New Jersey-eligible horses were in demand this fall at the sport’s yearling sales in Lexington and Harrisburg.

In October, 227 New Jersey-eligible yearlings sold for a total of $18.1 million, an average of $79,762, at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Overall, the Lexington sale set records for gross, with $65.28 million, and average, at $73,690.

In November, the action moved to the Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg. There, 134 New Jersey-eligible horses sold for a total of $7.38 million and average of $55,112. That was the top average among New York, Pennsylvania, Ontario. Overall, the three-day auction in Harrisburg established a record for gross, at $44.3 million, while recording its second-best average in history, at $49,066.

The second-highest horse to sell in Harrisburg was New Jersey-eligible trotting filly Tandem Hanover, who was purchased for $510,000 by Andrew Harris. She is a daughter of Walner-Think Twice and a full sister to Temporal Hanover, a multiple winner on the Grand Circuit and two-time runner-up in New Jersey Sire Stakes finals. The family also includes 2006 Horse of the Year Glidemaster.

Concord Stud Farm consigned 67 horses for an average of $93,030. That was the top average among the 16 consignors with 10 or more horses at the sale. Concord Stud Farm consigned four of the top seven sellers, among them New Jersey-eligible trotting filly Linnea G, who was purchased for $475,000 by Julie Miller as agent. Linnea G, a daughter of Tactical Landing-Solveig, is a half-sister to 2014 Trotter of the Year Shake It Cerry and millionaire Uncle Lasse, who won races in North America and Europe.

New Jersey-eligible trotting filly Volcanic Blue Chip, who was purchased for $325,000 by Ake Svanstedt, was the top-selling horse on the second day of the Harrisburg sale. She is a daughter of Walner-Thislady’sdynamite and her family includes multiple Dan Patch Award-winner Mr Muscleman.

Walner averaged $134,917 for 24 yearlings sold, good for second among all sires at the sale. Muscle Hill followed Walner among trotters, with an average of $97,857 for 14 horses.

Buyers from New Jersey were active again, spending nearly $12 million in Harrisburg to lead all jurisdictions.
WORLD CHAMPION ECURIE D RETIRED TO STUD DUTY

Owners Marko Kreivi Stables Inc., Suleyman Yuksel Stables Inc. and Ake Svanstedt Inc. are pleased to announce that their two-time world champion Ecurie D 1:49.1 ($1,516,807), a son of Infini- 
tif-Too Soon-Muscles Yankee, has been retired from racing and will stand stud at Southwind Farms in New Jersey, commencing with the 2023 breeding season.

Blessed with superb size, striking conformation, a beautiful head and a powerful gait, Ecurie D is a product of the combination of the finest American and French blood the trotting sport has to offer.

Ecurie D began his racing career in Europe at age three by winning his first 11 starts which included establishing a new world record for 3-year-old trotters in a rated time of 1:12.2 over 1,640 meters and by winning the Grade 1 European Derby which was won the previous year by Face Time Bourbon.

At ages four and five, Ecurie D won numerous high dollar European graded stakes before his owners were strongly encouraged to bring him to the United States late in his 5-year-old season in 2021 in order to show off his incredible talent.

Ecurie D did just that by winning his only two starts in the United States that year, defeating the likes of Back Of The Neck, Ready For Moni, Forbidden Trade and It’s Academic in the $1,36,000 Alle- rage Farms Open Trot at The Red Mile and the $650,000 Breeders Crown Open Trot at The Meadowlands.

In his final season, racing exclusively in North America in 2022 at age 6, Ecurie D opened his season in awesome fashion by trotting the fastest mile in harness racing history for an older stallion on a mile track, 1:49.1, in the $170,450 Arthur Cutler Memorial at The Meadowlands. The clocking also equaled Six Pack’s time for a mile track, 1:49.1, in the $170,450 Arthur Cutler Memorial at The Meadowlands. The clocking also equaled Six Pack’s time for a mile track, 1:49.1, in the $170,450 Arthur Cutler Memorial at The Meadowlands. The clocking also equaled Six Pack’s time for a mile track, 1:49.1, in the $170,450 Arthur Cutler Memorial at The Meadowlands. The clocking also equaled Six Pack’s time for a mile track, 1:49.1, in the $170,450 Arthur Cutler Memorial at The Meadowlands.

He finished off a stellar season, amassing $733,439 in earnings, by winning for the second straight year in the $600,000 Breeders Crown Open Trot, along with the $330,000 TVG Open Trot, both in dominant wire-to-wire fashion.

In 31 lifetime starts, Ecurie D won an amazing 20 times despite having to face the very best trotters in the world.

As impressive as his racing career was, Ecurie D’s bloodlines repre- sent the absolute finest cross of American and French blood any- where to be found in the world. His sire, Infini-f, is a son of Pine Chip. Infini-f’s mother, Island Dream, is also the mother of Clara- belle, and her immediate family has produced extreme 2-year-old speed in her noted son Cuatro de Julio 2,1:51.3; 4,1:51f ($879,961) and in Uma Madonna 2,1:55.1f ($1,918,918). Clarabelle’s last two yearlings sold at Lexington for $200,000 and $360,000, respectively.

Ecurie D’s mother, Too Soon, hails from the immediate families of several of France’s greatest trotting stallions which include Dream With Me €1,327,831; Daquet Rapide €1,396,695; Arnaquer €1,034,583; Oyanmax €1,877,690; and Indy de Vive €500,666, who is the sire of Ready Cash.

Ecurie D will now take his rightful place alongside three of the greatest trotting sires in the sport, Walner, Muscle Hill and Tactical Landing, at Southwind Farms in New Jersey for an introductory service fee of $10,000. He is currently being syndicated both in North America and in Europe where frozen semen will be available for European shareholders.

For more information on bookings or breedings, contact Mike Klau or Laura Young at Southwind Farms, 609.737.9067 or 
917.930.2709 or at southwindfarms@aol.com.

For more information on the syndication and purchase of shares, contact R. Kevin Greenfield, Ecurie D Syndicate Manager, at 419.346.0609 or kgreen56@gklaw.com.

SPECIAL WAY NJ HORSE OF THE YEAR, HERITAGE HILL FARM NJ BREEDER OF THE YEAR

The SBOANJ is proud to announce Special Way has been named the NJ Horse of the Year, and Heritage Hill Farm has been selected as the NJ Breeder of the Year.

The two-year-old trotting filly Special Way has a lifetime mark of 1:52.0 and winnings of $697,475. Winner of her last seven starts this season, including the elimination and the final of the Breeders Crown, 3 legs and the Final of the Kentucky Champs- ionship Series, as well as the Bluegrass, where she took her record of 1:52.0.

Trained and driven by Ake Svanstad for owners and breeders Brittany Farms LLC, Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld, Special Way is a true product of the New Jersey Breeding Program, being a daughter of New Jersey sire WALNER and from a daughter of New Jersey sire MUSCLE HILL.

Dr. Steven Dey III’s Heritage Hill Farm has been selected as New Jersey Breeder Of The Year. From a relatively small group of mares the farm has bred the winners of over $3.3 million in 2022, Ranking 11th overall in North America.

Top performers include Bythemissal, Niki Hill, Earthwind-
TOP GRAND CIRCUIT FRESHMAN TROTS MOVE TO HARRAH’S HOOSIER PARK IN 2023

Two of the richest and most prominent 2-year-old Grand Circuit events – the Peter Haughton Memorial Trot for colts and geldings and the Jim Doherty Memorial (formerly the Merrie Annabelle) for trotting fillies will have a new home in 2023.

Harrah’s Hoosier Park, which has one of the wealthiest open stake programs in North America, will host the juvenile trots on Friday, September 15, 2023 at the seven-eighth mile track in Anderson, Indiana.

“Harrah’s Hoosier Park could not be more pleased to be the new home for the Peter Haughton Memorial and the Jim Doherty Memorial stakes,” said Rick Moore, vice-president and general manager of Harrah’s Hoosier Park.

“These two long standing and much heralded trotting events for 2-year-old colts and fillies will only add more luster to our already deep Championship season, which commences with the Dan Patch Stakes in August. We would like to thank the Hambletonian Society for entrusting us with these two great Grand Circuit races.”

Originally created by Joe DeFrank for the Meadowlands Race track in New Jersey, in recent years both events have been part of a stakes-laden trot-centric undercard for Hambletonian day. They will be replaced on Hambo day with New Jersey state-bred events of equal stature.

The Hambletonian Society now owns and administers both the Haughton and Doherty, and found a willing host in Harrah’s Hoosier Park for the $300,000 (est.) Grand Circuit jewels.

“The Society is fortunate to count the management of The Meadowlands and Harrah’s Hoosier Park among our great partners,” stated John Campbell, the president and CEO of the Haman Society which owns and administers 150 of the sport’s most prestigious events.

The stakes calendar, especially for 2-year-olds, has to be managed carefully and no one wanted to see races of this caliber go away. I believe we worked out a solution that was beneficial to everyone.”

Full conditions and a payment schedule will be published in January, 2023 in the U.S. Trotting Association Stakes Guide. Both races were designated as Win and You’re In events for the 2022 Breeders Crown, with this year’s Haughton winner Kilmister and Doherty winner Instagram Model receiving entry to their $600,000 Breeders Crown finals with the starting fees waived. The Win And You’re In status will also apply again for the 2023 Breeders Crown, which is hosted by Harrah’s Hoosier Park on October 27 and 28, 2023.

The inaugural Peter Haughton was raced in 1981, created and named in honor of the sport’s rising star, 25-year-old Peter Haughton, who tragically passed the year prior. It quickly became one of the biggest events in the ensuing decades for 2-year-old male trotters, and twice raced for $1 million. Superstar winners include such names as Dominion Hanover, Muscle Hill and King Of The North.

In 2015 the race was renamed the Jim Doherty Memorial by Meadowlands management, in honor of the late Hall of Famer, and his contributions to Meadowlands history over three decades. Recent winners of the Doherty include Mission Brief (who set the stakes record at 1:52.2) and the budding freshman superstar Manchego.

For more information on staking and payment schedules, check out Hambletonian.com after the new year.

BROWER’S LIFE CELEBRATED AT BIG M

Family and friends of the late Dave Brower were on hand at The Meadowlands Saturday night to give the longtime lead TV personality, morning-line odds maker and program analyst a final sendoff with a huge throng that gathered in the winner’s circle after Miller guided It’s Academic to victory lane in the overnight trotting feature Saturday night at The Meadowlands, a race in memory of Dave Brower.

“We continue to mourn the loss of Dave Brower,” said Meadowlands’ Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. “But the outpouring of love that came Dave’s way showed what a popular figure he was and went a long way toward easing our sorrow, if only for one night. He meant an awful lot to us at The Meadowlands, and to the entire harness racing industry as well.”

“I’d like to thank Jeff Gural, Jason Settlemoir and everybody at The Meadowlands for what they did for Dave tonight,” said Brower’s sister, Laura. “As a family, we are close, but tonight made me realize that Dave had a family at The Meadowlands as well.”

Bob “Hollywood” Heyden, Gabe Prewitt, Settlemoir, Les Stark, Nick Salvi, Brower’s cousin Gary Nikorak and Brower’s seventh-grade teacher Jim Shoop were the speakers who shared stories about Brower during the evening.

“I have lost my TV partner, but much more importantly, I have lost a great friend,” said Brower’s Big M broadcast partner for the last five years, Dave Little. “And given how good Brower was at what he did, it’s unlikely we’ll ever see anyone like him again. Rest in peace, my friend.”
FAVORITES FABULOUS IN BIG M’S GARDEN STATE

The cream rose to the top in two $80,000 divisions of the Garden State for 2-year-old trotters as heavy favorites Blonde Bombshell and Celebrity Bambino reported home safe winners at The Meadowlands in the events sponsored by the Standardbred Owners and Breeders Association of New Jersey.

In the filly division, Blonde Bombshell exploded home to score by a length-and-a-half over The Wise One in 1:56.1 despite rainy conditions that made for a track rated ‘sloppy’ that created a -2 variant. Check Her Out was third.

Dave Miller guided the daughter of Walner-Hey Blondie for trainer Nifty Norman. After unspectacular seventh- and ninth-place finishes in her Breeders Crown elimination and final, respectively, ‘The Bombshell’ came to play, displaying a powerful final quarter after gapping second-over cover around the far turn.

Despite having made only one start (a win) before the Breeders Crown, Miller stuck with this filly. “She seemed to have a lot of ability, but she hasn’t gotten a chance to show it yet,” said Miller. “I think she has a bright future. She looked like she fit in there real well in this field and I felt pretty confident with her. She’s a real smart horse. She knows how to relax in the hole, and when you ask her to go, she goes.”

As the 6-5 favorite, Blonde Bombshell returned $4.40 to win.

The ultra-consistent Celebrity Bambino scored as the 1-2 public choice in the split for colts and geldings, hitting the wire 1½ lengths to the good over Prince Of Honor and Kimme-ridgian in 1:55.1. The colt by Muscle Hill-Celebrity Ruth has now won four of 10 lifetime outings with nine on-the-board finishes, good for earnings of $295,250.

Driver Yannick Gingras had Celebrity Bambino up on the outside and after the leader, 7-2 second choice Prince Of Honor, at the quarter before settling in on the point shortly thereafter. The Ron Burke student then sailed home from there as much the best.

“I always liked him,” said Gingras. “It took a long time to get him healthy after he got sick in the summer. In the Breeders Crown [when he was second], he couldn’t have raced any better, but that’s the way it goes sometimes. If they had set it faster, I would have raced from behind tonight, but we found out the front end isn’t an issue. I was confident the whole time.”

Celebrity Bambino paid $3.00 to win.

2-YEAR-OLD SBOANJ SPONSORED RACES

GARDEN STATE TROT
CELEBRITY BAMBINO
MUSCLE HILL - CELEBRITY RUTH
Driver: Yannick Gingras
Trainer: Ron Burke
Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC, J&T Silva Stables, LLC, Knox Services Inc, Phillip Collura
2YO COLT FINAL $80,000

GARDEN STATE TROT
BLONDE BOMBHELL
WALNER - HEY BLONDIE
Driver: David Miller
Trainer: R. Nifty Norman
Owners: David McDuffee, Melvin Hartman, Paul Bordogna, Mary Kinsey Arnold
2YO FILLY FINAL $80,000

HOME GROWN PACE
HANDLELIKEAPORSCHE
LAZARUS N - THE SIGNATURE
Driver: Dexter Dunn
Trainer: Christopher Ryder
Owners: Christopher Ryder, William Ezzo, Robert Mondillo, Barry Spak
2YO COLT FINAL $40,000

HOME GROWN PACE
BELTARA
STAY HUNGRY - STUDIO ONE
Driver: Andrew McCarthy
Trainer: Robert Cleary
Owners: Royal Wire Products Inc
2YO FILLY FINAL $40,000
Medical Clinic Gaitway Farm

The BCAP Medical clinic at Gaitway farm will begin on Monday, September 26th 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.

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 events for the following people: Senate President Scutari, Assemblyman John DiMaio, Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, Assemblyman Chris Tully, and Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin. Below are photos from functions attended throughout the year.
As 2022 comes to an end I would like to thank everyone that help contribute to this years successful meet at both the Meadowlands and Freehold Racetracks. I would also like to congratulate those that benefited from all the hard work put into to the New Jersey racing programs. Recently the SBOANJ secured 3 year contracts with both the Meadowlands Racetrack and Freehold Raceway.

The SBOANJ recently held it’s annual meeting where the election results were announced. This year all incumbents ran for reelection in their designated categories. Driver/Trainer Yannick Gingras, Breeder Mike Klau and Mark Mullen, Owner Anthony Perretti and Anthony Romano. Longtime horse owner Dan Baer replaced the retired Sam Landy in the owner category.

Although all the directors remain the same, there has been some reorganization to the board. For the upcoming 2023 year Mark Ford is the President, Anthony Perretti will be the First Vice President, Mike Klau is the Second Vice President, Yannick Gingras is Third Vice President, Thomas Pontone will be the Treasurer and Anthony Romano is the Secretary. At this meeting the board made a decisions to change the Pacesetter publication to quarterly.

We are excited to announce the return of the NJ Classic races in 2023. We have been working with the Meadowlands to change the format to encourage fuller fields and to include horses eligible for the NJ Standardbred Development Fund races along with NJ-Sired. The NJ Breeders and Sired Awards will continue in 2023.

Previously, I mentioned the appropriations we received from the State of New Jersey ends in 2023. In order for us to receive those much needed funds in the future we must work together to prove to the legislature that the money was beneficial to all aspects of our industry. The SBOANJ is working on a Horse Racing Economic Impact Study to present to legislators showing the importance of our industry to the state. We are going to need the help of everyone to gather the data and complete the report by the end of January early February. We will be contacting you as we’ve done in the past to help retrieve this information. Please remember how important the appropriation was to our industry’s success. Do your best to assist in obtaining the necessary information to complete this report.

Happy Holidays to all and I wish everyone good luck and a profitable 2023!

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