GINGRAS PROUD OF HALL OF FAME HONOR

When a 21-year-old Yannick Gingras moved from his native Quebec to the U.S. in the summer of 2001, he had no idea what his future held. The young driver, who launched his career in 1998, arrived with fewer than 400 career starts and 72 wins.

Two years later, Gingras was named the sport’s Rising Star, and his trajectory continued upward from there. Four times he led the sport in earnings, 2014-2017, and he was named Driver of the Year in 2014 and 2017. For his career, he has more than $205 million in purses, sixth most in history.

Gingras has been a force on the Grand Circuit, winning 24 Breeders Crown trophies, good for sixth all time in the event, and capturing numerous other marquee races. Overall, he has won more than 8,100 races.

On July 3 in Goshen, N.Y., Gingras’ accomplishments will be recognized when he is inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame along with trainers Ron Burke and George Teague Jr. as well as trainer-driver Chris Boring.

“It means a lot, no doubt about it,” Gingras said. “It’s something that I’m incredibly proud of. It’s people recognizing the impact you’ve had on the sport. It’s not over yet. I still have a lot to accomplish, I think. I’m going to keep working to reach even higher standards.”

When Gingras first arrived in the U.S., he drove at Yonkers Raceway. In 2003, he finished second in the driver standings there before moving to the Meadowlands, where he went on to win multiple driving titles. Mark Ford, who was co-winner of the Trainer of the Year Award with Jimmy Takter in 2000, was instrumental in helping Gingras get established at both venues.

“Six to eight months after I came to Yonkers, he gave me everything to drive there,” Gingras said. “He was probably the first big guy that trusted me with his good horses. He helped get me rolling when I had little experience. He probably saw me mess up more than anybody and he never said anything. I don’t know if he ever complained once. Mark was a big part of where I’m at today.”

Gingras also has enjoyed a good deal of success with fellow Hall of Fame inductee Burke.

“The whole Burke family has been great to me,” Gingras said. “They’re the biggest stable in the sport and I get first pick on a lot of the Grand Circuit horses. I could never thank them enough for what they’ve done.

“I learned a lot from Jimmy Takter too,” he added. “He also gave me great horses to drive. I was first call for both [Burke and Takter] for a long time. It wasn’t easy sometimes to keep them both happy, but they understood I was trying my best. I was honest with both of them, and it worked for a long time.”

Top horses driven by Gingras over the years are too numerous to list. He is well known for driving Foiled Again, who retired in 2018 as the richest Standardbred in history, and he has sat behind three Horse of the Year winners -- Tall Dark Stranger, Hannelore Hanover, and JK She’salady.

In addition to his work on the track, Gingras is active as an officer of the SBOANJ.

“I try to have an impact on all phases of the sport,” he said. “It’s not just driving. I’m pretty vocal. I try to be involved in management and marketing. This sport has provided for me and my family. I don’t take it for granted. We make a great living doing something we love. I think giving back to the sport that has given us so much is important.”
New Jersey State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin spent part of his Monday morning (May 16) at Gaitway Farm Training Center, where he toured the grounds, talked with horsemen and horsewomen, and even climbed into a double-seated jog cart for a trip around the farm’s one-mile track.

Speaker Coughlin’s visit, which included a fundraiser and brunch, was hosted by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey and TrotPAC. Speaker Coughlin’s support was vital to the five-year, $100-million appropriation for the state’s horse racing industry that was approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Phil Murphy in 2019.

Prior to brunch, Speaker Coughlin watched horses jog and train on the farm’s multiple tracks as well as swim in the center’s pool. He also visited the Backstretch Community Assistance Program clinic run by Dr. Chris Samaha before joining trainer Julie Miller to jog 3-year-old New Jersey-bred female trotter Spendthemoneyhoney.

“I thought the event was very well received by Speaker Coughlin,” said Miller, who is an SBOANJ director. “He really enjoyed the hands-on experience of getting to jog a horse with me and I think he was impressed with the horse as a professional athlete. Getting to see them jog, getting to see them swim, feeding them carrots, it all made an impact. He got to see everything we do with the horses every day at a training center.”

Speaker Coughlin’s first visit to any equine facility in the state came in 2019 when he attended an SBOANJ event to support his re-election campaign at Fair Winds Farm and the Hogan Equine Clinic.

“These events are critical because they let Speaker Coughlin to see firsthand the impact and importance of our industry to the state,” SBOANJ President Mark Ford said. “Working with our legislators, and maintaining their trust and backing, is crucial as we strive to protect and enhance our future in the years to come.

“I really want to thank Speaker Coughlin for spending time with us, listening to us, and enjoying his time with the horses.”

Speaker Coughlin, a Democrat representing the 19th Legislative District in Middlesex County, has served in the State Assembly since 2010. He is in his third term as Assembly Speaker and is the first Democratic Assembly Speaker to ever serve three consecutive two-year terms.
BABY RACES AT GAITWAY FARM AND MAGICAL ACRES

It is that time of year again where we get the first glimpse of the freshman competitors at local farms. Gaitway Farm and Magical Acres once again this year are holding baby races and qualifiers during the month of June.

Feel free to stop by and watch on Monday’s in June at Gaitway Farm while enjoying free refreshments courtesy of Gaitway Farm, the SBOANJ and BCAP. Magical Acres are hosting on Wednesdays. If you are unable to come out and enjoy the races in person you can watch them live on the 412 Communications youtube channel.

Prideful debuted with a 1:56.4. USTA/Ken Weingartner photo.

Cantgetuoutamymind sat second for most of the mile to score in 1:56.1. Ken Weingartner photo.

In Italian won her qualifying debut in 1:59. USTA/Ken Weingartner photo.


Instagram Model made her qualifying debut, to win in 2:03.1 to win. Ken Weingartner photo.

Grand Fashion won in 2:01.4. Ken Weingartner photo.
The Township Committee has amended an ordinance that lays out a redevelopment plan for what is being called the Gaitway Redevelopment Area on Route 33 in Manalapan.

The initial redevelopment ordinance was adopted on Dec. 22. The amended redevelopment ordinance was adopted on April 27.

The ordinance describes the manner in which land on Route 33 eastbound between Woodward Road and Gaitway Farm will be developed and/or redeveloped.

Municipal officials previously said the redevelopment plan is an overlay of the existing special economic development zone and a commercial zone. The township will not be involved in acquiring any property in the redevelopment area or acquiring property for a developer.

Two significant parcels in the redevelopment area are Gaitway Farm and a now abandoned adult residential facility known as Manalapan Manor/Marianne Manor.

When the public hearing on the redevelopment ordinance was conducted in December, several representatives of the horse racing industry in New Jersey said Gaitway Farm is an important facility in the state’s billion dollar horse racing industry.

The speakers said it was important for Gaitway Farm to continue to operate, as the facility provides about 1,000 jobs. Those who spoke expressed concern that the governing body’s adoption of the redevelopment plan would signal the end of the farm’s operation.

The members of the Township Committee listened to what the speakers had to say and the amended ordinance that was before the governing body in April states that “the Township Committee heard concerns of the equestrian industry with respect to the existing horse farm within the redevelopment area and finds that requiring the designated redeveloper to preserve equestrian activities would be beneficial to the residents of Manalapan and the equestrian industry within the township and in surrounding areas” and that “the Township Committee has determined it would be appropriate to amend the Gaitway Redevelopment Plan to provide for the preservation of equestrian activity.”

The amended ordinance lays out the manner in which the goals of preserving equestrian activity at Gaitway Farm will be achieved.

When informed of the Township Committee’s action to amend the Gaitway Redevelopment Plan, Nancy Grbelja, a former mayor of neighboring Millstone Township and a supporter of the state’s equine industry, said, “I am very, very happy Manalapan’s officials decided to move in that direction (of maintaining equestrian activities at the site). This (decision) is vital to the harness industry in New Jersey.”

Regarding the Manalapan Manor/Marianne Manor property near Woodward Road, the amended ordinance states that “the Township Committee wishes to further amend the (redevelopment) plan to clarify the township’s intentions to ensure the construction of a recreational facility at the former Marianne Manor site on Route 33, which the committee believes to be appropriate and necessary to serve the needs of the township and its residents.”

Specifically, the amended ordinance states that “a redevelopment agreement that enables the construction of one or more warehouses on (certain parcels in the designated Route 33 redevelopment area) must include the development of a privately owned and operated ice skating facility on the Marianne Manor site, as such a facility does not currently exist in Manalapan.”

Under the terms of the redevelopment plan that has been approved by the Township Committee for 23 properties along Route 33, Manalapan’s officials cannot use eminent domain (condemnation) to acquire any parcels and no property owner can be directed to cease what he is currently doing on his property.

The area that was studied by professionals representing the township contains about 225 acres fronting on Route 33 and Woodward Road. A bowling alley that is next to Gaitway Farm was not included in the study area.

It was also reported that the owner of the Manalapan Manor/Marianne Manor no longer has a valid license from the state to operate the adult residential facility.

As a whole, the identified Route 33 properties were eventually designated to be a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment.

The redevelopment plan has created permitted light industrial uses, warehouse distribution uses (not Amazon “fulfillment centers”) and recreational uses in the redevelopment area.

The Township Committee will act as the redevelopment agency for the Gaitway Redevelopment Area.

Any proposals that are submitted for development and/or redevelopment in the Gaitway Redevelopment Area will be subject to review by the Planning Board. Members of the public will be able to comment on the proposals during public hearings conducted by the board.
This year at the NJ Equine Advisory Luncheon Nifty Norman accepted the New Jersey Sire Stake Award and Standardbred of the Year for Venerable.

Venerable is a 3-year-old Walner trotting mare owned by David McDuffee, Melvin Hartman, Paul Bordogna and Steven Arnold. At two Venerable, out of Jolene Jolene, was driven by David Miller and trained by Nifty Norman to 9 wins out of 11 starts earning $1,039,966. She was the winner of The Matron, The Mohawk Million, The Peaceful Way Final, The Jim Doherty Final, and the 2-year-old filly NJSS final.

She has lifetime mark of 1:52.0 at the Meadowlands.
Medical Clinic Gaitway Farm

The BCAP Medical clinic at Gaitway farm will begin on Monday, September 19th and continue through December. 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. Free and confidential counseling, advocacy and more assistance is provided for all NJ licensed horsemen. Feel free to call Chris @ 732-740-5376 for further information.

2022 CLINIC DATES

Monday, September 19
Monday, October 3
Monday, October 17
Monday, October 24
Monday, November 7
Monday, November 21
Monday, December 5

Please Call to make an appointment. Walk ups are accepted based upon availability.

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 their 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 following events: Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Joseph Lagana, Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin, and Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari. Your support is vital to TrotPAC’s ability to educate those in a position to help our industry.

TrotPAC trustee Robert Boni and Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari
PRESIDENT’S LETTER

I would like to give thanks to everyone that contributed to the event the SBOANJ and TrotPAC hosted for Assembly Speaker Coughlin, which was a huge success in my opinion. The Speaker seemed to really enjoy his time at Gaitway Farm. I would personally like to thank owner Ken Fischer and farm manager Tim Hundertpfund for allowing us to host such an event at a perfect location. We were able to raise the $25,000 contribution we promised to Coughlin thanks to all of your generous donations.

The fact that the Manalapan officials have amended the redevelopment plans for Gaitway Farm seems to be a move in a positive direction for all horsemen stabled there. We are all working diligently to provide the best solution for all parties involved. If anyone has further questions about the redevelopment plans please contact the SBOANJ office.

TrotPAC has been attending political events all year long and I would like to announce that due to their hard work we have been able to obtain an invitation to a special meeting and dinner with the new Senate President Nicholas Scutari. This meeting will give us an opportunity to educate President Scutari on the importance of our industry to the State of New Jersey.

Thank you to Gaitway Farm and Magical Acres for hosting baby races and qualifiers in the month of June again this year. The convenience of the these races make it much easier for many NJ horsemen to get their freshmen horses qualified without having to ship, as these gas prices do not seem to be getting smaller any time soon, I would also like acknowledge BCAP and the SBOANJ for providing food and refreshments at these events. Making the days much more enjoyable for everyone present.

As we all have been watching many baby races in the month of June, I think we know what is to come next. The summer months of freshmen racing and stakes races are closing in quickly. Good luck to everyone and safe travels as the stakes season begins to heat up.

Mark Ford
Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey
64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726  Phone: 732-462-2357  Fax: 732-409-0741
Email: info@sboanj.com  Website: www.sboanj.com

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

NJ Trailer Ban: NJTP 800-336-5875