLING SALE-

**NOMINATION DATE:**      **June 01.**

**SALE DATE:**                **Thursday, September 03.**

**130 stakes horses** have been sold thus far by Hill 'N' Dale at the Woodbine Sales pavilion with countless more in the pipeline. Many thanks to our buyers and particularly our loyal breeders for making our sales agency a premier source for these elite athletes.

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## KEENELAND SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE-

**NOMINATION DATE:**      **May 01.**

**SALE DATE:**                **Monday, September 14 (Day 1).**

Hill 'N' Dale annually sells Canadian-bred yearlings at the Keeneland September Sale. Previous Canadian-bred graduates include **G1** Arlington Million winner **JAMBALAYA** and Breeders Cup **G1** winner **MARYFIELD**.

**Q-** Can you share details on why the May 1 entry deadline for the September Sale was not extended?

**A-** B. Thomason, President and CEO of Keeneland-

Great question... As you can imagine orchestrating a sale of 4,500+ horses requires time to coordinate logistics, catalogue entries and ensure that we are providing the best sales experience to our buyers and sellers. The Friday, May 1, deadline allows for this. However, Keeneland has extended the option for sellers to withdraw horses until June 12 and **pay no entry fees**. With this option, there is no reason not to enter every horse you have for consideration for September, as you will have six weeks to determine whether you want them in the sale, without any financial obligation.



# INTERVIEWING IN THE PANDEMIC AGE



There's not a single person, or even a horse, whose routine has not been affected by Covid-19. The picture above is of me interviewing contributor Ric Chapman. The only other person around for this was my five year-old grandson, Graham, so he had to take the photograph. I'm thinking of submitting it for next year's Sovereigns.

**Down The Stretch** has had to change lanes because of the virus. This issue will be published on-line only. We do have a handful of subscribers who might wonder what their status is since they paid for a year's worth of issues and won't get us in the mail for some time. Hopefully they can find this message on-line and be assured that I will simply extend their entitlement to compensate for as many issues they might miss. If you see a **Down The Stretch** subscriber, weeping and disconsolate, missing their favourite publication, please advise them that all is not lost.

With so much horse racing suspended, there is still plenty of relevant material, enough for this paper and for

the **Down The Stretch Podcast** (page 8). Ric Chapman not only made it to page 3, but he is also on page 21 with his edgy comments on how a guy from Australia can make horse racing in Canada so much better.

On pages 12-13 we break down the incriminating evidence against 27 individuals who allegedly pumped their horses full of illicit drugs. As a result of trainer Jason Servis being served with indictments, the owners of Maximum Security severed ties with him, and the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia is now conducting an investigation regarding Maximum Security's win in the \$20 million Saudi Cup. The purse winnings are being withheld.

One of the more uplifting stories in the age of the virus comes from Grand Island, Nebraska, where the thoroughbreds run at little Fonner Park. On page 7, Jamie Dykstra tells us how this modest racetrack suddenly got some major attention from the Horse Racing Networks.

And since there are still *some* tracks to bet on, we have two stories of hysterical proportions concerning

uninhibited wagering. Check out page 20 – I had to pass along this story told to me by former NHL goalie Gary 'Suitcase' Smith. It's terrifying and exhilarating at the same time with multiple outcomes in doubt. Smith's long-time buddy, Jim McKenny, also knows a thing or two about excessive horse play. Some time ago he developed a chronic urge to bet every horse ridden at Tampa Bay by veteran jockey Ademar Santos. In a period of 9 days, Santos brought in horses that paid \$61.80, \$11.20, \$21.40, \$6.80, \$66.40, and \$20.60. Have a look on page 23 to find out how often McKenny cashed.

More betting stories. Imagine you bet a Pick 6. The board shows that you have the only live ticket into the last race. Your horse wins... and the track refuses to acknowledge you as the only winner. That's what happened at Remington Park, as you will read on page 18.

The horses really matter, but so do the people. Our Thoroughbred Owner of the Month (page 16) is Charles Fipke. When Fipke recognized the damage that Covid-19 had imposed on the industry, he made an amazing and very costly gesture (page 21). He announced that he is waiving his fee on each of his seven stallions and that the gift applies not only to those who have already booked their mares, but for those who might now consider it.

Rob Watson is our Standardbred Owner of the Month and it's possible we crossed paths way back in 1969. I was a first-year student majoring in journalism and pot smoking at Western and he was in high school and we both considered it time well wasted to spend a Saturday afternoon at Western Raceway.

Both HBPA President Sue Leslie and jockey Gary Boulanger got the wonderful news that they are being ushered into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Leslie's reaction is on page 15 and we profile Boulanger on pages 14-15.

Some Canadians are getting by with no racing in this country. On pages 4-5, we document wins in the U.S. by Josie Carroll, Chantal Sutherland, Mike De Paulo, Jim and Susan Hill, Norm McKnight, Bruno Schickedanz, and the very deserving Charles Fipke.

Our cartoon on page 9 is not funny, but we believe it's accurate and, once again, we have found a full page of bizarre, wacky and head-shaking events to fill a full page 24 with our oddities and entities.

And the best thing that happened to many of us in April was a surprise visit of handicapping maestro and apparent master chef Garnet Barnsdale. Barnsdale decided one Sunday to cook a full card of delicious lasagna and personally deliver it to several grateful individuals. Your slice is on page 19.

This issue of **Down The Stretch** will happen only on-line, but the stories, the people, and the horses will bring you right down to the finish line.

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# Canadians Out of Town



## March 13, Gulfstream:



Nice way to start your career. The fourth race asked five maidens to go 6½ furlongs, and though she is a four year-old, Golden Ami was running for the first time. Not a problem. Under John Velazquez, Golden Ami went right to the top, sizzled through professional splits of :22.27, :45.56, and 1:10.61, pulling away to win by 6 lengths in 1:17.31. Golden Ami is trained by Josie Carroll for Ivan Dalos who bred the filly at his Tall Oaks Farm. She paid \$5.20 to win.

## March 14, Fair Grounds:

Chantal Sutherland was aboard the 4-5 favourite, Malasong, in this \$5,000 claim race that attracted a field of 11 to go 5½ furlongs. And Sutherland took no prisoners, sending the four year-old gelding to the top, and slapping brisk fractions of :22.26 and :45.97 on the rest of the field. Malasong coasted home the best by 5 lengths in 1:05.36. She is owned by Albert Salmon and trained by Joseph Smith. Just \$3.80 for the win ticket.

## March 14, Gulfstream:



Good to see Krachenwagen back in the winners circle, if for no other reason than we love the name. The 9th was a \$14,000 claim race that was supposed to go a mile on the turf, but was moved to the dirt. Krachenwagen, ridden by Mario Fuentes broke well, took the lead after a quarter mile and strode confidently away from 7 rivals to win by 5 ¼ lengths in 1:37.33. Just Krachenwagen's third win in 23 tries. He is now owned by Frank Russo and a \$2 win bet produced \$21.60.

## March 20, Oaklawn:

Trainer Norm McKnight has put up better numbers in the past here but, in the third race, he sent out the even-money favourite, Gold Backed, and those who backed it got a little

gold back. Under Tyler Baze, the five year-old Ontario-bred gelding was ahead of just one horse in the field of nine after a half-mile, but picked up some intimidating momentum around the far turn. Gold Backed needed the entire stretch to get past longshot Darren's Fortune (Walter De la Cruz) and the margin at the wire was a mere nose after a mile and a sixteenth in 1:46.08. This was just the third win in 22 starts for Gold Backed, who is owned by M and M Racing and, for McKnight, just his fifth win in 66 starts at Oaklawn this year. The win price was just \$4.

## March 21, Fair Grounds:



Chances are excellent that trainer Steve Margolis won't replace his jockey on the four year-old filly, She'sonthewarpath. Chantal Sutherland timed it perfectly in the eighth race, the \$100,000 Tom Benson Memorial Stakes, a mile and a sixteenth on the grass. Sutherland had She'sonthewarpath fifth down the backstretch, made a four-wide move into the stretch, and after a furious battle all the way down the lane, got up by nose for the win. This was Sutherland's third straight ride on the filly, who has now produced a third and two wins for the native of Brampton. She'sonthewarpath is owned by Lawana and Robert Low and, as the third betting choice, returned \$9.40.

## March 22, Gulfstream:



Kind of a Canadian daily double – the third race was a mile and a sixteenth on the turf and Roger Attfield sent out the favourite, Noble Hope. With Paco Lopez aboard, Noble Hope rallied from fifth at the half, surged to the lead at the head of the stretch, and held off Lookin At Roses (Marcos Meneses) by a half-length at the wire in the good time of 1:40.55. Noble Hope had won one of his previous eight starts at Wood-

bine and this was his first try on the Gulfstream green. This was Roger Attfield's 1,958th training win. Noble Hope is owned by Robert Evans and paid \$4.80 to win.

The next race had a field of eight maidens going a mile on



The dirt. Pleasant Orb, ridden confidently by Joe Bravo, was close throughout, made a three-wide move to the front at the top of the stretch, and got there the best by half a length in 1:37.86. Trained by Barclay Tagg, the daughter of Orb, the 2013 Kentucky Derby winner, broke through in her third career start. She is owned by Charles Fipke and her win price was just \$4.80.

## March 26, Gulfstream



The fourth race was a mile on the dirt and the field attracted 10 horses eligible to be claimed for \$8,000. Luis Saez was on the favourite, Blakey, a son of Pioneerof the Nile and they were second by a length after half a mile. Into the stretch, Blakey powered to the front and pulled away to prevail by 4½ lengths in 1:37.37. Bred in Ontario by the Ballycroy Training Centre, Blakey won for the first time since October of 2018. He is owned by John Russell and trained by Mike De Paulo. The bettors got \$5.20 to win.

## March 27, Gulfstream:



# Canadians Out of Town



Krachenwagen has come alive for Mike De Paulo. In the seventh race, a one mile \$12,500 claimer, jockey Mario Fuentes was composed and patient as Krachenwagen was last of 7 into the far turn. Fuentes never left the rail and passed several horses as the field entered the stretch. In the final eighth, Krachenwagen was determined and he won it by 2 lengths in the good time of 1:36.74. That's two straight wins for Krachenwagen at Gulfstream. He is owned by Frank Russo and he paid a nifty \$17.60 to win.

## March 27, Oaklawn:

Race three was a 6 furlong dash for fillies and mares with a \$16,000 tag. The even-money favourite was True Castle with David Cohen aboard and this one was aggressive right out of the gate. True Castle led at every call and won by 2½ lengths in 1:10.54. The four year-old filly, bred by True Oaks Farm in Ontario, won for the second time in 10 tries. She is owned by Bruno Schickedanz and trained by Norm McKnight and a win bet produced just \$4.20.

## Gulfstream, March 28:



Another win for the Hills

Adam Coglianese Photo

On Florida Derby Day, Jim and Susan Hill had their lightly raced five year-old, Travelling Midas, in the field of 12 for the second race, 7 furlongs on the dirt. Ridden by Tyler Gafalione, Travelling Midas muffled his opponents by stalking the leader from second, taking over at the head of the stretch, and finishing powerfully to win by 3½ lengths in the fine time of 1:22.65.

"We've had our ups and downs with Midas," says Jim. "He had foot issues, but we still believed he had talent. He never raced at all in 2019 while we worked on his feet, then comes back after 15 months and almost wins in February, then runs huge today."

This was Travelling Midas' second win in 10 starts. He is trained by George Arnold and he produced a \$9.40 win ticket.

## April 5, Oaklawn:

They had to sweat out a very close finish, but trainer Norm McKnight and owner Bruno Schickedanz got the biggest share of the fifth race, a 6 furlong sprint for \$16,000 claimers. True Castle, ridden by Orlando Mojica, was second for most of the way, surged to a two-length lead at the head of the stretch, and had just enough to repel the final strides of She's a Dime. In this age of social distancing, True Castle

was a mere nose ahead at the wire. McKnight claimed this one for Schickedanz out of a \$25,000 claim race last fall at Woodbine and lost her for the lower price in this race. However, the four year-old filly ran four times for McKnight and Schickedanz and this was her second straight win. They spent \$25,000 in November, earned \$30,000 in five months, then got a cheque for \$16,000 upon losing her. That's how McKnight and Schickedanz make money at this game. As for the bettors, they had to settle for a \$5.60 payoff.

## April 10, Oaklawn:

The sixth race was a mile and a sixteenth and attracted a field of ten \$30,000 claimers. Jockey Joe Rocco gave Verve's Humor a very patient ride. They were ninth at the half and still ninth by about 9 lengths at the three-quarter mark. But Verve's Humor was laughing with a four-wide move into the final turn and the four year-old horse had the most momentum in the stretch, passing rivals and finding the finish line the best by a length in 1:44.17. Trained by Stewart Dallas, Verve's Humor is owned by Charles Fipke, who is also the breeder. The win was the second in 11 tries for Verve's Humor, who paid \$9.40 to win.

## April 18, Gulfstream:

A great weekend for Roger Attfield. It started in the fifth race; a field of 10 maidens running a mile on the turf, after being taken off the grass. Gray's Fable, ridden by Dylan Davis, led from the start, went the first 6 furlongs in a challenging 1:09.89, but was still strong down the lane, winning by 2¼ lengths in 1:33.84. Gray's Fable is trained by Roger Attfield and the five year-old gelding broke through in his fifth try. Owned by Steve Goldfine and Kari and Jeff Provost, Gray's Fable paid \$9.40 for the win.

## April 19, Gulfstream:



Two wins for Attfield on the card

Adam Coglianese Photo

The fifth race on Sunday was also a maiden special weight mile on the grass for fillies and mares and Attfield had Rajiv Maragh on Eternal Peace. The four year-old filly came from midpack and made up a lot of ground in the stretch to win by a head in 1:36.45. Eternal Peace is owned by Robert Evans and her upset win produced a \$21 win ticket. It was just her second lifetime race after a fifth-place finish 5 weeks earlier. The tenth race was also a mile on the lawn with a

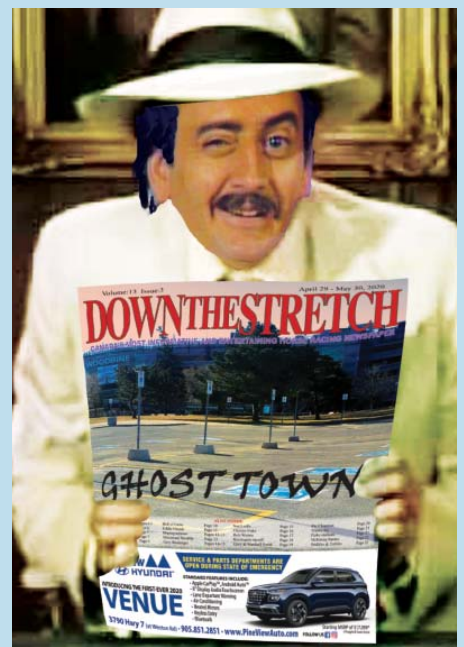
purse of \$46,000 and 12 fillies and mares ran. No Way Jose contradicted her name by surging from third at the head of the stretch to win by 1¼ lengths in 1:37.91. No Way Jose, trained by Attfield, is owned by William Werner and this was her third try and first win at Gulfstream. Her first nine races were in England, where she recorded one victory at Lingfield two years ago.



Yes Way, Jose!

Adam Coglianese Photo

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# Kentucky Derby Preps

*(Even though the Derby won't be run until September)*



**March 14, \$1,000,000 Rebel Stakes,  
Mile and a sixteenth, Oaklawn:**

As the 4-5 people's choice, Nadal, ridden by Joel Rosario, served an ace. Against seven opponents, Nadal held serve at the quarter pole in :22.89 and was never broken, repelling 82-1 shot, Excession (Tyler Baze), by three quarters of a length in 1:44.97. The son of Blame has done everything right so far for trainer Bob Baffert – that was his third win in three tries. He is owned by George Bolton, Arthur Hoyer, Barry Lipman, and Mark Mathiesen. The popular win produced a \$3.80 win ticket.

**March 14, \$250,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks Stakes,  
Mile and an eighth, Turfway Park:**



No one passed Field Pass

Coady Photography

Lots of sizzle in this race. Fancy Liquor (Florent Geroux) led the field of 11 through 6 furlongs in 1:11.72 but, as the field tilted into the stretch, the 6-5 favourite, Invader (Albin Jimenez), had taken a short lead while going four-wide. Out of third, Field Pass and Irad Ortiz had the most momentum in the stretch and, after a battle that ensued right to the wire, it was Field Pass winning by a neck in 1:49.34, just over a second off the course record. Field Pass is owned by Three Diamonds Farm and trained by Michael Maker. He is now three for eight in his career, two for two in 2020. He paid \$9.60 to win.

**March 21, \$1,000,000 Louisiana Derby,  
Mile and three sixteenths, Fair Grounds:**

A huge field of 14 went postward with 100 points awarded to the winner and the favourite at slightly more than 3-1 was Wells Bayou, ridden by Florent Geroux. Wells Bayou got the lead easily and was really never challenged, cutting out reasonable fractions of :48.00, 1:12.42 and 1:37.61 for the mile. He came into the stretch in charge and repelled NY Traffic (Joe Bravo) by 1½ lengths at the wire in 1:56.47, just a quarter second off the course record. Trained by Brad Cox and owned by Lance and Clint Gasaway, Madaket Stables, and Wonder Stables, the son of Lookin At Lucky notched his third win in five career starts and paid \$8.40 to win.



Alls well that ends Wells

Hodges Photography

**March 28, \$700,000 Florida Derby,  
Mile and an eighth, Gulfstream:**



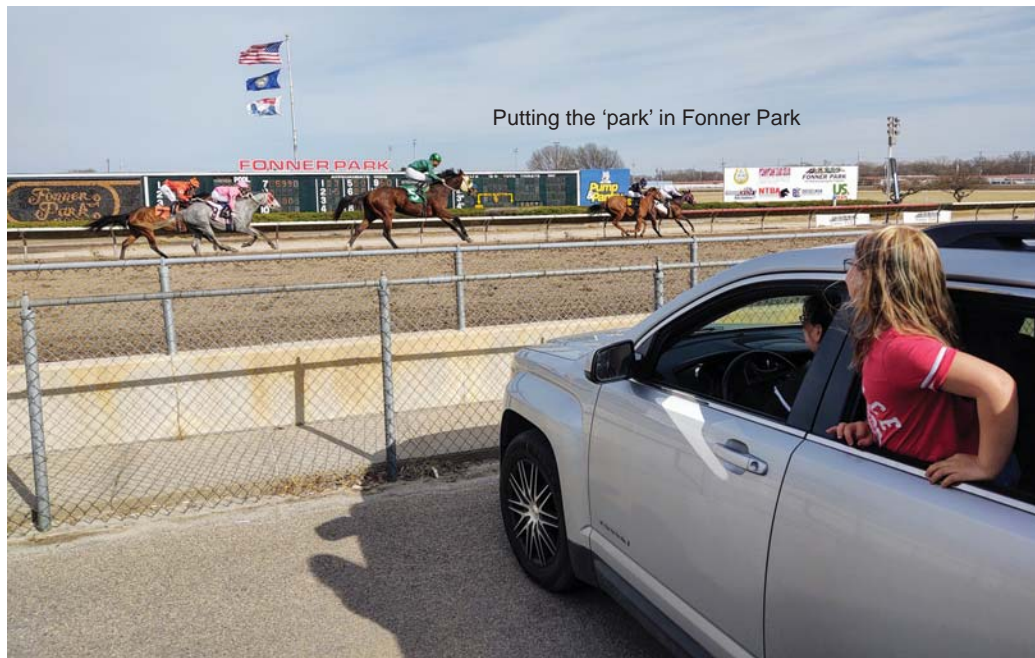
They fought the law....but the Law won!

Ryan Thompson Photo

Holy Bull Stakes winner, Tiz the Law, took most of the action, going off at 7-5 in the field of nine and he got a perfect trip from Manny Franco. Tiz the Law tracked from third to the half, moved into the lead with 3/16ths of a mile to go, and pulled away to win by 4¼ lengths in 1:50.00. Eighty-to-one outsider Shivaree not only prompted the pace, but battled bravely to save second from Ete Indian. Tiz the Law is trained by Barclay Tagg for Sackatoga Stable. Those who backed him had to accept a \$4.80 win payoff.

# What is Fonner Park and how did it get on HPI?

By Jamie Dykstra



Putting the 'park' in Fonner Park

Overall, HPIbet offers about 450 racetracks from around the world for horseplayers to bet on. On a typical Wednesday, that number is 30. This includes tracks like Gulfstream, Tampa Bay Downs, Sam Houston, Charles Town, Western Fair, The Meadows, and Fair Grounds to name just a few.

But on the last Wednesday in March, due to many racetracks having suspended racing amid the global Covid-19 pandemic, there were only seven racetracks available for customers to test their luck on. That is until Klaus Ebner, HPIbet's senior manager of 17 years, recalled a small track called Fonner Park based in Grand Island, Nebraska was still running, eventually bringing the grand total of racetracks to eight.

"Just thinking about how few tracks were running, I remembered that Chris Kotulak, a former TVG host and

horseman himself, runs a nice small track out of Nebraska and realized they were still running," says Ebner. "So we thought we might as well reach out to see if we could get a deal done."

Normally, negotiating and finalizing the agreement to offer a new track on HPIbet would take at least a week. It also requires approval from the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) and then the HPIbet team needs to set everything up in the backend while also testing the tote systems to ensure everything works.

"Part of the process to get a track up and running on HPIbet includes tote testing to ensure we have the correct pools and commissions as well as bet minimums for each pool," says Ebner. "In addition to that, on the backend of HPIbet, we also must enter the correct codes for track information, programs, and video streams. The whole process takes a

team effort to ensure we aren't missing anything. From start to finish, we had it all set up in two days."

By the start of the March 24 card, Fonner Park was offered to HPIbet customers and many other horseplayers around the world. But it should be noted that the track is taking the Covid-19 pandemic very seriously. Track management and their local horsemen association moved from their typical Friday-through-Sunday to a Monday-through-Wednesday schedule in an attempt to drive more off-track wagering since it couldn't open its grandstand to the public which drives the majority of its handle. Well, it worked. On a typical Friday, the mutuel handle might peak at \$200,000. Kotulak reported that the television exposure was responsible for a massive upsurge.

"The money that is being wagered is huge," he says. "We had \$2.1 million wagered on us on a Monday afternoon and early evening; only \$28,000 of that was wagered in Nebraska. That's money that would never have come to us."

Even though their grandstand is now closed to fans, Fonner Park still has a creative way of bringing local horseplayers up close to the action.

"We have an option where you can set up an app on your phone and wager from your phone," says Kotulak. "But you may only do it at Fonner Park so we have allowed people to drive their vehicles on to the apron between the grandstand and the racetrack. It's like a drive-in theatre. People come up and park in their cars and sit all day, watch and wager on the races."

Not unlike many racetracks throughout North America, horse racing in Grand Island, Nebraska is everything for local horsepeople. Every Saturday, the grandstand sells out to its capacity of 6,500. And as it turned out, at least for a short period, Fonner Park served as an important distraction for a lot of horseplayers, too, (including more than 1,000 HPIbet customers) during a time when we could all use a little break from the uncertain times we find ourselves in.

## Queen's Plate Postponed

By Brittney Mayotte



The latest domino to fall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is The Queen's Plate. On April 1, Woodbine Entertainment announced that the 161st running of The Queen's Plate will be postponed.

The event was originally scheduled for Saturday, June 27. While a new date has not been confirmed, Woodbine Entertainment intends to host The Queen's Plate at Woodbine Racetrack this year, subject to recommendations and restrictions from government and health officials.

The Queen's Plate was first held in 1860 when jockey Charles Littlefield rode Don Juan to victory on June 27 at the Carleton track, which was situated at what is now the corner of Keele and Dundas Streets. It has been run every year since.

"The Queen's Plate is the oldest continuously run race in North America and we have every intention of keeping it that way," said Jim Lawson, CEO, Woodbine Entertainment. "Once we postponed the start of our season, it likely meant that The Queen's Plate would also be postponed as certain races are required leading up to it so the three year-old horses competing are

ready for the longer distance. As soon as we receive clarity on when the season will start, we will create a new Stakes schedule and finalize a new date for The Queen's Plate."

On March 23, Woodbine Entertainment announced that it was postponing the start of the 2020 thoroughbred meet which was scheduled to open on April 18. The decision was made to follow the Government of Ontario's orders to close all non-essential businesses to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Due to the postponement of the start of the season, a new Stakes schedule is required and will be announced at the appropriate time.

All ticket purchasers have the option of keeping their purchased seats or receiving a full refund (including fees) at any time between now and the new date of the event through [Ticketmaster.ca](https://www.ticketmaster.ca). Fans are encouraged to visit [QueensPlate.com](https://www.queensplate.com) for the latest information and updates regarding The Queen's Plate.

# DOWN THE STRETCH PODCAST

## Episode Breakdown:

**#9 March 16:** Days after New York Attorney Geoffrey Berman issued indictments against Jason Servis, Jorge Navarro, and many other trainers and veterinarians, we included clips from Berman's press conference that spelled out the awful behaviour of the accused. Trainers **Bonnie Eshelman**, **Santino De Paulo**, **Bob Tiller**, **Angus Buntain**, **Carmen Auciello**, and quarter horse trainer **Michelle Woodley** talked about preparing horses for when racing resumes. Josie Carroll send out Ivan Dalos' Golden Ami to win a race at Gulfstream, and Chantal Sutherland scored at the Fair Grounds. We also ran clips from the Jeff Ruby Steaks Stakes at Turfway Park and the Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn.

**#10 March 23:** We 'sampled' audio from COSA TV in which Greg Blanchard interviewed Woodbine CEO, **Jim Lawson**. **Gary Boulanger** talked about getting ready for his 36th season of racing and the horrible accident that almost took his life. **Bill O'Donnell**, President of COSA, provided an interview, explaining the state of harness racing in this world of crisis. Toss in stretch calls of the Louisiana Derby and the Sunland derby as well as another winner from Chantal Sutherland.

**#11 March 30:** Now we're using Zoom to get interviews and **Jim Lawson** updated the status of harness and thoroughbred racing at Woodbine. Lawson will be a source every week for the next little while. I actually met in person with **Ric Chapman**, but recorded his comments by sticking the I-phone on the end of a Sherwood hockey stick. Chapman revealed why racing is still going full tilt in his native Australia. Mike De Paulo's Krachenwagen won for the second time in two weeks and we also ran a race won by Blakey, another De Paulo trainee. Jim and Susan Hill's Travelling Midas scored at Gulfstream on the same card as the Florida Derby and we had **Pete Aiello**'s call of both.

**#12 April 6:** **David Onley** wouldn't necessarily be front and centre on a horse racing show, but the former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario contracted polio in 1953 and we found him to be a pertinent and articulate resource as we deal with a pandemic some 67 years later. Woodbine's CEO **Jim Lawson** updated us on the status of racing in Ontario and specifically plans for a delayed Queen's Plate. We included a story about **Fonner Park**, a nice little racetrack in Nebraska that was discovered by the

racing channels and is enjoying its closeup. And when avid horseplayer Jim McKenny was given two 'tips' from Gary Smith, another former NHL star, McKenny bet – and cashed – with both fists.

**#13 April 13:** **Jim Lawson** is now a regular contributor to the show, answering our questions every Monday on Zoom. This episode also included HBPA President **Sue Leslie**, Toronto Sun racing writer **Steve Buffery**, and jockey **Chantal Sutherland**. Veteran driver **Paul MacDonell** revealed how he felt when he was told he's in the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame and the irrepressible **Gary 'Suitcase' Smith** told outrageous stories of huge bets won and huge bets lost. And just to prove that the pandemic isn't winning, we ran the Coronavirus Stakes, an hilarious race call parody by an Australian comedian.

**#14 April 20:** We had races from Tampa Bay, Fonner Park, Remington, and Gulfstream; in fact **Roger Attfield** won grass races at a mile two days in a row. Woodbine CEO **Jim Lawson** made his weekly appearance to comment on the state of racing in Ontario, and we dove into the quarter horse sector by interviewing breeder/owner/trainer **Chantelle Bourgeois** and **Bob Broadstock**, President of the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario. Also on the show was thoroughbred owner **Charles Fipke** explaining his generous decision to waive the fees on his seven top notch stallions. And we had a great collection of comments from horse lovers about the one horse that changed their lives.

**#15 April 27:** Episode 15 of the **Down The Stretch** Podcast proves you can still have fun in the midst of a raging pandemic. Woodbine CEO **Jim Lawson** demonstrates his lighter side answering silly questions from **Peter Gross**. Woodbine race caller Robert Geller tells us what he's doing now that he's not required to reel off the names of 14 horses in 10 seconds. There's two wonderful interviews with jockeys; **Mickey Walls** ruled Woodbine in the '90s and **Ed Walton**, even though he's almost 6 feet tall and 56 years old, is planning to ride quarter horses this year. Chiefswood Stables' Yorkton did not win his race at Gulfstream two days earlier, but he did produce an exquisite second-place finish and we have **Pete Aiello**'s call. And what can horse racing fans do when there's no horse racing in Ontario? Watch movies. This podcast counts down the **10 Greatest Horse Racing Movies** and you are invited to dispute the selections by host Peter Gross.

**The Down The Stretch Podcast can be found on Apple, Spotify, iheartradio or wherever you get your podcasts.**

## The tracks that stayed open:

Track	April 2020	April 2019	\$Increase	%Increase
Will Rogers	\$28,836,104	\$5,194,293	\$23,641,811	455.1%
Fonner Park	\$28,299,771	\$1,992,956	\$26,306,815	1,320.0%
Gulfstream	\$113,219,729	\$53,669,390	\$59,550,339	111.0%
Tampa Bay	\$46,849,010	\$26,156,913	\$20,692,097	79.1%
Oaklawn	\$57,910,408	\$33,281,973	\$24,628,435	74.0%



# RACETRACK HUMOUR



Perry & Mooch



6'

# Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame; Class of 2020:

Five people and five horses have been elected to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame from what the selection committee described as ‘a very deep ballot of candidates.’

Thoroughbred inductees include Builder **Sue Leslie**, Jockey **Gary Boulanger**, Trainer **Michael Keogh**, along with horses **Tepin** and **Play the King**.

**Sue Leslie** has dedicated the better part of her life



Sue Leslie

to the sport of horseracing — breeding, owning, and training thoroughbred horses in Ontario for almost 40 years. Positions she has held, both past and current, include President/Chair of the Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protection Association of Ontario, President/Chair of Ontario Horse Racing Industry Alliance, Director on the Avelino Gomez Memorial Foundation, Director of LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society, as well as being a member of the Jockey Club of Canada and Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society. Leslie has been a proponent for horsepeople across all facets of the industry. She was involved in establishing Ontario Racing, of which she is a currently a Director and member of the Executive.

Born in Drayton Valley, Alberta, **Gary Boulanger** began his riding career in 1987, spending his early years at tracks



Gary Boulanger

in the U.S. and earning leading jockey status at Longacres Racetrack (1989, 1990, 1991) and Calder Race Course (1994, 1995). In 2000 Boulanger returned to Canada, riding primarily at Woodbine. In 2001, the top money-winning year of his career, he rode Sam-Son Farm’s Hall of Fame filly Dancethruthedawn to wins in the Canadian Oaks and The Queen’s Plate Stakes. In 2005 Boulanger suffered what could have been a career-ending injury in a racing accident at Gulfstream Park. His return to the track came in 2013 when he began to pick up rides for Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse. Still an active rider at almost 53, the 2017 Avelino Gomez Memorial Award recipient has, to date, won 3,610 races, including 41 Graded Stakes, and earnings just shy of \$80 million (U.S.).

As long-time private trainer for Hall of Fame Builder Gus Schickedanz, **Mike Keogh** is a two-time Queen’s

Plate winning trainer, first with Woodcarver in 1999, and then with Triple Crown champion Wando in 2003. During that Triple Crown winning season, Keogh was also training stablemate Mobil who would earn a Sovereign Award at age 4. Hall of Fame horse Langfuhr, also trained by Keogh, won three GI Stakes and received the Sovereign in 1996 as Champion Sprinter. Since 1993, Mike Keogh stats include 2,689 starts with 330 wins and over \$21.5 million in earnings.

**Tepin**, given the moniker “Queen of the Turf”, spent most of her race career under the direction of trainer Mark



Mike Keogh

Casse and the ownership of Robert Masterson. Racing from age 3 to 6, the striking bay filly accumulated a record of 13-5-1, including nine GI/Group 1 wins or placings in three countries – Canada, England, and the U.S. In 2015 she won the Breeders’ Cup Mile (GI) against the boys. The following year, in what would be her final year of racing, she travelled to England and won the prestigious Group One Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot. Her final career win came in the 2016 Woodbine Mile (GI) when she put an exclamation mark on her career with a half-length win, again over the boys. Tepin was twice presented with the Eclipse Award as American Champion Female Turf Horse; 2015 and 2016.

**Play the King** was trained throughout his four year race career by Hall of Fame trainer Roger Attfield for breeder/owner Kinghaven Farms of King City, Ontario. In 29 starts, he made 19 trips to the winners’ circle and earned just shy of \$1 million. After multiple Stakes wins as a four year-old, Play the King earned the 1987 Sovereign Award for Champion Older Male Horse and Champion Sprinter. The following year he repeated wins in the Nearctic Stakes (GIII) at Woodbine and the Toronto Budweiser Breeders’ Cup before making his most noted performance, a second place finish at 49-1 in the Breeders’ Cup Sprint (GI) at Churchill Downs. That led to Sovereign Awards as Champion Sprinter, Older Horse, and Horse of the Year in 1988.

Representing standardbreds in the Class of 2020 are Driver **Paul MacDonell**, Trainer **Ben Wallace**, Female Horse **Amour Angus**, Male Horse **McWicked**, and Veteran Horse **Rambling Willie**.

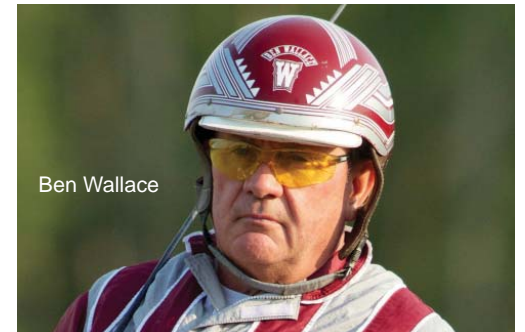
**Paul MacDonell’s** consistent driving career is indicated by the fact that he surpassed \$1 million in purse earnings for 33 consecutive years. Known primarily as the driver of the great Somebeachsomewhere, MacDonell captured three Metro Paces, five Confederation Cups, and eight Breeders Crowns, as well as a record 16 Ontario Sires Stakes Super Finals to his credit. The popular and affable driver has chalked up more than 15,000 top three finishes, 5,623 wins, and has driven horses to in excess of \$122 million in purse earnings.

**Ben Wallace** of Puslinch trained 1999 Pacing Triple Crown Winner and Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame Member Blissfull Hall, Breeders Crown winners Totally



Paul MacDonell

Western (2002), Pans Culottes (2003), as well as a list of million dollar plus winners including Apprentice Hanover, Easy Lover Hanover, Zooka, Cam Swiftly, Camotion, and Lookout Victory. Awarded an O’Brien as Canada’s Trainer of the Year in 1999, Wallace has current career stats of 1,947 wins and more than \$38 million in purses, surpassing the million-dollar mark in 18 consecutive seasons (1996-2013).



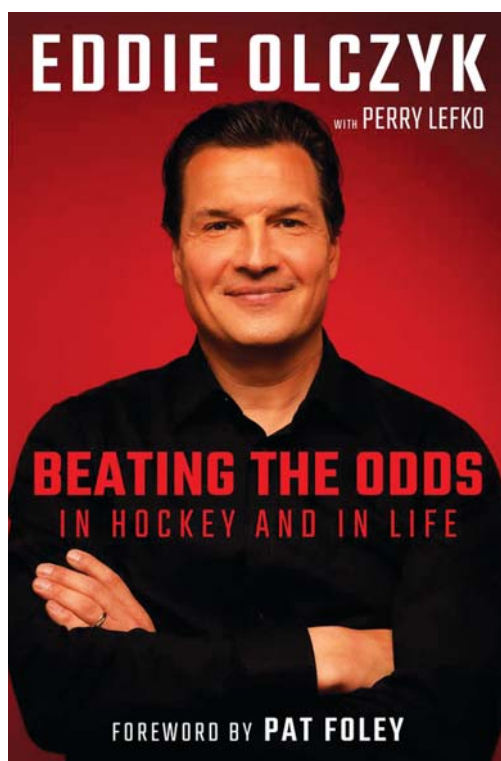
Ben Wallace

**Amour Angus** made her mark on the standardbred industry as a broodmare. Eleven of her 15 foals raced, earning in excess of \$3.5 million. Of her eight foals sired by Garland Lobell, three went on to be top trotting sires in North America following successful race careers – Andover Hall 3, 1:51.3 (\$870,510), CHRHF 2019 inductee Angus Hall 3, 1:54.3 (\$830,654), and Conway Hall 3, 1:53.4 (\$818,884).

Recently retired from racing, **McWicked** earned \$5.1 million during a race career that began in 2013 and included 40 wins in 110 starts while setting his lifetime mark of 1:46.2 at age 7. Owned primarily by Ed James’ SSG Stables and trained for the majority of his career by Casie Coleman, McWicked won the Max Hempt, Adios, Progress, Ben Franklin, TVG Open, William Haughton, Canadian Pacing Derby, Dan Rooney – twice; Roll With Joe, Breeders Crown – twice, Joe Gerrity, Jr. – twice, PASS Finals, and the Jim Ewart – twice. His \$5.1 million in career earnings makes him the richest pacing stallion in the history of the sport.

The winner of 128 races in 305 starts during the 1970s and early 1980s, **Rambling Willie** was a three-time winner of the Canadian Pacing Derby – 1975 in a dead heat with Pickwick Baron, 1976 and 1977. A \$15,000 purchase by trainer/driver Bob Farrington, ownership was later split between Bob’s wife Vivian, and Paul Seibert. Mrs. Farrington in turn pledged 10% of Willie’s earnings to the church where her father served as pastor, earning the gelding the nickname “The Horse That God Loved”. Following his retirement from racing in 1983, Willie moved to the Kentucky Horse Park where he resided until his passing in 1995, when he was buried near his paddock at the Hall of Champions.

# Eddie O on horse racing



*Eddie Olczyk played parts of 15 seasons in the NHL. He started and ended his career as a Chicago Black Hawk and in between skated for the Maple Leafs, Winnipeg Jets, New York Rangers, LA Kings, and Pittsburgh Penguins. Wherever he went, Olczyk was never far away from a Racing Form; as a kid he got hooked on the ponies. When he was just 50, in 2017, he was diagnosed with colon cancer and his excruciating and ultimately victorious battle with the disease is documented in Eddie Olczyk: Beating the Odds in Hockey and in Life co-authored by Perry Lefko. Down The Stretch got Olczyk chatting about his love of horse racing.*

**DTS:** Let me run a theory past you. You have experienced some wonderful and extraordinary things in your life, but the element of great pain or tragedy makes the victory is even sweeter. Do you agree or disagree?

**Olczyk:** I agree with you 100%. I think the true colours of someone becomes evident, not when things are great, but when things are tough. We all have adversity in our lives and it's how you handle it and how you come out the other end. And do you learn from the past? That's the greatest lesson.

**DTS:** Your book, *Beating the Odds in Hockey and in Life* chronicles some amazing highs for you and some awful lows as it goes into great detail about your colon cancer. How is your health now?

**Olczyk:** Well, I'm feeling very good. I have been cancer free for two months. We have had incredible help. My doctors at Northwestern Hospital, but also my family and friends. I could not have done it without that support for more than two years, which is really hard to believe. Look - cancer is always going to be with me. It's going to be a part of my life and the further I get away from August the 4th of 2017, when I was diagnosed with stage three colon cancer, the better. I hope that when people read my book, or this article, if they're going through the battle, this can help them.

**DTS:** Your great interest in horse racing. Where did that come from?

**Olczyk:** When I was 12 or 13 years old, growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, I went to Arlington Park with a teammate of mine. His dad was a big horse player, and from the first day I stepped into the race track, I was hooked. That first time, we just bet a couple of bucks and I lost my first two races, but on my third try, I had a nice exactor for about 108 bucks. I walked up to the window and the cashier looked at me and asked how old I was and I said, 'Well, you didn't ask me how old I was when I lost.' He just laughed and give me my \$108. Later, I got into horse ownership quite a bit when I was in Toronto playing with the Maple Leafs, and I have been in the game ever since. And then I got my opportunity to work for NBC for the Triple Crown coverage and all the horse racing events including the Breeders' Cup for the last five years.

**DTS:** You made an amazing prediction a day or two before the 2013 Kentucky Derby. You were calling a hockey game and someone asked you to pick the winner.

**Olczyk:** Well, my picks were Orb, Golden Soul, and Revolutionary and then I gave out a couple of other horses.

cratched Horse(s): Black Onyx (Also-Eligible), Fear the Kitten

Total WPS Pool: \$56,864.011				
gm Horse	Win	Place	Show	W
5 Orb	12.80	7.40	5.40	\$1
4 Golden Soul		38.60	19.40	\$1
3 Revolutionary			5.40	\$1
				\$1
				\$1
				\$1
				\$1
				\$1
				\$1

**DTS:** The exactor paid \$981. The tri was \$6,925 and the super paid \$57,000. How much did you win?

**Olczyk:** (laughing). As I like to tell people, I got even that

day, but I know that a couple of our cameramen made a couple of bucks on that by playing the exactor, so yeah, it was a good day. More importantly, that helped me get an opportunity a couple of years later to work for our great horse racing team at NBC.

**DTS:** I hit a \$250 double a couple of months ago. Was your biggest score more than that?

**Olczyk:** Add a few zeros and double it. In the middle of June 2009, there was a carryover Pick 6 at night at Hollywood Park and I invested \$168 which is not a lot when you're looking at a pool of just under \$2 million. I singled a horse in the third leg - his name was Streets of Heaven. He went off at over 16-1, comes from far back, and wins by a length. I hit the next three races and the Pick 6 paid \$498,711. My \$168 investment turned into half a mill.

**DTS:** There was another night with a horse you owned called Mister Bowtie. You were with the Jets in Winnipeg and there were no off-tracks there, but you did figure out a way of betting on it.

**Olczyk:** It was September of 1992. It was training camp for the Jets, so I drove from Winnipeg to Fargo, North Dakota. It was only 220 miles. It was the last race at Arlington and the OTB was in a Best Western Hotel. Mister Bowtie couldn't win for 5 furlongs on the dirt, but he could win for 35 or 40 on the turf. He won by a neck at 9-1. I won about \$20,000, but they didn't have enough to pay me. They gave me a couple of thou and some IOU's. I think one of our clubhouse attendants drove down a few days later and got the rest. I tipped him \$100. That was one of our first horses in the I'm Telling U Stable.

**DTS:** Time to make a choice. Where would you rather be: At the Breeders' Cup or the Stanley Cup Finals?

**Olczyk:** You know, sometimes you have to be politically correct. And, it's wherever my bosses would send me. NBC has full authority on Eddie Olczyk when it comes to making those decisions. If it was game seven, I would be okay with it, but I guarantee you, I would have some sort of a social device that would allow me to see the horse racing.

**DTS:** Last question. What's the one thing a good horse player needs to know?

**Olczyk:** To have conviction when you like a horse. Don't worry about what the odds are. Just put your money where your mouth is.

# Twenty seven indicted in massive doping scheme

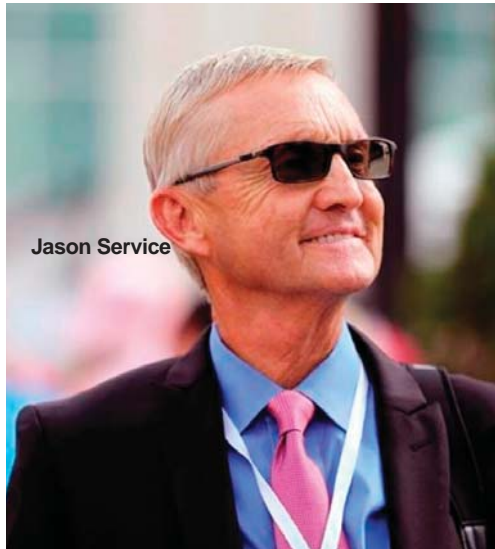


It is, simply, the biggest bust of cheaters in the history of thoroughbred horse racing. On March 9, Geoffrey S. Berman, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, made the stunning and disturbing announcement:

"Today we announce criminal charges against racehorse trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis, as well as nine other trainers, seven veterinarians, and nine drug suppliers and distributors, all involved in the cruel and systematic doping of racehorses across the United States and, indeed, around the world using misbranded, adulterated, and dangerous performance enhancing drugs."



Jorge Navarro



Jason Service

Berman is a man to be feared by the creeps who have juiced horses. This is the guy who charged the late Jeffrey Epstein with sex trafficking of minors. He also took action against Michael Avenatti, the one-time lawyer for porn star Stormy Daniels.

In a 44-page document, Berman's office revealed that 27 individuals had been indicted on a virtual tsunami of charges:

*To avoid detection of misbranded and adulteration PEDs to racehorses, also known as "doping", the scheme participants routinely defrauded and misled government agencies, including federal and state drug regulators, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, various state horse racing regulators, and the betting public.*

Two of horse racing's most successful trainers are now in deep water following the two-year investigation that relied heavily on wire taps. Jason Servis, trainer of Maximum Security, and Jorge Navarro, a top five trainer at Gulfstream, are among the individuals charged. According to the indictment:

*Jason Servis was a horse trainer who orchestrated a widespread scheme of covertly obtaining and administering adulterated and misbranded PEDs, including a PED called SGF-1000, to virtually all the racehorses under his command. Service and his co-conspirators concealed the administration of PEDs from federal and state government agencies, racing officials and the betting public by, among other things, concealing and covertly transporting PEDs between barns where Servis' racehorses were stabled, falsifying veterinary bills to conceal the administration of SGF-1000, and using fake prescriptions.*

*Jorge Navarro was a racehorse trainer who orchestrated a widespread scheme of covertly obtaining*

*and administering various adulterated and misbranded PEDs to racehorses under his control. Navarro executed this scheme by using PEDs designed to evade drug tests, physically concealing containers of PEDs and drug paraphernalia from state regulators and racing officials....*

At the March 9 press conference, Berman meticulously revealed the evidence against the defendants. Berman said they trafficked in four different substances to assure their horses ran faster and to avoid detection.

"The first category is blood builders, adulterated and misbranded drugs that increase a horse's red blood cells, providing more oxygen to muscles and allowing a horse to run faster and longer than would be natural," informed Berman. "The drugs also increase pressure on a racehorse's heart which can lead to injury or death. These customized drugs were designed to be undetectable to normal blood testing protocol. The next group is painkillers, analgesics to deaden a horse's ability to feel pain. These drugs can cause a racehorse to overexert himself, possibly leading to a leg injury or break. Often racehorses that sustain such injuries are euthanized. Defendant Louis Grasso included among his pain blockers, vials of cobra venom which he shipped to trainers on request. The next group is broncho dilators, adulterated and misbranded drugs designed to increase a horse's oxygen intake and lessen fatigue, allowing a horse to perform beyond its natural abilities. The final group is bleeders used to reduce bleeding in a horse's lungs during a race and exercise, masking overexertion."

Berman's team executed remarkable research and detailed investigation. On a wiretap, Servis was recorded discussing that he gave SGF 1000 to Maximum Security before a race in New Jersey. According to the legal papers,

*SGF-1000 is a customized PED purportedly containing "growth factors," including fibroblast growth factor and hepatocyte growth factor, which are intended to promote tissue repair and increase a racehorse's stamina and endurance beyond its natural capability....thereby increasing the risk of possible injuries.*

On July 20, 2019, Maximum Security ran in the \$1,000,000 Haskell Invitational at Monmouth Park in New Jersey. He went off as the 4-5 favourite and, to the naked eye, ran brilliantly, cutting very fast fractions (1:10.17 for the first 6 furlongs) then appearing very strong to the wire, winning by 1¼ lengths in 1:47, less than a second off the track record for a mile and an eighth.

"Jason Servis, as alleged, gave SGF-1000 to almost every horse he trained, including Maximum Security," said Berman.

....

There was a horse called XY Jet. Note the past tense. As a two year-old, he won just one of seven starts. Then

he had the bad fortune to be transferred to trainer Jorge Navarro. As a three year-old he won his last three races, including the Grade II Fasig-Tipton Stakes and the Grade III Mr. Prospector Stakes, both at Gulfstream. In 2016, now a four year-old, XY Jet won two of five races and finished second in the Dubai Golden Shaheen. He won his only race in 2017, then captured three of four the next year. In 2019, XY Jet won the Dubai Golden Shaheen. According to the evidence unearthed by Attorney General Berman, the poor horse was running out of his skull.

"XY Jet was regularly doped with misbranded and adulterated blood builders and other performance enhancing drugs in a callous effort to increase that horse's performance," stated Berman at the press conference, making no attempt to hide his disgust.

XY Jet earned more than \$3 million in his 26-race career. On January 8, 2010, Navarro issued the following statement:

*"With deep regret, I am sorry to notify you that XY Jet died this morning as a result of a heart attack. XY Jet was more than a horse on my trained list. He was the one that took us through a wonderful and exciting roller coaster of emotions. He always fought against adversity and despite the injuries that affected him during his career, he always brought out that kind of champion he was."*

Navarro left out one critical item in his eulogy:

*For five years, we pumped this horse up to the eyeballs with illegal medicine and that almost certainly was a significant factor in his death.*

We do live in a society that claims everyone is innocent until proven guilty. The wiretaps of the defendants, however, allow us to see just how arrogant and lacking in scruples these people were.

One of the accused, Louis Grasso, was told by trainer Thomas Guido that a horse had died after using an illegal drug. In a transcription from the wiretaps, Grasso replied,

"It happens. He probably over-juiced him. I've seen that happen over 20 times."

Another defendant is a harness trainer named Nicholas Surik. On tape, he is heard to be talking about getting rid of a horse that died:

"Do you know how many horses Navarro killed and broke down that I made disappear?" he says. "You know how much trouble he could get in if they found out the six horses we killed?"

This is awful stuff. From 2017 through 2019, Jason Servis' training numbers rose dramatically. In 2017, he won 117 races, first time in 18 years, he had broken through 100. The next year, his horses finished first 143 times in just 443 races, a phenomenal strike rate of 32%. In 2019, he produced 168 wins and over \$11 million in purse winnings. All of that, now, apparently tainted.

Jorge Navarro's figures have a remarkably similar arc. In 2016, he won 146 races, 34 more than the year before. In 2017, it was 149 wins and purse money almost \$2 million more than the year before. In 2018, Navarro horses won 208 times in 608 starts, a suspiciously gaudy 34%. In 2019, he captured 216 races and more than \$6,800,000.

The saddest narrative here, and maybe the most inextricable, is the record of Maximum Security. How rich is the irony that, after his horse was disqualified from the Kentucky Derby, Servis objected to being taken down?

"I don't think it changed the outcome of the race," he said, referring to the moment around the far turn when Maximum Security bore out and compromised two or three opponents.

But now we know that Maximum Security was able to run that powerful race, was able to pull away in the stretch even though he had been used throughout, almost certainly because of the illicit chemicals in his body. What about his subsequent wins in the Haskell, the Bold Ruler,

the Cigar Mile, and the \$20 million Saudi Cup? If Mike Smith gets fined \$210,000 for whipping the second-place horse, Midnight Bisou, what's the appropriate action for the winner, now that we know his performance went way beyond his natural capacity?

It's small comfort that Gary and Mary West, owners of Maximum Security, immediately removed Servis as their trainer when the indictments came down.

Across North America, reaction was swift to the charges.

"Do you think the trainers who do their jobs and work hard, do you think we're surprised?" asked Mark Casse, 11-time Sovereign Award winner as Canada's top trainer. "Not even a little bit. We're just extremely happy that finally it's come out, that someone has listened and done something. This is one of the happiest days of my life as a horse trainer. This says, 'Look, we have a serious problem, we have to fix it and we're going to fix it.'"

Woodbine CEO Jim Lawson praised the investigators who probably have an open and shut case.

"This is overdue in racing," said Lawson, who's also on the safety committee of The Jockey Club in New York. "It casts a dark cloud on the industry now, but it's a good thing to clean the industry up and let people know it's going on. It took more than the racing regulators to be involved, it took a big step with racing authorities getting together saying something had to be done about this. I expect there will be serious ramifications and hopefully that sets a precedent and becomes a deterrent."

The hero here is the attorney Geoffrey Berman. He led a team that patiently stitched all the incriminating evidence together. In one sentence he brilliantly summed up the whole story:

"The defendants who were charged today engaged in this conduct, not for the love of the sport and certainly not out of care for the horses, but for money."

## No Saudi Cup money for Maximum Security

On April 16, the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia announced it is not dispersing win money from the \$20 million Saudi Cup, won by Maximum Security on February 29. Maximum Security, whose three year-old season was fraught with controversy, was trained for the Saudi Cup by Jason Servis who is facing charges for doping his horses. Servis was heard on wiretaps boasting that he used a concoction known as SGF-1000 on virtually all his horses and, with regards to Maximum Security, he was heard advising not to worry about a positive result "because there is no test for it in America".

After Servis was indicted on federal charges, Maximum Security was taken from him by owners Gary and Mary West and placed in the care of Bob Baffert.

According to the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia:

JCSA is aware that Mr Jason Servis, trainer of the horse Maximum Security (USA), the first placed horse in The Saudi Cup, has been indicted in the United States of America on charges relating to the administration of prohibited substances to horses in

training under his care and control. JCSA is conducting its own investigation in respect of the allegations and, until that investigation is concluded, JCSA will withhold payment of prize money due to all connections of horses placed in prize-winning positions in The Saudi Cup, Race 8.

Had there been no issue with Maximum Security's physical integrity, the prize money to his owners would have been \$10 million. Making this a more complicated situation is that the horse tested negative for any illegal substance in his post-race drug test.

The runner-up in the Saudi Cup was the mare, Midnight Bisou, and awarding first place money to that horse might not be a simple issue. After the race, Midnight Bisou's jockey, Mike Smith, was judged to have used his whip excessively, for which he received a nine-day suspension and was forced to abandon 60% of his prize money.

The mysterious, and apparently effective drug SGF-1000, is referred to many times in the four Federal indictments handed down against 27 individuals by Fed-

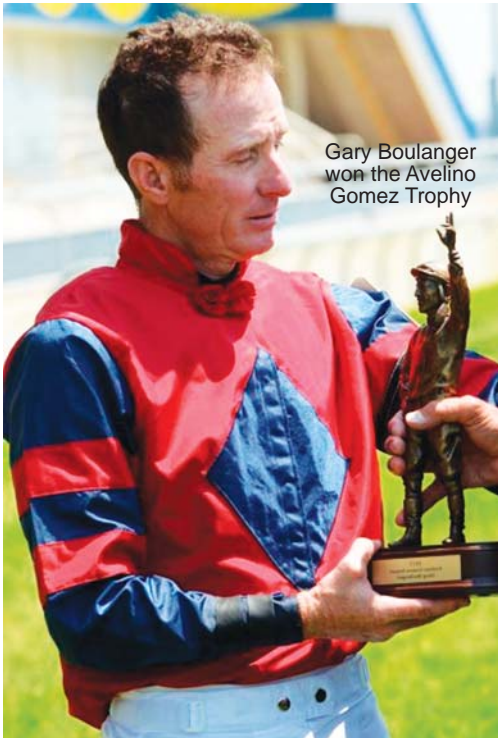
eral prosecutors in the Southern District of New York on March 9. The alleged perpetrators are accused of misbranding and adulterating medications used on their horses. Drug use in Saudi Arabia is dealt with more harshly than in any other racing jurisdiction.

There are multiples levels of shame in this story, not the least of which is the horse himself. Maximum Security, without the assistance of performance enhancing substances, was clearly a sensational race horse. He came first in the Kentucky Derby, but was famously disqualified for interfering with several horses around the far turn. He subsequently finished second in the TVG.Com Pegasus Stakes at Monmouth and ended his career with four straight wins: the Haskell, the Bold Ruler Handicap, the Cigar Mile, and the Saudi Cup.

Maximum Security was voted the Outstanding Three Year-old Male by the Eclipse voters and he is booked to stand at Coolmore's Ashford Stud in Versailles, Kentucky whenever it is decided he is not to run anymore.

# Gary Boulanger:

## *What didn't kill him made him stronger*



Gary Boulanger won the Avelino Gomez Trophy

In early March, Gary Boulanger was settling into a familiar routine, working horses in the Woodbine backstretch, preparing for his 26th season of riding thoroughbreds. The corona virus crisis prompted officials to suspend racing and training, so Boulanger will have to wait for awhile to compete. Not a big problem for the 52 year-old veteran. He knows what it's like to sit on the sidelines for a very long time.

Boulanger grew up in a series of small towns in Northern Alberta. Though none of them were near a conventional racetrack, all he could think about as a child was horses. He had to have one.

"My first horse - my dad made a promise that if I saved up enough to buy the pony, he would pay for everything afterwards," says Boulanger. "So, I went to task; whatever I had to do to make a dollar, collecting bottles, paper routes, shoveling snow. I gave it to my mom and she put it in a savings account. It took me two years to save up \$360. I was nine at the time. The pony's name was Beauty."

As a teenager, Boulanger rode at bush tracks. Later he would ride at Aqueduct, Santa Anita, and Woodbine.

"We went the same way," he cracks. "The money was different."

Equibase credits Boulanger with 24,756 rides and over 3,600 wins, though victories on Arabians are not included. His first race at an accredited track came in February 1987, when he would have been 19. It was on a horse called Beau Counsel at Tampa Bay. He finished seventh. It would take Boulanger 30 tries to break his 'maiden'. He won at Delaware in June 1987 on a horse called Viking Play Girl. It was a \$3,000 claim race. Boulanger finished his first year of riding with 53 wins from 489 rides. Those watching knew he could ride.

In 1988, he won 67 races. He had started the year riding in the bitter chill of January at Aqueduct.

"It was cold," he admits. "But you're pretty pumped up for the races. You would go from the paddock straight to the gate. There was no post parade. Your fingers always got cold, no matter what."

It would get warmer. By May of 1988, Boulanger was working at Golden Gate. In fact, he toured the California tracks - Sacramento, Bay Meadows Fair, Santa Rosa.

Have tack. Will travel. With the special ability to make horses win races, a reliable jockey can find opportunity all over the map. Agents change. Owners and trainers seek you out. In 1988, Boulanger was riding full cards at Bay Meadows, Golden Gate, Santa Anita, and Longacres Racetrack outside Seattle. Longacres closed down in 1992, but not before Boulanger laid waste to jockey stats there. From 1989 through 1991, he was the leading rider. He won 194 races in 1989. In 1991, he chased down Gary Stevens' record of 232 wins at Longacres. Boulanger shattered that mark, winning 247.

Jockeys and broken bones, inevitably, belong in the same sentence.

"I have more metal in me than Nascar," quips Boulanger.

It was at Golden Gate that he suffered his first serious injury.

"A horse flipped on me in the paddock and I broke my fibula and tibia and dislocated my ankle," he recalls casually. "In our sport it's not when you're going to get hurt, it's how bad."

In 1999, Boulanger was experiencing severe pain in his back and legs. One day after winning a race, he collapsed in the winners circle.

"I'd had a few spills and didn't know anything was wrong," he says. "They ended up finding I had a couple of fractured vertebrae and they had to do a spinal fusion in 1999. That was pretty traumatic."

The back surgery laid him up from January of 1999 until he got back on horses in April of 2000. Boulanger was back riding winners at Gulfstream and Calder when a very persuasive offer was extended.

"Gary Kemplen, an agent, called me for Mark Frostad," he says. "Mark was looking for a second go-to rider because his main rider had pulled a few no shows for some big races. They wanted a reliable guy, knowing I was Canadian. We made an agreement and I came."

Boulanger very soon endeared himself to the Woodbine horseplayer. He won 77 races in 2000 and the next year would check a couple boxes off his bucket list.

Frostad put Boulanger on a wonderful filly named Dancethruthedawn for Sam-Son Farm. Her dam, Dance Smartly, had won the 1991 Queen's Plate. Her brother, Scatter the Gold, was the 2000 Plate Champion. But Dancethruthedawn was a handful. She was bet down to 3-5 in the Canadian Oaks and was not very kind to her teammate.

"We drew the two-hole," says Boulanger. "She tried to flip and threw me out the back of the starting gate. They

caared her and tailed her, but she got away really bad."

Several lengths behind as the field of 12 thundered down the stretch for the first time, Dancethruthedawn was able to relax and get her head into the race. She started passing horses before the far turn, went four-wide with a powerful move, and swept to the finish line 1½ lengths the best.

"She come from last and she won the Oaks," says Boulanger. "So now we headed to the Queen's Plate."

There is always a ceremony a few days before the Plate where the connections of each horse select their post position. Dancethruthedawn's name was chosen fifth. Trainer Frostad could have picked a low post position, but Boulanger's bad experience in the Oaks gave him an inspiration to pass on to Frostad.

"I told him I wanted the 17-hole," he says. "I wanted the outside where I would be in there the least amount of time possible and I could control the race from the outside, not get caught up in the middle pack where someone could bump me or try to box me in."

Turned out that was perfect strategy. Dancethruthedawn got away much cleaner and, after galloping comfortably in third, surged to the lead with a quarter mile to go and won by a half a length over the 4-5 favourite, Win City.

"Like her mother. Like her brother," bellowed announcer Dan Loiselle. "Dancethruthedawn has won the Queen's Plate!"

"My heart was just pounding," says Boulanger about his historic win. "I was crying. I was welling up. It was breathtaking."

Boulanger rode the entire season at Woodbine. Including his Florida stats, he won 82 races. In 2002, he won 119; the next year, 183; then 128 in 2004. It all came - literally - crashing down in 2005. It was January 31 at Gulfstream and Boulanger was aboard In Hand in the \$100,000 Mac Diarmida Stakes. In an instant, his life changed horribly.

"He slipped in the home stretch turn," recalls Boulanger, "and that catapulted me in the air, and I got run over by two horses."

It could have killed him. The biggest problem doctors had was which injury to treat first.

"I had a ruptured spleen, several broken bones, and I pulled off some ligaments from my fingers. I was pretty beaten up."

Unfortunately, that was the good news.

"They found I had a subdural hematoma in the right side of my skull," says Boulanger.

"They removed the right side of my skull for 2½ months. I had four surgeries. The doctors looked at me and told me I would never race again. Twice, I flat-lined on the operating table."

In a movie, when the doctors tell an athlete he's done, the music swells up and the camera closes slowly on the guy's face. We know it's not the end of the story.

Boulanger recovered - like all jockeys - much quicker than you or I might. He trained for awhile, but

disliked the politics of the game from that side. After a few years, he was fit enough to work horses out in the morning. One horse he exercised was an unraced Mark Casse colt.

"I was breaking horses, galloping two year-olds, breezing horses," he says. "I could have gotten hurt just as bad in the morning as I could in the afternoon. I was working for Mark Casse and he had this three year-old that had never started called Kaigun and, one morning, I was working him with a horse called Delegation, who had come third in the Breeders' Cup Mile and I absolutely toyed with him. So, Mark asked me, 'What did you think?' And I said, 'If I got cleared to ride, could I ride this horse? And Mark looked at me and said, 'You thinking about riding? If you get cleared, you can ride him.'"

Boulanger's face lights up at the memory. It had been more than eight years since he had competed in a race.

"My doctors cleared me February 14, 2013," he states with triumph. "And I rode February 16 at Tampa."

Boulanger finished ninth in that race, but after such a long time away, it felt like a monumental victory.

"The whole day - it was such a good feeling," he says. "To be back in the jocks room, the camaraderie with the other riders, riding a race with that whole element of tight quarters, and being there. It was exhilarating. I felt like a kid again."

He may have felt like a kid, but once again, he was riding like a seasoned pro. Boulanger finished 2013 with 66 wins and purse earnings of more than \$3.8 million. In fact, since his remarkable return, he has won 506 times. The industry has noticed his extraordinary

accomplishments, his steely determination to stay in the game. In 2017, Boulanger was awarded the Avelino Gomez Award which recognizes Canadian-born riders who have made a significant contribution to the game.

Then, on April 7 of this year, Boulanger got the great news - he has been voted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. And it appears that whenever horse racing resumes, Gary Boulanger will continue - in his 50s - to try and win races in a sport that is at one and the same time profoundly exhilarating and dangerous.

"It's up to the individual," he says. "Either you have that determination to keep on riding or you say 'enough is enough'. For me, it's something I have always loved to do. As long as I have quality horses to ride, I am going to keep on doing it."

## The Sue Leslie interview



The adage goes *if you want something done, give it to a busy person*. **Down The Stretch** wanted answers to pertinent questions about the status of horse racing in this far-reaching pandemic, so we asked Sue Leslie, who is President of the HBPA but also holds positions with the Ontario Horse Racing Alliance, the Avelino Gomez Memorial Foundation, LongRun, Jockey Club of Canada, and the CTHS. In early April, Leslie found out she had been voted into the Horse Racing Hall of Fame, so we began by asking her how she found out.

**Sue Leslie:** I received a call from Tom Cosgrove from the Hall who informed me I was going into the Hall of Fame. Truthfully, I was so moved and surprised, I was pretty much speechless. I think Tom thought I had hung up on him. It was a very emotional moment; one I will never forget. For me, being acknowledged by my peers is the greatest honour that can be bestowed so I can't tell you how grateful and humbled I am.

**Down The Stretch:** Considering how many important bodies you belong too, what do you do in your spare time?

**Sue Leslie:** I do keep busy. I love horses and our industry so it's more like working on your hobby. The people employed in our industry are just wonderful and, even though much of the time they're mad at me, I feel for them and know I have made a difference. My other passion is animal rescue and over the years I have saved more than a few. We set up a spay neuter program some years ago for the feral cats on the backside and helped an awful lot of them to have a better life.

**Down The Stretch:** As President of the HBPA, what are you telling your members during this pandemic?

**Sue Leslie:** The pandemic has many similarities to the scare and chaos we experienced when we lost the Slots at Racetracks Program. There is a lot of fear and incredible financial hardship. I can only assure everyone that we will race again as soon as the Government feels it safe enough to do so. I think Woodbine and the HBPA have done a tremendous job keeping things in a safe and orderly fashion. While I may not agree with every decision made at WEG, I know they are working with us and working extremely hard to keep everyone safe. I promise our owners, trainers, and workers that we are very aware of the hardships they are facing and Woodbine and the HBPA are talking everyday and are working to find ways to improve their situation. Soon Fort Erie will be part of the equation and we are talking with FE regularly to be prepared for the backstretch opening.

**Down The Stretch:** Woodbine CEO Jim Lawson recently reported that no one yet in the Woodbine backstretch has tested positive for Covid-19. To your knowledge, has any member of the HBPA fallen ill to the coronavirus?

**Sue Leslie:** To date no one has been diagnosed with the virus. It has been a real team effort and we couldn't be prouder of the caretakers of the horses who have bought into the program, risked their own health to care for our horses and also are policing themselves. Think about all the

people that are making this work - security, who suddenly are trying to decide if someone is sick and taking temps, outriders risking coming to work and trying to enforce WEG training rules and the Woodbine management team and track maintenance crew, the kitchen, the Chaplain, etc.

**Down The Stretch:** Are you involved in discussions with Ontario Racing regarding financial assistance to horse owners.

**Sue Leslie:** I am involved in these discussions on behalf of the HBPA and obviously pitching hard for our owners and trainers. Ontario Racing formed a Task Force which Woodbine and myself sit on. We have met many times and have presented an idea to Government to help our owners and, in turn, trainers. We are hopeful it will be approved. Ontario Racing has done a very good job representing the industry and I have some reason to be optimistic that very soon the Ontario Government will approve some financial relief.

**Down The Stretch:** What do you think horse racing will look like when this crisis is over?

**Sue Leslie:** How racing looks in the future will depend on how long it takes for racing to resume. We urgently need to give hope to owners to continue training their horses. I don't need to tell you this is a huge expense for them. It is vital that once we get the green light to race (which *may* not be too far off?) we have fit horses to fill cards and start generating much needed income. From my SARP experience as Chair of OHRIA, I can tell you that horse people and especially owners are the most resilient people I have ever met. There is nothing that they won't overcome because of their love of horses and racing. It may take a bit to get back on our feet but we will. If we get lucky enough to get started soon without spectators, we may be out in front of other sports. Maybe we can use that to our advantage, not only for viewership and wagering, but maybe to create new owners. Woodbine and the HBPA will be all over that.

**WOODBINE****presented by WEG**

Charles Fipke made his fortune as a geologist, mining diamonds, has been breeding racehorses for more than 40 years, and apparently has a Grade I Stakes level sense of humour.

"I have an addictive personality," he says cheerfully, referring to his love of owning horses. "I wish I was a heroin addict or an alcoholic, because it would be a lot more economical. If you are horse addict, you can't go to a psychiatrist or a therapist, but if you are a heroin addict, you can."

Fipke's 'addiction' began when he was just a teenager.

"I actually had a thoroughbred when I went to high school," he says. "I was maybe 17 or 18 years old. I was living near Peachland B.C., between Kelowna and Penticton. It was my neighbour's horse and it had been an Exhibition Park racehorse. The horse really went fast so I really liked it. I rode it in a race, actually."

Fipke entered his horse in the Grand Finale of the Princeton Racing Days, an annual festival in southern B.C.

"All the jockeys from Exhibition Park, on their way to the Calgary Stampede, stopped at Princeton," he recalls. "So, I had to race against all these jockeys. My horse hadn't raced in a couple of years. They took off and I didn't get a very good break and they got 100 feet on me. The gap got bigger and bigger and we came dead last."

It's a very long way from Princeton Racing Days to the Queen's Plate. Fipke purchased his first broodmare in 1977 and, in 2008, Not Bourbon, a horse he bred, won Canada's most prestigious race. The jockey was Jono Jones and Not Bourbon was trained by Roger Attfield.

"It was just really great," says Fipke of that sunny victory 12 years ago. "Some of my sons and daughters and my mom and dad were there. Not Bourbon was a fantastic horse."

Fipke has little interest in buying a quality animal. Virtually every horse he has ever raced is one that he strategically bred himself. In fact, Not Bourbon is out of Not Impossible, a mare bred by Fipke. She is a granddaughter of Secretariat.

When it comes to breeding, Fipke leaves little to chance. It's a science as equally complicated as geology.

"I do a lot of research," he says. "First of all, I make sure I buy mares from good families. I have developed a method called distance aptitude. Before the horses mate, you figure out, based on the pedigree, how far it will run. I do it four different ways. If they are all the same, it can be pretty accurate. It has taken hundreds and hundreds of hours to do it."

# Charles Fipke: Creating gems in the breeding shed



Charles Fipke leads 2008 Queen's Plate winner Not Bourbon (with jockey Jono Jones and trainer Roger Attfield)

Fipke's breeding skills have produced some amazing horses. Perfect Shirl, by Perfect Soul out of Lady Shirl, won 4 of 16 races. In the spring of 2010, she strung three victories together – a maiden breaker, then an allowance race at Woodbine and, in late July, she took down the Lake George Stakes at Saratoga. In that race, a mile and a sixteenth on the turf, she was more than 9-1, but under John Velazquez, got up to win by three quarters of a length in the strong time of 1:41.28. Perfect Shirl had another big surprise for Charles Fipke.

She was entered in the \$2,000,000 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf in November, 2011 at Churchill Downs. At the time, Fipke did not have reason for optimism.

"So, we went to the Breeders' Cup, and it had rained for two days," he says. "And the going was really soft. She was used to firm grass and the horses that she had to race against were multiple Group 1 winners from Europe and all over the place. Roger Attfield was the trainer and he looked at the track and saw it was very soft. It did not look like we had a hope in hell of ever winning, but we decided we had come this far that we would give it a go anyway. John Velazquez gave her a fantastic ride and we won. That was completely unanticipated."

Because she had not produced a win in more than 15 months, Perfect Shirl went off at almost 28-1. She paid \$57.60 to win. Fipke's share of the purse was a cool \$1.1 million.

Fipke also bred Unbridled Forever, a daughter of Unbridled's Song out of Lemons Forever. Unbridled Forever won 8 of 18 starts, including the Beldame Stakes at Belmont in 2016 and the Personal Ensign Stakes at Saratoga in 2017. Later that year, she was a 7-2 shot in the \$2,000,000 Breeders' Cup Distaff at Del Mar. It was another splendid ride from John Velazquez to give Fipke his second Breeders' Cup conquest. Unbridled Forever rallied from sixth at the half to repel Abel Tasman at the wire by half a length. It was another example of a horse exceeding Fipke's expectations.

"I was at Del Mar that day," he says. "I find that if I think I am going to win a race, I never do. But if I don't really expect to win, I do. For every race you win, you lose a heck of a lot, so you need these really good horses to defray the costs of the others, because the costs are huge. Forever Unbridled. I own the mare, Lemons Forever."

Fipke purchased Lemons Forever in 2007 for \$2.5 million at the Keeneland Broodmare Sales. Lemons Forever had won the 2006 Kentucky Oaks in a shocker – she paid \$96.20 to win. She is also the dam of Forever Unbridled, who won the Grade I Ballerina Stakes as a four year-old

and earned over \$800,000.

Fipke also has some strong stallions in Canada and the United States. There are five of them south of the border – Bee Jersey, Tale of Ekati, Tale of Verve, Forever D'Oro, and Jersey Town. In Canada, two of Fipke's stallions, Danish Dynaformer and Perfect Timber, stand at Colebrook Farms Stallion Station. And all seven deserve a special plug, because in mid-April, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Fipke did a remarkable thing – he waived the fee for all seven of those stallions.

In times of crisis, when money is short, the horse breeding game suffers. Fewer mares get covered and the overall result, down the line, is a shortage of good horses. Fipke considered the challenges facing the industry.

"I just love it when somebody breeds to one of my stallions and produces a Grade I winner," he says. "It gives me great pleasure to help other small breeders, because I know how tough it is."

Needless to say, there's some happy broodmare owners out there.

"I think there's about 60 mares signed up for Bee Jersey," says Fipke. "All those mares that have signed up will go for free, instead of \$5,000."

With as many horses as he has, Fipke is frustrated that racing has shut down throughout the continent.

"I am very disappointed that some of the tracks are closed down," he states candidly. "Keeneland, in particular. Gulfstream, Tampa, and Oakland are open and they are making all kinds of money, because people don't have anything to do but bet. Keeneland wasn't thinking of the breeders. You need to get some winnings to offset all the costs and it creates great jobs. All the people at Keeneland – the grooms, the gallop persons, the cleaning people – all of those are out of work. They did the wrong thing. If they had had horse racing with no live audience, they would have made a pile of money just like Gulfstream. The handles are huge now."

Charles Fipke's commitment to horse racing for the last 40 years was supposed to be recognized at this year's Sovereign Awards. Had the event gone on as planned on April 16, he would have been honoured with the E. P. Taylor Award of Merit. He will still get that bling, but on a later date to be announced.

The Jockey Club of Canada chose Fipke because of his long-time impact on horse racing in Canada. Three horses bred by him have won Sovereign Awards: Perfect Soul in 2003 was Champion Male Turf Horse, Not Bourbon was the top Three Year-Old in 2008, and Impossible Time won as Champion Older Female in 2010.



A vast majority of the **Down The Stretch** Owners of the Month tell us how they inherited their love of harness racing from their father or an uncle or a grandfather. Not so Rob Watson.

"After my dad got transferred to London and I was maybe 15 or 16, I had a bunch of buddies that I played hockey and cards with," says Watson. "And they introduced me to Western Fair Raceway. To be honest with you, my family didn't want me having anything to do with anything that you could gamble on."

Watson talks about a grandfather who owned a number of drug stores before the depression, but lost everything betting on the stock market.

"You couldn't even talk about gambling in my house or anything associated with it. I had to sneak down to the races and make up stories where I was all the time and it was kind of funny. It was a taboo subject for me, but the minute I went, I just fell in love with it - the animals and the excitement and, of course, the gambling."

Watson gives a self-deprecating laugh about one of his teenage betting strategies.

"When I first started going, you could sit in the grandstand at Western Fair and there was a Red Barn at the corner of Dundas and Egerton and my goal was to be able to make enough show bets to go over and buy a couple of cheeseburgers after the races."

Watson didn't spend so much time at the track to prevent him from building a comfortable career. He spent many years as a computer technician and sometime in the mid 1980s bought his first standardbred horse, a mare named Miss Keltly.

"We used to drive up to Barrie Raceway," he recalls. "And I kept watching this mare and she used to win \$5,000 claimers for fun. I got in touch with a young trainer called Len LaLonde. I told him I thought the horse could win at Greenwood and he said, 'You can't do that. Just because you win at a 'B' track doesn't mean you can do well at Greenwood.'"

Watson was not discouraged. He and LaLonde went to Barrie, claimed Miss Keltly, and entered her in a more competitive race at the same track.

"We got Steve Byron to drive, and even though she was up in class, she went the fastest mile of the winter. So now of course, we're off to Greenwood."

When Miss Keltly made her first start at the bigger track, Watson and his wife, Vira, were on vacation in Florida. There were no horse racing channels back then,



so he asked a friend to bet her for him. The friend called with bad news.

"So, we're in Florida," says Watson. "I get the phone call and ask, 'What happened?' and he says, 'She broke. The track was sloppy as hell.'"

Two weeks later, the Watsons are flying home when Miss Keltly was racing for the second time at Greenwood.

"This time the track was fast," says Watson. "She just jogged. She was about 3-1."

Watson owned a few more inexpensive horses over the next year or two, but then had to put his hobby on hold.

"I had two kids come along at the time and I had to be more responsible then," he laughs.

In the fall of 1996, Watson dove back in. He purchased a 25% share of a trotter called Macman off Mike Joyce, who had bred the horse. The price was \$20,000.

The timing seemed good for Watson because Macman was eligible for the Canadian Breeders' final. In the \$16,668 preliminary, he finished second by half a length, but in the \$77,000 final at Mohawk, it was déjà vu for Watson.

"He broke leaving," he says. "He was probably 15 to 20 lengths behind, but comes back to finish fifth, beaten just 3 lengths. That told me the horse had plenty of potential."

Macman put together a pretty solid career after that misstep. He won two heats of the General Brock series before taking down the \$30,000 final in 1:58.2. From July through November in 1998, he was a monster in the Free For All trots, which offered purses of \$37,000. In 15 tries with this company, Macman posted 8 wins and earned over \$150,000. In one of those victories, he trotted a personal best of 1:53.3. After his final race in February 2002, Macman had started 107 times with 24 wins and a bankroll of \$484,361.

Watson was now in business with trainer Joe Stutzman who invited him to buy 20% of a trotting mare named Appleby Dreambelle.

"She turned out to be a gem for us," says Watson. "I think I paid 6,000 for my 20% early in 1998 and she did nothing but good for us. Joe took her down to The Meadowlands and put her in a claimer. She took her lifetime mark of 1:54.4 down there and I thought for sure she'd be claimed."

To assure no one would take her, Watson persuaded Stutzman to let him buy the entire mare. Actually, they put her in a sale and Watson's bid of \$50,000 U.S. secured her.

"I brought new partners into the ownership group," he says. "And one of them, Mike Bartram, remains a part of it today. Mike and I used to play hockey together. It turned out great for us."

Appleby Dreambelle went on to earn about \$150,000 for Watson and his partners. In her entire career, she won 22 of 82 starts for \$266,475.

After that trotter's racing career came to an end, Watson kept her as a broodmare. Her sire is Dream of Glory.

"At the time, Balanced Image and Dream of Glory was known to be the 'Golden Cross,'" advises Watson.

So, they bred Appleby Dreambelle to Balanced Image and produced a colt they called Digital Image.

"He basically couldn't get out of his own way at two and three," recalls Watson. "But at the start of his four year-old year, he kind of turned it around."

Digital Image raced 32 times as a four year-old in 2007. He won 11 races and hit the board 22 times.

Digital Image's career ended in 2012, but by then he had won 23 of 127 starts and earned \$630,308.

"He turned out to be just a great horse," says Watson. "He was third in the Breeders Crown at Mohawk and second in the American National at Balmoral. He was a big thrill."

In 2013, Watson and his partners, Mike Bartram and Richard Thompson, moved their horses to trainer Carmen Auciello. Today, Watson's group has three promising horses.

"I guess number one would be Physicallyinclined," says Watson. "He won the North American Cup consolation and was meant to be a really good one, but he got hurt in 2015 and was out a couple of years."

Physicallyinclined showed that he was physically inclined to race regularly from 2018 until this year; he is now an eight year-old. Since coming back from an injury, he has started 95 races with 20 wins and earnings exceeding \$500,000."

Another horse owned by Watson is Free Willy Hanover.

"He's been awesome for us," says Watson. "Probably kept us in the game. We bought him three years ago in January and he has made half a million for us, which allowed us to be patient until Physicallyinclined came along. He's just a classy trotter. And our third horse is a pacer, Always a Hotshot. We bought him a year and a half ago out of The Meadowlands sale. Our first start with him, he won in :49 flat at Mohawk. He's probably got more raw speed than Physicallyinclined, but he's not as sound an animal."

Since he was a teenager, Rob Watson has always enjoyed harness racing.

"I love the horses and I love the people we're involved with now," he says. "Carmen and driver Jonathan Drury. It's just a great team. It's all about the horses and the people."

## Jockeys benched



Javier Castellano

Champion jockey Javier Castellano tested positive for the corona virus on March 26 and went into immediate quarantine at his mother's home in Florida. At the time, Castellano was not feeling ill and did not have any typical symptoms. The jockey had arrived in Florida on March 22 in anticipation of several assignments at Gulfstream Park, including a ride aboard the Todd Pletcher trained Candy Tycoon in the Florida Derby on March 28. He had come from New York and the Gulfstream protocol required him

to undergo a physical and a test for the virus before being allowed on the grounds.

In a statement issued by Gulfstream:

"All jockeys riding locally must go to first aid on a daily basis to get their temperature taken and a check-up before entering the jocks' room. The track has worked in conjunction with the Jockeys' Guild to set these parameters. If it weren't for Gulfstream Park requiring Castellano to get a physical, he probably would never have been tested at all."

There's an interesting angle to Castellano's 14 day quarantine. It is the Jockeys' Guild that laid out the rules for any athlete visiting the track from another state. The president of the Guild is Terry Meyocks, who is Castellano's father-in-law.

It is not known how Castellano might have been infected, but earlier in the month, a day before he actually rode at Gulfstream, he was competing at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas. On that day, the track was visited by New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton, who later revealed he had tested positive for coronavirus.

One jockey penalized thanks to abundance of caution is Ademar Santos. He had been booked on as many as 18 horses for the last weekend in March at Tampa Bay.

But, because he rode at Gulfstream on March 21, Tampa Bay officials were taking no chances and ordered him off his horses and into quarantine. Santos was justifiably confused about that.



Ademar Santos

"Castellano wasn't even in Miami when I was there," he posted on Facebook. "He was in New York. I am not infected and never had any contact with Mr. Castellano."

## He had the only winning ticket, but Remington wouldn't pay him

Horse player Jeff Arthur has experienced the thrill of victory and the agony of confusing rules. Archer wagered on the Sooner 6ix at Remington Park on Friday, April 10. Remington Park, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma runs quarter horse cards and the pool for the Sooner 6ix was \$35,145. The rule says you have to be the only one with all the winners on your ticket to take down the pool.

Arthur spent \$403.20 on a ticket that included 2,016 combinations. When the sixth and final leg went off, he knew he was very alive. His ticket included two horses in the deciding race and, if either won, according to the tv screens, he would hold the only winning ticket. It was a 300-yard maiden race with a purse of \$15,000. UR Modelo scampered home from post 10 as the favourite and Archer got ready to cash large. Except...because two horses had dead-heated in the first leg, it was ruled that there were two winning tickets and the single ticket jackpot rule did not apply. So, despite the fact that only Jeff Arthur had

correctly predicted all the winners (including both from the first leg) and despite the fact that he had the only ticket with all the winners, the track determined he was eligible for only the consolation payoffs, which came to \$8,920.

"At first," Arthur said, "I was a bit disappointed when I saw what went into my ADW account, knowing that I didn't win the jackpot pool. But then once I saw the chart which outlined the pool amounts and did the math, I realized I had the only winning ticket, and was infuriated. It had to be a mistake."

When Remington was unable to create a more reasonable solution, Arthur took his argument to the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation. The chairman of the Foundation is Craig Bernick and he stood squarely behind Archer.

"The horseplayer picked all six winners," said Bernick. "He was the only person to pick all six winners, and they were all on the same ticket. If either horse wins by

a nose, he has it. If he picks one or the other, he has it. It's unconscionable that the track is making this judgment. There is nothing in the rules that states this should not be a unique payout. On a judgment call, the track decides to favour itself over the customer. That's bad for business, bad for horseplayers, and bad for racing."

Arthur has found a lawyer and intends to pursue this, and a week after his disputed score, it appeared that the track and the pari-mutuel authorities were starting to crack. Even after players at Remington had bet into the Sooner 6ix carryover, the following announcement was issued:

*Effective immediately, Sooner 6ix wagering has been suspended until further notice, per Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission. All wagers on Sooner 6ix for Friday's racing will be refunded.*

If ever a horse player had a persuasive case, Jeff Arthur does. In reality, he overachieved in the Sooner 6ix. The object is to hit all 6 winners, but Archer hit 7.

## Virtual Sovereign Awards



The 2019 Sovereign Awards Ceremony, originally scheduled for April 16, 2020, will take place no later than May 3, 2020 and will happen as a virtual presentation. The Jockey Club of Canada, saying that the health and safety of the finalists, guests, and their families is of the utmost importance, was developing a strategy in mid-April to have the awards ceremony presented in a manner available to everyone without exposing a large gathering to possible infection. The date and time of the

virtual awards will be announced once they have been confirmed.

We would like to thank our 2019 Sovereign Award Finalists, Sponsors, and Advertisers for their understanding and patience during this challenging time and we look forward to recognising the 2019 achievements in the coming weeks.

For more information please contact The Jockey Club of Canada office via email [jockeyclubcanada@gmail.com](mailto:jockeyclubcanada@gmail.com).



# I'm just a horseplayer keeping busy

By Garnet Barnsdale

How does an unemployed handicapper get by during a pandemic? Well, firstly, don't feel sorry for me because I am not feeling sorry for myself. My full-time job as Supervisor of Waste Collection for the Region of Peel kept me plenty busy maintaining service levels to their typical excellent standard for 340,000 residents of the cities of Mississauga and Brampton and the town of Caledon.

I have never been so grateful to be employed in this capacity, and I am truly thankful for all the front-line workers out there assisting our communities and taking care of our affected members of the populace.

Still, for someone who spends so much of my time handicapping Mohawk Park for the Daily Racing Form and various local harness tracks for Ontario Racing, there is a void. At the start of the pandemic, I took to playing some of the tracks still racing and I did enjoy some success, notably cashing a \$2,100 Pick 4 on a \$24 ticket at Remington Park. But quarter horses (as much as I love the racing action) and thoroughbreds are not my wagering bread and butter and I found it very difficult betting Gulfstream Park and Oaklawn Park and squandered most of the Remington Park winnings away.

I made a conscious decision to stop betting at least until Mohawk Park starts back up. That allowed me to immerse myself in my second love – cooking. I'm not sure what got into me last weekend, but I decided to make a massive batch of my favourite recipe, lasagna, which involves very meticulous preparation. I don't use meat sauce; instead, I layer tiny meatballs into each row.\* Meatballs that are prepared the day before, baked, and spend several hours immersed in simmering homemade sauce that absorb so much flavour. Another key is a bountiful application of ricotta cheese throughout the pan.

To make a long lasagna story short, my son Ace and I worked diligently to prepare nine pans of the delicacy and we spent most of Sunday afternoon and early evening delivering to friends and family from Acton to Scarborough. Most importantly, we made our first delivery to **Down The Stretch's** Editor, because, well, my mama didn't raise no dummies. It was a venture that truly brought me joy, gave me a chance to briefly connect with the important people in my life (even if it was from a physical distance) and more importantly, kept me busy during times where I would typically be working. A man can only take so much Netflix.

Now, let's move on to racing and the realization that yes, racing will return in some form here in Ontario probably sooner rather than later. When it does, we surely will be looking to "have a flutter" on the action, as they say across the sea. For harness racing, which typically

races year-round, these will be uncharted waters for bettors. How can we be ready to make informed bets on fields laden with laid off horses when the action kicks off again? Which ones will be ready at first asking?

Here are some ideas that you may find useful:

- When Mohawk Park starts up with qualifiers – which they will prior to live racing resuming – watch as many as you can and make some notes. Keep an eye out for horses that are only asked to produce a burst late in their miles and how they respond, or for horses that are not being asked at all yet keep up or gain on the leaders. They are likely sitting on big efforts first time out and are saving their best for those races for purses.
- Scour the internet. There is so much information available that may help you in making informed wagering decisions. For example, The Stable.ca – Canada's biggest stable, provides live video feeds of their training sets with accompanying commentary. Quite often, The Stable's guru, Anthony Macdonald, indicates which horses are ready to roll in his commentary videos which are all available on YouTube, and The Stable has been known to win early and often at the start of each racing season.
- Do some research. Find out which trainers and horses perform best, racing horses coming off layoffs. Standardbred Canada's TrackIt database is the perfect tool for these types of studies.
- Follow the sharpest handicappers. They are out there. One local bettor that I would recommend following is Ryan Willis on Twitter who goes by the handle @RyanWillis1. He watches all qualifiers and often sees things others don't. That can lead you to pari-mutuel scores. I have been the beneficiary of Ryan's expertise more than once. Dean Towers who goes by the Twitter handle @Pullthepocket is also a great follow. The Woodbine Entertainment Group's trio of announcer Ken Middleton, and on-air talent Chad Rozema and Monique Vag, are also valuable follows. Middleton, for example, regularly tweets out updates "First Off the Claim" trainer stats.

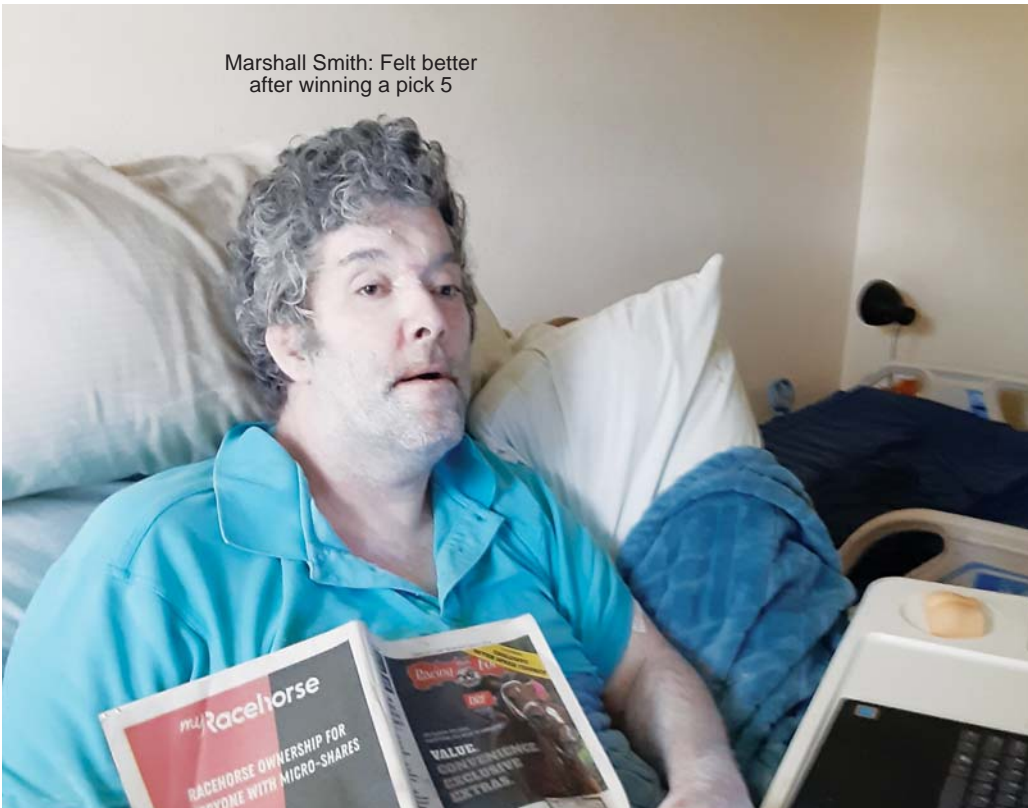
I hope you are all well and chomping at the bit to see some live racing like I am. See you soon at an Ontario racetrack!

**\* Editor's note:** I wish to emphasize as a point of journalistic principle, that no amount of lasagna, fried chicken, or Stewart's pop will influence my judgement, whom I hire for writing assignments or how much (if anything) I will pay for a submitted article. That being said, the Barnsdale lasagna was superb. The pasta was soft and tasty, blended perfectly with the cheese and the zestfully pungent sauce. The meatballs were a wonderful surprise, like a photo showing your horse on top when you were sure you were beaten.



# Not your typical day betting the races

Marshall Smith: Felt better after winning a pick 5



I have been talking with Gary Smith a lot lately. Gary is also known as 'Suitcase' Smith because, as an NHL goaltender, he played for as many as eight teams. He's a long-time friend and co-conspirator with Jim McKenny and, in these sequestered times, has been e-mailing Jim and me electronic versions of the Daily Racing Form.

Smith is a man of many extraordinary experiences; 532 games played in the NHL, 26 shutouts, and a Vezina Trophy shared with Tony Esposito in 1972, but the tale he told me about an insane Sunday in April stretched both my emotions and my imagination.

Smith has a 48 year-old son, Marshall, who suffers from spina bifida. Marshall is pretty well confined to his bed and Smith, for the most part, is his full-time caregiver. Marshall, like his dad, loves the horse races and, according to Smith, betting the ponies on his computer is Marsh's primary entertainment. So, it was Sunday, April 19 and the father and son were betting the horses at Oaklawn. Gary put in Pick 4 and Pick 5 bets, both for 50 cent base bets. Unfortunately, things were going badly with Marshall.

"Marsh had been sick the last few days," says Gary. "His catheter broke and we couldn't get any pee out of him. Also, he has had the shits terribly. I had to move him around to clean him up and that caused his catheter to break."

Smith's daughter, Sunny, is a doctor and she came to help.

"She was over trying to get a new catheter in him," continues Smith. "She didn't know that I had made bets. She knows we bet, but the less she knows, the better. I had three horses in the first leg, and a 6-1 shot won."

Sing Him A Song, under Fernando De La Cruz, romped home by 3 lengths in the sixth at Oaklawn, paying \$14.80 to win. A good start for the Smiths, but Marshall's circumstance was not improving.

"After my daughter arrived, we were both working on Marshall," says Smith. "I had 4 more legs to go, but I

wasn't paying that much attention to the races. We only had two catheters that were indwelling and Sunny broke one. We couldn't get it in there and there was blood everywhere." (An indwelling catheter is inserted through the urethra and into the bladder.)

In spite of the frightening predicament, both Marshall and Gary were still concerned about the status of their exotic bets.

"I'm keeping an eye on the tv and feeling sick about what's going on with Marsh," says Smith. "I had three horses in the second leg. I included a horse trained by Jack Sisterson, a guy that I hate. He really took advantage of my great elderly friend Glyn Kelly, who is really sick, basically almost on his death bed. Sisterson sold him

two horses for about \$80,000. The two horses were well-bred, but they couldn't run a lick, and both got claimed off Kelly at Golden Gate for about \$2,500 each. Anyway, it's the first time I've ever put Sisterson on a ticket because I didn't want him to beat me, 'cause he's such a prick, taking advantage of my friend. So, anyway we are really struggling with Marsh and Dack Janiels, the Sisterson horse, wins wire to wire at 3-1. I try a manual catheter on Marsh and we get a little pee out of it, so Sunny was happy because she was afraid his body was not making any pee. This is what happened when he went to the hospital last year and was in intensive care and almost died twice."

Anyone see the coincidence there? Gary Smith has his daughter and his son in his house and he bets on Sisterson and stays alive in his Pick 4 and Pick 5 wagers.

The Smiths' wagers get them through the eighth race. It was won by Cherished, ridden by Ricardo Santana, paying \$9.40 and Gary cherishes the thought that two more winners gives them the Pick 4 and the Pick 5.

"So, we are down to our last indwelling catheter," says Smith.

"Marshall has the runs every ten minutes and I have to clean him up and throw him around and Sunny is thinking of calling 911, but she is really great and basically is trying to do everything she can to keep him from going to the hospital, as am I."

And of course, there was race 9 at Oaklawn.

"We keyed a horse from California called Two Thirty Five. It's trained by Richard Baltas who wins a lot of races. As we're waiting for the race to go off, we are both trying to get this last indwelling catheter in Marsh. Sunny can't get it in, so I take over. When the race is on, Baltas' horse breaks well and sits third all the way. I'm putting the catheter into Marsh and it stops, so I force it in further and it's into his bladder and we're getting some pee. The horse gets up and wins by a nose."

Two Thirty Five went off at 5-1 and won in 1:43.79, paying \$7.40.

"So, we are really happy, me because Marsh is doing better, and both of us were still alive in our picks. Sunny still doesn't know anything about the bets, but is happy because now Marsh doesn't have to go to the hospital."

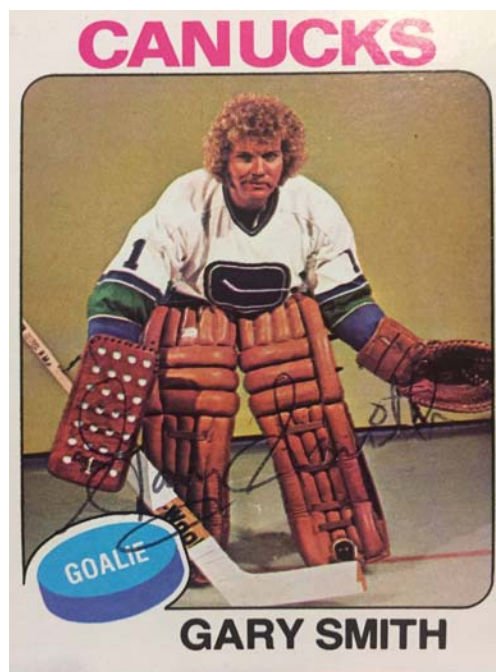
Because the first four winners paid \$14.80, \$8, \$9.40 and \$7.40 both the Pick 4 and Pick 5 payoffs are worthwhile.

"The last race we have Merneith, a Baffert filly by American Pharoah singled at 4-5," says Smith. "I'm still working on Marsh and the horse breaks well from the 12-post, sits second on the outside, and I could tell every step of the way that she's going to win and she draws off by over 10 lengths."

With Marshall's urinary crisis more or less solved, Gary walks Sunny out to her car, wondering just how much he cashed.

"So, when I come back in, I asked Marsh to check our account on the internet. He shows me the update and the first thing I see was I won the Pick 4 that paid \$140. I had to scroll a long way down the page as I had bet the Pick 5 really early and I see it paid \$1,058. My balance was \$1,580 after I started the day with about \$285."

There is a certain peril that every horse player faces when he puts down a bet; the distinct possibility that he could lose. On that particular Sunday, Gary and Marshall Smith really pushed the envelope on peril, but ultimately, had a happy ending.



# Shaking things up

By Ric Chapman



It could be argued that the world is purging itself right now, issuing challenges to us - the guardians of the planet - to reapply and rethink our current methods.

On probably everything.

And if so, then racing would come under that new world order purview.

So, let's look at a couple of things that make sense to change. Let's narrow it down to just two things that would address the long held *main* problem in horse racing in Canada. That being: How to increasing racehorse ownership and, as a result of that, horses racing in Canada.

To amend the current problem, there are two paths we should take:

1. Incentive races for CTHS yearlings
2. Major prize money redirection to certain races

## **INCENTIVE RACES**

*(All this is formatted in a normal, non COVID-19 year)*

We conduct these in both the 2YO and 3YO categories. This is because early Return on Investment (ROI) is imperative for the growth of racing and is the most

attractive rationale for owners.

By July each season we need to have two races, run preferably on the E. P. Taylor Turf Track - one for male juveniles, the other female 2YOs.

These races should be worth \$100,000 each. And the majority (75%) of that purse structure should come from the coffers of the CTHS. Each division should be *only* for 2YOs who were purchased at the annual Ontario CTHS Yearling Sale the year prior. It should be run over 6 furlongs and eligibility is governed by prize money won at the time of acceptance. A maximum field of 12 in each division should be run.

Then, three weeks later, the first 5 home in each sex division clash in a CTHS Classic Grand Final. Again over 6 furlongs, and the Classic be worth \$300,000. The Classic Final should have a field of 10, with 2 reserves, a filly and a male from the heats, on stand-by should there be a scratching.

This series would give all trainers a major incentive to get their babies up and running and, in doing so, present an early return on purchase for owners. It would also increase interest at yearling sales time, bolstering

the buying bench. That in turn dramatically helps the breeding industry no end, and everyone is a winner. The average price at the 2019 Canadian Premier Yearling Sale in Ontario per horse sold was for \$17,200. That statistic, when promoted, makes buying a yearling extremely attractive if, in addition to the normal juvenile races, we add these CTHS incentive events.

In 2004 there were 1,663 foals born in Ontario. Last year only 597.

For our sport to survive we *must* increase the foal population. With this scheme, breeders will get more for their babies and more owners will come in looking to buy and eager for return on their investments. It's a radical step, but it ultimately helps the entire Ontario racing and breeding scheme astonishingly.

The 3YO version of the race could either be conducted under the same auspices as the juvenile race, or be a straight out \$300,000 Final over 7 furlongs, and eligibility is based on them being purchased at the CTHS Yearling sale two years prior, and prize money won at the time of final acceptance.

Both age divisions should be run with males receiving 119 pounds and fillies receiving 116 pounds. These races should be heavily promoted by the media and the Classic Final winners should be noted on pedigree pages.

## **PURSE REDIRECTION**

Think this through. We have a reverse pyramid purse payment scheme in place at the moment only because it always has been that way - but it is fundamentally flawed.

And here's why:

We both want and need owners. Preferably new ones, and the only way to attract people to the sport as owners is to make winning purse money easier. That is simple. So, here's how we should do it.

There are more maiden horses than winners and the next highest category is winners of one. So, if all foals that make it to the track are maidens, and are owned, therefore, why not make maiden races and one-winner races worth more? No Woodbine maiden race should ever be worth less than \$48,000 and we need more maiden races. Even add one \$80,000 weight for age maiden race a week each Saturday. Break them up, as we do already, into age divisions, also sex divisions, and over varying distances.

And, most importantly, these \$48,000 and \$80,000 maiden races are not claiming races.

Similarly, for 1-winner races. Getting that first win, at these purses structures, will dramatically improve revenue earned by owners, (remember current average yearling prices are \$17k) thus incentivising them to reinvest, bolstering the number of yearlings purchased, yearlings that then grow into 2YOs that can race for major prize money for industry participants to keep reinvesting.

If we leave maiden races as low-key purse structures, and only give the bulk of the purse money to the owners of the very best horses, we will have a diminishing ownership base.

Oh, look at that, which is exactly what we have today.

Change has to occur and we need to restructure how purse money is distributed because, at present, it isn't working in keeping the sport in Canada healthy.

# Have trailer, will travel

## Artwork on horse trailers helps sell the sport



There probably is not nearly as much horse transport happening in Ontario as there would be in 'normal' times, but when harness racing resurrects itself, motorists in this province will see the sport promoted on the side of horse trailers moving talent from farms to racetracks. It's the brain child of COSA President Bill O'Donnell.

"We had some marketing money, so we thought about putting up some billboards on the side of the 401," says O'Donnell. "But you're not allowed to do that. About ten years ago, a friend of mine did that on his trailer. And I went to Florida that winter and saw what he did and I thought 'That's a good idea.'"

O'Donnell polled many of the standardbred trainers and he got a very positive response.

"We've got around 35 of them now," he says. "The benefit is - it's a moving billboard. It's on the road all the time. Take Carmen Auciello. He lives in Stouffville and he's coming across 407 and 401 at least once a day, maybe with as many as three trailers. And Adriano Sorella has developed this scratch and win contest. If you see that on the back of a trailer, you go to that website to win free prizes which you have to pick up at the racetrack."

This is just an example of the sport promoting itself.

"We have to now," emphasizes O'Donnell. "Things are not like they were. There's no slot money, so we have to be pretty diligent to raise the handle and become self sustaining again."



# Fipke erases stallion fees for 2020



In an unprecedented and extremely generous gesture, horse owner and breeder Charles Fipke announced on April 13 that fees for his seven thoroughbred stallions will be waived

for 2020. This is Fipke's response to small breeders who may be suffering as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Because Fipke owns all of his stallions outright - there are no other shareholders to register dissent - he was able to make this decision.

"Small breeders will especially be affected by the economic conditions, and they are the backbone of this industry," Fipke said in statement published on Twitter April 13 by his longtime consultant Fernando. "None of my stallions stand for more than \$5,000, and they are primarily supported by small breeders. I'm passionate about this game and will continue to support my stallions, and I'd like to show my appreciation for outside breeders who do so as well in these trying times."

Five of the Fipke stallions are located in the United States. He stands Bee Jersey for \$5,000 at Darby Farm. Also at Darby Farm, which is near Lexington, are Tale of Ekati (\$5,000) and Tale of Verve (\$2,000). Forever d'Oro commands a fee of \$2,000 at Hidden Springs Farm in Indiana, and Jersey Town at Daehling Ranch in California meets mares for \$3,000.

Colebrook Farms Stallion Station in Ontario is home to

Danish Dynaformer and Perfect Timber, both of whom stand for \$2,500 Canadian.

When the horse racing industry suffers a financial blow - as the sport in Canada did in 2013 when the Slots at Racetracks Program was terminated - there is a tendency for the breeding side to slump, the result of which is far fewer horses three years down the line. You can do the math on this and it's quite the remarkable hit that Fipke will take to stimulate breeding in North America.

Bee Jersey, now in just his second year of stallion duty, already has a book of about 60 mares, and both Tale of Ekati and Tale of Verve have dates with 30 mares. None of the broodmare owners need worry about payment.

Fipke is a successful geologist and was involved as far back as 1981 with the Ekati Diamond Mine, about 300 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife. Among the diamonds discovered there is a 186 carat rock sold in 2016 for \$2.8 million.

The Sovereign Awards were scheduled for April 16 this year, but have been suspended. Had they been held, Fipke was to receive the E. P. Taylor Award of Merit for the 40 years he has contributed to thoroughbred racing in Canada.

# Jim and Ademar: A marriage made in pari-mutuel heaven



I would be terrified to walk around inside Jim McKenny's brain (my own is scary enough). But somewhere during the Tampa Bay meet, he fell in love with jockey Ademar Santos. Santos is not among the leading riders, but he can bring in a longshot. For reasons unexplained, Jim chose to bet every horse ridden by Santos. Turns out it was a burst of genius.

On April 17, Jim likes Santos on #2 Expediter and that one expedites a win by three quarters of a length at odds of 9-2. Ten dollars across the board enriched Jim by about \$90. He also had the exactor for \$50 and picked up the double in the next race for \$30. On to race 7 and Santos is on a longshot called Big Yes. Jim bets \$5 across and \$2 exactors and then gets to shout out a big yes! when Santos delivers Big Yes, home free by 3½ lengths after 7 furlongs. Big Yes was almost 30-1 so Jim's WPS delivered over \$250. Toss in the \$454 exactor and he cashed over \$700.

Five days later, Jim sees Santos on Sea Lover, a 9-1 shot in the eighth. The bet is \$10 across the board and \$2 exactors with a few other unlikely suspects. Santos rides Sea Lover aggressively, takes over the lead at the top of the stretch, and wins by three quarters of a length. Baby Boomer, a 15-1 shot, comes second, so Jim cashes \$350.

On Friday, April 24, now convinced that Ademar Santos is his new ATM, Jim loves Rocky Diploma in the third. By any measure of logic, Rocky Diploma was impossible to bet on – he had lost each of his first 18 races. But Santos rallies the four year-old gelding from far back, gets in front in mid-stretch, and breaks his long-time maiden by three quarters of a length. Jim has WPS, the exactor, and the double into the next race. Santos cashes Jim in for \$750.

Three races later, Santos is aboard the second choice, Uncle Kevin. He gives the three year-old gelding a perfect ride, sweeping up to challenge the favourite down the backstretch, then out-running everyone in the stretch to win by 2¼. He pays just \$6.80, but Jim has \$20 to win and he hits a \$64 exactor. The double out of the next race adds another \$38 to his account.

On to Sunday, April 26 – and you can assume Jim didn't cash on Santos Saturday. But in the first race, Santos is on a 20-1 shot named Papa Ralph. He brings it in for second and that gave Jim an \$80 exactor and \$60 more from the across the board bets. Jim cashes a bit in the 4th when Santos delivers Drill's Lil Man to place at 11-1, but the 9th race was worth waiting for. The bet was \$10 win/place on #2 Wild Wigglin Jack and exactors with several others, Santos orchestrates another fine ride, reserving his horse along the rail and powering up in late stretch for an impressive 1 ½ length win. A 13-1 shot completes a \$231 exactor so Jim ends the Tampa Bay card with an extra \$350 in his account.

In a span of 9 days, Jim hit Ademar Santos eight times and won \$2,500. As you read this, he's poring over the racing form to see who Santos is on.

**I**n the face of COVID-19, we stand united with the thoroughbred community and are as committed as ever to providing world class service.

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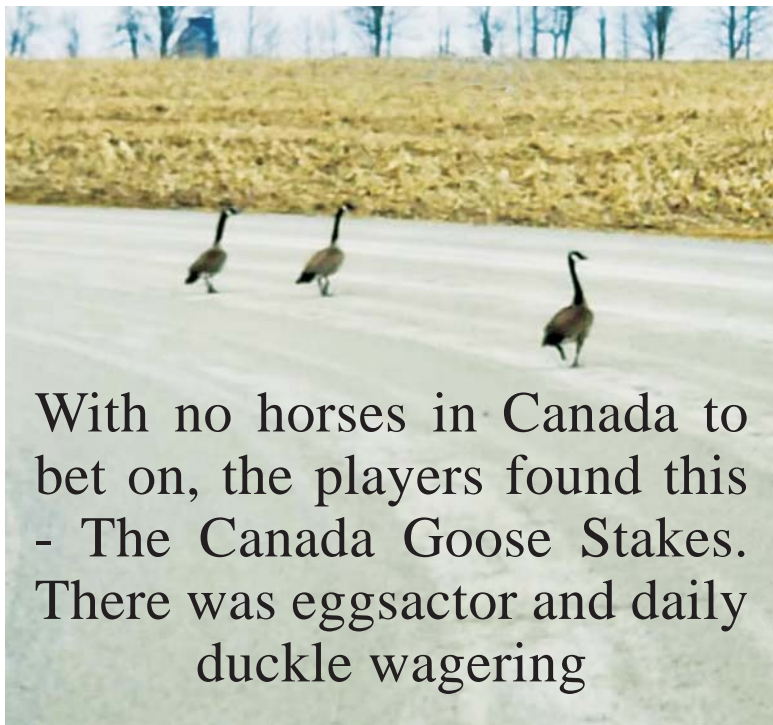
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Secretariat was an early adopter of social distancing.



Apparently Trump bet this horse:

REMINGTON PARK

OFFICIAL

APR 03 ▾

RACE 3 ▾

RACING INFORMATION

ALL PAYOUTS

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10		

RACE **3**

PAYOUTS ^

FINISH	PGM#	HORSE	MLO	FINAL	WIN	PLACE	SHOW
1	<b>2</b>	Nonsense On Corona	10	4	\$10.50	\$5.10	\$3.90
2	<b>5</b>	Mh Apollitical Spy	5	9/2		\$5.20	\$4.10
3	<b>6</b>	Ms Prize Shaunda	8	40			\$15.30

All dressed up with no place to go:

Ajax Downs racing stars Had To Be Ivory (Horse of the Year, with Jaime Robertson), little brother He's Relentless (with Paul Sauve), Five Bar Fandango (with Bryn Robertson), his momma Had To Be Fandango (with Bryn's grandson, Cody)



Carol Robertson Photo

## Talk about a PR move

The first race at Fonner Park on April 15 had a pretty remarkable finish. The field of 7 maidens was required to go 6 furlongs and you will probably requote these pertinent remarks. The winner was the 2-1 second choice, P R Goldplay, properly reined by Jake Olesiak, who galloped to the wire 2 lengths ahead of P R Streakin, who was not purposely restrained. It was Pete and Repete in third with P R Why Not in fourth. The first, second and fourth finishers all share the same paternity reference – all three are sons of Gold Schleiger. P R Goldplay's pari-mutuel result was \$6 to win.

**King of the South**  
Own: William Stirtz  
Green And Red Diagonal Quarters, Red Cap  
**REYES L (652.57.83) 2020: (78.2.83)**

**WORKS:** 16Apr20 GP 4f fst :484 Bg 7/19 4Apr20 G  
4Jan20 FP 3f fst :384 B 5/8 27Dec19 FP :  
**TRAINER:** 1stStart(42 .07 \$1.33) DebutMCL(12 .08

---

**King of the North**  
Own: Wills Jarrett & Gladys Infante  
Red, Orange And Green Thirds, White  
**TREJOS J (132.22.15) 2020: (18.2.11)**  
TimeformUS Pace: Early 53 Late 71  
10Apr20 -2GP fst 1 :23.68 47.06 1:12.60  
**WORKS:** 23Apr20 PmM 4f fst :49 Bg 7/18 2Apr20 P  
**TRAINER:** Mdnd2ndStart(11 .09 \$0.76) Dirt(86 .10 \$2

These two horses were actually booked to start side by side in a race at Gulfstream on Friday, April 30. Announcer Pete Aiello might not know in which direction he is going



# DANISH DYNAFORMER

DYNAFORMER –  
DANISH WILDCAT, BY DANEHILL

.....

**CLASSIC-WINNING GRADED SW  
OF \$764,645**

**Won Canadian Classic Breeders' S. (95 Beyer).  
Ran TEN 95+ Beyer Speed Figures.  
Met and defeated 16 Grade 1 winners and  
40 Graded SWs.**

First foals 2020.

~~2020 Fee: \$2,500 (Canadian Funds)~~

**Fee waived by owner Charles Fipke**

# PERFECT TIMBER

PERFECT SOUL (IRE) –  
TIMBER ICE, BY WOODMAN

.....

**GRADE 1 RUNNER FROM  
THE SADLER'S WELLS SIRELINE**

Grade 1-placed multiple graded stakes performer.  
Female family of leading sires  
**NORTHERN DANCER, DANEHILL [G1],  
MACHIAVELLIAN [G1], etc.**

First yearlings 2020.

~~2020 Fee: \$2,500 (Canadian Funds)~~

**Fee waived by owner Charles Fipke**

*Stud fees payable when foal stands and nurses; special consideration for stakes-winning or  
-placed mares and stakes producing mares; multiple mare discounts.*

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