Linda Toscano, Jimmy Takter,
Tony Alagna and Steve Elliott –
what do these four trainers
have in common?

All have called and booked a mare to
SO SURREAL!





Chester Team Says Little About Track, But Gets Their Racing Dates Reinstated

By Bill Finley

HARRISBURG, Pa-Barry Brown, the head of the racing operation at Harrah's Philadelphia, didn't tell the



Barry Brown: "No comment."

Pennsylvania Harness Commission much about the track's plans to deal with its controversial racing surface, but he said enough to get the 2014 racing dates reinstated.

In late January, the commission had suspended the Harrah's 2014 racing dates because management had not come forward with any information about what, if anything, it planned to do about a racing surface that many drivers had complained was unsafe. The situation took on a far more serious note after driver Anthony Coletta was critically injured in a Nov. 17 spill that occurred in an area some

drivers have said is particularly dangerous.

Meeting before the commission yesterday, Brown never specifically said that management would take any action which would involve fixing the racetrack, only that experts were being brought in to examine it. He was not subjected to any follow-up questions from any of the commission members. When asked to clarify the situation afterward by Harness Racing Update Brown refused to comment.

Brown did say that the meet would not start on time, but was careful to blame the delay on the surface being frozen and made no mention of the delay being the result of possible repairs to the track. He said the meet would be delayed by "one, maybe two weeks at the most." Brown said he would submit a revised racing schedule to the commission on Friday.

The track was originally scheduled to open March 14. Once again, the commission did not pin Brown down on whether or not the delay might involve the weather as well as the issue of the racing surface.

Brown said that the track has hired a surveying firm and a racetrack consultant Ted Malloy. Malloy does have experience in the harness industry, but is primarily known for his expertise with thoroughbred tracks. Brown also made a point of informing the commission that the track had modified the height of the pylons.

"Following the survey we will have an assessment of our racetrack," Brown said.

Friends of Coletta and at least one of his lawyers were present at the meeting, but Coletta's name was never mentioned.

Though there remained many unanswered questions following the commission meeting, George Crawford, the executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Harness Commission, said that Harrah's had done what was expected of them.

"The order as represented by the racing commission dealt with Harrah's Philadelphia not keeping the racing commission informed of the situation," Crawford said. "That's why the report given by Harrah's today was given. After hearing that the commission then responded by lifting that order because Harrah's has come into compliance with the order."

It remains to be seen what Harrah's will do next or if it will do anything along the lines of fixing the track. When asked what the commission might do if Harrah's, after its experts assess the situation, come to the conclusion the track does not need to be repaired, Crawford said: "There would always be that opportunity or that possibility (that the matter could be revisited) but without some substantiating facts presented to the racing commission it would be very difficult to make that assumption or to make that jump as we stand here today".

The Coletta lawsuit looms over the matter and Harrah's



Philadelphia's case might be look stronger if its experts conclude that the track is fine and does not need to be fixed.

Coletta's law firm issued a statement yesterday, which read: "On behalf of our client, Anthony Colettta and his family, we continue to closely monitor all proceedings, including today's Hearing, related to the Harrah's Race Track ended up his 3-year-old year. If so, that would be while we prepare for the filing of a civil action that will seek to hold accountable those responsible for Mr. Coletta's catastrophic injuries."



Archangel is Back, Burke Will Train

Unraced since the 2012 Breeders Crown eliminations, Archangel, now 5, is back in training and will resume his



Archangel is back, and Burke has him out Arrigenna and (Dean Hoffman photo)

racing career for new trainer Ron Burke.

The son of Credit Winner had been trained by Pete Arrigenna, who was also a co-owner. The other owners in the partnership, Clare Semer and Alan Hainsworth, bought transferred the horse to Burke.

Archangel won 14 of 31 career starts and earned \$906,579, much of it coming in his win in the Yonkers Trot. He stood at stud at Blue Chip Farms in New York.

He was retired at the time due to a respiratory ailment. Ordinarily, the offspring of horses retired after their 3-year-old season would not be eligible to race at some tracks, including the ones owned by Jeff Gural, but Archangel was given a waiver due to the problem.

He was bred to 42 mares in 2013, which, at a \$4,000 stud fee, does not add up to a lot of money. Semer and Hainsworth decided there was the potential for more money to be made racing than breeding.

"There are just so many stallions out there and the second year for a stallion can be a down year anyway," Semer said. "He held his own the first year, but we have chosen to try him back racing."

Semer said that with the time off Archangel has recovered from his breathing problems.

"He had a full year to get over what had been troubling him," she said. "He's staked to everything and he's in training with Ron Burke. I am looking forward to a good year."

Semer said she had little luck on the racetrack in 2013 and hopes that will change with Archangel's return.

"I had a dry year in the racing industry, especially when compared to the previous years with Archangel," she said. "I can only hope that he's half as good as he was when he wonderful. Any time we race him it is a special event for both me and my family and I know Alan feels the same wav."

Fifty Eight Nominated to Meadowlands Pace

A year after only 30 horses were nominated to the



Meadowlands Pace the race enioved a nice rebound this year with 58 nominations. The list includes 2-year-old champion He's Watching, Breeders Crown winner Luck Be Withyou and Arthur Blue Chip, the top money-earning 2-

year-old pacing male of 2013.

The nominations for the John Cashman Memorial on July 26 also came up strong. Forty four were nominated for the race, including female superstars Bee A Magician and Maven. However, trainer Nifty Norman has said that Bee A Magician may take on males beforehand in the July 5 Hambletonian Maturity.

The Cashman could bring together not only Maven and Bee A Magician, but fellow nominees and Dan Patch winners Market Share, Wheeling and Dealin and Royalty For Life, as well as Spider Blue Chip, Creatine, Intimidate and Swedish Horse of the Year Sebastian K.



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Valley Victory-Maiden Yankee by Speedy Crown Fee \$10,000

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PERRETTI FARMS

Vegas Vacation's 4-Year-Old Campaign Won't Begin Until Summer

Little Brown Jug winner Vegas Vacation will be brought back slowly this year with his first major target being the Aug. 23 Canadian Pacing Derby at Mohawk. He was not



Vegas Vacation is aiming for the Canadian Pacing Derby

nominated to the TVG
Series at the
Meadowlands, which
begins May 10 and
concludes with a \$500,000
race Nov. 29.

Owner Adriano Sorello said that the gelding is not suffering from any major problems but he and trainer Casie Coleman thought it would be wise to

give him plenty of time off after a taxing 2013.

"We're going to come back slow with him," Sorella said.
"He had a really hard year last year and he had a lot of big races. It's no secret that we scratched him out of the Progress Pace at the end of the year. His previous race, the Matorn, was hard on him even though he won it. We figured he is a gelding, so you can take your time coming back and the result, hopefully, will be that you get another Foiled Again."

Sorella said that Vegas Vacation is in Florida and is in light training.

"He's training back, is jogging," he said. "He's been there a long time and he looks good. The game plan is to come back in mid-summer, maybe find something for him at home at Mohawk and then his first major race will be the Canadian Pacing Derby.

"Casie always wants her horses to be in top shape and I told her, he is one of the best horses we'll ever have so let's give him whatever he needs. As much as I want to race him in everything, we had a choice to make. Do we come back in early races or give him more time off and come back at his very best?"

Sorella said other races on his tentative schedule include the Breeders Crown, the American National and the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby.

Cam's Card Shark Is Retired from Stallion Duty

After joint consultation Jim Simpson, President of Hanover



Cam's Card Shark

Shoe Farms and majority owner Jeff Snyder have decided to retire Cam's Card Shark from active stallion duty at Hanover.

"The horse has been good to everybody associated with him from the day he was foaled" Simpson said. "He has now reached the stage in life where it is both difficult and dangerous for him and those around

him to mount the phantom mare or even to be collected using a live mare".

Cam's Card Shark is a foal of 1991.

As a two year old he was lightly campaigned under the guidance of trainer Micky McGivern. His wins at two included the Lou Babic Memorial and two New Jersey Sires Stakes.

At 3, he was transferred to the Bill Robinson Stable. He was voted "Horse of the Year 1994". In addition he garnered both O'Brien and Nova awards for Horse of the Year. His wins at three include the \$1,000,000 Meadowlands Pace, the Art Rooney Memorial, the Adios, the Messenger, the New Jersey Classic and the Miller Memorial.

He was syndicated at the end of 1994 and retired with two and three year old earnings of \$2,498,204.. He entered the stallion ranks at Hanover's New Jersey Farm in 1995.

His stallion accomplishments are many and varied He has sired ten millionaires including five who have earned in excess of two million dollars.

He is credited with three Little Brown Jug winners and two winners of The Meadowlands Pace. His most renowned performers have been Shark Gesture, Bettor's Delight, Four Starzzz Shark, Royalflush Hanover, Holborn Hanover, Roll With Joe, Village Jolt and Million Dollar Cam.

Of special note is that his son Bettor's Delight is the fifth great stallion from a paternal line that follows from Meadow Skipper, through Most Happy Fella, to Cam Fella, to Cams Card Shark and now Bettors Delight. This is a feat unprecedented in both Standardbred and Thoroughbred breeding. Its quite possible that the line will be extended through his grandson Betterthancheddar.



Snyder said that Cams Card Shark will live out his remaining days "which I hope will be many" at Hanover Shoe Farms.

Jerry Silva (Who Else?) Buys Into National Debt

The man who seems to own part of every good horse there has ever been has bought a 33 percent share in National Debt. The story was first reported by harnesslink.com. Ron Coyne Jr. will continue to train the 3-year-old who started his career in Alberta.

National Debt served notice that he may be able to compete at the highest levels when he won won a division of the \$150,000 Gilmour Pacing Series at the Meadowlands last week.

Plainridge Gets Slots License

In decision that likely saved harness racing at Plainridge, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission voted yesterday to



award the state's one slots license to the harness track. Plainridge was not a candidate for a full-fledged casino.

The vote was 3-2 and Plainridge beat out the Maryland-based Cordish Company and the owners of the former Raynham dog track. Plainridge is now owned by Penn

National Gaming.

Penn National plans to install 1,250 slot machines, with that operation to start some time in 2015.

"I think it's great," local horsemen John Coffey told the Lowell Sun Chronicle. "This is an industry that's been around for a long time and needed a shot in the arm."

Commissioner Gayle Cameron said her decision to vote for Plainridge had a lot to do with keeping harness racing afloat in the state.

"I value the ability to have racing continue in a full-time capacity," she told he Boston Herald.

Plainridge will have plenty of competition for the gambling dollar as it is located just 12 miles from the Twin River Casino in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

Golden Receiver Now Helps "Hairy Angels"

(from the Meadowlands publicity department)

East Rutherford, NJ - Golden Receiver is a gift that keeps on giving, and the pacer's charitable contributions now include the Hairy Angel Foundation.

"The Golden One" has brought life-changing fortune to his breeder and co-owner Nina Simmonds, and she continues to give back and pass on the good karma she's been blessed with through her charity work.

Golden Receiver is a nine-year-old pacer by Village Jove, who is one of those rare birds that has simply gotten better later in life, and has risen to be a star and fan favorite at the top level of harness racing for the past few years.

In 2013, he made it back-to-back Presidential Series sweeps at the Meadowlands, won the Allerage Farms Final at The Red Mile and finished second by a nose in the TVG FFA Final at the Big M.

With Corey Callahan driving for trainer Mark Harder, Golden Receiver won his 2014 debut at the New

Meadowlands on February 22, his 26th tally in 62 starts at the Big M. He now has 59 wins in 147 career starts and has earned \$2,107,636 for Simmonds of Binghamton, NY,



Golden Receiver has been a blessing for co-owner and breeder Nina Simmonds

and Our Horse Cents Stable of Clifton Park, NY.

Golden Receiver will go for career win number 60 from post six [program number five] in Saturday's \$30,000 feature, carded as race two on a 13-race program. Simmonds' Cinderella

Simmonds' Cinderella story began back in the

early eighties when she decided to quit her job and pursued her dream of working with horses. Simmonds and her late husband purchased Windy Hill Farms, a 60-acre property in Binghampton, NY.

After 25 years, Simmonds' operation fell on hard times, and she was ready to sell the farm, as well as Golden Receiver for a few thousand dollars.

Fortunately, Golden Receiver got good, real good. Simmonds sold a share of the horse, sent him to trainer Mark Harder, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Not only did Golden Receiver pay off the bills and save the ranch, the pacer has also afforded Simmonds the opportunity to use his earnings to fund several charitable organizations. To top it off, it was eventually discovered the farm was sitting on the Marcella Shale natural gas source.

Simmonds continues to support Equitarian Initiative, a



group that unites veterinarians, blacksmiths and animal caregivers who go on missions in Costa Rica and Mexico.

Simmonds has also assisted New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, which retrains racehorses and gives them a new life.

Her latest venture is getting involved with the Hairy Angel Foundation, a charity based in Sedona, Arizona and Dallas, Texas that provides Service Golden Retrievers to special needs children. The dog raising and training is done by volunteers and professionals before they provide an assistance to and a magical bond with the autistic and challenged.

Their website is www.hairyangelfoundation.org.

"This year I was looking for some sort of little guy charity, and I've known the director, Fran Elliott since the early eighties," said Simmonds. "We met in New Jersey and she's been my best friend. She fell in love with my dog, a Golden Retriever, and saw the potential. The breed loves children. Fran moved out to Sedona and started breeding and raising them for autistic children. She's been in business for 18 years and placed over 100 dogs all over the country. We're trying to fill the backlog of requests.

"They'll take the puppies when they're eight weeks old, and train them to become service dogs in public places," she continued. "It's just a miracle when you see these kids who have never smiled or spoken get one of these dogs. Then, they're suddenly smiling and chattering. It changes their lives. Their parents can't believe the transformation made by this animal that is totally devoted to them. I went along when we placed a dog last week, and it was such a moving experience. We introduced the puppy to this boy, and his mother has called everyday in tears thanking us."

Simmonds admits to being a nervous wreck whenever Golden Receiver is in training.

"All his races are the same to me," she noted. "It doesn't matter what the purse is. I want him to look good, and of course, I want him to win. I'm just so proud he's still out there plugging away at his age.

"Last season, he actually wasn't as good as he could've been because he had a serious hoof abscess or infection. That plagued him through the whole middle of the year. They packed it and tried every kind of shoe. Those things just don't heal overnight. But it's done and it's gone. I'm just hoping for another good year.

"He's always had a big knee and he can't go on a half mile track. I'm glad the Meadowlands has a bank on the turns so he can clear that knee. He does wear these big felt boots and the tough guy just keeps on going. He has zip in vet bills. He's so happy because he's with the same trainer, Mark Harder and groom, Billy Mandrell. He knows exactly what's expected of him.

"We keep forgetting he's not just a nine-year-old that's racing. He's facing the best horses in the world. He's just a dream. Nobody expected this from some backyard bred by some girl who raced cheap claimers.

"I bred both of Golden Receiver's sisters to Rocknroll Heaven last year, and they've got two gorgeous foals I'm going to sell at Harrisburg next Fall.

"One day I was jogging a horse on my farm track, looked around and saw my Golden Retriever. I thought his name had to be Golden something because the dam is Royal Gold, so I came up with Golden Receiver. It's just amazing he turned out to be the best one she had."

Bozich Gets Chester Announcing Gig

Mike Bozich has been hired as the new announcer at Chester. The job opened up when James Witherite left to call the races at Tioga Downs. Bozich is best known as the announcer at Hazel Park, which is in the process of being converted to a thoroughbred track.

Purse Track Race \$33,000 Yonkers 8th. Open pps Meadowlands 2nd, B-1 to FFA \$30,000 pps Meadowlands 6th, A-2 to FFA \$30,000 pps

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By Brett Sturman

Race 7. B-2 Trot

BAMBINO GLIDE was trotted up a storm last week through the stretch in what was just his first start back since November. That try came despite starting from the far outside post and he should be able to dispatch of these tonight; could be in for a big four-year-old season. FIRSTCLASSPRINCESS has been overbet in all her recent starts and isn't the same mare she was a couple years ago. SUGAR QUEEN GABBY had no shot last out and now makes her third start back; I'd be surprised if she isn't heard from coming the rail. BANKER VOLO was improved last out on the change to Callahan but still couldn't track down Burke's Whata Donato; JIMMER continues his ascension up the ladder.

Race 8, F&M B-2 Pace

BAD GIRL VEGAS shows some good Canadian form and now ships down here while landing in the sharp Doug Lewis barn. Any number of those recent Woodbine miles look like they would be good enough even without any improvement which I think we can expect; Callahan likely to take early shot. HANDSOFFMYCUPCAKE is always around but hasn't been able to finish it off; I'd have no problem taking a stand against on top. DREAM's BAR picks up Tetrick as Miller stays loyal to Harris and this one has been overachieving the last couple months; shouldn't be easily dismissed. SPIRIT OF DESIRE was one that I liked last out but now loses CC to the top choice; ART

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IDEAL was facing slightly tougher B-1 competition when last seen here for YG and Burke.

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Race 9. F&M C-1 Pace

In a field where your guess is as good as mine, MYSTICAL DIVA moves almost all the way inside and gets a big driver change; that could be all you need to know. WILLOW GRAM has been knocking on the doorstep in all recent tries over this track and the fact she left from post 9 last week as a big longshot is encouraging; co-owned by Miller and Surick. LIGHTNING PAIGE could be circling back into her better form after she just missed last week; makes her second start at this reduced C level and should threaten as a short priced contender. PARDON was Tetrick's pick of a few but is already 0 for 4 at this level. SHOOTOUTTHELIGHTS just missed last out although this looks a bit tougher. SHAWNEE DANCER would have a shot if her earlier winter form resurfaces.

Race 10, C-2 Trot

HELIOS is far from one of my favorite horses at the track but it's very hard to think that if he trots the mile, he doesn't beat these for fun. After being well backed against better in all his recent tries, this one finds his way back to the bottom where he's generally been all or nothing. LINDY MCDREAMY lands the rail in this full twelve horse field and wasn't a bad second last week to Buffalino Hanover; in line for a good trip with Miller. FUNNY PHOTO goes second start off the claim for Duspiva; his best would likely give him a shot. HEIDI FALLS had some trot at both ends of her mile last week and is Tetrick's pick over a bunch.

\$24 ticket (\$1 base): 1-7-9 / 3-10 / 2-3-5-8 / 11 \$48 ticket (\$1 base): 1-9 / 3-4-8-10 / 2-3-5 / 6-11



Thursday's Results

10, **DD**, **\$27,500**, **P**, DELAWARE Special Handicap Post Positions 1 thru 6 Drawn Post Positions 7 & 8 Drawn, 28.0, 56.1, 1:24.2, 1:52.1, FT

Artists Rally (g, 8, Real Artist--Spunky Gal, by The Panderosa), \$55,000 2007 SHS-HBG O-Edwin F Gannon Jr. B-Arlene L & Jules J Siegel. T-Edwin Gannon Jr. D-Trace Tetrick, \$13,750, Lifetime Record: 163-26-23-17, \$439.678

To view replay click here



Thursday's Results

2, **M**, \$15,000, Trot. Charles Singer Memorial. 28.1 56.0 (27.4) 1:24.3 (28.3) 1:53.2 (28.4) FT

Perfect Alliance ((4, M Credit Winner - Yalta Hanover - Andover Hall) O-Little E LLC - Jason Settlemoir, David Stolz, Arthur Geiger. B-Deo Volente Farmc LCC. T-Julie Miller. D-Andy Miller, \$7,500. Lifetime Record: 22-6-3-1, \$100,901. To view replay click here

3, M. \$15,000, Trot. Charles Singer Memorial. 28.1 55.4 (27.3) 1:24.1 (28.2) 1:54.1 (30.0) FT

Time To Quit (4, G Chocolatier - Lovable Truth - Conway Hall) O-Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Bruscemi LLC - Phillip Collura. B-Al Libfeld, T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras, \$7,500. Lifetime Record: 20-9-1-2, \$69,580. To view replay click here



Wednesday's Results

9, Mea, \$20,000, T, *F&M W/O \$10,000/PREFERRED HANDICAP* P.P.1-4 DRAWN; 5-7 DRAWN; 8 ASSIGNED, 27.4, 58.0, 1:25.4, 1:55.2, FT

Daylon Miracle (m, 5, Pegasus Spur--Daylon Marvel, by Super Pleasure) O-William T Bercury. B-David O Lemon, CA. T-William Bercury. D-Aaron Merriman, \$10,000, Lifetime Record: 49-15-7-8, \$276,503

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Check out our archive at www.harnessracingupdate.com