

LACK OF UNITY LEADS TO BATTERED PURSES AT FREEHOLD

It should come as no surprise that Freehold will be dropping purses to an average of \$36,000 per day in 2009.

"It did not take psychic abilities to see this coming," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "We told the membership in the fall that if Freehold did not accept the casinos' Purse Enhancement Agreement, there would be a day of reckoning.

"Freehold has overpaid purses by nearly \$900,000 this year to achieve a \$52,000 a day average in purses," Luchento noted. "It was why we wanted the support of our membership to pressure Freehold to take the casino funds which would have been \$1.6 million for the final months of 2008 and January 2009 plus another \$2.6 million in 2009.

"Most horsemen 'got it' but there were a select few who were outspoken with a minority position," Luchento said, referring to the November 11 meeting at Freehold Raceway.

"Without the support of the Freehold horsemen, we did not have the tools to continue the battle," Luchento continued. "We need to be empowered by our members to help them. The ones who have the least to lose seemed to have the most to say, which is a shame."

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey is the representative body established to speak for the owners, trainers, drivers, breeders and caretakers in the state. But like any representative body, the strength of the group is based on the support of its members.

"We felt that we needed to pressure Freehold to accept the funds to protect the interests of the Freehold-based horsemen," Luchento said. "But when we did not feel 100 percent supported by a splintering of horsemen's opinions, we took those signals and ceased our most aggressive efforts and left it to Freehold's management to resolve the issues. As we can see, the outcome has been that the ownership of Freehold still will not sign the Purse Enhancement Agreement and the purses at Freehold will be slashed accordingly.

"We take no pleasure in being right," he noted. "The critics, far from offering solutions, merely fired blanks. But they got the attention of some people and caused dissention.

"We want to remind the membership of the SBOANJ that your representatives on the Board of Directors are not your adversaries," Luchento added. "We are the friend of horsemen; we are horsemen. We fight every day for you. We protect your health insurance and pension program. We represent you in Trenton. We spoke to your concerns to save stabling at the Meadowlands. We are always 100 percent for the horsemen and their issues. But, in turn, we need your total support for what we recommend."

DEWEYCHEATUMNHOWE NAMED NJ HORSE OF THE YEAR

Deweycheatumnhowe, the trotting powerhouse who won the Hambletonian and all but three of his 25 career starts, has been named New Jersey Standardbred of the Year for 2008.

Dewey, as he is known, will be honored at the 52nd New Jersey Equine Breeders Awards dinner on January 25, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Freehold, NJ.

The three-year-old trotting colt, sired in New Jersey by Muscles Yankee, completed his career with earnings of \$3,155,178 of which \$2,218,987 was banked in 2008.

The unbeaten divisional champion at two, Deweycheatumnhowe's 2008 campaign was equally dazzling, earning him another Dan Patch Award as Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer of the Year.

Dewey thrived in the care of trainer-driver Ray Schnittker and enjoyed a conditioning schedule that included swimming in a pond and exercise under saddle.

Deweycheatumnhowe, named for the shady lawyers in a comedy skit made popular by the late Johnny Carson,

raced in the name of Schnittker, Ted Gewertz of New York, NY; Charles Iannazzo of Tappan, NY and the Deweycheatumnhowe Stable of Lexington, KY.



Schnittker often exercised Dewey under saddle.

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

THE FREE RIDE – OR STALL – IS OVER

The era of free stabling has come to an end in New Jersey.

Effective with the first of the year, the Meadowlands is charging stall rent of \$125 a month.

It's a reflection of the new reality in racing. Many of the area tracks built in recent years have no stabling or closed stable areas, including Freehold, Yonkers, Harrah's at Chester.

At the Meadowlands, the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority's position was to follow this trend and shutdown the stable area. A fee-based stabling option is the lesser of two evils.

In making the announcement in mid-December, the Meadowlands initially was going to charge \$250 a month and cited the "escalating costs in maintaining the barn area."

The contract the SBOANJ negotiated includes a provision, providing credit for starting horses at the Meadowlands. The original announcement would provide for a rebate of \$50 per start per month.

After some discussion, the Meadowlands agreed to the reduced flat fee without the bookkeeping issues of tracking refunds.

At \$125 a month, the fee is less than what is charged at the area training centers, there are no additional costs for manure removal, dorm space is available and there is the savings of shipping charges.

Of course, it is disappointing to see the end to free stabling at the Meadowlands after more than 32 years. But it should not have come as a surprise given financial realities of racing in the state.

These are challenging economic times in and out of rac-

ing, and we can only hope that there will be better days to come.

DO THE RIGHT THING

In many ways, there has never been so much purse money available in the region. But there are still plenty of stables who are struggling to make ends meet.

Owners whose incomes have been slashed by business and stock market reversals may be looking to downsize or liquidate stables.

Make sure you do the right thing by your horses as far as proper care. And when you need to find new homes for them, sell them through proper channels, not to the killers. Or provide for retirement through the many organizations engaged in these good works. Support these groups, such as the Standardbred Retirement Foundation, so that there will always be a place for our horses when their racing days are over.

Care of the horses should always be our highest priority.

TURNING THE PAGE

As we turn the page on the calendar to the year 2009, let us do so with high hopes for not only our personal well beings but also for the health of our industry. The SBOANJ continues to work hard toward achieving the best possible conditions and financial future for the all the breeders, drivers, trainers, owners and caretakers who support New Jersey racing.

*Wishing all our members and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.*

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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MEADOWLANDS UNVEILS 2009 STAKES SCHEDULE

The \$1.5 million Hambletonian on August 8 and \$1 million Meadowlands Pace on July 18 headline nearly \$19.5 million in stakes races scheduled for the 2009 harness meet at the Meadowlands.

The 151-date season kicks off January 1 and runs through August 21, 2009.

The sport's premier events for three-year-old trotters, the Hambletonian and \$750,000 Hambletonian Oaks for fillies, will be contested Saturday, August 8. Sophomore trotting colts also have the \$350,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial on July 17, while the fillies have the \$300,000 Del Miller Memorial on July 17.

In addition to the track's signature event, the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace on July 18, three-year-old pacing colts are showcased in the \$225,000 Berry's Creek on May 9, \$500,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic on June 13 and \$250,000 Oliver Wendell Holmes on August 8.

The top older trotters and pacers have plenty of rich stakes opportunities before them, most notably the \$1.7 million Breeders Crown Championships on closing night, August 21. The Classic Series also makes a stop at the Meadowlands on May 1 and 2. The season for veteran trotters includes the Su Mac Lad Series, which begins March 20, followed by the \$200,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial on May 16, \$200,000 Titan Cup on July 4 and \$300,000 Nat Ray Invitational on August 8.

The stakes season for older pacers begins with the three-week Presidential Series on January 10 and continues with the \$250,000 Graduate on May 16, \$600,000 William R. Haughton Memorial on July 11 and \$325,000 US Pacing Championship on August 8.

Pacing mares have a variety of Winter Series engagements on their dance cards, as well as the \$50,000 Thomas Strada Memorial on April 11, \$100,000 Matriarch on May 10, \$225,000 Lady Liberty on June 27 and \$200,000 Golden Girls on August 1.

In addition to the Breeders Crown and Classic Series, their trotting counterparts have the \$100,000 Perretti Matchmaker on June 21 and first leg of the Miss Versatility on May 10

The premier events for three-year-old pacing fillies are the \$375,000 Mistletoe Shalee on August 8, \$200,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey on June 13, \$150,000 Tarport Hap on July 25, and \$68,000 Historic Ladyship on July 3.

Two-year-olds take center stage in a quartet of stakes during the last two weeks of the meet. The \$475,000 Peter Haughton Memorial and \$475,000 Merrie Annabelle for trotters will be contested on the Hambletonian Day card on August 8. The \$400,000 Sweetheart and \$350,000 Woodrow Wilson for pacers will move to closing night, August 21. The top of New Jersey's freshman class will compete in a quartet of \$200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Championships on a single night, Thursday, July 23. Rounding out the stakes schedule for two-year-olds are the Historic Series, the week of July 1, and the Countess Adios and Niatross, on August 6 and 7, respectively.

NJSS CHANGES STAKES NAME

In order to more clearly identify its top-flight of stakes races, the New Jersey Sire Stakes has named the Pari-Mutuel program at the Meadowlands and Freehold Raceway as the Premier Division.

"The new name will clearly differentiate between the top-level Pari-Mutuel Division and the Green Acres Division, both of which have been raced at pari-mutuel tracks," explained Chris Castens, executive director of the New Jersey Sire Stakes.

"Ever since the Sire Stakes Fair Division was replaced by the Green Acres Division, there has been some confusion," he added, noting that the Fair Division previously consisted of non-wagering races at New Jersey training track farms and county fair sites.

In another change, the New Jersey Sire Stakes has revised its 2009 schedule so that there will be two preliminary legs in all eight categories at both the Meadowlands and Freehold. In the past, there were three preliminary legs at Freehold for all categories and only for three-year-olds at the Meadowlands.

"We expect that in 2009 purses will be higher for all the preliminary legs, and the Sire Stakes finals will each be \$200,000 at the Meadowlands and \$100,000 at Freehold," Castens said, noting that the top New Jersey-sired two-year-olds and three-year-olds will be competing for at least \$2.4 million in the 2009 Sire Stakes finals alone.

MEADOWLANDS SERIES DRAW RECORD NOMS

Stakes racing at the Meadowlands for 2009 begins on January 7 with the opening leg of the Super Bowl Series, one of the popular Winter Series events.

Nominations to 12 Meadowlands series are significantly higher in 2009.

The three-week Four Leaf Clover Series for older pacers, which culminates in a \$95,000 final on March 21, drew a 91 percent increase in nominees, 42 in 2009 vs. 22 in 2008.

A total of 78 horses were nominated to the 2009 Berry's Creek, marking an 86 percent increase over the 42 in 2008. The \$225,000 Berry's Creek Final will be contested Saturday, May 9.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Est. Purse</u>	<u>Upcoming Finals</u>
1/22/09	Thurs	\$70,000	Super Bowl
1/22/09	Thurs	\$50,000	White Ruffles
1/24/09	Sat	\$80,000	Clyde Hirt
1/24/09	Sat	\$75,000	The Complex
1/24/09	Sat	\$125,000	Presidential
2/16/09	Mon	\$75,000	Art Unger Stake
2/20/09	Fri	\$75,000	Cape And Cutter
2/20/09	Fri	\$60,000	Tender Loving Care
2/21/09	Sat	\$75,000	Aquarius
2/21/09	Sat	\$75,000	Exit 16W
2/21/09	Sat	\$80,000	Junior Trendsetter

NJSS TRUSTEES HONOR DIAL OR NODIAL

Dial Or Nodial will be honored as New Jersey Sire Stakes Horse of the Year for 2008 at the 52nd Annual New Jersey-Bred Equine Breeder Awards Dinner on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel in Freehold, NJ.

Dial Or Nodial was the overall winner as well as the divisional champion for two-year-old colt pacers. He won both of the New Jersey Sire Stakes Finals, the \$175,000 event at the Meadowlands and the \$85,000 at the Freehold Raceway among his eight wins in 12 starts. His 1:53.4 clocking on September 20 at Freehold was good enough to be co-season's record holder for a two-year-old trotting colt on a half-mile track.



Dial Or Nodial, Brian Sears driving

The son of Western Ideal is trained by Jim Campbell for the owners and breeders, Arlene and Jules Siegel of New Hope, PA. Of his \$505,124 in earnings, \$166,750 came in New Jersey Sire Stakes action. In other stakes action, he won a pair of stakes at Lexington's Red Mile – the Bluegrass and International Stallion Stakes – as well as an elimination of the Governor's Cup at Woodbine.

The Horse of the Year and divisional honors are voted annually by the New Jersey Sire Stakes Board of Trustees and based only on performances in races for New Jersey-sired horses, including New Jersey Sire Stakes.

Muscle Hill, a son of Muscles Yankee who was selected for national honors in his division, was voted the NJSS Two-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year.

In addition to winning the \$700,000 Breeders Crown and \$500,000 Peter Haughton, Muscle Hill was the \$175,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes winner at the Meadowlands. Overall, the Greg Peck trainee banked \$817,301, winning eight of nine starts for owners Jerry Silva of Long Beach, NY and Tom and Lou Pontone's TLP Stables of Kearny, NJ. After Muscle Hill trotted a world record 1:53.3 in his Breeders Crown victory at the Meadowlands, Allen and Connie Skolnick's Southwind Farm of Pennington, NJ purchased an interest in the colt.

Two-Year-Old Filly Pacer: Twist N Clout, winner of the \$175,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Final at the Meadowlands and runner-up in the Breeders Crown. The Western Ideal filly, racing for the Val D'Or Farms and trained by Joe Holloway, accumulated \$110,500 in New Jersey-sired winnings toward \$407,547 in purse earnings. She also won the Kentuckiana in Indianapolis and the International Stallion Stake in Lexington.

Two-Year-Old Filly Trotter: I Wanted Wings, a daughter of Muscles Yankee, earned \$155,100 in New Jersey-sired races, including the winner's share of the

\$175,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Final at the Meadowlands. Overall, she banked \$339,362 for the Florida-based partnership of the Let It Ride and Robert Cooper Stables. She is trained by Ross Croghan.

Three-Year-Old Colt Pacer: McCedes was the leading purse earner in New Jersey-sired competition in 2008 with \$314,259 thanks to a victory in the \$500,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic. The McArde colt banked \$454,801 overall and posted a record of 1:49.4 for trainer-breeder Chris Ryder and co-owner Jerry Silva.

Three-Year-Old Filly Pacer: Cheyenne Trish, trained by Robert Siegelman for the Cheyenne Gang of Port Washington, NY, won two New Jersey Sire Stakes legs at the Meadowlands and three New Jersey Sire Stakes legs and the New Jersey Futurity at Freehold to earn \$156,803 of her \$391,172 overall purses. The daughter of Artiscape took a mark of 1:51.1.

Three-Year-Old Colt Trotter: Spam Spade, a son of Dream Vacation, races in the name of the Andy Miller Stable and is trained by Julie Miller. He won the \$110,000 Charles I. Smith Trot and \$85,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Final at Freehold, and earned \$104,125 in New Jersey-sired competition toward a seasonal bankroll of \$206,020. He won the Bluegrass Stake at the Red Mile and took a three-year-old mark of 1:53.3.

Three-Year-Old Filly Trotter: Muscle Shirt, is trained by Chuck Sylvester for Irving Liverman of Hampstead, Quebec; Neal Goldman of Washington Township, NJ; Alan Caplan of Manalapan, NJ and Keith Dickstein of Las Vegas, NV. The Muscles Yankee filly won the \$85,000 Helen Smith Trot, \$85,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Final and New Jersey Futurity, all at Freehold, where she took her mark of 1:56.2. She earned \$111,831 in New Jersey-sired competition and \$244,338 overall.

REMEMBERING JOE PARISI

When Joe Parisi passed away recently, to me, it was the end of an era.

Most people would agree that Joe was tough, very tough, and certainly did things his way. What a lot of people didn't know that under that gruff exterior was a generous man who had a passion for horses, standardbreds in particular. Joe and his beautiful wife Marie founded Jo-Mar Farms in Allentown, NJ where countless good horses were raised right here in New Jersey, at a time when it was not particularly popular to do so. Jo-Mar later became known as White Birch Farm, a superior training facility and also a top notch breeding farm. How many people know that Darlin's Delight and My Little Dragon were raised in the same field together?

Hot Lead, another champ resides on the farm, living out his days in the lap of luxury.

I think it's safe to say that Joe had a tremendous impact on racing in New Jersey, not only from the breeding and racing aspect but also for the beautiful farmlands the family strives so hard to protect.

May the legacy live on. Rest in Peace Joe.

—Jacquie Ingrassia

Joe Parisi passed away on November 8, 2008 at the age of 78. The founder and president of White Birch Farm, honored as New Jersey Breeder of the Year in 2004, Parisi is survived by his children, Michael, Camille and Joseph. This tribute is by driver-trainer and SBOANJ board member Jacqueline Ingrassia.

FAIR WINDS FARM SELECTED NJ BREEDER OF THE YEAR

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey has said "well done" to Fair Winds Farm thanks in large part to a pacing colt named Well Said.

Ed and Mark Mullen's Fair Winds Farm has been selected the 2008 New Jersey Breeder of the Year and will be honored at the 52nd Annual New Jersey Equine Breeders Awards dinner on January 25 at the Radisson Hotel in Freehold, NJ.

Well Said captured the \$700,000 Breeders Crown Two-Year-Old Colt Pace in November, adding another stakes credit to his dam, Must See, who is owned in partnership by Fair Winds and Steve Jones of Montgomery, NY.

"Everyone at Fair Winds appreciates the recognition in being named SBOA Breeder of the Year," said Mark Mullen. "We have been in the standardbred business for some 40 years and have bred some nice horses along the way. Well Said is our first two-year-old Breeders Crown champ. It is really a milestone for us."

Fair Winds Farm [www.fwfnj.com] is located in Cream Ridge, a horse community in Upper Freehold Township, NJ. The main farm is 150 acres with another 500 acres which sit adjacent to the nearby Cream Ridge Golf Club.

Must See, a daughter of Artsplace, was bred by Fair Winds and returned to her breeder after a stellar racing career during which she earned \$487,122 and finished in-the-money in 11 of 24 starts. Her six victories included the \$460,000 Sweetheart Pace at the Meadowlands.

Her first two foals, both by Western Hanover, have already established her broodmare credentials, earning a combined total in excess of \$800,000.

Her first foal, a filly named See And Be Seen, sold for \$127,000 at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale of 2006. She has banked nearly \$220,000, finishing on-the-board in 12 of 34 starts at two and three.

Well Said, a \$240,000 Harrisburg Sale purchase, has made back double his cost as a two-year-old of 2008 with four wins, four seconds and one third from 12 starts, banking \$586,688.

Three weeks before Well Said won the Breeders Crown on November 29 with a 1:51 mile, Must See's third foal, a son of Rocknroll Hanover named Rock N Awe, passed through the Harrisburg sales ring for \$140,000.

Entering the final days of the year, horses bred at Fair Winds Farm reached \$2 million in earnings for 2008 with 77 starters accounting for 166 victories.

It was Edward Mullen who purchased the former dairy and soybean farm in 1965 but it was the second youngest of his five children, Mark, who has made breeding and raising horses his career.

Mullen, 52 and a resident of Cranbury, NJ, graduated Upper Freehold High School and took a year off before heading to the University of New Hampshire where he earned his BS in the pre-veterinary program. He trained horses from 1991 until 1999 when he returned to the farm to oversee its operations as president.

Fair Winds focuses its breeding operations on broodmares and yearlings.

"We raise good yearlings, they sell well and they're accepted by the buyers," said Mullen, whose wife, Laura, is a research librarian at Rutgers while daughter Erin graduated Boston College and is working at WGBH in Boston and son Ryan is in his third year at Boston University in computer engineering.

"Why not focus on what we were doing well and we're successful at?"

Fair Winds owns about 35 mares and the equine population grows by another 100 mares during the breeding season.

"So we spent money on broodmares and try to do the best for our horses as well as our customers' horses," added Mullen, who is a member of the SBOANJ board of directors. "So that's what we've been doing, and it has worked out well for us."

Previous winners of New Jersey Breeder of the Year honors include Kentuckiana Farms, Southwind Farms, Valley High Stables, White Birch Farm and Perretti Farms.



Mark Mullen, president of Fair Winds

NEWS & NOTES

The New Jersey Sportswriters will salute Ray Schnittker as Horseman of the Year, and William and Anthony Perretti as Breeders of the Year at the group's awards banquet on January 25 at the Pines Manor in Edison.

The US Harness Writers Association's Dan Patch Awards and Harness Tracks of America's Nova Awards will be presented at the Racing Congress Night of Champions on February 4 at the Bellagio in Las Vegas, NV. Also honored that night will be SBOANJ lobbyist Leon Zimmerman who was voted into the Hall of Fame's Communicators Corner. Harness Horsemen's International will hand out its awards at the same event, including its Clyde Hirt Media Award to Carol Hodes, the SBOANJ's publicity director and *PACESETTER* editor.

NJ Account Wagering members will soon be able to place their bets via BlackBerrys, iPhones and Windows Mobile cellular phones. They will be able to view real-time racing, account information and place wagers.

Western Ideal, who stands at Hanover Shoe Farms of New Jersey, has had his stud fee reduced to \$15,000 for 2009. Cam's Card Shark, remains at a fee of \$7,500. Tell All, the 2007 Pacer of the Year, will be standing the 2009 breeding season at Deo Volente Farm in Flemington. Muscles Yankee, at \$20,000, and Rocknroll Hanover, at \$15,000, will headline the stallion band at Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, NJ for the 2009 breeding season. Revenue will also stand at Perretti for a revised fee of \$4,000.

SBOANJ DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT: BOB BONI

Bob Boni always had an artistic eye, one that earned him admission to the prestigious Pratt Institute.

But the education he wanted took him, instead, to the backstretch at Roosevelt Raceway, the yearling barns at Pine Hollow Stud, the stardom of Nihilator and now the presidency of his own bloodstock firm, Northwood, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2009.



Bob Boni

Boni, who works out of his office in Secaucus, NJ, is one of the leading bloodstock agents in the industry and a first term member of the SBOANJ Board of Directors.

It is his eye for detail and the ability to identify top horses that have earned him a position of respect in the racing industry.

The magic door to the backstretch opened for Boni when he was in the fourth grade in Queens, NY, and his

father, Frank, who passed away in 2004, bought a piece of a Bill Haughton-trained trotter named Sam Sanders.

Boni was hooked and threw himself into stable chores when he should have been in school.

He worked at New York's Pine Hollow Stud from June of 1969 until 1980.

"I was always enamored of Niatross," he recalled. "I've always been very performance oriented. So I'm looking at this list of Niatross yearlings, 75 colts. I was walking down Third Avenue one Saturday morning and went to a pay phone and called Lou Guida, and said I had an idea. Why don't we try to buy 10 percent of the yearling crop – colts, no fillies – and see what happens? He thought it was a great idea.

"We ended up with seven – Flight of Fire who made \$300,000 and we sold him well, a couple of just racehorses, Pershing Square and Nihilator," he said.

Nihilator would win Horse of the Year honors in 1985 and always meant a great deal to Boni for the pleasure it gave his parents to be associated with the horse.

"Nihilator would be special to anyone and for many reasons will always be my number one," he explained. "That said, [1987 Pacer of the Year] Camtastic also

gave me great enjoyment and satisfaction. He was a homebred, and he was raised at our farm in Columbus, NJ and then he was trained by a great personal friend and very overlooked and underrated horseman, Bob Bencal.

"While there are many others and for many reasons, another that comes to mind is a son of Meadow Skipper named Escape Artist," Boni said. "I was at Pine Hollow Stud in New York at the time and in charge of our yearlings when he sold at Harrisburg for \$260,000, which was then the record price for a standardbred yearling.

"The process of raising him and preparing him and then bringing him to sale was very rewarding," added Boni, whose interests include daily gym workouts and trips to the Bronx for Yankee games. "He was a magnificent individual and it was a very exciting experience in my formative years."

It was SBOANJ Executive Administrator Leo McNamara, a friend since they both worked at Pine Hollow, who enticed Boni to join the Board of Directors where he has contributed his insights as well as his artistic talents – his sketch inspired the new SBOANJ logo.

"I do believe that we will need some form of gaming to remain competitive with the surrounding jurisdictions," he said. "While it may not be the salvation to all racing, I like to compare our present positioning as the restaurant without a liquor license while the neighboring restaurants such as Villa New York and Chateau Pennsylvania are free to serve alcohol to their patrons. Regardless of what we may have on the menu, what the others offer will make it increasingly difficult for us to compete and keep our customers.

"As for the overall economics, the racing industry has not been immune, and we have certainly taken our hit, most noticeably in the yearling and breeding market," Boni noted. "Kentucky in early October was somewhat unaffected, even though the downturn was already underway. By Harrisburg in November the reality could not be ignored, and it was reflected in most categories of the market, with the exception of the racehorses, which still held their value and appeal quite well.

"In a way we have become a victim of our own success in that the lucrative purses offered at many raceways have attracted many buyers, and sometimes at the expense of the yearling market," he continued. "The safety and potential for a significantly more immediate return is a great attraction. Contrary to what some others may think, we do have new owners; only they are more inclined to be involved with ready-made racehorses and not speculative and risky yearlings."

WINTER 2009 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Jan 6	Insurance Meeting	Feb 2-6	Racing Congress, Las Vegas NV
Jan 8	Breeders Meeting	Feb 4	Dan Patch & Nova Banquet, Las Vegas
Jan 13	Board Meeting	Feb 4	NJ Racing Commission, Meadowlands
Jan 21	NJ Equine Advisory Board	Feb 10	Board Meeting
Jan 27	Insurance Meeting	Feb 24	Insurance Meeting



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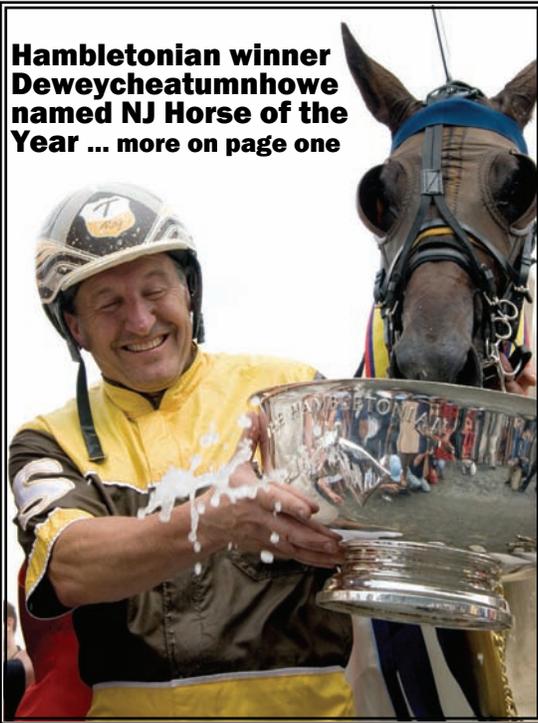
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THE WINTER 2009 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER ...

**Hambletonian winner
Deweycheatumnhowe
named NJ Horse of the
Year ... more on page one**



2009 NJ HARNESS RACING DATES

MEADOWLANDS: 151 dates

January 1-August 21

Wednesdays through Sundays in January, February and March;
Wednesdays through Saturdays in April through August.

FREEHOLD: 99 dates/93 dates

January 1 through June 6
August 1 through December 31

Tuesdays through Saturdays in January through March
Wednesdays through Saturdays in April
Thursdays through Saturdays in May and first week of June
Tuesdays through Saturdays in August and September
Wednesdays through Saturdays in October through December

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