During the month of September, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey sponsored the Garden State Trot and Homegrown Pace stakes for 3-year-olds at Freehold Raceway.

The Garden State Trot is for N.J.-bred 3-year-old trotters, while the Homegrown Pace is for either N.J.-sired, N.J. Standardbred Development-eligible, or N.J.-foaled 3-year-old pacers.

Wallandar won the first division of the $50,000 Garden State Trot for 3-year-old male trotters on Thursday, Sept. 14. The son of Walner won by a neck over Cal Miles N Shell in 1:58.1 for driver Andy Miller and trainer Julie Miller. The second division went to Optrix. The Trixton son and driver Austin Siegelman cruised passed the favorite Dyladmar in the stretch to stop the clock in 1:58.1 for trainer Tony Dinges.

One week later, Sept. 21, the fillies took the stage for the Homegrown Pace and the Garden State Trot. Filly favorite Rec Time won the $40,000 Homegrown Pace, by a head over Twin B Allure for driver Jason Bartlett and trainer Deborah Daguet. Two races later, A Good Chardonnay won the $60,000 Garden State Trot by 1-3/4 lengths over Kaddari in 1:56.4 for driver Andy Miller and trainer Julie Miller.

On Sept. 23, the male pacers battled in two $30,000 divisions of the Homegrown Pace. Hound On The Beach upset Stay Grounded by a half-length in 1:54.3 for driver George Brennan and trainer Mark Capone. The second division was won by Taste Of Honey by a length over Captain Batboy in 1:54.1 for driver Jordan Stratton and trainer Ron Burke.

Do not miss your opportunity to race in these stakes next year. Visit www.sboanj.com for more information on the Garden State Trot and Homegrown Pace.
FAIR WEEK IS GREAT FOR TOSCANO

It was a special week at the Delaware County Fair in central Ohio for trainer Linda Toscano and driver Scott Zeron. The duo won the Jugette for 3-year-old female pacers on Sept. 20 with two-time New Jersey Sire Stakes champion Ucandoit Blue Chip and a day later captured the Little Brown Jug with It’s My Show.

The New Jersey-based Toscano won each race for the first time and became the third trainer since 1998 to sweep the events in the same year, joining Ron Burke and Brett Pelling. Zeron became the first driver since David Miller in 2011 to win both races in the same year.

“This is a pretty good week,” an emotional Toscano said after It’s My Show’s victory in the $850,000 Little Brown Jug final. “This has been a race that’s eluded me, and a race that I’ve wanted for so long. I’m a little choked up.”

In the $255,000 Jugette final, Ucandoit Blue Chip outdueled Zanatta in the stretch to win by 1-3/4 lengths in 1:50.2.

Ucandoit Blue Chip, who also won her Jugette elimination earlier in the day, is a daughter of Keystone Velocity out of Molly Can Do It. Toscano trained Molly Can Do It over her final three seasons of racing and the mare gave the conditioner her first Breeders Crown victory in 2002.

“She is a good filly,” Toscano said about the Bill Elliott-owned Ucandoit Blue Chip in the winner’s circle. “It’s the icing on the cake that her mom was my first Breeders Crown winner and now she’s my first Jugette.”

Sitting sixth with a quarter-mile to go, It’s My Show and Zeron worked a third-over journey into a trip to the winner’s circle by rallying past Seven Colors in the stretch to win by a neck in 1:49 before a crowd of more than 40,000 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

It’s My Show, who was winless in eight starts at age 2, exited the Little Brown Jug with nine wins in 13 races and $1.06 million in purses this year. His victories include the North America Cup and a world-record 1:46.4 mile for a 3-year-old gelding in a preliminary round of the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series.

OCTOBER IS SBOANJ’S INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT MONTH

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of NJ’s insurance Open Enrollment is now until December 7th. During this time you are able to enroll for the insurance program, make changes to your insurance coverage and or add dependents. If you’re thinking of signing up for health insurance for January 2024, open enrollment applications are available at sboanj.com.
A GREAT RIDE: ANDY MILLER REACHES 10,000 WINS

It might not have been an easy decision for Julie and Andy Miller to uproot their lives and move from the Midwest to New Jersey in 2006, but it certainly turned out to be a winning choice. The Millers have been a force in the Garden State and beyond ever since.

This past August, Andy became the 21st driver in North American harness racing history to get 10,000 career wins. Julie has ranked among the top money-winning trainers in the sport for years—including six seasons in the Top 10—and totaled 2,300 victories.

“We were on the fence for a couple years about moving out East,” said Andy, who was one of the top drivers in Illinois, winning titles at Balmoral and Maywood, prior to the move. “But we’ve always been the type that will take a chance, and if it doesn’t work out, it doesn’t work out. I had been out East for a couple days driving and I came home and we kind of just said we’re going to pack up and move. That’s what we did. It’s worked out really well.”

Andy got his most lucrative win two years after moving to the East Coast, guiding Creamy Mimi to victory for trainer Trond Smedshammer in the $750,000 Hambletonian Oaks. Andy picked up the drive after Brian Sears, who won all three Oaks eliminations that year, decided to stay with Lantern Kronos in the final. She finished second.

“As a driver, you always like to be in the right place at the right time,” Andy said. “That was unbelievable for a Midwest guy just moving to the East Coast. To end up winning the Oaks was just unreal.”

Andy has captured five Breeders Crown trophies in his career, getting his first in 2004 with his brother, trainer Erv Miller, and filly pacer Restive Hanover. His other Crowns include one with Julie, in 2009 with trotter Lucky Jim. The gelding won 17 of 18 races that season and banked $1 million on his way to the Dan Patch Award for best older male trotter.

According to the U.S. Trotting Association’s Research Department, Andy and Julie have teamed up for more than 1,600 victories in their careers. In addition to Lucky Jim, some of the stable’s notable horses have included Dan Patch Award and Mohawk Million winner Venerate, millionaires Devious Man and Met’s Hall, Kentucky Filly Futurity champ Love A Good Story, and John Cashman Memorial winner Sevruga.

Victory No. 10,000 for Andy also came with a horse trained by Julie, Samwise The Brave.

“That made it even more special,” Andy said. “We’ve had a lot of wins together with horses we’ve owned and trained, so it was pretty neat that it happened with a horse we train.

“It’s quite an accomplishment for anybody to get to 10,000 wins. It’s kind of an elite group. Starting out, it’s not even a number you would think about. You’re looking to get a hundred wins. Then a thousand. To think you can get to 10,000 is amazing.”

In addition to his wins, Andy ranks 13th in history with $139 million in purses. Julie ranks 15th among trainers with nearly $53 million. Their son, Tyler, began driving several years ago and is in the midst of his second consecutive season with more than 100 wins and more than $1 million in purses.

“When you have a passion for the business and you work hard, good things happen,” Andy said. “I appreciate the longevity of my career and being able to spend it with my family. It’s been a great ride and I hope it continues.”

RESIDENT MARE REBATE FORMS DUE OCT 31

The SBOANJ resident mare rebate forms designated for mares who reside in New Jersey 150 days up to and including foaling are due at the end of October.

Please include your USTA foal registration along with application and send to SBOANJ no later than Oct. 31, 2023. Foal registration must be included with application.
New Jersey Sire Stakes champions for 2-year-olds were crowned in August at the Meadowlands. The Noel Daley-trained duo of colt Sig Sauer and filly Buy A Round took home the honors for trotters while Tony Alagna-trained colt Better Is Nice and Michael Hall-trained Pulp Fiction captured the pacing divisions.

The purse for each final was $240,000.

Sig Sauer, a son of Muscle Hill-Sigilwig bred by Southwind Farms, went 2-for-2 in the series with driver Andy McCarthy. He won a second-leg division in 1:54.4 and the final in 1:53.3.

“He’s always been very nice,” Daley said in September before the colt added the $275,000 New Jersey Classic title to his credentials. “He’s a very strong horse. He’s got a lot of power to him. I don’t think we’ve seen anywhere near the best of him yet. He’s got a lot more to give, I think.”

Sig Sauer is owned by Patricia Stable, Joe Sbrocco & JAF Racing, Allister Stables, and Caviart Farms.

Buy A Round, a daughter of Walner-On Your Tab bred by owner Fred Hertrich III, also went 2-for-2 in the NJSS with McCarthy in the sulky. She won a first-leg division in 1:55 and took the final in an identical time.

“From day one, she reminded me of Cedar Dove, and I knew I had a good one real early with her,” Daley said, referring to his 2011 Dan Patch Award winner. “She’s a little natural. She’s as good a going trotter as I’ve ever had. She’s all business.”

Buy A Round is owned by Fred Hertrich III.

Better Is Nice, a son of Bettor’s Wish-Thatsoveryverynice bred by Alagna Racing and Marvin Katz, finished third in his NJSS debut before posting a 1:51.2 win in the second round and 1:50.3 score in the final. McCarthy also drove Better Is Nice.

“We didn’t think he would be a high-profile colt,” Alagna said. “We had him in the sale, but he only brought $30,000, so I bought him back. He’s a real playful horse who reminds us of (millionaire) Abuckabet Hanover. We called him ‘Little Bucky’ all spring. He’s much better tracking horses down but he can do it either way. I bred to Bettor’s Wish because I had the faith he could deliver.”

Better Is Nice is owned by Alagna Racing, Pryde Stables, and Birnam Wood Farms.

Pulp Fiction, a daughter of Bettor’s Wish-I’m Trigger Happy owned by breeder Let It Ride Stables along with Bottom Line Racing, swept the three NJSS rounds with driver Todd McCarthy. She won her first start in 1:56, the second in 1:53.2, and final in 1:52.2.

“She still has a lot to learn, but every time I asked her, she went on with it,” McCarthy said. “Mike (Hall) has done a great job with her.”

Pulp Fiction is owned by Let It Ride Stables and Bottom Line Racing.

Anyone interested in running for director must send a letter of intent to the SBOANJ office via certified mail, or in person, no later than October 2, 2023.

In order to qualify as a director, you must have been an active member for the past 2 years in the designated category in which you wish to run. There are two positions available in the driver/trainer category, one position in the breeder category and two positions in the owner category.

Running for re-election are: Mark Ford and Julie Miller in driver/trainer category, Stephen Dey in the breeder category and Bob Boni and Dan Baer in the owner category.

A copy of the by-laws can be found on our website. Please check our website www.sboanj.com for updates.

Send your letter and a short biography to:
SBOANJ
64 Business Route 33
Manalapan, NJ 07726
**THREE ADD CLASSIC CROWNS TO GO WITH NJSS TITLES**

New Jersey Sire Stakes champions Air Power, Sig Sauer, and Voukefalas added New Jersey Classic titles to their résumés with victories at the Meadowlands in September.

The Classics, sponsored by The Meadowlands and Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, is for N.J.-sired horses and horses eligible to the New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund stakes.

Air Power won the $275,000 Classic for 3-year-old male trotters by 1-1/4 lengths over Oh Well in 1:51 for driver Mattias Melander and trainer Marcus Melander. The colt is owned by AMG Stable, Rick Wahlestedt, Kenneth Kjellgren, and Heights Stable. The son of Muscle Hill-Beyond Blue was bred by Order By Stable AB.

Sig Sauer won the $275,000 Classic for 2-year-old male trotters by one length over Mosquito in 1:53.3. Andrew McCarthy drove Sig Sauer for trainer Noel Daley and owners Patricia Stable, Joe Sbrocco & JAF Racing, Allister Stables, and Caviart Farms. The colt, a son of Muscle Hill-Sigilwig, was bred by Southwind Farms.

Voukefalas won the $150,000 Classic for 3-year-old male pacers by 2-1/4 lengths over Stay Grounded in 1:49.2. Jordan Stratton drove the homebred colt, a son of Lazarus N-Inittowinafortune, for trainer Michael Russo and owner Michael Pagonas.

Trainer Joe Holloway won two Classics. Newsroom won the $150,000 Classic for 2-year-old male pacers by 5-3/4 lengths over Wish You Well in 1:49.4. The colt was driven by David Miller for Holloway and owner Val D’Or Farms. The son of Always B Miki-Well Hello There was bred by Mark Mullen and Stephen Dey III.

Blue Pacific won the $150,000 Classic for 2-year-old female pacers by a neck over Tarrific in 1:50.3. Miller drove the filly for Holloway and owner Val D’Or Farms. The daughter of Sweet Lou-Miss Jones was bred by Fair Winds Farm.

Soiree Hanover won the $275,000 Classic for 2-year-old female trotters by a neck over Chaparmbro in 1:53.1. She was driven by Tim Tetrick for trainer Lucas Wallin and owner Snogarps Gard Inc. The filly, bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, is a daughter of Walner-Spring Gala.

Tactical Mounds captured the $275,000 Classic for 3-year-old female trotters by a head over Quick Stop in 1:52.1. Scott Zeron drove the filly for trainer Megan Scran and owner Thesetable Tactical Mounds. The daughter of Tactical Landing-Mounds was bred by Spring Haven Farm.

Odds On Cinnamon won the $150,000 Classic for 3-year-old female pacers by three-quarters of a length over Ucandoit Blue Chip in 1:50.2 for driver Jordan Stratton and trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. The daughter of Lazarus N-Cinamony is owned by Odds On Racing and was bred by Fair Winds Farm.

**GRAND CIRCUIT WINNERS**

Here are some other New Jersey-connected horses to win on the Grand Circuit from late June to late September:

**T C I** – $1 million Mohawk Million, C$620,000 William Wellwood Memorial, $420,000 Peter Haughton Memorial – trained by Ron Burke, bred by Concord Stud Farm.

Tactical Approach – $1 million Hambletonian – trained by Nancy Takter, sired by Tactical Landing.

Confederate – $668,000 Meadowlands Pace, $315,700 Cane Pace, $300,000 Max C. Hemp Memorial – trained by Brett Pelling.

Celebrity Bambino – C$660,000 Canadian Trotting Classic – trained by Ron Burke, bred by White Birch Farm, sired by Muscle Hill.

Alrajah One IT – C$530,000 Maple Leaf Trot – trained by Ake Svanstedt.

Heaven Hanover – $500,000 Hambletonian Oaks – trained by Marcus Melander.

Drawn Impression – C$425,000 Peaceful Way – Sired by Muscle Hill.

M-M’s Dream – $410,250 Hambletonian Maturity – trained by Ron Burke, co-owned by Frank Baldachino.

Soiree Hanover – $400,000 Jim Doherty Memorial – trained by Lucas Wallin, sired by Walner.

Bond – C$381,000 Elegantimage, $250,000 Delmonica Hanover – $150,000 Classic for 2-year-old male pacers by 5-3/4 lengths over Wish You Well in 1:49.4. The colt was driven by David Miller for Holloway and owner Val D’Or Farms. The son of Always B Miki-Well Hello There was bred by Mark Mullen and Stephen Dey III.

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Medical Clinic Gaitway Farm

The BCAP Medical Clinic at Gaitway Farm dates are listed below. The clinic offers free medical checkups, renewal of medications, blood work and more. BCAP’s Medical Clinic is located in Chris Samaha, Ph.D.’s office at Gaitway Farm (next to barn 17).

Chris Samaha’s office (BCAP: Backstretch Community Assistance Program), at Gaitway Farm is opened on Mondays during the summer months and on Monday & Wednesdays after Monmouth Park closes (lower c). Free and confidential counseling, advocacy and more assistance is provided for all N.J.-licensed horsemen. Feel free to call Chris @ 732-740-5376 for further information.

GAITWAY DATES:
September 18th
October 2nd
October 16th
October 30th
November 13th
November 27th
December 4th

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS:
Sept. 25th at Gaitway Farm
Oct. 6th at Freehold Raceway
Oct. 23rd at Magical Acres
Oct. 14th at Alagna Farm

CAMPBELL, LOHMUEYER HEADING TO HALL OF FAME

New Jersey’s Jim Campbell and Ed Lohmeyer will be inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y., on July 7, 2024.

Campbell was the sport’s Trainer of the Year in 2022, when he became the third trainer in history to win the Hambletonian, with Cool Papa Bell, and Hambletonian Oaks, with Fashion Schooner, on the same day. The feat also made him the fourth trainer ever with two victories in both of those top trotting events, joining Hall of Famers Billy Haughton, Joe O’Brien, and Jimmy Takter.

Award-winners trained by Campbell during his career include Tagliabue, Galleria, Broadway Hall, Broadway Schooner, Broadway Donna, Real Cool Sam, and Cool Papa Bell. Tagliabue and Broadway Schooner were Campbell’s other Hambletonian and Oaks winners, with Tagliabue being driven to victory in the Hambo by his Hall of Fame brother John.

Campbell has won six Breeders Crown trophies and more than 1,400 races lifetime. He is approaching $54 million in career purses and ranks 13th in history in earnings since the inception of official trainer stats in 1991.

In 2019, he became only the fourth trainer in nearly 30 years to earn more than $3 million in a season while starting fewer than 300 races. He was the first to accomplish the feat without a horse in his stable reaching $1 million.

Lohmeyer first developed himself into one of his era’s top catch-drivers, winning titles at several East Coast tracks. He soon developed a talent as an outstanding trainer as well, starting with Eddy Jeff, and built up a client list that included Bob Tucker (a Lohmeyer patron for over 40 years), John Stoddard (30-plus years), and Bill Simon, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. The length of time he has enjoyed with his patrons speaks to the ability and dependability of “Steady Eddie.”

Top horses associated with Lohmeyer include Pacific Rocket, Pacific Fella, Landslide, Mickie Rodney, and Skipper Dexter.

Now retired from active training and driving, Lohmeyer and his wife, equine surgeon Dr. Patty Hogan, have established Pheasant Hill Farms on the site of the former Perretti Farms.

Joining Campbell and Lohmeyer in being inducted into the Hall of Fame next year will be owner-breeder David McDuffee.

TrotPAC trustees continue to attend many political leaders’ fundraisers during these uncertain times to help ensure the long-term viability of Standardbred racing and breeding in New Jersey. With the recent changes in Legislators it is more important than ever that TrotPAC make its presence known in Trenton. TrotPAC trustees must now educate and promote the importance of our industry to all the State Legislators. Most recently TrotPAC trustees attended the events for the following people: Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Senator Gordon Johnson, Senator Patrick Diegnan, Senator John Burzichelli, Senator Vin Gopal, Senator Andrew Zwicker, and Senator Linda Greenstein.
As the summer months have come to an end, we have many reasons to be thankful.

The Meadowlands reported this year’s Hambletonian Day handle was the highest in 18 years, and the third best in history for the event. This year, a total of nearly $8.76 million was wagered in North America and Europe, exceeded only by the $9.01 million bet in 2005 and $8.81 million in 2002. Interest in the day was bolstered by national television exposure and a fantastic card. Thank you to all involved, from the Meadowlands to the sponsors and the horsemen, for making Hambo Day our best day in racing.

Of course, this year’s Hambletonian winner, Tactical Approach, is New Jersey-sired, by Tactical Landing, and trained in the Garden State by Nancy Takter. Congratulations to all of the connections of Tactical Approach.

Congratulations also to Yannick Gingras and Ron Burke for leading the driver and trainer standings, respectively, at the Big M through the Championship Meet. It is also worth noting that overall handle at the Meadowlands from the beginning of this year through Hambletonian Day was nearly $203.8 million for a per-card average of $3.23 million, an increase of nearly 8 percent in average from 2021.

New Jersey-connected horses have been taking the Grand Circuit by storm, as you might have noticed from the list of winners over the past several months that is included in this edition of the Pacesetter. A total of 19 horses with some kind of N.J. connection (breeder, owner, trainer, sire) combined to capture 25 Grand Circuit races worth $220,000 or more since late June.

In other good news, it was announced that Tattoo Artist will stand stud in New Jersey beginning in 2024. Tattoo Artist, who has earned more than $2.55 million lifetime, is expected to stand at Deo Volente Farms after he finishes his racing career.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you that participated in the ACH Economic Impact Study. This study will provide important information about the significant economic impact of harness racing and Standardbreds. This information is vital in enabling us to provide the state’s legislators with the facts necessary to help gain their continued support of our industry and appropriations.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone of a few things. First, you must be a member of the SBOANJ and have a W-9 on file with the office to receive any breeder and sire awards. Also, please be sure to report to Freehold’s designated Lasix area by your scheduled race time. No grace periods are allowed.

Best of luck to all in the fall and winter meets!

Mark Ford
STANDARDBRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
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609-292-8830

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Freehold: 732-462-3800
Meadowlands: 201-460-4137

NJ Trailer Ban: NJTP
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