NEW JERSEY HORSES IN DEMAND

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

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.

Two trotting fillies were the highest-priced New Jersey-eligible yearlings sold in Lexington, with Kelsie Awaiting (who was sold under the name Awaiting) and Stardust Volo both going for $525,000. They tied for fourth on the list of most expensive sellers at the event.

Kelsie Awaiting, purchased by Ken Jacobs, is a daughter of Walner-Lonely Lady. She is a full sister to New Jersey Sire Stakes champion Walner Payton, also owned by Jacobs. The family also includes millionaire stallion Bar Hopping, who passed away unexpectedly in November at the age of 9.

Stardust Volo, purchased by Greg Luther, is a daughter of Muscle Hill-Sterling Volo. She is a full sister to Lily Stride, a Breeders Crown champ, and three-quarter sister to Grand Circuit winner Violet Stride. The family also includes Bill’s Man, a winner in the U.S. and Europe.

Thinker Monkey, a New Jersey Standardbred Development Fund-eligible trotting colt consigned by and raised at Concord Stud Farm in Cream Ridge, sold for $500,000 to Howard Taylor. He is a full brother to Gimpanzee, who was a multiple Dan Patch Award winner including Trotter of the Year in 2020.

Concord Stud Farm consigned 14 horses for an average of $108,714. That was the third-best average among all consignors.

Stallions Walner and Muscle Hill, who both stand at Southwind Farms near Pennington, had strong sales. Walner led all sires in gross with $6.95 million and averaged $115,817 for 60 horses. Muscle Hill averaged $124,158 for 38 horses.

Buyers from New Jersey were active in Lexington, spending $19 million. That total was nearly $11 million more than buyers from any other jurisdiction.
NEW JERSEY CROWN JEWELS

The Joe Holloway trainee Ammo’s victory in the Breeders Crown resulted in one of the biggest upsets in Breeders Crown history at Woodbine Mohawk Park. From post nine he won the Breeders Crown by a half-length over favorite Confederate at odds of 52-1 with David Miller in the sulky.

Ammo is a son of Sweet Lou-Beach Gal. His family includes male pacer Jenna’s Beach Boy, who gave Holloway his first two Breeders Crowns, in 1994 and 1995, and three of Holloway’s total of 10. Holloway is the sixth trainer to reach double digits in trophies in the event’s 39-year history.

“I liked him all along,” Holloway said about Ammo, who might continue racing through the Governor’s Cup in late November. “Sometimes, it’s better to get lucky than be good.”

Special Way, trained and driven by Ake Svanstedt, won the Breeders Crown for 2-year-old female trotters in a Canadian-record 1:52. Special Way was just one-fifth of a second off the stakes record of 1:51.4, set by Mission Brief at The Meadowlands in New Jersey.

Special Way, a daughter of Walner-Special Hill, was winless in her first two races, but came home with a :26.2 last quarter in her debut with Sarah Svanstedt in the sulky. Following her two setbacks, she captured her final seven starts of the season, capped by her Crown.

special Way gave Svanstedt the first of his three Breeders Crowns over the weekend. He is the sixth trainer in history to take home at least three trophies in a year and upped his career total to five.

Scott Zeron guided Treacherous Dragon to victory for trainer Nancy Takter in the final for 3-year-old female pacers at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The Captaintreacherous filly, Treacherous Dragon is owned, trained and bred in New Jersey. Trainer Nancy Takter is stabled in East Windsor, NJ, her owner Hot Lead Farm are from Allentown, NJ, and her breeder White Birch Farm are also from Allentown, NJ. Treacherous Dragon is the epitome a New Jersey Crown Jewel.

King Of The North’s 1:50.3 win in the Breeders Crown for 3-year-old male trotters put him not only in the record books — the time established a Canadian and stakes record — but also in elite company.

The colt became the eighth male trotter to be named a Dan Patch Award winner at age 2 and return to win a Breeders Crown at age 3. The list features five Hall of Famers — Baltic Speed, Mack Lobell, Malabar Man, Muscle Hill, and Father Patrick — as well as millionaire Firm Tribute and three-time Crown champ Gimpanzee.

The son of Walner gave Ray Schnittker his fourth Breeders Crown as a trainer and as an owner, and his second as a breeder. He also gave driver Mark MacDonald his fourth trophy. The colt went over the career million-dollar-mark with his triumph, which helped erase a slow start to the season.

These 2022 Crown winners are just a few examples of harness racing’s elite and their connections to New Jersey.
Quick Stop and Oh Well were the winners as the initial season of the New Jersey Classic for New Jersey-sired horses concluded with a pair of $275,000 “A”-level finals at The Meadowlands Friday night (Sept. 16).

During the evening, eight NJC finals were contested for horses of both the “A” and “B” caliber with purses that totaled $1.2 million.

In the division for 2-year-old trotting fillies, Quick Stop, who sat a four-hole trip before shifting to the outside at three-quarters, sprinted home to gun down even-money favorite Secret Volo by a head in a lifetime-best 1:55 for trainer Anette Lorentzon and driver Todd McCarthy. The daughter of Tactical Landing-Falls For You has had a solid season, winning half of her six starts and banking $190,300. Warrawee Yes was third.

“I thought we were too far back,” said Anna Lorentzon, who heads up the barn’s New Jersey operation. “But she always wants to come home. She’s a very honest horse.

“We’ll see how she comes out of this race, but she is staked to everything for the rest of the year. We are very pleased with what she has accomplished so far.”

And the New Jersey Classic?

“This is a great program,” said Lorentzon. “It worked out for us. If they could somehow work out the schedule so it doesn’t collide with the Kentucky Sire Stakes, that would make things easier. You have to pick and choose where you want to go.”

Quick Stop, at 9-1 the longest shot in the five-horse field, returned $21.20 to win.

The Marcus Melander-trained Oh Well took the split for 2-year-old trotting colts and geldings in 1:53.4. On the strength of taking both the NJC and $240,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes finals, the son of Muscle Hill-Fine Tuned Lady showed why racing in the Garden State can be lucrative, as he’s earned $358,130 from just five lifetime starts (three wins).

Driver Tim Tetrick put Oh Well on the point, and after reaching the quarter in :27.4, was able to back the second fraction down to :30, leaving more than enough to record an easy one-length win over Celebrity Bambino and Gates Hanover, who finished in a dead-heat for second.

Melander didn’t necessarily want his colt to race on the lead, but things changed after Purple Lord broke early. “I think he’s a better horse from off the pace. I thought that would be a perfect horse to follow. But he’s very laid back and knows what he’s doing.”

Melander is a fan of the New Jersey Classic.

“It’s an amazing program. It’s good for the horse to race here and I really enjoy it.”

The Meadowlands and the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey announced that the New Jersey Classic Series will return in 2023.

The NJCS was designed to offer the connections of NJ-sired horses another option to race as 2- and 3-year-olds for big purses in the state. Total purses for the 2022 races were more than $2 million and are expected to be similar next year.

Looking ahead to 2023, changes to the format to encourage fuller fields are being discussed. Also in 2023, the NJCS will be adjusted to include horses eligible for the NJ Standardbred Development Fund races along with NJ-sired. Adding the SDF horses will provide a welcome earning opportunity for the foals of mares that are housed within the state of New Jersey, whether sired by a stallion standing in NJ or not. The inclusion of the SDF horses will also provide a larger pool of horses eligible for nomination.

The intention for the 2-year-old NJSS at The Meadowlands next year is to begin those stakes two weeks later to allow Jersey bred colts and fillies additional time to prepare.
Five of the top six money-winning drivers in North America as of mid-November live in New Jersey – Dexter Dunn, Tim Tetrick, Yannick Gingras, David Miller, Todd McCarthy.

Eight of the top 10 money-winning trainers in North America live or have stables in New Jersey – Ron Burke, Tony Alagna, Ake Svanstedt, Marcus Melander, Nancy Takter, Jennifer Bon-T Giorno, Jeff Cullipher, Noel Daley. Five more – Nifty Norman, Chris Ryder, Brett Pelling, Jim Campbell, and Linda Toscano – rank in the top 17.

Two of the sport’s four equine millionaires this year, Pebble Beach and Joviality S, are based in New Jersey. Overall, 20 of the top 30 money-winning horses in North America are stabled here and several others, including purse leader Bulldog Hanover, spent time stabled in the state while racing locally.

Major races won by New Jersey connections include:

Jim Campbell, from Jackson and stabled at Magical Acres, swept both the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks on Aug. 6th at The Meadowlands. Cool Papa Bell took Hambletonian honors for Scott Farber’s Runthetable Stables. A longtime owner, Scott resides in Montvale. Earlier in the card, Fashion Schooner went wire to wire in the filly division for owner and breeder Jules Siegel.

Adios and Little Brown Jug winner, Bythemissal, trained by Ron Burke and owned by Burke Racing, Eric Good, Lombardo Racing and Weaver Bruscemi, was bred and raised by Heritage Hill Farm, a family-run farm established in the early 1960s. Set on over 500 acres in the heart of horse country in central New Jersey, the Dey family is well known and respected in the breeding industry.

Jugette winner, Treacherous Dragon, is a New Jersey trifecta. Trained in New Jersey by Nancy Takter, driven by Dexter Dunn, and owned by Hot Lead Farms, located near Allentown, New Jersey.

The Mohawk Million was won by Oh Well. Trained in New Jersey by Marcus Melander, the son of New Jersey sire Muscle Hill was bred and raised at Concord Stud Farm located in Cream Ridge. Robin and David Meirs III and their family have created a top Standardbred breeding and foaling facility at their 249-acre farm in Cream Ridge with an additional 136 acres near Hightstown.

Seven Breeders Crown champions were trained in New Jersey: Pebble Beach, Treacherous Dragon, Jiggy Jog S, Bella Bellini, Ecurie D, Special Way, and Ammo.

We would like to thank all of the owners, trainers, breeders and drivers who support our racing programs in New Jersey. Your hard work and devotion have paid off and we wish you the best of luck in your racing and breeding endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS OUR HOMETOWN OWNERS, TRAINERS AND BREEDERS

GARDEN STATE TROT
3YO COLT FINAL $42,000
BRAVE BY DESIGN
WALNER - NUVOLA
Driver: Joe Bongiorno
Trainer: Jennifer Bongiorno
Owners: Brave By Design Stable

HOME GROWN PACE
3YO COLT FINAL $40,000
BLOODHOUND
HUNTSVILLE - BETTORONTHEBEACH
Driver: Daniel Dube
Trainer: Mark Silva
Owners: Mark Silva

GARDEN STATE TROT
3YO FILLY FINAL $60,000
PRIMADONNA DEO
TRIXTON - UF LINDSAY LOU WHO
Driver: Austin Siegelman
Trainer: Noel Daley
Owners: Deo Volente Farms LLC, Noel Daley, Geoffrey Dubrowsky

HOME GROWN PACE
3YO FILLY FINAL $35,000
SOUTHWIND JAVA
CAPTAINREACHEROUS - SOUTHWIND JOHANNE
Driver: Austin Siegelman
Trainer: Mark Harder
Owners: Mark Harder, Dean Lockhart, Wayne Carleton, Deena Rachel Frost

SBOANJ SPONSORED RACES
NJSS STANDARDBRED DEVELOPMENT FUND FINALS

SHAKERTOWN
AMERICAN IDEAL - SHAKE THAT JUNK
MILE TIME: 1:52.0
Driver: Jason Bartlett
Trainer: Tony Alagna
Owners: Crawford Farms Racing, Alan Johnston
3YO COLT PACE FINAL $70,000

HL MAMMOTH
MUSCLE HILL - ASPEN CALIFORNIA
MILE TIME: 1:58.4
Driver: Austin Siegelman
Trainer: Jennifer Bongiorno
Owners: Bukers Stable
3YO COLT TROT FINAL $70,000

SOUTHWIND JAVA
CAPTAINTREACHEROUS - SOUTHWIND JOHANNE
MILE TIME: 1:53.3
Driver: Austin Siegelman
Trainer: Mark Harder
Owners: Mark Harder, Dean Lockhart, Wayne Carleton, Deena Rachel Frost
3YO FILLY PACE FINAL $56,000

PRIMADONNA DEO
TRIXTON - UF LINDSAY LOU WHO
MILE TIME: 1:56.1
Driver: Andrew McCarthy
Trainer: Noel Daley
Owners: Deo Volente Farms LLC, Noel Daley, Geoffrey Dubrowsky
3YO FILLY TROT FINAL $70,000

GALLIE GETAWAY
SWEET LOU - GALLIE BEACH
MILE TIME: 1:56.4
Driver: Jack Pelling
Trainer: Ron Burke
Owners: Thomas R Dillon, Scott Dillon
2YO COLT PACE FINAL $70,000

SOUTHWIND ADMIRAL
TACTICAL LANDING - AMBER ELLA
MILE TIME: 1:57.1
Driver: Daniel Dube
Trainer: Ron Coyne Jr
Owners: Ron Coyne Stables, Blair Corbeil, Richard Carney, Farrell Carney
2YO COLT TROT FINAL $70,000

EARTHWHINDFIRE
AMERICAN IDEAL - ROAD BET
MILE TIME: 1:53.4
Driver: Jack Pelling
Trainer: Brett Pelling
Owners: Melvin Segal, Kentuckiana Racing Stable, Tulip Racing
2YO FILLY PACE FINAL $70,000

POINT REYES
E L TITAN - SAUSALITO
MILE TIME: 2:01.0
Driver: Tyler Buter
Trainer: Todd Buter
Owners: Tom Vassiliou, Nicholas Tallarico
2YO FILLY TROT FINAL $70,000
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. Fell free to call Chris @ 732-740-5376 for further information.

2022 CLINIC DATES

Monday, December 5

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

USTA PRESIDENT
RUSSELL WILLIAMS’
HISA VIDEO SERIES
THIRD EPISODE

In the third episode of USTA President Russell Williams’ three-part videos series on why Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) law is bad for harness racing, he explains the dangers of additional costs that will drive owners, trainers and tracks out of business.

With no federal funding, the unknown and exorbitant costs of HISA for medication testing, investigations and legal expenses can all be charged in fees to harness racing participants and threatens to change racing into “a rich man’s hobby.”

In the first video, Williams explained that HISA is unconstitutional and discussed why the alternative Racehorse Health and Safety Act (RHSA), which is draft legislation created with the input of practicing veterinarians, horsemen, regulators and the USTA, should replace it.

You can view all three videos below at sboanj.com.

Episode one of the video series, “USTA President Russell Williams Explains the Horseracing Integrity & Safety Act and Why it is Unconstitutional,”

Episode two, USTA President Russell Williams asks about HISA “Which One Deserves the Public Trust: Veterinary Science or Optics?”

Episode three, “USTA President Russell Williams: A Small Group of Rich Men Want Racing to Go Back to Being a Rich Man’s Hobby.”

TrotPAC trustees continue to attend many political leaders’ fund-raisers 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: Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, Senator Linda Greenstein, Senator Gordon Johnson, Alex Sauickie for Assembly and Raj Mukherji for Senate.
I want to say thank you and congratulations to everyone who helped make this another great year for New Jersey. There is no doubt that the hard work put in by the SBOANJ Board and our membership, in conjunction with our state leaders and racetracks, is paying dividends and maintaining New Jersey’s stature within the global world of harness racing.

Many of the sport’s biggest stars, both equine and human, call New Jersey home. Not only that, but our own New Jersey Sire Stakes standouts have also held their own, and more, in some of North America’s biggest races.

Consider that 3-year-old trotting filly champion Fashion Schooner won the Hambletonian Oaks, and 3-year-old trotting filly runner-up Jiggy Jog S won the Kentucky Filly Futurity and a Breeders Crown. Oh Well, the 2-year-old trotting colt champ, won the Mohawk Million. And that only scratches the surface. Consider, too, that the three richest 2-year-old trotters this year – Oh Well, Special Way, and Walner Payton – were sired by either Walner or Muscle Hill, as were six of the 10 top-earning 3-year-old trotters.

The success of New Jersey’s stallions, breeders, and state programs was reflected by the demand for our horses at the fall’s yearling sales. More than $18.1 million was spent on New Jersey-eligible yearlings at Lexington. Not only that, but buyers from the Garden State spent $19 million at Lexington as they reinvested in the state’s racing future.

Our organization and TrotPAC had a very active year in promoting our industry to state lawmakers, as well as educating them about the impact and importance of our business. We hosted Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin at Gaitway Farm in May, welcomed Assembly members John DiMaio, Kevin J. Rooney, Ralph R. Caputo, Kim Eulner, and Marilyn Piperno to the Meadowlands for the Hambletonian in August, and most recently hosted a reception for Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari in October.

These events were well received by the lawmakers in attendance and of utmost value as we work to develop new revenue streams for purse appropriations in the state budget for 2023-24. Please consider a donation to TrotPAC, our political organization which represents our interests in Trenton.

As most of us are aware the appropriations we received from the State of New Jersey ends in 2023. It is very important that we do everything we can to try and renew the appropriations for another 5 years. In order to do so we must work together to prove to the legislature that the money received was beneficial to all aspects of our industry. That being said the SBOANJ is working on an Economic Impact Study to present to legislators for the continuation of the appropriation. 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 important information.

The continuation of the state appropriation is essential to our industry’s success!

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