

PACESSETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STANDARDBRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

DAVID MILLER Reaches Driving Milestone



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Miss New Jersey



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CURRENT HANOVER Wins D'Altrui Miss NJ



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BRIAN SEARS Wins 3 of 4 NJSS FINALS!



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FRESH DECK Wins Abbatiello Classic!



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President's Message

by Tom Luchento

The harness racing scene in New Jersey will not be the same without Ralph Morano, even though he retired to Florida nearly five years ago. On behalf of the SBOANJ, to which he devoted more than 30 years of his life, I want to extend our most sincere sympathy and condolences to his family and friends on his passing last month.

Ralph was born and raised in Jersey City, in a really tough Italian-American area where you learned quickly how to deal with life. I also was born and grew up in that area, and can attest to what it took to survive. You had to be tough. But as tough as he needed to be, Ralph Morano knew how to get things done with or without toughness. Most people in harness racing will remember his dedication and hard work on behalf of the SBOANJ as its track representative at The Meadowlands. He fought to protect horsemen's rights, making sure that track management knew he would be there to represent "his people".

Before those 20 years of service at The Meadowlands, Ralph was one of the many hard-working trainers and drivers with his own stable, racing mostly on the small New Jersey circuit that consisted of Freehold and Atlantic City Raceway and across the river at Yonkers and Roosevelt when he had a horse that "fit". And he was an active member of the SBOANJ Board of Directors for more than 10 years of that period of his life. There is a story elsewhere in Pacesetter that details some of the highlights of his career.

Tough is what we all are going to have to be over the next several months if our harness racing and breeding industries are to survive. We are faced with increasing competition from harness tracks in our neighboring states, which have the benefit of slot machines or VLTs to boost purses there. And the 4-year casino supplement ends this year.

The Meadowlands not only still has the highest overnight purses of any North American track, thanks to the supplement, but it still has the largest wagering pools. More specifically, purses for the last two Saturday nights in June were higher at The Meadowlands than nearby Yonkers Raceway, which has had VLTs pouring money into its purse account for months.

With the casino supplement expiring, we have been urging state officials to authorize VLTs at our racetracks. We have gone to Trenton and met with Governor Corzine's chief economic advisor, Gary Rose. Although it has become apparent that VLTs are not imminent, we have every indication that another larger casino subsidy will likely be sought by the Governor to keep our purses up to the competition from neighboring states.

When the NJSEA indicated that it was concerned about having enough casino subsidy money left to keep purses up through the end of the year, we had a meeting to review the purse account with NJSEA officials and expect that the purses will remain up. The SBOANJ is continuing its new owner program to develop more interest in our racing product. The more new horse owners we have, the more new racing fans will go to the track.

Every one of us involved in the racing or breeding industries should speak out now. Contact your state senators and assemblymen and women, as well as the governor, urging that action be taken to help the horse industry survive in New Jersey. Tell them that the equine industry contributes more than a billion dollars to the state's economy, and is responsible for the preservation of open spaces with our horse farms; that there are other businesses that will collapse if the horse industry doesn't survive, such as: farm building and fence construction; feed, grain and hay; veterinary services, machinery and equipment, to mention a few.

Go to our web site www.sboanj.com and look for the link to legislative information to get the names and addresses of your state lawmakers. Write a letter today.

Life is getting tougher for our industry. It's time for our people to get tough, as well.

SBOANJ HOLDS MORE SEMINARS FOR POTENTIAL HORSE OWNERS



Hall of Fame harness driver Catello "Cat" Manzi was a guest at the SBOANJ "New Owners Invitational" at The Meadowlands recently, where he met two entertainment celebrities invited to the event, actor and producer Joe Bisiele, center, and Lou Martini Jr., an actor who appeared in "The Sopranos" television series. (Photo by Nancy Webster Peck)

The Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey continues to attract new horse owners to the sport with seminars at the racetracks. In addition to a second seminar at Freehold Raceway on June 2, the SBOANJ hosted its first ever "Owner Invitational" event on June 23 at The Meadowlands.

Established and new owners invited friends, family and business associates to the "VIP" event in the prestigious President's Box on the Pegasus level. Guests participated in guided tours of the paddock, rides in the starting gate, and visits with the judges and track announcer, in addition to a "night at the races".

Two new owners who met at the first seminar in April formed a partnership to own horses together. One of them, Dr. George Schmidt, donated \$2,500 in a winner's circle presentation to the Standardbred Retirement Foundation. Other cosponsors with the SBOANJ and Perretti Farms were Reynolds Hay and Feed, Hanover Shoe Farms, Dey Equine Veterinarians and Dr. Thomas Oliver.

STANDARDBRED HORSE SHOW AUGUST 12 AT NJ HORSE PARK

The 45th annual standardbred horse show sponsored by the SBOA of New Jersey is scheduled for Sunday, August 12, at the Horse Park of New Jersey in Upper Freehold Township, near Allentown. This year's show will begin at 11 a.m., rain or shine. Admission is free. The 147-acre Horse Park is located on Route 524, a few miles from Exit 11 of Interstate 195.

Once again, there will be the traditional standardbred yearling show with separate classes for colts and for fillies, along with two classes of mare and foal judging. There will also be a lottery-type drawing for free 2008 New Jersey stallion breedings donated by stallion owners and breeding farms and for other prizes donated by vendors

In addition to the \$7,500 in prize money provided by the N. J. Equine Advisory Board, the SBOANJ will guarantee a \$100 prize to all entrants who participate in the show. Prize money will be awarded to the owners of the first four finishers in each division of the two yearling and two mare and foal classes, as follows: \$600, first place; \$400, second place; \$300, third place, and \$200, fourth place. Another \$1,500 will go to the grand champion in the yearling class. All entry forms, entry fees, registration certificates, Coggins test results and release forms must be submitted to the SBOANJ no later than July 27.

ALL cover photos by : LISA PHOTO

PAYMENT DUE JULY 15 FOR NJ FUTURITY #44

A \$20 fee is due July 15 for New Jersey Futurity #44, foals of 2007. Payment should be made to the SBOA of New Jersey, 64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726. Although the Jersey-bred weanling becomes eligible to the Futurity, it is the mare that must be nominated with this payment. In order to be eligible, all owners of the mare must be SBOANJ members. For information, please call 732-462-2357.

SBOANJ GOLF OUTING ON JULY 16

The 12th annual golf outing of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey is scheduled for Monday, July 16, at the Cream Ridge Golf Club on Route 539 in Cream Ridge. The cost is \$135 per participant, same as last year, and includes golf, cart, lunch and dinner. Dinner only will cost \$50. There also will be door prizes. There also will be a drawing for a new Premier TrainerJog Cart donated by Al Eggert of Pennsbury Enterprises. To register, please call the SBOA at (732) 462-2357.

HAMBO CHARITY GOLF ON JULY 30

The 15th annual Hambletonian Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 30 at the Montclair Golf Club in West Orange. Proceeds will benefit the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame and the Standardbred Retirement Foundation. The cost is \$400 for golf and \$50 for dinner only.

FRESH DECK & CURRENT HANOVER WIN ABBATIELLO CLASSIC & D'ALTRUI MISS NJ



This year's edition of the \$500,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Pacing Classic was won by Fresh Deck, a three-year-old pacing son of Cam's Card Shark, while the \$200,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey Pace was won by Current Hanover, a three-year-old daughter of Western Ideal. Fresh Deck, driven by Hall of Fame driver John Campbell, won the Classic in 1:49.4 for owners Val D'Or Farms, Schoor Racing Stable and Ted Gewertz and trainer Joe Holloway. They were greeted in the winner's circle by Abbatiello, a harness Hall of Famer, NJ State Racing commissioner and former SBOANJ president, along with officers and directors of the SBOANJ, founder and sponsor of the richest homebred race in the nation. Current Hanover, driven by George Brennan for owners David McDuffee and Irving Liverman and trainer Richard Norman, was welcomed into the winner's circle by Miss New Jersey Georgine DiMaria, D'Altrui, a former SBOANJ vice president and prominent breeder, SBOANJ representatives and the owners after her 1:50.2 victory.

(Lisa Photos, Inc.)



MISS NJ AT MISS NJ PACE

Georgine DiMaria, Miss New Jersey of 2006-2007, greeted Current Hanover, winner of the \$200,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey Pace for 2007 at The Meadowlands. The Lodi, NJ, resident, is studying at Montclair State University for a bachelor's degree in music, with a pre-law concentration. She plans to attend law school and pursue a career in legislative advocacy and government affairs. (Lisa Photos, Inc.)

FREEHOLD FALL MEET OPENS AUG. 9 WITH NJSS & GREEN ACRES

The lucrative New Jersey Sire Stakes pari-mutuel program and Green Acres series will highlight the racing calendar when Freehold Raceway reopens for its fall-winter meet on August 9.

Slated for the opening day program will be the first round of Sire Stakes Green Acres competition for two-year-old pacing colts and geldings and three-year-old pacing fillies. The Sire Stakes Pari-Mutuel Division actually begins August 11 with competition for two-year-old pacing colts and geldings.

HAMBO WEEK JULY 28-AUGUST 4 STARTS WITH ANNUAL PARADE

Horses and other equine units, marching bands, vintage cars and the stars of harness racing will travel down Park Avenue in Rutherford for the fourth annual Hambletonian Parade on Saturday, July 28.

The 1.1-mile parade, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., will conclude at 2 p. m. at Lincoln Park, where there will be racing displays, food vendors, live music, pony rides, clowns and games. Harness racing's leading trainers and drivers will also be on hand to sign autographs. The recently crowned Miss New Jersey for 2006-07, Amy Polumbo of Howell, will also participate in the event

The parade marks the beginning of the Hambletonian Festival at the Meadowlands Racetrack, a week of stakes and special events culminating in the 82nd edition of the \$1.7 million Hambletonian on August 4. Post time on Hambletonian Day is 11:30 a.m.

BARBARO DOC TO KEYNOTE HAMBO VET SEMINAR

Dr. Dean W. Richardson, the chief of surgery at the Widener Hospital for Large Animals at New Bolton Center who gained international recognition as the head of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro's medical team, will be the keynote speaker August 3 at the eighth annual continuing education seminar for equine veterinarians sponsored by the Hambletonian Society and First Choice Marketing at the Sheraton Meadowlands.

SEARS WINS 3 OF 4 NJSS FINALS

Driver Brian Sears scored a driving triple in the 2007 New Jersey Sire Stakes Championship Finals for three-year-old pacers and trotters at The Meadowlands on successive nights in June. Each final carried a \$175,000 purse.

On June 21, Sears piloted Primary AS (Malabar Man) to a 1:56.1 victory for Kittelson Racing and trainer Trond Smedshammer in the NJSS Final for three-year-old trotting colts and geldings.

He won his second final on June 22 with Lady Mattgalane (Artiscape) in 1:51 for trainer Greg Peck and co-owners Perretti Racing and C. H. & S. A. Horner in the three-year-old filly pacing championship.

The third victory was on June 23, piloting Always A Virgin (Western Ideal) to win the final for three-year-old pacing colts and geldings in 1:50.2 for trainer Joe Holloway and co-owners Bluewood Stables, Roll The Dice Stables and Val D'Or Farms.

Driver Mike Lachance prevented a Sears clean sweep of the NJSS three-year-old finals by winning the three-year-old filly trot championship with Possess The Magic (Self Possessed) in 1:56.2 for Brittany Farms and trainer Ron Gurfein.

BIG M & FREEHOLD TO OFFER EXOTIC BETS FROM SWEDEN

Multi-million dollar pools and huge potential pay-offs are the selling points of two new exotic wagers from Sweden that the Meadowlands and Freehold Raceway have added to the wagering lineup.

MILLER REACHES \$100 MILLION AT BIG M

David Miller has become the seventh driver in harness racing history to surpass the \$100-million mark in career purse earnings. The 43-year-old reinsman from Cream Ridge reached that plateau at The Meadowlands driving Free to a 1:50.2 victory in the \$46,500 Mares Open on June 15 for owner Joseph Aflen of California and trainer Kelvin Harrison, who is an SBOA Vice President. Miller joins John Campbell, Mike Lachance, Ron Pierce, Catello Manzi, Luc Ouellette and Jack Moiseyev in the \$100-million club. Miller, who previously was a regular driver on the Ohio circuit, came to the Meadowlands in 1999, shared a driving title in 2003 and won back-to-back titles during the 2002 and 2003 meets..

NEW JERSEY'S FIRST OTW

New Jersey's first off-track wagering facility in Vineland was visited recently by SBOANJ President Tom Luchento, center. Other OTW facilities are planned for Woodbridge and Toms River. He is joined in this photo, from left, by SBOANJ Treasurer Al Ochsner, left, Freehold Raceway Track Superintendent Gary Wolff, SBOANJ Executive Administrator, Leo McNamara and SBOANJ Director Anthony Romano.



Panteleone Photos

HORSE SALES JULY 15 & SEPT. 9

The annual Tattersalls Mixed Horse Sale is scheduled to begin at 1 PM on July 15 at the Meadowlands paddock, while the annual Classic Yearling Sale of the Garden State Horse Sales Company will be September 9 starting at 11 AM at the Horse Park of New Jersey on Route 524 in Upper Freehold Township.



Lisa Photos, Inc.

NJ Harness Calendar 2007

July

- 1 Hall of Fame Inductions Goshen, NY
- 4 NJSS 2FP & 2CT, Meadowlands
- 5 NJSS 2CP & 2FT, Meadowlands
- 7 Meadowlands Pace Elims,
\$625,000 W.R. Haugton Mem. Final, Meadowlands
- 10 NJSS Board of Trustees, SBOANJ Board of Directors
- 11 \$175,000 NJSS 2FP Final & NJSS 2CT Meadowlands
- 12 \$175,000 NJSS 2CP Final & NJSS 2FT, Meadowlands
- 13 \$350,000 Del Miller Memorial Trot Final, Meadowlands
- 14 \$1- Million Meadowlands Pace Final and
\$350,000 Del Miller Memorial Trot Final, Meadowlands
- 15 Mixed Horse Sale, Meadowlands Paddock, NJ Futurity
Payment Due
- 16 SBOANJ Golf Outing, Cream Ridge G. C.
- 18 \$175,000 NJSS 2CT Final & \$125,000 Countess Adios,
Meadowlands
- 19 \$175,000 NJSS 2FT Final & \$125,000 Meadowlands
- 20 \$150,000 Tarport Hap Final, Meadowlands
- 28 Hambletonian & Oaks Elims & \$100,000 Perretti Match
maker, Meadowlands Hambletonian Parade, Rutherford
- 30 Hambo Charity Golf, Montclair G. C., West Orange

August

- 2 \$400,000 Merrie Annabelle & \$425,000 Peter Haughton
Finals, Meadowlands
- 3 \$400,000 Woodrow Wilson & \$425,000 Sweetheart Finals
- 4 \$1.7-million Hambletonian, \$850,000 Oaks, \$300,000
Nat Ray Inv., \$350,000 U.S. Pacing Champ., \$350,000
Mistletoe Shalee, \$275,000 Oliver Wendell Holmes,
- 9 Freehold Raceway Fall Meet Begins,
NJSS Green Acres 3FP & 2CP
- 10 NJSS Green Acres 3CP & Helen Smith Elims,
- 11 NJSS 2 CP & Molly Pitcher Pace, Freehold Raceway
- 12 SBOA Horse Show, NJ Horse Park, Upper Freehold Twp.
- 14 NJSS 2FT & Green Acres 2CT, Freehold Raceway
- 15 NJSS 2CT & Green Acres 2FT, Freehold Raceway
NJ Racing Commission, Monmouth Park
- 16 NJSS Green Acres, 3FP & 2CP, Freehold Raceway
- 17 \$90,000 Helen Smith Final, NJSS 3CT & Green Acres
3CP, Freehold Raceway
- 18 NJSS 2CP & 2FP, Freehold Raceway
- 21 NJSS 2FT & Green Acres 2CT, Freehold Raceway
- 22 NJSS 2CT & Green Acres 2FT, Freehold Raceway
- 23 NJSS 3FT & Green Acres 2FP & 3FP, Freehold Raceway
- 24 NJSS 2FP & 3CT, Freehold Raceway
- 25 Cane Pace & Battle of Freehold Elims, Freehold Raceway
- 28 NJSS 2FT & Green Acres 2CT, Freehold Raceway
- 29 NJSS 2CT & Green Acres 2FT, Freehold Raceway
- 30 NJSS 3FT & Green Acres 2FP, Freehold Raceway
- 31 NJSS 3CT & Green Acres 3CT, Freehold Raceway

Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association

64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726 • Tel (732) 462-2357 • Fax (732) 409-0741
website: SBOANJ.com • e-mail: sboanj@optonline.net

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RACETRACK REPRESENTATIVES

Paul Consol
at the Meadowlands
(201) 935-8500 x 2105

Linda Goss
at Freehold Raceway
(732) 462-3800 x 365

PACESETTER Editor
Leon Zimmerman
(609) 394-8303

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

New Jersey Sire Stakes
(609) 292-8830

Harness Horsemen Int'l
(609) 747-1000

License/Fingerprint Info

New Jersey Racing Commission
Main Office.....(609) 292-0613
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SPEED MATTERS

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RALPH MORANO, 74, RETIRED TRAINER-DRIVER, HORSEMAN'S REP AT MEADOWLANDS



Ralph J. Morano, a long-time trainer and driver who made a second standardbred career fighting for horsemen's rights as the track representative at The Meadowlands, died June 22 at Meadowlands Hospital in Secaucus. He was 74 and would have been 75 on August 4. For 20 years, Mr. Morano was the horsemen's representative for the Standard bred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey at the Meadowlands, retiring in 2002. In that capacity, he worked closely with track management on behalf of Meadowlands horsemen. Previously, Mr. Morano was an active trainer-driver, participating at New Jersey harness tracks, Freehold Raceway and Atlantic City Raceway, as well as tracks in neighboring states. He served more than 10 years as a member of SBOANJ Board of Directors. During his racing career, he trained and drove horses from his own stable, amassing 195 wins, 185 seconds and 240 thirds from 1,628 starts, earning \$501,207 in purse money from 1967 to 1979. Among the better horses he trained and drove were: the trotting mare Astrea, 4, 2:03.1f (\$126,986); the pacer Pat Anthony, p, 3, 2:02.3h (\$53,515) and the pacing mare Sunny Gal, p, 7, 2:03h (\$94,475). Mr. Morano had been hospitalized nearly 10 months and had several heart-related surgeries. Born in Jersey City, he was a U. S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He is survived by two daughters, Patricia Morano-Gallo of Utah, and Martha of Florida; three sons, Ralph Jr. of Philadelphia, Louis and Carmine, both of Brick, NJ, and several grandchildren.

SBOA of NJ
64 Business Rt. 33
Manalapan, NJ 07726
www.sboanj.com

