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Representing owners, breeders, drivers, trainers & caretakers

TEAM TOSCANO GOES TO "MARKET" FOR HAMBLETONIAN CROWN

The winning team of driver Tim Tetrick, trainer Linda Toscano, caretaker Shelly Greico receive the trophy from Hambletonian Society President Tom Charters as Hambletonian winner Market Share sips from the bowl. [Photos by Lisa Photo Inc.]

When Market Share captured the $1.5 million Hambletonian, it completed a spectacular trotting double for trainer Linda Toscano.

Two races earlier, she had won the $250,000 Nat Ray Invitational with Chapter Seven, her hopes to win the 2011 Hambletonian. Chapter Seven came up short, finishing fourth.

This year, neither of her New Jersey-sired trotters would be denied on Saturday, August 4, 2012 at the Meadowlands.

"It's unbelievable," she said from the Hambletonian winner's circle with Market Share. "I refused to let myself even dream this far. It's just unbelievable. We took care of him for a lot [of the year], and I said this was the right time to race him."

Market Share, a New Jersey-sired son of Revenue, had his work cut out for him as he took the lead into the stretch when Guccio [by Yankee Glide] and My MVP made their bids. A neck separated Market Share and Guccio at the wire. It was another nose to My MVP in third. The mile was timed in 1:52.1.

"Please wire hurry up," Toscano said when asked what she thought as the horses neared the finish. "We wanted to get there, that's all. It's funny what goes through your head. I kept thinking, I wish my Dad were alive, because my Dad started this whole thing for me. It's absolutely the ultimate goal. It's a dream come true."

It would be hard not to note that Linda Toscano is the first woman trainer to win the Hambletonian. It was also the first Hambletonian victory for driver Tim Tetrick, making his sixth appearance, and owner Richard Gutnick of Blue Bell, PA.

"I thought it was going to happen last year [with Chapter Seven]," Gutnick noted. "Two months ago I thought it was a hundred to one shot that we were even going to enter him [Market Share]."

Gutnick had purchased Market Share for $16,000 at the Lexington Selected Sale as a yearling. He gained partners a few days before the Hambletonian when TLP [Tom and Lou Pontone] of Kearny, NJ and William J. Augustine of Hammonton, NJ joined the team.

Toscano, Tetrick and Gutnick had already celebrated a world record 1:50.1 performance by Chapter Seven in the tenth race, the $250,000 Nat Ray.

The son of Windsong's Legacy scored by two and a half lengths over Mister Herbie. It was four and a half lengths to Daylon Magic in third.

Gutnick owns Chapter Seven with Southwind Farm of Pennington, NJ and J&T Silva Stables LLC of Long Beach, NY.

Nat Ray winner Chapter Seven with Tim Tetrick.

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

Do Freehold horsemen want the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey to fight for them?

The answer was a resounding YES when we met on Thursday, August 30, 2012. More than 50 trainers and drivers filled the paddock lounge at Freehold that morning.

It was opening day of the summer-fall meet at Freehold. Concerns about racing's future and conditions at Freehold had created a dark cloud on what is usually a happy day.

The meeting was triggered by an exchange of comments the previous week when the SBOANJ leadership expressed concern about the racing surface, especially as it appeared last spring before the track closed for the summer. Freehold unilaterally canceled qualifiers for August 23 but subsequently rescheduled them for August 24.

The SBOANJ conditionally granted approval for simulcasting of the signal from Freehold for the month of September and will monitor safety concerns as well as repairs to facilities used by horsemen.

We are in discussions with Freehold over 2013 dates. Ninety-two days this year did not work for us. While we have asked for 192 days for 2013, realistically, we are talking about around 120 dates. You need continuity; you need a place to race all year.

You need more dates to keep your horses racing, and you need more dates to qualify for our insurance plan. To ease that problem, we will allow eligibility for the insurance program for those with less than 51 percent of starts in New Jersey [at least 31 percent] but at a higher rate.

While we have an open door to horsemen and horses, we need to emulate the programs in neighboring states and increase protection for our New Jersey-bred and owned horses.

We are going to enforce a provision in the contract between the SBOANJ and Freehold which calls for the race office to write two races per day for New Jersey-sired horses [subject to the availability of horses] and one per week for New Jersey-owned horses. We will also encourage Freehold to create late closing series to provide more racing opportunities for New Jersey-sired and owned horses.

We also want you to know that we will keep fighting for you and will monitor the conditions of both the racing surface and the facility.

While we may feel for their bottom line at Freehold, we are more concerned about your bottom line.

We will continue to take the lead at the SBOANJ. But it is nice to know that our membership has our back. We appreciate the support we received at the meeting and subsequent calls and emails. We are all in this together.

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FUN DAY OF GOLF BENEFITS NEW JERSEY HORSEMEN

The 17th Annual SBOANJ Golf Outing raised funds to benefit horsemen and produced a fun day for 117 golfers on July 9, 2012 at Gambler Ridge Golf Course in Cream Ridge, NJ.

It was a bright, sunny day for the 135 golfers and guests who capped their round with a prime rib dinner, famous for its brontosaurus-sized slices.

Berman, Gara & Rutsky Group of UBS Financial Services sponsored the desserts.

Andy Miller

The best foursome award went to Gary McCandless, George Green, Mike Green and Kevin Dallington. The "most honest" was the duo of Frank Van Wie and Walter Krowokski.

Nick Triano won the longest drive contest, unseating two-time winner Jeff Webster. Beth Hilliard was a repeat winner in the longest drive by a woman. Closest to the pin went to Kyle Turns who landed 23 inches from the pin.

Eugene Landy won the drawing for the Sport Jog Cart, courtesy of Allen Eggert of Pennsbury Enterprises.

The Hole in One prize, a 2012 Mercedes from Prestige Motors in Paramus, went unclaimed.

The 50-50 winner, Michael Jordan, collected $785.

Best Foursome Gary McCandless, George Green, Mike Green & Kevin Dallington.

Additional fundraising was accomplished through a silent auction of sports memorabilia courtesy of horse owner Peter Grandich, Yankees game tickets donated by Bob Boni of Northwood Bloodstock, Mitchel Skolnick of Bluestone Farms and Peter Roselle of Meadowbrook Industries as well as items from other generous donors.

Sponsorships, key to the fund raising effort which benefits New Jersey's standardbred horsemen in need, were provided at several levels. Platinum Level sponsorship was provided by the SBOANJ's health benefits consultant Shay Cowan of Katz/Pierz Inc. of Marlton.

The Meadowlands team of Gary Wolff, Mike Newlin, Peter Koch & Marcello Esposito.

At the Gold Level, the donors were the Meadowlands Racetrack, Drucker, Math & Whitman CPAs and UBS Financial Services of Princeton,

At the Silver Level, the donors were Peter Grandich's Trinity Financial, Mid-Atlantic Equine Center, Showplace Farms, Gaitway Farms, AJ Sabath's Advocacy & Management Group, Federico's Landscape Design, Santoro & Santoro [Dennis Dowd], Superior Data Corp, Walnridge Equine Clinic, La Ferla Group-UBS Financial Services Inc., Valley High Stables, Newport Graphics Inc., Clarksburg Inn; New Jersey Community Bank, Freehold Raceway, Joie De Vie Farm, Eposimato Stable and the Mark Ford Training Stable.

Joe Poliseno, Ellie Sarama, Misty Miller and David Miller enjoy a round of golf.

Bronze sponsors included the Hambletonian Society, Gateway Pine Shavings, Northwood Bloodstock and Bluestone Farms, Loomis Insurance Brokers & Consultants, United Labor Benefits Inc., Mangacare, Energy Plus and Peter Roselle's Meadowbrook Industries.

Additional sponsors included British Betty Racing Stable LLC, Electric Battery Company LLC, Dino Miliucci of My Buddy Stables, John and Paula Campbell, Nick Salenetri and Marc and Marcia Goldberg.

—Photos by Polly Hartzell, Linda Goss and Carol Hodes

A CLASSIC WIN FOR PANTHER; MISS NJ TO SARANDON BLUE CHIP

A "Hurrikane" rolled in but it was the Panther who struck in the 33rd edition of the $275,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic, the 14th race on August 4, 2012 at the Meadowlands.

Panther Hanover wins the 2012 NJ Classic with Tim Tetrick

Panther Hanover got up in the final strides to collect a head victory over Hurrikane Kingcole, who cut torrid fractions before settling for second in the 1:47.2 mile, a New Jersey Classic stakes record.

It was two and three-quarter lengths back to Rollnlikeabigshot, a son of Rocknroll Hanover, in third.

Panther Hanover's owner, Jim Carr, and trainer, James "Friday" Dean, also teamed to win the 2011 Classic with Big Jim.

Miss New Jersey Lindsey Petrosh poses with Miss New Jersey winner Sarandon Blue Chip.

Hurrikane Kingcole, a son of Cam's Card Shark, was the fireball, cutting fractions of 26.3, 52.2 and 1:18.2 with driver Yannick Gingras in tow.

"He got fired up behind the gate, and he was gone," said Gingras. "I wish I could have rated him a bit. You know you can't go fractions in 1:18."

There to pick up the pieces with Panther Hanover, a son of Rocknroll Hanover, with Sylvain Filion in the sulky.

Earlier in the program, Sarandon Blue Chip rallied for a three and a half-length victory in 1:50.1, capturing the 29th edition of the $150,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey for fillies.

Put On A Show by Rocknroll Hanover set a mares world record of 1:47.3 winning the $253,700 Lady Liberty.

Sarandon Blue Chip, unraced at two, held off longshot Mikeleh and Pirouette Hanover, who was four and a half lengths back in third. All three top finishers are daughters of Western Ideal.

Sarandon Blue Chip, driven by David Miller and trained by Casie Coleman, was a tick off the 1:50 stakes record set by Put On A Show in 2010. The winner is co-owned by Coleman and Tom Hill of Lancashire, United Kingdom.

OAKS TO PERSONAL STYLE; JERSEYLICIOUS IS A SWEETHEART

Personal Style, a New Jersey-sired daughter of Yankee Glide, benefitted from the favorites breaking stride to win the $714,050 Hambletonian Oaks for three-year-old filly trotters on August 4, 2012 at the Meadowlands.

She scored a neck victory over Win Missy B in 1:53.1 after Check Me Out and Maven both went off stride on the final turn.

Driven by David Miller for trainer Nifty Norman, Personal Style produced the second-highest win payoff in Hambletonian Oaks history, at $116.40. Sassy Syrnix was placed third after Check Me Out was disqualified to eighth for interference. Brittany Farms of Versailles, KY and Melvin Hartman of Ottawa, ON own Personal Style.

Jerseylicious, the New Jersey-sired daughter of Western Ideal, scored a neck victory in the $268,300 Sweetheart Pace for two-year-old fillies, pacing the mile in 1:52.1. Legacy Racing of Delaware and Pamela Curran of Milford, DE own the Wayne Givens trainee who was driven to victory by Corey Callahan. Nikki Beach and Cult Status were second and third, respectively.

NJ SIRE STAKES FINALS SHOWCASE 2YO CHAMPIONS

Johny Rock extended his winning streak to three, scoring a length and a half victory in the $150,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes Final for two-year-old pacing colts and geldings, the final of the four championships contested on Friday night, August 17, 2012, closing night of the Meadowlands meet.

Johny Rock

Johny Rock, with Tim Tetrick driving, paced a career best 1:51.1 in the sixth race. He is trained by John Butenschoen.

Rocknmyjeans was second, and it was two and a half lengths to Wake Up Peter in third as sons of Rocknroll Hanover took the top three spots.

A $60,000 Lexington Selected Sale purchase, Johny Rock races for the partnership of William Wiswell of Elkhorn, WI; Jean Goehlen of Aurora, IL and Eugene Schick of Elgin, IL.

Corky led the sweep of sons of Muscles Yankee in the New Jersey Sire Stakes Final for two-year-old trotting colts and geldings, the first race.

When Deadliest Catch by Chocolatier, the only non-Muscles Yankee finalist in the field of six, broke stride in the first turn, 1-5 Corky coasted to a three-length victory over King Muscles in 1:57.3. It was three and a quarter lengths to Amalfi Coast in third.

Corky

Corky, driven by David Miller and trained by Jimmy Takter, won all of his New Jersey Sire Stakes starts and was second best by a neck in the Peter Haughton Memorial.

A $100,000 Lexington Selected Sale purchase, Corky is owned by Christina Takter of East Windsor, NJ and brothers Jim and John Fielding of Toronto, ON.

Southwind Cocoa followed a third over path and peeled out five-wide in the stretch to nip Time To Kill [Muscles Yankee] by a nose and Shared Past [Chocolatier] by a neck in a three-horse photo finish in the New Jersey Sire Stakes Final for two-year-old trotting fillies, the third race.

Southwind Cocoa

Southwind Cocoa, driven by Tim Tetrick, covered the mile in 1:55.3, equaling the stakes record set by Act Of Grace on July 18, 1995.

The Chocolatier filly, a $6,000 Lexington Selected Sale purchase, is from the same team of trainer Linda Toscano and owner Richard Gutnick of Blue Bell, PA, that won this year's Hambletonian with Market Share and the Nat Ray with Chapter Seven.

Authorize

Even-money favorite Authorize swept past Jerseylicious, tossing in a final quarter of 25,4, to win the New Jersey Sire Stakes Final for two-year-old pacing fillies, the fifth race, by half a length in 1:52.3. It was three quarters of a length back to Miss Lauren in third.

Authorize, driven by Brian Sears and trained by Tony Alagna, extended her winning streak to four. She is bred and owned by Brittany Farms of Versailles, KY and the Estate of Brian Monieson of Northbrook, IL.

Authorize and Jerseylicious are both daughters of Western Ideal while Miss Lauren is by Cam's Card Shark.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Sept. 24	Board of Directors Meeting [2 p.m.]	Oct. 19	Membership & USTA District Meetings
Sept. 25	Insurance Meeting	Oct. 30	Insurance Meeting

MEADOWLANDS PACE IS A ROCKNROLL DANCE

A Rocknroll Dance scored a length and a half victory in the $600,000 Meadowlands Pace on July 14, 2012 at the Meadowlands.

A Rocknroll Dance, driven by Yannick Gingras.

It was driver Yannick Gingras' third stakes victory on the night – he also won the $100,000 Meadowlands Pace Consolation with Hurrikane Kingcole and a $153,000 Stanley Dancer Division with Little Brown Fox – and the biggest night in his career.

"It's the one race that got away from me," Gingras said, referring to his runner-up finish with the 2004 Pace favorite, Timesareachanging. "I was young, and I made a mistake."

A Rocknroll Dance was a $15,000 Harrisburg Sale purchase for trainer Jim Mulinix of Wausen, OH, who shares ownership with Diamond Creek Farm of Paris, KY; Denny Miller of Archbold, OH and Jerry and Teresa Silva Stables of Long Beach, NY.

Allstar Legend, the 102-1 longshot, finished third, a neck back of Pet Rock.

THIS & THAT

Veronica Fanning, daughter of Tom and Moira Fanning of Jackson, NJ, and Caitlin McDermott, daughter of Kevin and Sheri McDermott of Millstone, NJ each received a $2,500 Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey Scholarship ceremonies at the Meadowlands on July 27, 2012.

Fanning, 19, is a student at Rowan University while McDermott, 17, is entering Florida Southern College.

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Chris Samaha [left] and Ed Razzetti [right] present plaques and scholarship checks to Caitlin McDermott and Veronica Fanning.

The Meadowlands wrapped up its first meet under the private management by Jeff Gural's New Meadowlands Racetrack LLC on August 17, 2012, reporting increases of 6.6 percent in attendance and eight percent in on-track wagering.

Export handle (the amount wagered on the Meadowlands by other outlets) was up 1.7 percent. Total Meadowlands handle (all sources) was up 2.5 percent.

Yannick Gingras clinched his first career driving title on August 17, closing night, with 125 victories and $2.6 million in purse money for the meet. Tim Tetrick, was the top earner with $3.4 million in purses won.

Ron Burke won his first Meadowlands training title with 64 winners, while Hall of Famer Jimmy Takter led all trainers in earnings with $1.9 million in purses won.

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Dr. Carey Williams is seeking standardbred yearlings for an exercise training study to be conducted at Rutgers University, starting this fall.

"The aim of this study is to compare markers of oxidative stress and antioxidant status in skeletal muscle and circulation in two different age groups of horses before and after eight weeks of exercise training," she said.

Williams is seeking yearlings who are sound and have not started race training. They can be donated to Rutgers for a charitable gift tax deduction or loaned to the program for the year. Graduate student Danielle Smarsh, who is in the final year of her doctorate program, will be conducting the research.

"We are in the process of determining if young horses need additional antioxidant supplementation while they are in the early stages of training, but before doing so we need to determine the level of oxidative stress going on and compare that to older horses," Williams explained.

For more details on the study or to offer a horse for the program, contact Dr. Carey Williams:

cwilliams@aesop.rutgers.edu or 848-932-5529.

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Brothers John McDermott and Kevin McDermott, both respected Meadowlands-based trainers, as well as Bergen Record reporter John Brennan were honored by the New Jersey chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association in winner's circle ceremonies on August 17, 2012. The trio received Stanley Dancer Media Awards.

FIRST OPEN SPACE PACE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 29 AT FREEHOLD

The inaugural Open Space Pace is more than a new race on the stakes schedule.

It is the centerpiece of a day of equine activities on Saturday, September 29, 2012, spotlighting harness racing and the need to preserve open space in the Garden State.

"We are asking all our members to turn out and support this day in every way possible," said Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association President Tom Luchento. "It is a day to celebrate our industry, to introduce our love of horses to the public and work with those who share our goal to preserve green spaces in New Jersey, including the many farms devoted to breeding and training horses which are in jeopardy."

The festivities include a Parade of Horses down Main Street in Freehold, sports celebrity autograph sessions, live racing at Freehold Raceway and a concert by Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes.

"We are very excited about the inaugural Open Space Pace event," said Sam Landy, president of the organizing committee which he founded in November of 2011. "It is an honor to take on this important mission, which includes highlighting the relationship between the horse – New Jersey's state animal – and the preservation of open space in our state."

The day begins with the Parade of Horses at 9:30 a.m. down Main Street [Route 537] in Freehold, featuring around 50 horses, according to Event Director Brett Taft. Among the participants will be the SBOANJ, Standardbred Retirement Foundation, Boy Scouts, Medieval Times, 4-H groups, and the mayor and council from Freehold.

The Medieval Times jousters and a demonstration by Special Strides, a therapeutic riding program, will take place in the infield at Freehold between 11 a.m. and post time, 12:30 p.m. A Racing Under Saddle exhibition race is on the schedule between the fifth and sixth races.

Groups, including the Equine Science Center at Rutgers University, will have displays and educational information available.

Radio DJ Lou Russo of 94.3, The Point, will have a match race against his radio partner, Liz Jeressi, while Ray Rossi of New Jersey's 101.5, will face SNY anchor and reporter Kirk Gimenez.

A bevy of retired sports celebrities, including Joe Klecko, Ron Greschner, Nick Fotiu, Gerry Conney and Keith Elias, will be participating in meet-and-greets, autograph signings and winner's circle festivities.

Admission to the track is free but there will be a fee for premium viewing of the Southside Johnny concert [$15 in advance, $20 on day of the event for standing room general admission] which will take place on the apron after the last race, around 4:30 p.m. Live music by Dani Bochner, the Eddie Testa Band, and the Nick Clemons Band will also be featured.

"The Monmouth County area has grown tremendously and many local people are very charitable," Taft noted. "We want to create new fans for harness racing. Our goals are to create an event that will raise money to preserve open space, to benefit the Rutgers Equine Science Center, as well as other equine and agricultural non profits [Monmouth County 4-H Clubs, SRF, Special Strides, New Jersey Horse Council and more], and at the same time draw a crowd for Freehold Raceway."

For more information about the Open Space Pace and to view the group's video, visit www.openspacepace.org or on Facebook. There is a link for ordering concert tickets online.

To become a vendor or sponsor, contact Brett Taft at 908-839-6564 or BTaft@UMH.com.

The event is presented by UMH Properties and the Monmouth Real Estate Investment Corporation [MREIC].

USTA & SBOANJ MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 19

The United States Trotting Association District 12 and annual SBOANJ Membership Meetings will take place on Friday, October 19, 2012 at Freehold Raceway.

A continental breakfast will be available. The SBOANJ meeting will follow the USTA District 12 Meeting that starts at 11 a.m.

Details on the meetings will be available on www.sboanj.com closer to the event.

It was a big day for New Jersey-sired trotters as Tim Tetrick guided Market Share by Revenue [far left] to victory in the $1.5 million Hambletonian and Personal Style by Yankee Glide, David Miller driving, won the $714,500 Hambletonian Oaks.

[Photos by Lisa Photo]

For all the latest news -- Visit sboanj.com

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