FEATURE: Rockin Nola
The Pacing Queen returns for another season Story on page 32

And...they’re off!
30th season of racing underway at Harrah’s Hoosier Park
SCHWARTZ HAS A NEW TRIPLE THREAT

For 2023 Schwartz Boarding Farm offers these new stallions

**PET ROCK**
- p,4,1:47 ($1,984,204)
- Rocknroll Hanover-Casual Beauty
- Sire of FFA star Sectionline Bigry
- p,1:48 ($896,337)
  Fee $3,000

**KEYSTONE VELOCITY**
- p,1:47.3f ($1,644,413)
- Western Hanover-Venus Killean
- Sire of 2022 2-year-old Ucandoit Blue Chip
- p,2,1:51.1 ($186,393)
  Fee $3,000
  Breeders Crown Eligible

**WORLD OF ROCKNROLL**
- p,3,1:50.3 ($338,561)
- Rocknroll Hanover-Worldly Beauty
- Champion Illinois Stallion 2021
- Fee $2,000

Multiple mare discounts available.

SCHWARTZ BOARDING FARM
4565 S, 600 E., Berne, Indiana 46711 • Phone (260) 589-2037, Fax (866) 848-4451 • debbieschwartz68@gmail.com
The Indiana Standardbred industry is as strong as any program in North America, and 2023 is off pacing and trotting. A mild winter is believed to be a part of the reason Hoosier Park had a record 18 full field qualifiers on March 11 and again on March 18. As I write with the first two weekends in the books at Hoosier Park, the handle did not disappoint either being right at or above $900,000 each night. The early momentum will carry us through the long 160-day race meet, which concludes on December 9.

Breeders Crown planning is in full force, and Indiana sponsors have risen to the occasion. Indiana farms include Kountry Lane, Victory Hill, Premier Acres, and Black Creek. All are Breeders Crown race sponsors.

Additionally, the Indiana Breed Development and the Indiana Standardbred Association partnered to be the “Presenting Sponsors” for the 40th edition of the Breeders Crown. The goal was to stamp Indiana all over the Breeders Crown and we have accomplished just that.

Hoosier Park and the ISA worked to create a stronger VIP Owners Club at Hoosier Park. Now owners who have a Caesars Club card and have signed up at the Caesars Rewards Club as an Owner will receive a daily 25 percent discount in the Homestretch Steakhouse and Homestretch Clubhouse. Additional benefits include a monthly $20 food voucher, and also a weekly live race program. If you are an owner and coming to Hoosier Park, please be sure to get signed up.

The annual Welcome Back Bowling party was held on Sunday, April 2, and more than 60 ISA members enjoyed bowling, pizza, and friendship. Prizes were distributed to top bowlers: men - Tim Clevenger, women – Tabby Delong, and kids – Nate Macomber.

The ISA golf outing will be held at Grandview Golf Course in Anderson on May 15, with a shotgun start at 1pm with lunch served.

If you have yet to renew your 2023 ISA membership, please use this as a reminder to do so now. Applications can be found out https://indianaharness.com.

The Indiana Sired Fair Circuit (ISFC) race dates have been set and are available on the ISA website. Converse Fair kicks off the ISFC on Thursday, June 1. Mark the Spot, LLC will once again live stream and record all fair races.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the races.
INSIDE this issue

Holding onto a “Hero”
Foundation keeps horse’s name relevant

It’s Miller Time
LeWayne and Susan Miller open Elite Acres

30 and Fabulous
Harrah’s Hoosier Park opens for 30th season

An Excellent Adventure
Ponda Adventure returns

FEATURES
ISA Directors · · · · · · · · · · 4 Turning Back Time · · · · · · · 20
By the Numbers · · · · · · · · 8 In Remembrance · · 49-52
Huge savings for the Horse World. Call Equine Equipment today to get your industry discounts from...

TORO
Dedicated Discounts

VENTRAC
Great Savings

FarmPaint
Special Pricing

TharTurf
Call for Pricing

www.Tenda.com

MANUFACTURER’S DISCOUNTS FOR THE HORSE WORLD
1(877) 905-0004 / www.EquineEquipment.com

Serving USA and Canada
The Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) is a non-profit organization led by 15 elected directors. We support the Indiana Standardbred Horse Racing Industry and all of its affiliated horsemen and women.

The ISA continually strives to meet the needs and wishes of the harness people of Indiana and favorably position the association to represent the harness horse industry in matters involving the legislature, the Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC), pari-mutuel race track management, and other matters directly involving member’s interests.

Membership is voluntary with an annual membership fee of $50. Anyone can become a member. Members do not have to be from the State of Indiana. Limited benefits are available with a paid membership.

PURPOSE:
To promote and increase interest in harness horses and harness racing; to represent and establish cooperation between county, state, and pari-mutuel racetrack operations, breeders, owners, trainers, drivers and grooms; to sponsor and promote Standardbred racing, breeding, training, and development programs in the State of Indiana; to represent horsemen/women in negotiations with racetrack operations, to promote integrity within the sport, and to take other actions in the furtherance of the Standardbred Racing Industry in the state of Indiana.
2023 Committees
INDIANA STANDARDBRED ASSOCIATION

Executive
John DeLong, President
Robert Taylor, 1st Vice President
Doug Rideout, 2nd Vice President
Emily Dever, Board Secretary
Matt Rheinheimer, Treasurer

Backside Health / Emergency Benefits
Randy Hatton, Chair
Jay Hochstetler
Dennis Petty

Backside Improvements
Robert Taylor, Chair
Jay Hochstetler
Matt Rheinheimer

Breeders/Owners/Sales
Alan White, Chair
John DeLong
Emily Dever
Ernie Gaskin

Budget/Finance
Matt Rheinheimer, Chair
John DeLong
Robert Taylor
Doug Rideout
Emily Dever

College Assistance
John Wilson, Chair
Randy Hatton
Zach Miller
Doug Rideout

Commission Relations
Tony Renz, Chair
John DeLong
Robert Taylor
Doug Rideout
Matt Rheinheimer
Emily Dever
Ernie Gaskin

Fair Racing
Doug Rideout, Chair
Sarah Conrad
Dennis Petty
Matt Rheinheimer
Robert Taylor
John Wilson

Grants
Sarah Conrad, Chair
John DeLong
Emily Dever
Dennis Petty
Robert Taylor

Membership/Promotions/Social Media
Emily Dever, Chair
Sarah Conrad
Ernie Gaskin
Randy Hatton
Jay Hochstetler

Pari-Mutuel/Track Committee
Matt Rheinheimer, Chair
John DeLong
Randy Hatton
Zach Miller
Doug Rideout
Robert Taylor
James Yoder

Political Action
Chad Gooding, Chair
John DeLong
Sarah Conrad
Ernie Gaskin
Jay Hochstetler
John Wilson

Publications/Website
Alan White, Chair
Jay Hochstetler
Doug Rideout
Julie Rideout, Proofing
John Wilson, Proofing

Promotional
Tabitha DeLong
Julie Rideout
Stefanie Taylor

Indiana Standardbred Association

May 2023 • Indiana Standardbred Magazine
St Elmo Hero just might be the poster child for rescued horses.

After all, he began his life as a rescue, and is enjoying farm life with a foundation named in his honor that helps to rehabilitate horses rescued from kill pens. Now 17, St Elmo Hero earned $793,306 for his owner John Barnard, and the story of how he made it to the races is like something out of a Hollywood movie script.

“St Elmo Hero was on his way to the killers, with his dam, Crystal Crickett,” Barnard, who lives in Miami, Fla. recalled. “She had an owner who was not a good guy. He didn’t pay the stud fee and didn’t register the babies and had sent the mare and foal to the killers.”

Foaled May 15, 2006, at Carrollton, Ill., St Elmo Hero was a son of Western Hero, and the first foal out of the Cedar Ridge mare Crystal Crickett.

Short Raber, of Hoosier Standardbred Farm, Montgomery, Ind., who, along with longtime Illinois breeder Carl Becker, was instrumental in saving Crystal Crickett and her youngster.

“A guy sent me Crystal Crickett to get bred, as I stood Western Hero at the time,” Raber, 64, explained. “I got the mare in foal and sent the guy a bill. No response after a month, two months, or three months, so I called Carl (Becker) because he knew this guy, and I told him I wasn’t getting any response from the owner. Carl told me to bring the mare over to him, as he lived near the owner, and that he would take her to that man’s farm, which he did.”

Two years later, Crystal Crickett and her now 2-year-old, unbroken foal, were standing in a kill pen at the Arthur, Ill., sale barn.
“I’m at the sale, and a guy says to me, ‘didn’t you use to stand Western Hero?’” Raber continued. “I said yes, and he says, ‘There’s a mare here that’s got a Western Hero colt with her, and we need someone to look up her tattoo to see who she is.’ We verified her tattoo, and sure enough, it’s Crystal Crickett. I called Carl (Becker), who was now standing Western Hero, and asked if he wanted the mare, and he said sure, so I bought them both for $375, and Carl took the mare, and I took the colt—who had never had a halter on or been handled and was still with his dam.”

Raber and Becker then endured a lengthy process working with the USTA in an attempt to get papers on the mare, and get the colt registered.

“Now we’ve got these two horses and wondering how we can get the papers on both of them,” Raber said. “I called the USTA and talked to their attorney and he said, ‘send me copies of all the bills you sent to the owner, and we will attempt to contact the owner.’ I don’t know if they ever got ahold of that guy, but finally, the USTA allowed Carl and I to register the mare and the colt in our names.”

Short took the youngster to his Indiana farm and began working with him.

“He was a quick learner,” Raber recalled. “And since Carl was born and raised in St Elmo, Ill., he wanted to name the colt St Elmo Hero, so that’s what we did. I got the colt broke and put some miles on him, and then sent him to Shawn Nessa as a 3-year-old, late in the season. Shawn had a lot of problems getting him gaited, but the horse finally put it together in the Spring of 2010.”

St Elmo Hero had a pair of break-ridden qualifiers at Balmoral Park before finally staying flat in his third and was ready for his pari-mutuel debut.

“Shawn called me and said ‘Short, I can’t get this horse in, they’re not using the straight non-winners of one.’ So I said, ‘go ahead and put him in for a tag, nobody’s going to claim him after all those breaks in his qualifying races.’ And low and behold, here comes John Barnard who claims him, and the horse goes on to win 25 races in a row,” Raber offered.

St Elmo Hero was a gelding, and 4-years-old, literally romped to a 1:55.3 first start triumph with Del Chupp driving.

“I had a gambling friend who was studying the Balmoral Park program before St Elmo Hero’s first lifetime start,” Barnard recalled. “He told me about the horse and wanted me to watch him race. I went to the paddock and looked at him—he was good looking, and I couldn’t see anything wrong with him. He was in for a $7,000 claiming tag and I think we paid $8,750 with the allowance. He came four-wide around the last turn, made a break, recovered, and won the race by a length. Darcy Pletcher was my trainer at the time, and the horse won 25 straight races. It was incredible.”

St Elmo Hero raced from age four through 10, retiring in 2016 after winning 46 of 114 starts, with 20 seconds and 13 thirds, amassing $793,306 in career earnings, and taking a 6-year-old record of 1:49.1s.

“There were a lot of different people who were associated with the horse who will still remember him,” Barnard offered. “Chuck Eustis trained him for a while, as did
St Elmo Hero

Pat Curtin, and Tim Tetrack got his 6,000th win with him. And certainly, if Short Raber and Carl Becker hadn’t purchased him and the mare, I wouldn’t be telling this story.”

“Carl Becker and I were partners from the early 1980s until he passed away,” Raber acknowledged. “We owned 40 mares together at one time and had a lot of fun in the business.”

Since his retirement, St Elmo Hero has been living a charmed life at Barnard’s Dowagiac, Mich. rescue facility, located in the southwest corner of the state, and managed by horsewoman Lynn Pica.

Barnard and Pica established the St Elmo Hero Foundation, which supports two farms, the Michigan facility and a satellite farm in Munfordville, Ky., for rescued, off-the-track, Standardbreds.

“John and I set up this facility in late 2021, and we provide rescue and sanctuary for Standardbred horses,” Pica explained. “In 2022, we rescued 12 Standardbreds from the kill pens, and also utilize our satellite facility in Kentucky, which is home to a lot of retirees.”

“Lynn takes on the horses that need more direct care, and those who have a lot of physical problems,” Barnard stated. “Hero is definitely the poster child for our facilities. He went to great heights in the Standardbred business and if the right people hadn’t been in the right place at the right time, he likely would have ended up in a very bad situation.”

Pica agrees.

“Pretty much every horse here, with the exception of St Elmo Hero, are kill pen horses,” Pica admitted. “The horses that need daily care and rehab come here, and nearly all are retired racehorses ranging in age from eight to 19. I have many that will never make it to the point of being rideable—that’s what bad shape they’re in, and even though it’s illegal to ship a blind horse, I have four blind horses that we pulled from the kill pens who will spend the rest of their lives as pasture pets.”

Pica says she gets “five to six requests a week” to take more horses.

“We have 150 acres here and a large indoor arena so if the weather gets bad in the winter and I have to keep them in the barn. I can turn them out inside,” she said. “Currently, we have 28 here and another 24 in Kentucky, on a 100-acre breeding farm. The retirees in Kentucky have shelter and get hay and grain in the winter and in the summers, munch on that rich bluegrass.

“I can’t say enough about what this foundation has done for these horses,” Pica added.

If St Elmo Hero could talk, he would certainly agree.

---

**By the Numbers**

| 14 | WINS BY PONDA ADVENTURE LAST SEASON |
| 40 | EDITION OF BREEDERS CROWN IN 2023 |
| 93 | FOALS BORN IN INDIANA (AS OF MARCH 31, 2023) |
| 46 | CAREER WINS BY ST. ELMO HERO |
| 164 | 2023 STARTERS FOR ROCKIN IMAGE (AS OF MARCH 31, 2023) |
| $7.2 | MILLION IN PURSES FOR 2023 BREEDERS CROWN |
To the “Moon” and Back:

Moonsville Conservation Club making big strides in 2023

The secret to success is persistence and that is just what the group behind Moonsville Conservation Club are doing. After regrouping last season, the Club has come out with bigger and better plans, renovations, and Horse Shows for 2023 with two slated in June, including Standardbred specific classes.

The “Buckle Series” gets underway Sunday, June 4 with a plethora of classes. The first class walks into the ring at 10 a.m., starting off with the popular Pee-Wee Halter division for kids eight and under. The show continues through Western Pleasure, English, Showmanship, Poles, Barrels, Speed and Action, and even some classes for Mules.

Standardbreds will also be showcased with Halter, Walk-Trot, and Horsemanship classes, all with payouts for the top three. First place will receive $100 while second earns $75 and third will win $50. The Standardbred classes are sponsored by the Indiana Standardbred Association.

Many individuals and their families associated with racing are longtime participants in the shows at Moonsville, located north east of Anderson. Food will be available the day of the show.

A second show is also set for Sunday, June 25. It will follow the same format as the first show. Rain dates are also slated for both shows. In the event of rain, the first show will be held Sunday, June 11 and the second show will be held Sunday, July 9.

Classes are $4 for members and $5 for non-members. Helmets are required for contestants 18 and under. Buckle eligibility is available with more information available through the Club’s Facebook page at Moonsville Conservation Club.

Members of the Moonsville Conservation Club recently had an area rehab and demo, replacing some of the wooden fence around the show ring. Other updates and upgrades are also taking place at the facility, located at 3559 E. 600 N. in Anderson.

Thanks to a generous donation from the George Likens family, the Moonsville Conservation Club was acquired along with the adjacent hay field by the current operators. Work continues on the grounds with a renovation and update of the judges stand/entry booth. Plans are also in the works for a make-up arena, which is smaller but will be brand new. Many of these updates and renovations are thanks to the support of the ISA.

“We are very thankful for the continued support of the ISA,” said Rachel Leonard, one of the operators of the Club. “Moonsville’s board of directors have been so welcoming to our Standardbreds, giving them a place to show and ride. It is our mission to educate our community on our wonderful breed and support Standardbred aftercare.”

The board hopes to expand the use of the Club for other activities. The Clubhouse is available for rent for any member of the club with a paid membership. Rental fee is $25 of the building. For those who are not members, rental is still available for a fee of $50. The building is a great location for graduation parties, bridal or baby showers, club meetings, and other group events.

In addition to members, Moonsville Conservation Club is also accepting Buckle Sponsors. Those interested in supporting the program for either $100 or $50 may do so by check, made out to Moonsville Conservation Club. Sponsorships are tax-deductible. For more information on shows, membership, or sponsorship, contact Rachel Leonard at (330) 701-0593.
The Miller Stable is one of the latest to invest in the Standardbred industry. They recently acquired a farm and land in Madison County, named Elite Acres, showing a long-term commitment to racing in the Hoosier State.

"It was really rundown and has been a lot of work," said LeWayne about their newly acquired farm named Elite Acres. “Mowing, upkeep, the barns, a lot of work. A lot of people have contributed and sacrificed their time to help out, lots of weekends. It's coming along. There are three barns with 34 stalls in each. There is a half mile track. The track has been really good.”

LeWayne went on to explain some of the adjustments they have made to the farm after moving in.

“Mike Boyd from Loogootee was the excavator,” said LeWayne. “The stalls are 11 by 12 feet. We have about 33 head. We actually lowered the windows in each stall so that the horses can look out and see everything. They definitely seem to have taken to their new surroundings."

The Miller Stable is definitely a partnership between LeWayne and Susan. She is right there alongside of him for a lot of the work.

“The horses, I would say about half lie down in their stalls they seem so comfortable," added Susan. “It has worked out well so far but there's still work to do. Our owners got together when we told them we were thinking about getting our own farm. They want to race with us. We're in this together. They love racing. We have good help, and they stay with us for the most part. Everyone is pitching in to make this work."

Susan has only been a trainer-officially-for a little over a year. She and LeWayne live in the house on the grounds. LeWayne began his driving career in 2009, earning sev-
en wins his inaugural season. Starting in 2013, he went over the $1 million mark in earnings, hitting two million four times through 2021. His best year to date was in 2019 with $2.7 million earned and 158 wins. 2015 was when he won the most races at 188 for the year. Overall, he has 1,405 wins and $19 million as a driver.

As a trainer, LeWayne has 307 wins and $5.4 million in earnings. The 2021 season was his best in wins and earnings with 75 while his stable earned more than $1.4 million. He has topped over the million-dollar mark three times during his training career. Standouts that year were Grand Swan, Family Recipe, Dewtiful’s Grace, Super Queen, Head Games, and Country Girl Charm who recently retired.

How many owners are involved in Miller’s training operations at the moment?

“We have the owners of (Country Girl) Charm, and Nate Yoder, Platinum Stable, Dynamic Stable and a few for LeWayne’s brothers,” explained Susan. “They love the business.”

What about a potential driving career for Susan?

"I want to qualify a few,” smiled Susan. “But basically, I leave all that up to LeWayne."

With LeWayne and Susan both equally invested in their operation, are there any clashes at the yearling sales?

"No,” expresses Susan. “We pretty much have the same tastes. We see the same things in babies. Buying horses has been easier that way."

What is the early outlook for 2023? LeWayne says, "We have a few standouts. Little bit better than last year’s group. I hope to have a pretty good year.”
Country Girl Charm

Country Girl Charm stepped onto the track for the last time Monday, March 6, 2023 at Miami Valley Raceway and came home a winner, completing a career that has spanned the past four years with wins. The trotter glided home to lead two other Indiana sired horses to make it an Indiana trifecta in the $14,000 conditioned event.

Starting from post five, Country Girl Charm wasted no time identifying the game plan, going straight out for the lead for driver LeWayne Miller. She secured the top spot from Train and Sam Wdger after the quarter in :28.0 and kept the tempo lively, passing by the half in :56.1 with company creeping up on the outside in the form of Up Blueberry Hill and Mitchell Cushing. They were still hanging around at the three-quarters in 1:24.4 when Country Girl Charm hit another gear.

Country Girl Charm kicked it up a notch and began to put more space between her and the rest of the field in the final turn. In the stretch, she was on top by three in 1:24.4 when Country Girl Charm hit another gear.

Country Girl Charm was a bit of a surprise in her first win of 2023, paying $16.40 for the win. The five-year-old daughter of Whom Shall I Fear is owned by Ryan Raber, L & S Racing, D & S Stable, and JW Stable. Susan Miller trains the mare, who is one of the stable's favorites.

Country Girl Charm is from the second crop of Whom Shall I Fear. She was purchased from the Hoosier Classic Yearling Sale for $6,000 by the Miller Stable. She completes her career with more than $330,000 in earnings. She is the star of her maternal family. There is a three-year-old half-sister named Hopeyoudo that raced last year for the Miller Stable and a yearling filly by Dover Dan named Dover Lady who will most likely be at the sales this fall.

"I knew early on with Country Girl Charm that she was pretty nice," said LeWayne. “I was training her at 2 and she was going by pacers like it wasn't a big deal. Her two-year-old season was all we could have hoped for. At 3, she had a rougher start but came back and had a solid season making over $160,000. At 4, she had some soreness issues and we wound up taking her to Rood & Riddle to have an OCD removed from her left hind ankle. It was bothering her. She came back around the time of the Super Final. Then this year, she didn't come back as we had hoped. In her final start, she wired the field, and I was just a passenger. She was determined. We wanted her to go out a winner.”
LeWayne knows the mare is special and sees the bond between Susan and Country Girl Charm.

"Susan and Country Girl Charm are inseparable," added LeWayne. "It makes it very obvious how close they are. My kids are growing up so fast (Addison 2, and Braxton 8). Right before your eyes they grow up."

Susan was trackside to greet LeWayne and Country Girl Charm in her final start and win at Miami Valley Raceway, just as she's been for every outing of the mare.

"Country Girl Charm has been an absolute blast," said Susan. "She would make anyone's day - make you smile wide. She's given me a lot of my firsts - my first training win at Miami Valley; my first training win at Dayton; and the first time I was in the race bike at Hoosier. My daughter, Addison, absolutely loves her too. Country Girl Charm I think is now adapting to life after racing. She's starting to realize she's not a racehorse now. As for now I think I want to try 'Lessons for Liberty' (bridleless riding) with her.

I've never done it before. I think she'll like it."

How much maintenance was Country Girl Charm as a racehorse?

"Not as much later as she was early," added Susan. "Some issues and she was scratched I think 5 times because we didn't want to take a chance racing her sore. Hey - she's the Queen! A huge personality. One time Ryan Raber came in with a handful of feed and tried to give it to her in his hand. She turned away. He asked me to try, and she came right over. Sometimes, she will move my hand out of the way sometimes so she can rest her head on my lap."

Following her final race, Country Girl Charm returned to the Miller Farm and joined another Miller-trained standout, Ladylikeitis.

What are the future plans for Country Girl Charm?

"We plan on breeding her to Fiftydallarbll (2017 Breeders Crown winner at 2 at Hoosier)," said LeWayne.
There is a lot to be said about momentum. The 30th season of Standardbred racing is underway at Harrah’s Hoosier Park and with a strong opening weekend, the stage is set for what everyone hopes is a stellar season.

The 160-day meet will extend to December once again in 2023. The site will play host for the third time to the prestigious 38th edition of the Breeders Crown, set for Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28. Rick Moore, Vice President and General Manager of Racing, is feeling the enthusiasm already for the event and for the racing program that begins its third decade in Anderson.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with the way our season opener went,” said Moore, who has been with the track since the beginning in 1994. “We had an all-time record in handle of more than $908,000 and that included a refund on one of the races. The racing program seemed well received and we had a nice crowd in both the (Homestretch) Steakhouse and the Clubhouse. The weather was challenging, but we still had a great night.”

Winning the first race of the season is always a good sign for any stable. That honor went to last year’s top trainer and top driver as Tyler George and Trace Tetrick picked up where they left off in 2022, scoring a win with Gamblin Mo.

A son of Captaintreacherous, Gamblin Mo took over from the start, leading the field gate to wire for the win in 1:51.3. Levin and Sam Widger finished two and three-quarters of a length back in second followed by Criminal Record and John DeLong for third.

Gamblin Mo is owned by SCP Stable of Georgia and Bill Boyce of Florida along with George. The five-year-old gelding picked up his second win of 2023 in his return to Indiana.

Opening night also placed the spotlight on the top older horses in the state, including the return of Little Rocket Man in the $22,000 Open Pace. Trained by Ken Rucker, the now seven-year-old gelding earned his 30th career win in the race and moved his career bankroll over $700,000 for owners Russ Beeman and Jack Freeman. The Rockin Image son was driven by John DeLong, who scored four wins on the opening night card.
DeLong and Little Rocket Man returned for the second week of action and had a repeat win in the Open, proving another year on the gelding hasn’t slowed him down the least little bit.

“He is as good as he’s ever been,” said DeLong. “There is no real difference in him this year. He’s fresh and sound. He’s a very versatile horse and he is going to draw the outside a lot, so it will just depend on that on how to drive him. I’ll just take the race that is given to me.”

A lot of stars are returning to the track this season, including the Older Pacing Mare of 2022 Rockin Nola, who finished a hard charging second on the second night of action for the father-son team of Joe and Joey Putnam. The six-year-old mare by Rockin Image finished second to Rose Run Vision and Sam Widger in a time of 1:52.2 to polish off the opening weekend card of racing.

“We were able to fill 14 races both Friday and Saturday nights during opening weekend,” said Moore. “That is one more race than last year. We are seeing horses that have been off since last year. We’ve had a milder winter and the horses seem ready to go. We had 160 entries for both night and we are seeing horses coming in from places like The Meadows and Saratoga. It’s making the scenario for some interesting handicapping.”

Another interesting aspect of the 30th season of racing could be the addition of Fox Sports coverage. Details are currently being reviewed and evaluated for additional coverage during the 160-day meet.

“We are hoping to have our major race nights on Fox Sports 2,” said Moore. “This would be a first for us.”

Caesars Entertainment, the parent company of Harrah’s Hoosier Park (HHP), continues its multi-year commitment for upgrades on the property. This season, a $2 million roof project was recently completed on all 14 barns, which were original coverings from the inaugural season. Also, a new Video Board was installed on the tote board in the centerfield. Hoosier Park is always working with the ISA for apron improvements, which will include aesthetic appeal as well as upgraded seating and a bar. First draft plans were shared at the April ISA meeting for options to enhance the area and hopes are to have everything completed by Breeders Crown.

The casino is also seeing upgrades and expansions. Construction has been going on all winter with the $44 million project expected to be completed this summer.

“The expansion of the casino will add an additional 300 square feet of gaming space,” said Trent McIntosh, Senior Vice President of HHP. “This will include a High Limit space, additional slot machines, and table games. This is the fun part of our business to see these investments.”

The racing portion of HHP is also seeing an expansion to their racing menu. A $5,000 claiming series is being implemented to offer incentives to the horses that have become fewer and fewer around the racetrack in recent years.
“We are missing the lower-level claimers so we are working to re-establish the $5,000 - $7,500 claiming ranks,” said Moore. “Every track has to have that. By offering this series, it will help build this class up. We want these horses to make $25 - $30,000 a year so it’s worth having this class in a barn. Inflation has really changed that as much as anything else.”

One thing not changing is the plethora of nightly contests for on-track customers. Every program will offer some sort of handicapping contest, plus racing fans will receive double Caesars Rewards points on all wagers made on HHP. As points build up, so do the perks and offers through the lucrative program.

The wagering format is also back from 2022. The Hoosier High Five (selecting the top five finishers in one race) will be held on the last race each night with a lowered takeout of 12 percent. If no winning tickets are sold on the 20 cent minimum wager, then the net money bet into the Hoosier High Five rolls over to the next days’ pool. HHP is also partnering once again with the U.S. Trotting Association’s Strategic Wagering program and the ISA for a $10,000 Guaranteed Pick 4 pool on Thursday nights in Races 11 – 14.

The VIP Owner’s Program is returning with bigger rewards and incentives, and First Turn Stable, the fractional ownership program, will be in full force this summer. The track has also been working with the ISA and horsemen to tweak post times, seeking the best spot to get the signal shelf space in simulcasting outlets.

“We moved our post time to 7 p.m. on Saturdays in early April for the remainder of the year,” explained Moore. “There are a couple reasons for this. Several of the Thoroughbred tracks are extending into the evening and our first few races were showing that overlap. We want to get away from that overlap and we can do that by cutting time off the front end of our card. We talked to the horsemen and got their thoughts on this move and everyone is supportive of it. We are also safeguarding our purses. We will only run 12 races on Saturdays. And, on Triple Crown days, we will move our post time back to 7:20 p.m. to avoid overlap with those races.”

Post times will also be adjusted for special events and concerts. The first day with an early post of 4 p.m. is Saturday, May 13 when Comedian Donnie Baker will take the stage in the Terrace Showroom.

Special event days are also back in 2023 with staple promotions such as Empire of Hope (Racehorse Aftercare Night), Fright Night at the Races, Fourth of July Fireworks, and Family Fun Saturdays. The Race Marketing Team, headed by Emily Gaskin and Jacob Rheinheimer, will work hard to keep fans of all ages engaged and entertained during the racing program.

“Starting in June, the last Saturday of the month will be Family Fun Saturdays,” said Rheinheimer. “Also, we are racing on Memorial Day and this will be a day dedicated to families. Plus, it’s the kickoff for the three-year-old Indiana Sires Stakes. Tony Renz from the ISA really helps us with getting veterans from different groups out to the track. It’s a great program of racing for us while honoring veterans.”

Gaskin, who was out on maternity leave at the conclusion of the meet in 2022, brings a level of expertise to HHP that is unmatched in Standardbred racing. She will reduce her time on the air and will be less visible on a nightly basis, but will still be instrumental in keeping the promotions and operations of marketing rolling along. In her absence last fall, Rheinheimer stepped in and did some on-air handicapping, handling the assignment like a pro. He will continue to provide on-air support in 2023.

Emily Gaskin, longtime on-air racing analyst, shares her expertise with racing fans during opening weekend at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. Photo by Tammy Knox
New Festival developed to honor Dan Patch

By Tammy Knox

“The Life and Times of the Great Dan Patch” is a new festival created to honor the great Standardbred born and raised in Oxford, Ind. The seven-day festival encompasses the horse’s birthday on Saturday, April 29 and features several days of activities, including a demonstration by Harness Horse Youth Foundation’s Ellen Taylor. Included in the lineup of events was a presentation of Dan Patch’s life, presented by Historian and Horseman Gerald Waite. Walking tours of the town were provided along with a Lecture Series in the Heritage House auditorium. The event also included a film festival at the Oak Grove Heritage House including “Home in Indiana,” “The Great Dan Patch,” “Dreamer,” “The Black Stallion,” “National Velvet,” and a showing of “Horsepower, Indiana’s Equine Industry” that was produced on the two racetracks plus the county fair circuit a few years ago by Public Television out of Bloomington, Ind.

Taylor provided a demonstration of ponies and cards for the Harness Horse Youth Foundation’s Youth League, which provides a circuit annually to engage kids and teach them about Standardbreds. There was also a “Meet the Harness Horses” event at the Prairie Crossing Elementary School with kids getting an up close and personal look at the breed.

Gwen Erwood is the organizer of the event with support from several individuals, including John and Pam Messner on behalf of the Messner family. A full report from the festival will be available in the July issue of the ISA Magazine by Ellen Taylor, who was also instrumental in assisting with the event.

“The Life and Times of the Great Dan Patch” will be honored annually with a new festival in Benton County, his birthplace, each April around his birthday. Photo provided

“Jacob has really stepped up,” said Moore. “He is really growing into his role. Plus, we have Matt Tucket back. Matt is a full-time season member of our race marketing team. He worked the table opening weekend to sign people up for the VIP Owner’s Program and is doing some things with our website. They both do an outstanding job for us.”

The entire team at HHP will be immersed in the planning and implementation of the Breeders Crown, heading to town Oct. 27 and 28. The kickoff meeting was held at the end of March and committees are already working on details, including additional seating in a 600-seat tent. Team work from the ISA, the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, the Indiana Standardbred Breed Development, and HHP will be the driving force to showcase the prestigious event to racing fans all over the world. It’s such a nod from the industry for Indiana to be the host site for the third time in the past seven years. Coupled with Indiana’s own big nights, the season is jam packed with some of the best races offered in North America this year.

“I am the biggest believer in momentum,” added Moore. “With a strong start, it puts everybody in an upbeat mode. And, the horsemen also take pride in the good handle numbers we bring in. We have a lot to look forward to in 2023.”
First Turn Stable returns in 2023

By Tammy Knox

After some bad luck halted the progress of First Turn Stable last season, the fractional ownership program at Harrah’s Hoosier Park is back for its eighth season of action in 2023. The program is popular with racing fans, providing them the unique opportunity to own a portion of a racehorse and receive special perks, such as visits to the stable to visit their horse and hopefully get into the winner’s circle for a photo.

The 2023 season will take on some changes. A new trainer, Cassandra Uppal, is the conditioner of the First Turn Stable horses. She is currently overseeing the return of both Bay Rum and Rock on Creek, who represent the program this season.

“One (Rock on Creek) got hurt, and we claimed Bay Rum and he got hurt the night we claimed him,” explained Rick Moore, Vice President and General Manager of Racing at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. “So we turned both of them out and now they are back with Cassandra (Uppal). She is taking her time with them. Both are doing well and have recovered from their injuries. It will be fun to see them both come back.”

Bay Rum, the Indiana sired son of Real Desire, has been part of the program off and on over the past few years. The horse rejoined First Turn Stable last year via a claim in early August. At press time, he heads into his 10-year-old campaign with 34 career wins in 177 starts and more than $221,000. His career best time of 1:50.2 was taken as an eight-year-old at Harrah’s Hoosier Park.

Rock On Creek was acquired by First Turn Stable last April. The Ohio bred son of Pet Rock moves into his eight-year-old season with 20 wins in 99 starts and a career best time of 1:51.1 taken as a three-year-old at Northfield Park. Rock on Creek has more than $259,000 on his card.

“After opening weekend, we already have 40 owners signed up for First Turn,” added Moore. “We will keep the program open and we hope to get to 50. There is no timetable to fill the spots.”

Those interested in getting into First Turn Stable may do so now by contacting Jacob Rheinheimer at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. The cost to participate is $250. The program has an active Facebook Page (First Turn Stable) which provides updates throughout the season.

To contact Rheinheimer, call (765) 609-4694 or by email at JRheinheimer@caesars.com.
Horse ownership in Indiana just got a little sweeter. Harrah’s Hoosier Park has always provided a VIP Owner’s Club but for the 2023 season tagged as “Quest for the Crown,” the program is taking a step to the next level. Several new perks will be provided to those signing up for the exclusive club during the 2023 racing season.

During the opening weekend for the 30th season, Race Marketing Intern Matt Tucker set up a booth to sign owner’s up for the VIP Owner’s Club. More than 20 people signed up over the two-night sessions, which is a great start for the program.

“The VIP Owner’s Club gives us the ability to sign owners up and gives us a way to get owners to bring people out to the track,” said Jacob Rheinheimer, Race Marketing and Operations Administrator. “The idea is to build the program with some great options.”

Membership into the VIP Owner’s Club includes a free racing program each week by swiping at a Trackside Promotional Kiosk. The individual will also receive a monthly $20 dining coupon good at any Harrah’s Hoosier Park Dining outlet and owners will also receive 25 percent off in both the Clubhouse and the Homestretch Steakhouse.

In addition to the discounts, members of the VIP Owners Club will receive discounted room rental rates for the Top of the Park party room and Showroom Suites. Members will also be granted early access to purchase tickets to special events such as concerts.

To be eligible for the VIP Owner’s Club, the individual must have a valid 2023 Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC) Owner’s license and be a member of Caesars Rewards. The IHRC license must be presented to redeem club benefits.

For more information or to join the VIP Owner’s Club, contact Jacob Rheinheimer at jrheinheimer@caesars.com or call (765) 609-4694.
**45 Years Ago:**
The Indiana General Assembly passed legislation during the regular session allowing counties to conduct referendum votes on pari-mutuel racing in the Hoosier State.

**40 Years Ago:**
“Adios: The Big Daddy of Harness Racing” is released by Author Marie Hill. The book chronicles the horse’s career on the track as well as his career at stud. He was born in 1940 at Two Gaits Farm in Carmel, Ind. He died at the age of 25 in 1965 at Meadow Lands farm in Pennsylvania.

Two Gaits Farm, belonging to Leo McNamara Sr. was sold to Ralph Wilfong. The name “Two Gaits” referred to the two types of Standardbreds on the farm, a trotter and a pacer. Both Hal Dale and Adios were born at the 700-acres farm during the Two Gaits era.

Ramblin Willie was purchased by Bob and Vivian Farrington along with Paul Siebert for $15,000. The horse went on to win 128 races and more than $2 million and picked up the name “The Horse That God Loved.”

**30 Years Ago:**
The Anderson Redevelopment Commission unanimously approved the issuance of bonds up to $3 million for sewer, water and roads for access to the new Hoosier Park coming into the city.

**25 Years Ago:**
Distant Game, driven by Tim Curtin for Trainer Ernie Gaskin, had a line break during the race. After crossing the line in fifth place, the gelding could not be steered. Driver Tony Morgan reached out around the Clubhouse turn, grabbed the bridle of Distant Game and pulled him to a stop, preventing any incidents or injuries on the track.

Eric Ledford guides seven winners on the card to established a new record for most wins on one program by a driver or jockey in Hoosier Park history.

Hi Ho Silverheels’, the local fan favorite and one of the best invitational pacers in the Midwest, equaled the track record of 1:49.4 set by Jenna’s Beach Boy and Bill Fahy in the 1996 Dan Patch. It was also a track record for older pacing geldings and stood for two years until Royalflush Hanover and Ricky Macomber Jr. equaled it in the 2000 Dan Patch.

**20 Years Ago:**
Driver Don Irvine Jr. scored eight wins on the card to tie Eric Ledford for most wins by a driver on one program.

Jr Mint and Paul MacDonell scored a win in the seventh Hoosier Cup. The duo won their elimination and final in one evening. Jr Mint was trained by Jack Darling. The evening marked the largest crowd for Hoosier Cup Night in the history of the race with more than 3,900 in attendance. The evening also established a new record for handle with more than $1.4 million wagered on the card.
2023

QUEST FOR THE CROWN

WORLD-CLASS HARNESS RACING

FIRST POST
6:15PM

NOW THROUGH DEC. 9

BULLDOG HANOVER

HARRAHSHOOSIERPARK.COM

Must be 18 or older to wager on harness racing at racetracks and 21 or older to gamble at sports books and casinos. Know When To Stop Before You Start® Gambling Problems? Call 1-800-9-WITH-IT (1-800-994-8448). ©2023 Caesars License Company, LLC.
“I was so honored to be named ISA Groom of the Year last year. It was truly one of the best feelings ever and so unexpected as there are many who deserve it,” Laurie Younkin humbly explained.

Although a horse lover from an early age, Laurie was introduced to harness racing by her parents who raced as a hobby in Michigan, and she loved it. At age 16, she visited Sports Creek Raceway with friends and met a lot of people. After high school graduation, 18-year-old Laurie took her first job as a caretaker for Todd Warren. Since then, she has traveled and worked for, as she explained, “quite a few people through the years. I came to Indiana in 2005 and I am now working for Missy Essig.”
I credit Cheryl Holmen as my mentor who taught me most of everything I learned about Standardbred care. Patience is key,” she continued. “I had a colt last year that I never thought would learn to pick up his feet so I could grease and pack them. I put a lead chain on him and briefly picked up his feet, then talked to and praised him. After a couple of days, he began to understand and now he calmly picks them up as I walk around. I think I am pretty good at reading a horse. Eyes tell you a lot. I will notice a horse that is tying up by watching every little movement that is different. I just try to be observant.”

Laurie had a complete knee replacement after the meet closed last fall with a very difficult recovery. She started back to work the last of March taking care of three head but hopes to be up to five soon.

“Finding competent caretakers is getting harder with more people moving to 9-5 jobs with weekends off and benefits,” added Laurie. “Rarely do we (grooms) get sick days. It’s not for the faint of heart. People need family time and time off for whatever. Maybe trainers need to be more understanding that life happens (outside of racing). It just seems like new people in the business just can’t handle all the hours.”

It is easy to feel the love Laurie has for horses. Her favorite right now is a trotter named Worth Your While who she has taken care of for 3 years.

“I swear he knew how bad my knee was last year and he would walk slow with me after he raced,” smiled Laurie. “Of course, I like all horses, but trotters are magnificent, majestic animals. In my younger days, I loved taking care of colts that would holler and prance down the aisle. Then it was fillies or mares who were just mean and who nobody else could get along with. Now, as long as a horse is laid back and sweet, he/she is the horse for me!”

Laurie’s favorite part of a day in the life of a caretaker is putting her horses away. She said, “that’s the time to really slow down, really bond with them, and build their trust. Hopefully, in 10 years I will have hit the lottery and have a big farm with all the horses and dogs I can handle. But realistically, I’ll probably still be taking care of Standardbreds that I love so much!”

That is very good news for the racehorses lucky enough to be under the watchful and experienced eye of Laurie Younkin.
Nothing Ordinary about this ADVENTURE

By Kimberly Rinker

Ponda Adventure is not your ordinary horse.

The Indiana-bred son of Swan For All has done nothing less than amass $685,037 for the partnership of Marty Engle (Northbrook, IL), Louis “Andy” Willinger (Louisville, KY), and Jerry Graham (Salem, IL). The robust bay gelding, now four in 2023, has been conditioned throughout his career by Erv Miller.

“He was so growthy at two that I stopped with him and turned him out twice,” Erv recalled. “He’s a nice, medium-sized horse, and we’ve never had one bit of trouble with him. He’s about as uncomplicated as they get.”

Ponda Adventure is the first and most prolific foal out of the Muscle Hill mare Wildflower (3, 1:55, $267,487), and was a $28,000 purchase at the 2020 Hoosier Classic Sale for the partnership. He was bred by Pond-A-Acres of New Haven, IN.

Despite starting and stopping a few times, Ponda Adventure earned $271,468 as a 2-year-old for his connections, winning eight of ten starts with two seconds. After a pair of Hoosier Park qualifiers, he took his first start, in a $10,000 baby race, easily for driver Trace Tetrick in 2:00.4, beginning what would become a six-race win streak. He captured a $46,000 Indiana Sires Stakes (ISS) in 1:55.1, then a $66,500 ISS-leg 2 by a whopping nine lengths in 1:55.1. Next, he prevailed by 4 and one-half lengths in 1:56.2 in the $22,936 Hoosier Stake at the Indianapolis Fairgrounds on Aug. 11.

Two weeks later Ponda Adventure recorded his fastest freshmen moment by taking Leg 3 of a $44,500 ISS at Hoosier, winning by nearly five lengths, and followed that up with a 1:55.1 score, with a front-stepping three-length triumph in the $45,000 fourth ISS leg on Sept. 8. Saddled with the eight-hole in the fifth ISS leg, Ponda Adventure zoomed to the top, was parked to the :28.1 first quarter, and then remained second throughout, finishing in that fashion to the winning Dover In Motion in 1:55. Ten days later he rebounded...
with a 1:55.1 victory in the $85,000 Madison Colt Trot at Hoosier, and then grabbed another win in a $65,000 ISS-Leg 6 contest, clocked in 1:54.4. The $270,000 ISS Final, his last start of the season on Oct. 15, saw him finish a strong second to Dover In Motion, in 1:53.3.

Erv gave Ponda Adventure plenty of time to relax, recoup, and mature even more between his 2- and 3-year-old seasons, and the youngster came back with aplomb, winning two Hoosier Park qualifiers, on May 7 and May 18, in 1:55.3 and 1:54.2. The break certainly did wonders for the gelding.

“He continued to mature in between seasons,” Erv related. “He’s such an easy-going horse, that whatever you ask him to do, he does it. He doesn’t require any special equipment or shoeing, and a kid could jog him. He’s just the most uncomplicated horse.”

Now a solid sophomore, Ponda Adventure once more hit the ISS highway, winning all seven legs handily from May through mid-September. He also captured a pair of $20,000 overnights as well as the $35,388 Horseman Trot at the Indiana State Fair on Aug. 10, clocked in 1:54 in a front-end effort. His ten-race win streak came to an end, however, when he finished second to Hambletonian winner Cool Papa Bell in the $90,000 Langley Memorial on Sept. 23 at Hoosier, timed in 1:53.3. He was then second by a neck in ISS-Leg 8, to Adamsville Road, and finished in that same spot to the same horse in the $270,000 Super Final on Oct. 14. He rebounded on Oct. 21, taking the $28,500 Pegasus stakes in a lifetime mark of 1:52.3, before lowering that time seven days later in the $20,000 Circle City Stakes, to 1:52.2.

Ponda Adventure did not fare well in the $200,000 Erskine at Hoosier on Nov. 4, finishing a disappointing seventh in the only start he was ever off the board, but came back two weeks later to win the $57,000 Star Destroyer in 1:53.3. He then won his final start of the season with an uncharacteristic, come-from-behind performance that saw him trot in 1:53.3. When it was all said and done, Ponda Adventure had added another $413,569 to his coffers.

While the owners of Ponda Adventure typically only race 2- and 3-year-olds, preferring to sell them after their sophomore campaigns, they made an exception this season.

“The Meadowlands sale was cancelled, and we had put him in an online sale, but he did not generate enough interest to bring what we thought he was worth,” said partner Willinger. “So hopefully, there will be many more ‘Ponda’ appearances in Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois this summer.”

Erv confirmed his owner’s sentiments.

“Ponda Adventure is already back at Hoosier Park,” he stated. “He raced great there the last two seasons and really seems to do well over that racetrack, so why change? I think a horse’s 4-year-old season can be one of the toughest, because he’s going to be up against some really nice, aged horses, but I think he’ll be up to the test.”
Horse Racing is Good for Indiana

Hoosier Horsepower serves as a crucial catalyst for Indiana’s economic engine, producing a statewide impact like no other!

Annual economic impact of nearly $2 billion

Statewide participation: all 92 counties are impacted by horse racing in some form

Over 415 percent industry growth since 2005

$206 million impact on federal, state and local taxes*

7,048 employees annually*

20,152 race horses born in Indiana in the last decade

Learn more about horse racing in Indiana and its impact:

www.hrc.in.gov • (317) 233-3119 • INhorseracing@hrc.in.gov

facebook.com/IndianaHRC • @inhorseracing

#RaceLikeAHoosier

* Data from the 2021 Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing Industry Study
Name: James Yoder
Hometown: Columbia City, Ind.
Current Residence: Upland, Ind.
Wife’s Name: Cheyenne
Years on the ISA Board: First Year
How I Got Started in Racing: My dad started and I followed him in the business. I have never worked anywhere else.
Best Memory from racing: May Baby setting the track record as a two-year-old

Favorite Music Group: Florida Georgia Line
Favorite TV Show: Friends
Favorite Restaurant: Olive Garden
Favorite Food: Pizza
Item always in my Refrigerator: Beer
Ideal Vacation Spot: Key West, Fla.
Hobbies Outside of Racing: Boating
Ohio native P.D. (Paul Douglas) Huffman has been on the backstretch most of his life. This year, he will take on a new role as the Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) Horsemen’s Representative, a position he has already moved into and embraced.

P.D. started in the business working for a couple of years with Don Irvine who he says, “taught me a lot about rigging a horse.” Then, he joined the Walter Ross Stable and says, “taught me about horsemanship and the love of a harness racing family.”

P.D.’s first venture to the Grand Circuit was with Bob Bencal where he spent 4 years. After that, he moved to Indiana and took a position with Viking Meadows Farm under trainer Ernie Gaskin. According to P.D., “that’s when I really got an insight into my heart how much I wanted to train horses and, while doing so, had so much fun with the Gaskins and their crew.”

P.D. then shifted to The Red Mile and trained under Hall of Famer and Indiana native George Sholty. While in Lexington, P.D. had another Grand Circuit thrill while caring for Fake Left, winner of the Little Brown Jug in 1992. Most recently, he worked for the Tyler George Stable.

“I had my own stable for about 10 years with Susie Askren,” P.D. remembers. “We had my favorite Carolina Rich, a war horse who won from Chicago to The Meadowlands. But it wasn’t about the money or wins that made him the best. He was my buddy, but he would look right past me when Susie walked in the barn. That’s when I saw the unique, astonishing heartbeat we feel when a horse and human melt together to find each other’s souls. There are three special moments in my life: the birth of my two daughters, Olivia and Charlotte, and watching Susie and Rich look into each other’s eyes. It was so captivating; I will never forget it.”

P.D. Huffman is available in the paddock lounge for qualifiers and race nights, assisting horsemen and horsewomen with all their needs associated with racing at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. Photo by Dawn Peckinpaugh
Carolina Rich retired in 2005 with 41 wins and more than $368,000 in earnings. The Cambest stallion’s best year was in 2001 where he equaled his career best time of 1:51.0 at The Meadowlands. He first hit that time as a four-year-old at Harrah’s Hoosier Park.

P.D.’s experience in the barn as a caretaker, on the track as a trainer, and occasionally as an owner gives him a broad understanding of his new role as the horsemen’s representative for ISA. Though some may wonder what exactly a horsemen’s rep’s focus should be, make no mistake, P.D. has high aspirations in several areas.

He sees an opportunity to bring “harmony” among the horsemen, with each other and with management, and places this as his number one priority. Using his keen sense of people and general good nature, P.D. is looking forward to helping create a better, more united organization to work with track management for a common end goal of getting people here to watch live racing.

“I would love to see that apron filled again,” said P.D.

In addition, he recognizes his responsibilities for getting facts and information from the race office, judges, the commission, and track backstretch staff to the horsemen and women as quickly as possible. He also will work with the officials to ensure fairness is demonstrated across the board to all horsemen.

“If it is a rule, let’s apply it to everyone,” noted P.D.

“I was going to retire because I have a few health issues which limit my ability to sit behind horses in the cold weather. I want to watch my daughters grow up. When Tyler told me about the job being available, I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to still help my daughters and the horsemen at Hoosier Park,” explained P.D.

When asked if it would be difficult to transition from horseman to horsemen’s rep, P.D. replied, “No difficulty at all. I will always be myself. Now, I just have to see both sides (management and horsemen) and be fair.”

He looks forward to gathering proper information from the appropriate sources and giving it back to the horsemen to digest and understand.

P.D. admires many of the past horsemen’s reps but one stands out as the example to emulate.

“He always has a smile on his face and cares about the horses and horsemen,” remembers P.D. “Some-day, I hope he gets the recognition he deserves with selection into our Hall of Fame. My choice (for best horsemen’s rep) is Joe Thompson.”

His enthusiasm for the industry and the job radiates.

“I’m excited to have my first year with great races like the Nadia Lo-bell, Peter Haughton, Jim Doherty and world-famous Breeders Crown along with the Indiana Sires Stakes,” added P.D. “I’m pumped.”

P.D. and his daughters currently live in Anderson. Both girls, who are 14 and 12, attend Pendleton Heights schools. They both share his love of horses.

Part of P.D.’s duties will include being at all qualifiers and races. He will be easily accessible in the paddock. He will also attend every draw and plans to make it out to some of the fairs this season. In addition, P.D. will be the contact person for various promotions, including the upcoming golf outing and the ongoing Groom of the Month award.

Stop by and see P.D. in the paddock at Harrah’s Hoosier Park.
Having a passion for a product is half the battle of being a good marketer. Brian Lewis has that down. The San Diego, Calif. native was recently named the new Director of Marketing for Harrah’s Hoosier Park and brings a lot of experience and enthusiasm in for both gaming and racing.

The ‘Life of Brian’ has been a long journey. He obtained several EMT-related certifications and had a goal to become a Paramedic Firefighter. However, those plans changed when he accepted a job in the gaming industry and began as a member of the security/EMT team at Harrah’s So Cal in 2003. From there, he moved into a dealer position and then up to supervisor over the next 12 years. In 2016, Lewis was promoted to Poker Manager and Assistant Manager of Table Games, a position he held for three years. That’s when he got the call to head to Indiana.

Lewis stepped into the role of casino manager at Horseshoe Indianapolis. He then had the opportunity to move into a position that would expose him to a whole new world as the general manager of the Winner’s Circle at Clarksville, Ind.

“A little over three years ago, I joined the Winner’s Circle team at Clarksville,” said Lewis. “It was my first exposure to racing, but I quickly found a passion for it. I listened and learned a lot from the staff at Clarksville, and Eric (Halstrom) at Horseshoe Indianapolis taught me a lot about racing. I developed into a racing fan rather quickly.”

During Lewis’ time at Clarksville, he began to detect ways to elevate the facility. Expanded racing contests, upgraded equipment, and added attention to customer service were all on his agenda.

“We did some changes to our contests, but I think what had the biggest impact for our racing guests was upgrading our technology,” explained Lewis. “This included the audio-visual system, televisions, pro-

Brian Lewis recently joined the team at Harrah’s Hoosier Park and brings years of experience for both gaming and racing. He will oversee all marketing efforts for the Anderson, Ind. facility. Photo provided
jectors, players bank and the newest G terminals, just to name a few.”

During Lewis’ time in Clarksville, he was also a main component in the opening of the Sportsbook. The facility has always been the highest performing OTB in the state. The addition of the Sportsbook only strengthened the numbers, all under the watchful eye of Lewis. He was able to mesh both options under one roof, taking care of all types of customers in the process.

Taking on his new position at Harrah’s Hoosier Park places Lewis in a new atmosphere, but one he is excited to tackle. Although he has no previous experience directly related to harness racing, he was exposed to it at Clarksville and is learning rapidly about the sport. He notes that in his short time at Hoosier Park, he’s learned a lot about Bulldog Hanover and his accomplishments and is ready to see what the new season brings to Indiana.

“I’m excited to learn from this amazing, experienced team at Harrah’s Hoosier Park,” said Lewis. “I’m also learning a lot from the ISA and I look forward to growing that partnership. It’s very reassuring to see everyone’s passion and dedication to Standardbred racing in this state. I feel very fortunate to be part of this team, and what an exciting time to climb on board with the Breeders Crown coming to town this fall.”

Lewis is still getting his feet under him in his new position at Hoosier Park, but as time moves forward, he’s beginning to get into the groove. He is identifying places where he can contribute to the team at Hoosier Park while supporting an already cohesive program.

“I’d like to provide a new set of eyes and perspective on racing at Hoosier Park,” said Lewis. “I’m a big fan on trying new things, seeing what guests enjoy, and bringing them back. I plan to continue to get a better understanding of the business and the expectations of both the team at Hoosier Park and the ISA. To do that, I need to continue to ask a lot of questions and more importantly, listen to those who have the experience. I see what other sports are doing and wonder how that technology can be applied to racing. How can we improve our product and attract more fans, and new ones, too.”

Although time away from work is scarce these days, Lewis does enjoy spending his days off with his family. He and his wife, Jennifer, are avid outdoor enthusiasts, something they hope to pass onto their daughter, Hailey. The Lewis’ also have two dogs, Roxy and Daisy, that reside with them at their home in Shelbyville.

In the meantime, Lewis is proud to be part of the team assembled at Hoosier Park. He feels fortunate to be working alongside veterans in the business such as Rick Moore.

“Caesars is investing heavily in Indiana racing,” said Lewis. “I’m excited to see what great new things we add to our product to help our track continue to grow. Eric (Halstrom) and Rick (Moore) are both very knowledgeable and work very hard to improve their respective tracks. They also know the importance of serving the horsemen and the guest experience. I couldn’t think of a place I’d rather be right now.”

Brian Lewis (right of jockey) makes the trophy presentation to the winner of the Clarksville Stakes in 2022 at Horseshoe Indianapolis. Lewis served as general manager at the Clarksville OTB prior to becoming the marketing director at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. Photo by Coady Photography

By Tammy Knox

the marketing lines

May 2023 Indiana Standardbred Magazine 31
March 23, 2016 was a special day for the Putnam Stable. A filly, bred by Mahlon Lambright, was born in Shipshewana, Ind. by the Indiana sire Rockin Image out of the Keystone Raider mare Gottogetoutmore. The filly was initially named Go More Rosey.

Fast track to 2023. It's more than likely this will be the final season for Rockin Nola, whose name was changed after she went through the Hoosier Classic Yearling Sale. She has amassed $905,000 lifetime at press time and is an Indiana Sires Stakes winner for five straight seasons. She will be racing at Harrah’s Hoosier Park for Trainer Joe Putnam and his JP Racing LLC and co-owner Suttons Bay, Mike and Linda Cox, longtime owners for Putnam.

"Mike passed away (June 2018) just as her two-year-old season was starting," explained Joe Putnam. "He would have loved watching Nola. He had a good one before her named Ramillette Hanover, but I think it would be fair to say Nola would have been his best horse ever."

Here's a look at Rockin Nola's race record:

**2YO Season - 11 Starts: 4-3-1; $160,160**
Record of 1:52.4 at Hoosier Park (LeWayne Miller in the bike; she paid $19.00 in the Indiana Sires Stakes Super Final for freshman fillies)

**3YO Season – 16 Starts: 7-4-2; $269,922**
Record of 1:49.4 at Hoosier Park (This was her best earnings year)

**4YO Season – 17 Starts: 10-3-1 $134,885;**
Record of 1:49.4 at Hoosier Park (She paid $28.20 to win at Scioto Downs, her best ever win price)

Rockin Nola heads into her 2023 campaign less than $100,000 away from becoming a millionaire. The Rockin Image mare has earned every bit of that bankroll under the direction of the Joe Putnam Stable.

Photo by Dean Gillette
T I O N  P O I N T  O N  C A R E E R  I N  2023
By Robert Heyden

5YO Season - 24 Starts: 12-5-1 $199,650;
Record of 1:48.4 at Hoosier Park (He had nine straight
wins in sub 1:50 and her best time was a track record for
older pacing mares at the time.)

6YO Season – 24 Starts: 5-7-4 $141,320;
Record of 1:49.3 at Hoosier Park (Yet, another Indiana
Sires Stakes Final win)

Overall Statistics
Combined 92 Starts: 38-22-9 and $905,877 in earnings
(as of April 1, 2023)

"Not bad for a $15,000 yearling (from the Hoosier
Classic Sale),” added Putnam. “I remember her training
down at two. She would make the 2-step break and then
a 1-step break, but then she got to 2:05 and it stopped.
I drove her in her first baby race. I just followed around
and let her race the final quarter. She came home in 26
and 3, I believe, and right there I thought she might be
something special.”

LeWayne Miller drove Rockin Nola in all freshman
starts and briefly into her 3 YO season. He said, "You
could see she had talent right away. A special filly.”

Where is Joe today on his overachieving pacing mare?

“We would love to get to $1 Million,” explained Putnam
“Yes, the goal of the farm and the owners. This is our
dream. She starts $95,000 away (heading into her 2023
season) and her first start (March 25, 2023) she finished
second. That was very encouraging. We aren't sure
about the Breeders Crown. It's been a disappointment in
the past (two tries-off the board)."

The team behind Rockin Nola had to greet the mare on the track because of the number of supporters for the 2020 Aged
Pacing Mare championship. Photo by Dean Gillette

Cheryl O’Mara leads Rockin Nola out of the barn for Joe Putnam for
a morning jog at the Putnam farm located in Markleville. Photo by
Dean Gillette
But the highlights of Rockin Nola are many.

"Oh sure. I think winning the five straight Indiana Sires Stakes finals would be about a head over her winning those nine straight races at Hoosier in sub 1:50," added Putnam. "Great accomplishments. I don't think anybody, I know we didn't, expect her to go out last year and win the final like she did against world class mares like Hot Mess Express. That was quite a pleasant surprise.

For her to maintain the form she has, the weather, the draw, you just don't know what could come up. Five (INSS Finals) in a row is really something special."

In recent years, her driver has been Joe's son, Joey. He has been her only driver since June of her three-year-old season. He had this to say about Rockin Nola.

"Her attitude compared to when she started out isn't much different," said Joey. "A quiet mare. She can get ornery, though, when you hook her up and she'll try to cowkick you. Those five straight finals is amazing. Really, I think Go On BB won five or six, but not in a row. She has come back in 2023 strong. I'll probably race her off the pace more this year. It might cost her a couple of wins but I think that's best for her now. When she won those nine straight in sub 1:50 two years ago, she was really rolling. Now, the goal is to hit $1 million. To finish on a high note. It's been amazing how she's done. She's a Rockin Image out of a Keystone Raider dam. Sure, I was disappointed in the two Breeders Crowns, but she definitely deserved the chance to be in there."

**Here are some more Rockin Nola stats:**

- 44 starts combined at 2-3-4...48 starts combined at 5-6
- Raced against two Horses Of The Year, Test Of Faith and Shartin N, as well as top females Kissininthesand, Rocknificent, Lyons Sentinel and Kobes Gigi.
- 79/92 starts for her career entering 2023 with Joey Putnam driving
- 80/92 starts for her career entering 2023 at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- 85/92 starts for her career resulted in a check (entering the 2023 season)
- Was odds of 5-1 and finished fifth in the 2020 Breeders Crown at Harrah's Hoosier Park
- Rockin Nola has won in 1:48.4 three times during her career.

Joe Putnam is not a stranger to million-dollar horses.

"ABC Mercedes was a world class horse," recalls Putnam. "He wanted to beat every horse on the track every time he stepped onto the track. I had him until the very end of his career. I had his two full sisters. One made $200,000 and the other $300,000. He was just an amazing horse who was the dominant Indiana horse for four to five years."

Joe, whose ISA presidential term was up in December 2022 after serving a total of 12 years on the board, concluded, "We have 17 three-year-olds and 17 two-year-olds and a few older horses. A few we raised too. I bought a share in Sweet Lou so that's who we'll breed Nola to."

Rockin Nola is a special horse and will be a pleasure to see on the track for her final season in 2023.
New CT Scan Machine available at Caesars Entertainment Equine Specialty Hospital

By Tammy Knox

The Caesars Entertainment Equine Specialty Hospital (CEESH), part of the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, is always updating and improving services for horsemen and horsewomen in the state of Indiana. The latest technology now available at both facilities is the new Canon Qalibra Computed Tomography (CT) system which vastly improves the diagnosis process for equine patients.

The Canon CT Scanner is one of six available in the United States. Purdue University secured the first two available, placing one at CEESH and one at the Veterinary School on campus at Purdue University. There are a few others expected to be installed in North America in 2023.

One of the main advantages to the new CT scanner is the ability to process examinations on standing and lightly sedated or non-anesthetized horses. The height adjustable scanner allots easy access to legs, head and even neck in some instances for thorough results.

“The new Canon CT Scanner provides us a way to scan places on a horse that we previously could not reach with high-quality images and powerful x-rays,” said Dr. Timm Gudehus, senior equine surgeon at CEESH. “Horses can be repositioned on the CT couch using a hoist for us to adjust the angles and Basically, we can scan every inch of a horse now from the hips to the torso and neck.”

Gudehus noted they accommodate all sizes of horses with the CT Scanner at CEESH. Last year, an 1,800-pound Percheron was positioned inside the machine where scans were taken of the horse’s hips, providing valuable documentation for Gudehus and his team in moving forward with treatments. It is the world’s largest field of view in equine veterinary medicine.

The Canon CT Scanner was installed in 2021 in a room previously housed by the robotic scanner. The floor was dug out to accommodate a pit, allowing the Canon CT Scanner to be more mobile, moving vertical and horizontal as needed to accommodate all types of equine patients. The Canon CT Scanner was developed in Germany.

The Canon CT Scanner joins a plethora of services available at CEESH, located near Horseshoe Indianapolis in Shelbyville, Ind. Other services routinely offered by Gudehus and his staff include elite equine surgery, orthopedic examinations, advanced diagnostic imaging such as nuclear scintigraphy (bone scan), high-end ultrasound, endoscopy, critical care, internal and sports medicine, reproduction, and treatments incorporating stem cell therapy.

For more information on CEESH, visit the Purdue University Website at www.vet.purdue.edu/hospital/equine
A full summer of fun, learning, and travel is ahead for Harness Horse Youth Foundation (HHYF). Events are scheduled from Ohio to Maine with many miles and programs in between for the HHYF Trottingbred stable and staff. The Indiana focus kicks off on Friday, June 16 with a private Westfield Washington School field trip to the DeLong Stable followed by a one-day introductory open-to-the-public event at the Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland on Monday, June 19 in cooperation with the Jay County Horsemen’s Association.

On June 28, the program will move to the historic Darke County Fairgrounds in Greenville, Ohio for a one-day introductory event in cooperation with the Darke County Horsemen’s Association. All introductory programs are open to ages 11 and up.

In mid-July, HHYF will be based in Anderson, Ind. for a series of three additional programs. These include another one-day introductory camp at DeLongs on Friday, July 7. The HHYF Leadership Program begins on Saturday, July 8 and concludes on Wednesday, July 12 at Crimson Lane Farm; it is designed as a five-day, four-night sleepover camp for serious horse and harness racing lovers ages 13 and over. Participants will spend time caring for and jogging the HHYF horses as well as meeting industry professionals, attending the races at Harrah’s Hoosier Park, and visiting area training and therapy centers. A new three-day format will be held beginning Tuesday, July 18 - 20 also at Crimson Lane Farm with participants arriving each morning, spending time with the horses and exploring possible career opportunities.

“In planning the schedule, it just made sense to have a larger Midwest presence,” said HHYF President Allison Conte. “With major support from OHHA (Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association) and ISA along with the industry growth lately, it makes Ohio and Indiana logical locations for our camps.”

“The one and three-day events help the kid who loves horses but might not have one as well as the kid who owns and rides his/her own,” continued Conte. “Their focus will be on horsemanship and harness racing, ranging from equipment, harnessing, hitching, career exploration, and the opportunity to actually drive a member of the HHYF stable. The Leadership Program is better suited for those who already know a bit about racing, either flat or harness. It is also a sleepover event which allows time for field trips and building lasting friendships too.”

The introductory days and Leadership Program are open to the public and require pre-registration using the link https://hhyf.org/summer-programs/. For participants who may need financial assistance, to ask additional questions, or to volunteer, please contact the HHYF office at 317-908-0029.

Later this fall, HHYF will participate in Harrison County Ag Days in September and plans are in the works for a new program to be held at the Hoosier Classic Yearling Sale for State FFA members in October.

The HHYF will conclude its 2023 activities by greeting thousands of “Blue Jackets” from across the United States at the National FFA Convention held in downtown Indianapolis in early November. The program is available through the partnerships with ISA, OHHA, and the U.S. Trotting Association.
2023 HHYF Midwest Summer Activity
Dates & Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration deadline: June 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 11 and up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville OH</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration deadline: June 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 11 and up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>DeLong Stable, Anderson</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration deadline: July 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 11 and up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8-12</td>
<td>Crimson Lane Farm, Anderson</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leadership Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(some horse experience necessary)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration deadline: July 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 13 and up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18-20</td>
<td>Crimson Lane Farm, Anderson</td>
<td>$115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration deadline: July 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 11 and up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yard signs enhance ISFC

The Indiana Sired Fair Circuit (ISFC) stretches over five months annually. The series touches 11 locations from the northern part of the state, to the southern part of the state, and stops in between. Many of the events are held during the week at these locations and are not connected to the county fairs. Therefore, awareness is minimal for local residents.

The ISA, in cooperation with several other groups, met earlier this year to come up with ideas to enhance the circuit. One idea from that meeting at Harrah’s Hoosier Park was the implementation of yard signs, which will be in place at all locations in 2023, except the session slated for Harrah’s Hoosier Park June 21, 22 and 23.

The blue yard signs will be placed near the entrances of the racing events and will include the date, time and location along with an outline of a Standardbred and driver. The first ISFC location receiving the signs will be the Converse Fairgrounds in Miami County. The ISFC officially kicks off at that location Thursday, June 1 and Friday, June 2 with a first post of 4PM.

Other locations that will have specific signage placed for their racing sessions will be Clinton County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, Noble County Fairgrounds in Kendallville, Newton County Fairgrounds in Kentland, Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen, Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland, Fayette County Fairgrounds in Connersville, Shelby County Fairgrounds in Shelbyville, and Harrison County Fairgrounds in Corydon.

Grandstand admission and parking to these events is free, unless the racing program is connected to the county fair, which may charge a fee for entrance and/or parking. The ISFC includes free programs and an announcer for the races, which provides a thorough presentation of the event for visitors.

By Tammy Knox
A review of Backstretch and Member Services for ISA

By Tara Ellen Taylor

"Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.

– Vince Lombardi

Simply add “Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes an organization work” to this quote. Next, think of what the Indiana Standardbred Association and management can (and have) accomplish(ed) when horse people pull and “work” together. Then, think about the many services that are currently available on the backside; breathe in a deep breath of thankfulness because ISA is directly or indirectly responsible for the following list of programs, services, and benefits. Final step: if you haven’t already paid your 2023 ISA dues, then find your checkbook, write a check for $50 and mail in your membership - you will be glad you did for a variety of reasons!

**Sulky Insurance**

www.indianaharness.com/sulky-insurance/

For “paid 2023 ISA Members” at Indiana pari-mutuel tracks and Indiana fair tracks. All owners of the damaged sulky or jog cart must be “paid 2023 ISA members” before the accident occurred; the driver, the trainer and all owners or lessees of the hitched horse to the damaged sulky or jog cart must be “paid 2023 ISA members” prior to the incident causing the damage. If the horse is owned by a stable, corporation or multiple owners, all members as well must be “paid 2023 ISA members.” The ISA offers a maximum of $2,000 per incident; wheel coverage of $300 per wheel per incident.

**Indiana Standardbred Magazine**

Subscription (1 per household)

Track happenings, major stakes, and fair results as well as featured articles are included inside. The magazine is published six times a year. Plus, the Annual Indiana Standardbred Stallion Directory is available to assist you in making important pedigree and breeding decisions. Beginning in 2023, the December issue of the ISA Magazine and the Indiana Standardbred Stallion Directory will be combined into one publication.

**Track Chaplain**

www.indianaharness.com/isa-chaplain/

There may be times in your life that you feel like you need some guidance. Longtime Track Chaplain Claudean Webb provides ISA members as well as horsemen and women with support and services for precisely those times. His office is located in the Hoosier Park Administration Building. Chaplain Webb offers daily hours Monday through Saturday. A weekly worship is held on Mondays at 2PM during the racing season.

**Chiropractic Services**

www.indianaharness.com/isa-chiropractor/

Dr. Jeff McIntyre, originally from Shelbyville, Ind., is the chiropractor who serves the horsemen and women on Saturdays in the Horsemen’s Lounge at the track. To be eligible, you must hold a 2023 IHRC Standardbred License and be 18 years of age or older. Dr. McIntyre specializes in diversified and Cox flexion/distraction techniques. He is also trained in sports injuries, automobile accident injuries, pediatrics, work injuries, and active physical therapy and rehabilitation of musculoskeletal disorders.
Health Clinic
www.indianaharness.com/isa-clinic-services/
Phone (317) 621-1230

Hours for the race season are from 8:30AM to 4:30PM on Tuesdays and Fridays. To be eligible you must hold a 2023 IHRC Standardbred license. Please bring your license and a driver’s license or another form of photo ID to your appointment.

Dental/Optical Program
www.indianaharness.com/dental-optical-program/

Some eligibility requirements apply but, at a minimum, this program covers one free annual eye examination and two free dental cleanings once you find doctors within the network.

Legislative & IHRC Representation
Directors and lobbyists of ISA keep track of important issues regarding racing. Both Adam Kallick and Mike McDaniel watch over bills and legislative language that arise which would directly affect horse racing.

ISA Election & Organizational Issues
With an ISA membership, you have a vote, and thus, a voice to help secure a viable future for Indiana harness racing.

On Site Track & Fair Representation
ISA has multiple layers to represent the horse people on the backside. A paid horsemens’s representative, Paul “PD” Huffman, is available on race nights and qualifiers in the paddock as well as attending each draw in the racing office. He is also available for meetings and other functions for ISA. The board also has numerous committees that meet regularly to discuss timely matters affecting you.

Golf Cart Service
For the second year in a row, Terry Pyland provides transportation to and from the paddock to the trailer parking lot. This provides a very convenient service to all individuals racing who need to get equipment and supplies to the paddock from their trailers.

ISA Elite Series Eligibility

Horses owned by ISA members are eligible for this series of races. The finals are held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds each August.

Livestreaming Fair Races
Keep track of the upcoming stars on the Indiana Sired Fair Circuit by viewing the high quality livestream at each fair. This service is available on the homepage of the Indiana Standardbred Association at indianaharness.com.

Text Messaging Service
This service keeps you informed of important updates with regards to schedule changes and upcoming events. The service is managed through the ISA office and has two options, either ISA news only or ISA and Harrah’s Hoosier Park updates from the racing office.

Student Financial Assistance Program
https://indianaharness.com/applications-requirements/

With a paid membership to ISA, your children may apply for assistance with college expenses. Several students are awarded funding annually to assist in their education.

Social Activities
Throughout the year, ISA offers opportunities for just plain fun. From the annual banquet to bowling parties to family days and golf outings, you can find an activity to attend which gives time to relax before the next feed time.

Should you have additional questions or need further information about ISA and its benefits for you as a horse person racing in Indiana, please visit www.indianaharness.com or call the office at (317) 462-6616.
New Vocations offering priceless service to Standardbred industry

Foreword by Tammy Knox

New Vocations has been assisting Standardbreds from Indiana since the 1990s. The program, created by Dot Morgan, took horses from the track that were no longer considered for racing and found a new function for them. As a result, the organization has grown to cover multiple states and Indiana horses are still part of the mix of horses aimed at new careers each year.

Last year, New Vocations placed three millionaire Standardbreds into new homes. Wind of the North, a trotter by Cantab Hall with a mark of 1:41.0 and 65 wins, went to Florida to become a dressage horse. Take it Back Terry, a Western Terror gelding with 67 wins and a mark of 1:50.0 and earnings topping $1.5 million, relocated to Michigan as a pleasure, trail and 4-H horse. DW’s NY Yank, who also competed under saddle during his racing career, had 58 wins, $1.4 million in earnings and a mark of 1:51.3. He is now being ridden for dressage in Kentucky. And, Swandre the Giant, Indiana sired winner of more than $650,000, was recently unloaded to begin his retraining at the New Vocations Center in New York.

One of the current horses in training for a new profession is Latest Desire, a son of Real Desire who retired from racing last fall at Harrah’s Hoosier Park. He completed an 11-year career, amassing $671,107, 57 wins...
and a career best time of 1:49.2 taken as a three-year-old at The Meadows. His dam, the Western Hanover mare Latest Design, has 11 winners in 13 career foals, showing the depth of his maternal line.

Latest Desire is currently working with Bridget Heasley, one of the trainers for New Vocations. Standing at 15.3 and one-half hands tall, the striking gelding has been nicknamed “Dee” and has been a quick learner in his transition. Heasley notes he has already learned to canter under saddle, which will make him a viable candidate for the show ring. Heasley notes, “He is a perfect gentleman in the cross ties and is polite to saddle and bridle.” “Dee” will be available for adoption once he completes his course with Heasley. “Dee” is currently stabled in the Richwood, Ohio facility. There are three total Standardbred facilities in the Buckeye State with other locations in New Carlisle and Hamilton. There is also an East Coast facility in Gansevoort, NY.

“The work that New Vocations has performed for more than three decades, is truly incredible and a labor of love,” said Tony Renz, Executive Director of the ISA. “The horsemen and women rely on our equine athletes while they are competing during their racing years, and once a horse’s race career is complete, the horse relies on the horsemen and women to take care of them. New Vocation has been and continues to be the answer for repurposing horses who have completed their racing years. Dot Morgan (founder and Executive Director) and her daughters, Anna and Winnie, work with all three breeds, and their dedication and hard work has positively affected over 8,000 horses. A long-standing goal of the Indiana Standardbred Association has been to support New Vocations in any manner we can, and in 2023 we plan to raise the level of support for New Vocations. We encourage all equine associations to raise the level of their support too.”

The following information comes from Dot Morgan, founder of New Vocations Racehorse Adoption, on the process of submitting a horse to them for a new career after racing.

**Donating a Horse to New Vocations – What you need to know**

Information provided by Dot Morgan, Executive Director of New Vocations

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program is the nation’s oldest and largest equine charity solely dedicated to securing adoptive homes for retired racehorses. New Vocations has rehabilitated, retrained and rehomed over 2,500 Standardbreds and 6,000 Thoroughbreds since its inception in 1992. The following information should help owners seeking options for their retiring horses.

**What New Vocations Offers**

New Vocations accepts horses coming directly from the track or a rehab facility that are riding sound or have a prognosis to become riding sound. New Vocations is not a retirement farm. All horses are being prepared for adoption and if a horse proves to be unadoptable due to chronic lameness or temperament, it is returned to the donor.

The owner completes a horse donor form that includes contact information for the owner and the trainer, health records, reason for retiring, option to transfer to Pleasure Horse registration and a current Coggins. A donation is appreciated with the horse to help offset expenses but is not required. It is the owner’s responsibility to transport the horse to one of New Vocations three Standardbred facilities in Ohio or one in New York.

New Vocations evaluates and photographs the horse upon arrival. If indicated, a veterinarian will do a lameness exam that may include x-rays or ultrasounds and then suggest a rehab regimen. Many of the horses coming to the program require at least 30 days to get over minor soreness from racing; others may need two to four months to heal from more significant injuries. The retraining process begins once the horse is cleared for under saddle work.

“The first and subsequent few mounting experiences are perhaps the most important foundation to be laid in transitioning the Standardbred to riding,” said Executive Director Dot Morgan. “We may not know if the horse has carried a rider before, so our trainers proceed
with caution. This may be the most frightening part of the training process. We definitely don’t want the horse bolting at the sight of a rider on his back. Make a mistake here, and it will be a laborious challenge to correct it."

Once the horse is confident carrying a rider, he is taught to give to the pressure of the bit, rather than push against it.

He is also taught to back up to the command of the rider. Of course, he’ll back when the handler requests it, but few horses are ever asked to back in harness by their driver.

Additionally, the horse must be taught to respond to leg aids. Standardbreds are “dead sided” from the constant bumping of the shafts. They have to learn that a nudge to the sides means to go forward.

Finally, with these fundamentals in place, the horse will be walked over and around obstacles to reinforce these lessons. He will spend time in the arena and walking down the road or trail.

When the horse is comfortable in his new role, he’ll photographed displaying his lovely attributes, videoed to show off his new skills, and posted for adoption.

New Vocations carefully screens and monitors its adoptions. “We do not adopt to beginners or first-time horse owners,” said Standardbred Program Director Winnie Nemeth. “These horses are still green under saddle and need an experienced person to continue their education.”

Adopters are carefully screened for experience, a safe boarding environment, and financial accountability. They also must have good references from their vet along with two nonfamily members that have seen them ride.

Adopters sign a contract that requires them to send New Vocations updates with current pictures at 3, 6, 12 and 24 months. They are not allowed to sell the horse during this time. If for some reason they can no longer keep the horse, it must be returned to New Vocations. After two years the horse may be sold or transferred with a New Vocations Bill of Sale that states that the horse can be returned to New Vocations at any time in its life and for any reason.

New Vocations is a labor of love for the horses and the sport of racing. To give a racehorse the optimal chance for a quality life beyond the track, it’s important to consider retiring them earlier rather than later. Though Standardbreds rarely succumb to catastrophic break-
downs, they can be worn out beyond the point of a productive pain free life.

“In my 50 years owning racehorses, I’ve learned that once a horse is on a downhill slide, it’s very difficult to make them profitable again,” Morgan added. “In most cases, the owners and certainly the horses, would be better off if the horse is retired before irreparable damage and excessive training and vet bills are incurred.”

New Vocations makes that decision easier by providing the opportunity for these horses to enjoy a productive future where they will continue to be well cared for and cherished.

**Horse Donor Form (completed with Coggins and health records, if possible)**

- Donor Form includes option to transfer horse to Pleasure Horse registration as one of the following:
  - All racing eligibility will be terminated, Or
  - Racing eligibility will be terminated, and future offspring cannot be registered with the USTA

- Upon arrival, horses are evaluated for soundness and rehabbed, if necessary

- Horses are transitioned to riding and evaluated for aptitude

- Horses are photographed to display their attributes, videoed to show off their new skills and posted to the website.

- Adopters are carefully screened for experience, a safe boarding environment and accountability, plus they must have good references from their vet along with two nonfamily members that have seen them ride

- Beginners or first-time horse owners are not allowed to adopt. These horses are still green under saddle and need an experienced person to continue their education

- Adopters sign a contract agreeing to update New Vocations with current pictures at 3, 6, 12, and 24 months. Horses cannot be sold during that time but must be returned to New Vocations if the adopter can no longer keep it.

- A Bill of Sale follows each horse stating that he can be returned to New Vocations for any reason, at any time during his life.
Application and Terms for Donation of Horse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“New Vocations”</th>
<th>“Donor”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program</strong>&lt;br&gt;A not-for-profit corporation and 501(C)(3) charity&lt;br&gt;4628 Veterans Parkway, Mason, OH, 45040&lt;br&gt;Phone: 734-320-7918</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Donated Horse”</td>
<td>“Trainer”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGISTERED NAME</td>
<td>NAME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRED</td>
<td>STREET ADDRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLOR</td>
<td>CITY, STATE, ZIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEX</td>
<td>PHONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRTHDATE</td>
<td>E-MAIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TATTOO/REGISTRATION #</td>
<td>HORSE LOCATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please list all current or previous injuries in detail (attach x-rays and vet reports):

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please indicate if you are able to sponsor the Donated Horse with a tax-deductible donation to New Vocations (the average cost to put a Standardbred through the program is $2,500):

☐ Yes, I can contribute $__________ per month until the Donated Horse is adopted out of the New Vocations program.
☐ Yes, I can contribute a one-time donation of $__________.
☐ No, I cannot make a financial contribution at this time.

I have attached a copy of the following pertaining to the Donated Horse: • Current Coggins (required); • Veterinary records; • Registration papers (required for mares); • Recent photograph of Donated Horse; and • Vaccination records.

I understand a donation is subject to New Vocations review and approval of this application. If this application is accepted I understand and agree to the following: By delivery of the Donated Horse to New Vocations, I transfer complete ownership of the Donated Horse to New Vocations, which includes the care, custody and control of the animal, and the right to transfer ownership/registration to New Vocations or to a person or organization adopting the Donated Horse. New Vocations shall have sole and full discretion on the care and disposition of the horse, to include making decisions on veterinary treatment or procedures; adoption of the horse to persons or organizations deemed suitable by New Vocations determines suitable; or euthanasia.

New Vocations shall not be responsible for any fees, including boarding fees. New Vocations will not pay any fees to past providers, and Donator will indemnify and hold New Vocations harmless from any claim arising or lien asserted from such past care of the Donated Horse.

Liability and risk of loss remains with Donor until New Vocations is in actual possession of the Donated Horse.

After acceptance of the delivery of the Donated Horse, New Vocations will provide a receipt acknowledging possession of the animal to the listed donor. New Vocations is not able to provide an opinion on value, therefore Donor should arrange for the valuation of the animal prior to delivery, if a tax deduction is desired.

All matters arising from this donation to New Vocations will be construed under the laws of the State of Kentucky, and any action by either property shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in Fayette County, Lexington.

This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties and there are no promises, agreements, representations or warranties other than those contained herein or expressly incorporated by reference. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts by fax or electronic signatures, which counterparts shall be fully enforceable as a single original document.

Signature of Donor or Authorized Agent for Donated Horse ____________________________ Date ____________

New Vocations Application and Terms of Donation of Horse 2020
Large crowd for Welcome Back Bowling Party

By Tammy Knox

There’s something about sharing an evening of food, fun, and bowling to unite any group. That’s exactly what happened during the annual “Welcome Back Bowling Party” presented by the Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) and Harrah’s Hoosier Park (HHP) Sunday, April 2. More than 50 participated in the event to kick off the 30th season of Standardbred racing in Indiana.

Many attendees just enjoyed the camaraderie and snacks. They came to support others who participated in the bowling portion of the night. Several prizes were presented to those who excelled in alley play at Championship Lanes located in Anderson, Ind.

The prize for Men’s High Score and Most Strikes went to Tim Clevenger while the Women’s High Score and Most Strikes went to Tabby DeLong. Kids’ High Score and Most Strikes was awarded to Nate Macomber.

Other awards for the evening included Men’s Strike in Frame 7, won by Payton Ode, and Women’s Strike in Frame 7 won by Brooke Nickells. Also, kids were rewarded with several drawings throughout the evening with the following earning McDonald’s gift cards courtesy of ISA. Those winning the drawing prizes included Jess DeLong, Bryce Nickells, and Pie Ode.

HHP provided all prizes for the adults. Winners were awarded with merchandise from the track as well as an air fryer, which was won by Brooke Nickells.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed complimentary pizza and soft drinks in addition to the bowling option. ISA Executive Director Tony Renz, ISA Horsemen’s Representative PD Huffman, and ISA Director Emily Dever assisted with the evening that was attended by several other ISA Directors and their families.

Tabby DeLong, second from right, was the top women’s bowler while Brooke Nickells, second from left, was the Women’s Strike winner in Frame 7 during the Horsemen’s Welcome Back Bowling event. Photo by Emily Dever.

Payton Ode, second from left, was the Men’s Strike in Frame 7 winner with Tim Clevenger, second from right, winning the prize for Men’s High Score and Most Strikes. Photo by Emily Dever.

Several kids won prizes during the Horsemen’s Welcome Back Party. From left, Tony Renz, executive director, Jess DeLong, Bryce Nickells, Sonora Dever, Pie Ode, and P.D. Huffman, horsemen’s representative. Photo by Emily Dever.
Trace Tetrick scores 7,000th win

By Tammy Knox

(Quotes from press release by Rich Fisher for the U.S. Trotting Association)

Trace Tetrick has reached another milestone. Indiana’s all-time leading driver and holder of numerous driving titles, 11 to be exact, scored his 7,000th trip to the winner’s circle Monday, April 10 at Miami Valley Raceway. The milestone was recorded with Universal for the Adam Short Stable.

Tetrick had the milestone in his sights before the 2023 season at Harrah’s Hoosier Park got underway in late March. The Geff, Ill. native won four races Saturday, April 8 at Harrah’s Hoosier Park and was only three wins away from the tally. Tetrick continued to go over to Miami Valley, his home during the winter months, once racing resumed in Indiana. He walked into the paddock that following Monday, April 10 just three wins away from achieving yet another impressive statistic for his driving resume. His win with Universal was his third of the night.

Traveling first over, Universal grinded his way to the lead and then rallied out to a two-length lead at the wire in 1:51.1 for Tetrick. His wife, Sandy, and daughter, Chloe, were waiting in the winner’s circle for him to celebrate the milestone.

“I didn’t think much about it (the milestone) going into it (on Monday),” said Tetrick through a US Trotting Association press release. “I thought I had some competitive shots….I thought if I was just kind of patient and did the right thing everything would work out.”

Tetrick, now 36, began driving on the county fair circuit as a matinee driver at age 14 and later got his fair license at age 16. His first win was recorded in 2003. His first appearance in Indiana was in 2005. Fast forward 18 years later and he has already achieved what most drivers can only dream about with Breeders Crown championships, driving titles, the Rising Star award, and more than $77 million in accumulated purse earnings.

In addition to his many titles in Indiana, Tetrick also has a leading title at Miami Valley. At press time, he was leading the standings once again at the Lebanon, Ohio track over Brett Miller and Dan Noble, who were in striking distance of catching him as both drivers compete full time in Ohio.

Traveling first over, Universal grinded his way to the lead and then rallied out to a two-length lead at the wire in 1:51.1 for Tetrick. His wife, Sandy, and daughter, Chloe were waiting in the winner’s circle for him to celebrate the milestone.

“I didn’t think much about it (the milestone) going into it (on Monday),” said Tetrick through a US Trotting Association press release. “I thought I had some competitive shots….I thought if I was just kind of patient and did the right thing everything would work out.”

Tetrick, now 36, began driving on the county fair circuit as a matinee driver at age 14 and later got his fair license at age 16. His first win was recorded in 2003. His first appearance in Indiana was in 2005. Fast forward 18 years later and he has already achieved what most drivers can only dream about with Breeders Crown championships, driving titles, the Rising Star award, and more than $77 million in accumulated purse earnings.

In addition to his many titles in Indiana, Tetrick also has a leading title at Miami Valley. At press time, he was leading the standings once again at the Lebanon, Ohio track over Brett Miller and Dan Noble, who were in striking distance of catching him as both drivers compete full time in Ohio.
# 2023 ISFC at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAIR</th>
<th>RACE DATE(S)</th>
<th>ENTRY#</th>
<th>RACE DAY#</th>
<th>MAILING ADDRESS</th>
<th>FAIRGROUNDS ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami Co. Converse Fair (Converse)</td>
<td>June 1 &amp; 2 June 7 &amp; 8 September 2</td>
<td>(765) 395-3125 (765) 395-3125</td>
<td>PO Box 167 Converse, IN 46919</td>
<td>602 N Jefferson St Converse, IN 46919</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Co. (Shelbyville)</td>
<td>June 27 &amp; 28 September 16</td>
<td>(765) 395-3125 (765) 395-3125</td>
<td>PO Box 167 Converse, IN 46919</td>
<td>500 Frank Street Shelbyville, IN 46176</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana State Fairgrounds</td>
<td>August 9 &amp; 16 August 29 (Elite) September 7</td>
<td>(765) 395-3125 (765) 395-3125 (765) 395-3125</td>
<td>PO Box 167 Converse, IN 46919</td>
<td>1202 E 38th Street Indianapolis, IN 46205</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Co. (Frankfort)</td>
<td>July 13 &amp; 14 August 10 &amp; 11 October 7</td>
<td>(765) 395-3125 (765) 242-4500</td>
<td>6119 S CR O EW Frankfort, IN 46041</td>
<td>1701 S Jackson St Frankfort, IN 46041</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Co. (Kendallville)</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>(574) 825-7523 (260) 740-1448</td>
<td>1915 S Main St Kendallville, IN 46755</td>
<td>580 Fair Street Kendallville, IN 46755</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton Co. (Kentland)</td>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>(765) 395-3125 (219) 474-5745</td>
<td>12100 S Punkinvine Rd Kentland, IN 47951</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkhart Co. (Goshen)</td>
<td>July 22 &amp; 25</td>
<td>(574) 825-7523 (574) 533-3247</td>
<td>17746 D CR 34 Goshen, IN 46528</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Co. (Portland)</td>
<td>July 3 August 5 September 30</td>
<td>(574) 825-7523 (260) 729-1927</td>
<td>1932 E 300S Portland, IN 47371</td>
<td>806 E Votaw St Portland, IN 47371</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette Co. (Connersville)</td>
<td>July 31 &amp; Aug 1</td>
<td>(765) 395-3125 (765) 821-2444</td>
<td>PO Box 20 Connersville, IN 47331</td>
<td>2690 N Park Road Connersville, IN 47331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison Co. (Corydon)</td>
<td>June 15 &amp; 16 September 23</td>
<td>(765) 395-3125 (812) 267-7580</td>
<td>PO Box 84 Corydon, IN 47112</td>
<td>305 S Capitol Road Corydon, IN 47112</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrahs Hoosier Park (Anderson)</td>
<td>June 21, 22, 23</td>
<td>Contact HHP Racing Office</td>
<td>4500 Dan Patch Circle Anderson, IN 46013</td>
<td>SAME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please Note: The mailing addresses listed above are for entry checks to be mailed in case of a scratch. The other addresses are the physical addresses of the Fairgrounds. You may use the mailing addresses to mail in the W9 forms as well.*

## Indiana Sired Fair Circuit County Fair Split Chart:

### County Fair Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Fair</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Max # Horses per Race</th>
<th># Horses Across Gate</th>
<th># Horses in 2nd Tier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkhart Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana State Fair</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Co.</td>
<td>2YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3YO</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ISA Golf Outing set for May

By Tammy Knox

The Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) will hold a Horsemen’s Golf Outing at 1PM Monday, May 15. The event is slated for Grandview Golf Course, located just off of Raible Ave. on the northwest side of Anderson, Ind.

The event, with a shotgun start at 1PM, will include a golf cart and greens fees for the day. Teams of four will compete, and signups are now available with ISA Horsemen’s Representative P.D. Huffman. Huffman is taking names nightly in the paddock, and those who do not have a team can still sign up. Individuals will be paired up for the outing the day of the event.

In addition to golf, the outing will include lunch, provided by the ISA. The grill will be on offering hot dogs and hamburgers and other picnic style foods.

The Horsemen’s Golf Outing is free to all ISA Members. Non-ISA members are also encouraged to attend at a reduced rate of $25 per person.

All sign-ups for the golf outing need to be completed with Huffman by Monday, May 8. The number of golfers is required to determine space on the course, lineups, carts, and food. Please RSVP to Huffman by calling (765) 278-9503 or stop by the Paddock Lounge during races and qualifiers at Harrah’s Hoosier Park to get a name on the list.
Lois Ann Combs, age 86, passed away at her home in Celina, Ohio on Saturday, March 18, 2023. She was born February 23, 1937, in Hilliard, Ohio to the late Francis and Amey Orabood Walker.

Lois and Loren I. Combs were married on July 21, 1956, and he survives at the residence. Lois leaves behind their son, Paul Combs of Celina, and two grandchildren, Michael Combs and Carrie Combs.

Also surviving are her brother and sisters: Joanne White of Columbus, Gerald Walker of Mount Gilead, and Iva Sheets of North Lewisburg. Surviving brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law is Marian Smith of Greenville, Ohio and Phillip (Judy) Wright and Marvin (Bonnie) Combs, of Eaton, Ohio.

Lois was a graduate of Hilliard High School. She was a homemaker and had attended the Montezuma United Methodist Church. Lois was a loyal fan of The Ohio State University men’s basketball team. She owned Standardbred horses and enjoyed harness racing and horse pulling. She was the owner of 10 Standardbreds over the years, mainly trotters, including Flirtin ARS, High Kash, Little Lover, R Silly Sally, and Mr Striker. She was also the breeder on two horses Special Bouquet and LC Grandeur. None of these horses meant more to the Combs family than Lucky Anna, a trotter owned by their son Paul, and trained by Loren. The mare retired in 2001 with 11 wins, $51,000 in earnings and a mark of 1:58.3 at Colonial Downs.

Lois was a member of the Mercer County Harness Horsemen’s Association, Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association, Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association, and the United States Trotting Association. She could often be spotted assisting Loren in the shoe shop at Harrah’s Hoosier Park in the first decade of pari-mutuel racing in Indiana. She also assisted Loren with their small stable in Indiana during the summer months.

Lois was preceded in death by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Bill White, Betty Walker, Bob and Sally Combs, Eddie and Margaret Combs, Jim and Gayle Combs, and Bob Miller, and her parents-in-law: Paul and Mildred Combs.

Services were held at W.H. Dick & Sons-Hellwarth Funeral Home in Celina, Ohio with Chaplain Eric Muhlenkamp officiating. Burial followed at Mercer Memory Garden in Celina.

Memorial contributions in Lois’ name may be made to the Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association, 157 N. Main St., Salem, NH 03079, or EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway St., Greenville, OH 45331.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Jerry Boley and the staff of EverHeart Hospice for their loving care of Lois.
William Huggins III


Bill owned and operated Bill and Casey’s Landing with brother-in-law, Casey Brickley, during the 1960s and ‘70s in Wolcottville, founded and operated Pretzels Inc., with business partner and lifetime friend, Bill Mann, in Bluffton, Ind. Bill also partnered with Tim Dykstra (LaGrange, Ind.) to build Noble Hawk Golf Links in Kendallville, Ind. He was a member of the Army National Guard and Topeka Baptist Church.

Bill had an avid interest in Standardbreds through the years and owned and bred several Indiana champions. His most noted horse was Valley Electric, who earned more than $780,000 and won 42 races. More recently, Bill owned standouts such as Always a Miracle, who was from the direct family of Valley Electric, and Your-wishisgranted, who took a mark of 1:49.4 in 2022 at Harrah’s Hoosier Park.

In addition to his love of horses, Bill enjoyed playing golf with friends. In his younger years, he was an outdoorsman, enjoying small game and wildfowl hunting. He was also a big IU basketball fan.

Bill is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ruby Huggins, of Wolcottville; two sons, William Huggins IV, of Rome City, and Steven (Yvette) Huggins, of Bluffton; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Kathy (Richard) Magers, of Westminster, Maryland.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Marylou Clare; a brother, Joe Huggins; and a daughter-in-law, Gina Huggins.

Out of respect for Bill’s wishes, there were no visitation or services held. Young Family Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Preferred memorials are being accepted in Bill’s name to the Community Foundation of LaGrange or Parkview Noble Hospice.

In Remembrance

Indiana Standardbred Magazine  May 2023
Pacey Mindlin

Pacey “The Wizard” Mindlin passed away on March 7, 2023, following a short illness. Mindlin was part of the handicapping team at Miami Valley and other Ohio racetracks but was also a longtime Standardbred owner, which brought him into Indiana for competition.

Mindlin, 81, was a lifelong resident of southwest Ohio who began going to the races with his father Sandee at age 9. He bought his first horse and joined the USTA in 1966. Over the years he has owned 142 horses, often in partnership with friend Kenneth Cohen. While he was a fixture at the Lexington and Harrisburg yearling sales, many of those he raced were homebreds as he was responsible for bringing 79 foals into the world over the years. Horsemen recognized Mr. Mindlin as a bloodlines expert.

Among his best horses were Lightning Wave, who won a heat of the Little Brown Jug, Norma Ruth Hanover, Good Bye Columbus, Pointer Hanover and Joyful Crown. He was the under bidder on the great mare, Fan Hanover, when she sold as a yearling.

Mindlin owned three Ohio Sires Stakes champions. Although a majority of his success was recorded in the Buckeye State, he owned several horses that were campaigned by Bill Dailey at Harrah’s Hoosier Park, including Indiana Sires Stakes Champion Flight Elal, who he was also the breeder of. Flight Elal was a son of Panspacificflight and won 20 races and nearly $600,000 during his career with a mark of 1:50.4. Other horses owned by Mindlin that raced in Indiana were Elvis Rocks, a son of Rockin Image, Bagel Beach Boy, a Jenna’s Beach Boy gelding he bred that earned more than $850,000, and Point of Desire, a Real Desire gelding he bred and raced.

In addition to his handicapping host duties, Mr. Mindlin was an associate judge for parts of 20 years, working at Lebanon and Latonia Raceways and several county fairs. He ran his family’s scrap yard for years before selling it a few years before his death.

Mr. Mindlin is survived by his wife of 33 years, Debbie. Miami Valley honored “The Wizard” with a feature race at the end of the 2023 meet.
Michael Lee White

Michael Lee White, 59, of Connersville, Ind. passed away at his residence following a brief illness Friday, March 3.

Mike was born on July 25, 1963, to Carolleta Fay Bergen in Rushville. He graduated from Connersville High School with the class of 1981. Following graduation, Mike enlisted in the Army where he received several awards including Army Service Medal, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Achievement Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

Mike was known by many horsemen throughout the state when they competed at Indiana Downs. Mike joined the equine maintenance staff on the backstretch of the track and assisted horsemen and horsewomen with issues that would arise during the racing season. He was particularly handy in woodworking and could accommodate almost any need for those stabled on the grounds. He worked at the track for almost 15 years, nearly the entire length of Standardbred racing at Indiana Downs before it moved to Harrah’s Hoo-sier Park in 2013.

Mike was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and tending to his chickens and cows. He was an exceptional woodworker creating many pieces including individual mini barns for each of his grandchildren. He also completed several projects for the racetrack, including a structure for the City of Shelbyville’s Dog Park, picnic tables for the grandstand area, upgrades and improvements around the tote board and paddock, and the outdoor eating structures still in use outside the grandstand.

Mike embraced the Native American culture and was an avid collector. He was a recovering alcoholic who has proudly been sober for 30 years. His favorite pastimes were eating, and spending time with his grandchildren.

In addition to his mother, Mike is survived by his sons: Bronson White, Dakota White; daughters: Britain White, Cheyenne White; grandchildren: Benton, Hayden, Gunner, Bo, Bryleigh, Anberlin; brother: Henry Bulmer and Vickie; sisters and their spouses: Michelle Murray and Albert, Judy Reece and Walter; several nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Service was held at Showalter Blackwell Long, Myers Chapel, in Connersville. Burial followed in Laurel North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Shelby County United Fund for You (SCUFFY) or Girls Inc Shelbyville in Mike’s honor.
2023 College Assistance Requirements
Fall Semester

Requirements for submitting a College Assistance Application

Ω Applicant / Parent / Grandparent or Guardian must be a 2023 ISA Member and hold a 2023 IHRC Standardbred License
Ω Applicant / Parent / Grandparent or Guardian must be an Indiana resident by April 30, 2023
Ω Applicant must be working towards a 2-year associate’s, a 4-year bachelor’s degree, or a technical trade school.
Ω Applicant must be currently enrolled as either a part time or full time student
Ω Applicant must hold at least a 2.5 GPA

*College assistance award amount may vary per semester based on number of applicants received.*

The following items must be returned to the I.S.A. Office to be eligible for College Assistance

_____ Completed ISA College Assistance Application

_____ Copy of one of the following to verify Applicant / Parent / Grandparent or Guardian Indiana Residency: Indiana Driver's License, Indiana Voter's Registration or the first page of most recent Indiana State Tax Return

_____ Copy of the Applicant/Parent/Grandparent or Guardian’s IHRC Standardbred License

_____ Proof of 2023 Fall Registration from College/University or Trade School

_____ Verification of part time or full time student status

_____ Verification of most current GPA

_____ Letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or college professor

_____ Letter of recommendation from Standardbred affiliate (other than immediate family)

_____ Typewritten one (1) page essay that answers the question: “What are your educational goals, and how do you plan to apply your education in the horse-racing industry in Indiana upon graduation?”

***Applications will be evaluated by the ISA Scholarship Committee.

A complete application and all the required attachments must be postmarked by July 15th, 2023 for application to be considered.

Please mail all required documents to:

The Indiana Standardbred Association
311 American Legion Place
Greenfield, IN 46140
Attention: ISA Scholarship Committee

(For additional questions please contact the ISA Office at (800) 565-5725 or by email at kristi.isaracing@gmail.com)
Please complete the entire application.

I. Personal Information

Name: ___________________________________________   Date of Birth: ___________________
    (last)   (first)         (middle)
Address: _________________________________________________________________________
    (street)     (city)     (state)     (zip)
Phone: ___________________________________________________________________________
    (home)    (cell)    (school)
Email: ____________________________________________________________

II. Academic Information

High School: ______________________________________________________________________
            (name)    (complete address)
Date of Graduation: __________________ (mm/dd/year)
College or University you are planning to attend: _________________________________________
Your Current Grade Point Average (GPA): ______________________________________________
Degree & Major you are pursuing: ____________________________________________________
Career Objective: __________________________________________________________________
Scholastic Honors and/or Achievements: ______________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Extra Curricular Activities – Discuss your interests other than horses. Include your involvement in community projects, hobbies, and organizations to which you belong to:
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
III. Family Information
Father’s Name: ________________________________________________________________
Father’s Occupation: ________________________________________________________________
Mother’s Name: ________________________________________________________________
Mother’s Occupation: ________________________________________________________________
Legal Guardian (if applicable) ________________________________________________________________
Applicant / Parent / Grandparent / Guardian’s name who holds a current ISA Membership and IHRC Standardbred License:   (Please provide IHRC License #)

IV. Work Experience
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates of Employment</th>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. Standardbred Industry Affiliation
Describe your background in the Standardbred Industry:
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Describe the work experience you have in the Standardbred Industry:
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Explain how you plan to be involved with Standardbreds after receiving your college education:
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What three words best describe your feelings about the Indiana Standardbred Industry:
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Please enroll me as a member of the Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA).

Membership Dues: $50.00

Please make checks payable to: Indiana Standardbred Association or ISA

Mail application to: 311 American Legion Place, Greenfield, IN 46140

ISA 2023 membership is effective from March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024. Your dues to the ISA are not deductible as a charitable contribution. Please consult with your tax advisor to determine whether dues may be a deductible expense under another provision of the current tax law.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________

   (Street)    (City)    (State)  (Zip)

Phone: ________________________________________________________________

   (Home)    (Cell)

2023 ISA Text Messaging Service

**The ISA will send surveys periodically to gather feedback from ISA Members about various topics throughout the year. These surveys will be sent by text with a link provided by surveymonkey**

I wish to ONLY receive ISA text messages -----------------------------------------------

I wish to receive BOTH ISA and Hoosier Park Race Office text messages-----------------

The cell phone number to be provided for the service is ______________________________

   • I understand that my phone number will be kept in strict confidence by the ISA and the text messaging service provider.
   • I further understand that I may opt-out of this service at any time.
   • I further understand that standard text message rates will apply to any messages sent to me by the service provider.

Date ____________________________  Signature Required For Text Messaging Services
Benefits of an I.S.A. Paid Membership include:

- Sulky Insurance for “Paid 2023 ISA Members” at Indiana Pari-Mutuel Tracks and Indiana Fair Tracks. All owners of the damaged sulky or jog cart must be “Paid 2023 ISA Members” before the accident occurred. The driver, the trainer and all owners or lessees of the hitched horse to the damaged sulky or jog cart must be “Paid 2023 ISA Members” prior to the incident causing the damage. If the horse is owned by a stable, corporation or multiple owners, all members as well must be “Paid 2023 ISA Members”. The ISA offers a maximum of $2,000.00 per incident. Wheel coverage of $300.00 per wheel per incident. Contact the ISA office for further details (800) 565-5725.

- Subscription to the “Indiana Standardbred Magazine” (1 per household)

- Annual Indiana Standardbred Stallion Directory (1 per household)

- Representation of Association Issues before The IHRC and The Indiana Legislature

- Voting Privilege for By-Law Changes and the Election of your ISA Directors

- On-Site Track Representation at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino

- Eligibility to the ISA Elite Series

- ISA Dental and Optical Program (eligibility requirements apply and are listed on the Dental/Optical Insurance Application)

- Text Messaging Service

The Indiana Standardbred Association
311 American Legion Place
Greenfield, IN  46140
Toll-free (800) 565-5725~Office (317) 462-6616~Fax (317) 462-7240

Website:  www.indianaharness.com   Email:  isaracing@sbcglobal.net
2023 Eligibility Requirements

You must meet ALL FOUR requirements

- You must be an Indiana Resident
- You must be over eighteen (18) years of age
- You must be a 2023 ISA Member
- You must have EITHER a 2023 IHRC (Indiana Horse Racing Commission) Standardbred License OR be listed as an Indiana Breeder on record with the IHRC (**Hoosier Park Employee Licenses are not eligible**)

Note: Applications for Dental/Optical Insurance coverage MUST be completed every year with application for ISA Membership to continue coverage or to enroll in the program.

BIRTHDATE________ IHRC License #________________________

CHECK BOX IF YOU ARE AN INDIANA BREEDER

*You must be on the current IHRC registered mare owner list to qualify as a breeder*

Name_____________________________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________________

Signature: _______________________________________________________________________

✦ Signature must be provided to be enrolled to the ISA Dental/Optical Insurance Program.

✦ If your 2023 ISA Membership and Dental/Optical Application is not received by June 1st, 2023, your insurance will be terminated.

✦ New enrollees and/or terminated members are subject to a 60 day waiting period.

The Indiana Standardbred Association
311 American Legion Place
Greenfield, IN 46140
Toll-free (800) 565-5725~Office (317) 462-6616~Fax (317) 462-7240
ISFC gets boost from USTA Grant

By Tammy Knox

The U.S. Trotting Association has a program that assists harness racing entities annually with supplemental funds. This season, the Indiana Standardbred Association (ISA) will be part of that program as $5,000 was received from the USTA’s Broadcast Committee. The funds will go directly to the continuation of live streaming operations for the 2023 Indiana Sired Fair Circuit (ISFC).

The funding was acquired by an application provided by Tony Renz, Executive Director of ISA. Renz provided information on expenses for Mark The Spot LLC, which broadcasts each of the fair locations throughout the season. The funding will go toward the continuation of the live streaming broadcasts, a very popular option for horsemen and horsewomen the past two years.

The U.S. Trotting Association’s Board of Directors recently reviewed all requests submitted through their Broadcast Committee. A total of $105,000 for 14 broadcast funding requests were provided by the group, covering racetracks, horsemen’s associations and internet media entities.

Other groups receiving funding for 2023 from the program include Iowa Harness Horsemen’s Association, the Illinois Harness Horsemen’s Association, the Michigan Harness Horsemen’s Association, and the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association as recipients from the funding. Additionally, Harrah’s Hoosier Park and The Meadowlands each received $25,000 for the 2023 racing season. Other entities receiving funding include In the Money Media, Post Time with Heather Vitale, the Little Brown Jug, The Meadows and Meadows Standardbred Association, Yonkers Raceway and North American Harness Update.

Funding from the USTA’s Broadcast Committee will support national broadcast television, local broadcast media, livestream broadcasts and podcasts. In addition to the $105,000 allotted, the committee held back $20,000 for needs that arise during the 2023 racing season.
### Standardbred Days

**March 24 thru December 9**

**Post Time 6:15 p.m.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</td>
<td>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</td>
<td>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</td>
<td>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</td>
<td>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</td>
<td>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</td>
<td>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</td>
<td>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</td>
<td>28 29 30 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S S M T W T F</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</td>
<td>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</td>
<td>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</td>
<td>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</td>
<td>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</td>
<td>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</td>
<td>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</td>
<td>27 28 29 30 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S S M T W T F</td>
<td>S S M T W T F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15</td>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
<td>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</td>
<td>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</td>
<td>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</td>
<td>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</td>
<td>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</td>
<td>29 30 31</td>
<td>26 27 28 29 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Holiday Racing Card:**

**Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day**

* Subject to change
If you have questions about advertising in the Indiana Standardbred Magazine, please contact Tammy Knox at tammyknox@ymail.com or the ISA Office at (317) 462-6616.

Full Page Ads will receive a free rotating ad on the homepage of the ISA website!

Multiple Page Discounts

Two Full Page Color Ads......$650 Each additional ad is $350
(Discounts based on orders per issue) Special pricing for not for profit organizations.

If you have questions about advertising in the Indiana Standardbred Magazine, please contact Tammy Knox at tammyknox@ymail.com or the ISA Office at (317) 462-6616.

2022 AD RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Size</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inside front/back cover*</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-page color</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half-page color</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter-page color</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business card</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified Ad (bus. card size)</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on availability

Serving the Indiana Standardbred community.

For more information or to book a special photo shoot, email dagillette@embarqmail.com.

Order your personal prints today at makemeaprint.com.
Many farms in Central Indiana are a direct result from Standardbred racing, including this farm just north of Markleville, Ind. Joe Putnam oversees the facility that has been in place since the late 1990s. Photo by Dean Gillette.