

THE END GAME IS TO BE IN THE GAME

There was a collective sigh of relief in New Jersey's horse racing industry on Tuesday night, June 21, 2011. After a marathon session, Jeff Gural and the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey reached an agreement with the state to take over the management of the Meadowlands Racetrack. The transition from the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority to Gural's team will take place this summer toward a full take over on September 1, 2011, 35 years to the day that the Meadowlands first opened. The agreement was the culmination of six months of intensive negotiations since Gural joined the SBOANJ in the process to privatize the Meadowlands which was hours away from being shuttered by Governor Chris Christie.



SBOANJ President Tom Luchento

"The whole end game was to stay IN the game," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "We knew it was essential to remain operational for any hope of a future for the harness racing and breeding industry's flagship racetrack.

"When you are in a precarious position, it always makes negotiations challenging, and we did not get everything we wanted," Luchento conceded. "But the need to keep racing alive at the Meadowlands was and is our overriding imperative. And that was accomplished.

"We did retain control over the number of live racing dates which largely will be dictated by the climate in the industry," Luchento noted. "The range of dates is at a base of no less than 75 and up to as many as 141.

"We will go forward with fundraising to support our legislative goals, including alternate gaming, as well as building a bankroll for the construction of Off Track Wagering sites in which we will have a financial stake," he added.

"By being partners in these facilities, we can further assure funding for the work of our organization.

"In the end, I am satisfied that we accomplished our goals," Luchento said. "Our fate was intertwined with the thoroughbreds and Morris Bailey, who will manage Monmouth Park, was a formidable negotiator – and willing to walk away from the deal.

"Ultimately, we are grateful to both Jeff Gural and Morris Bailey for stepping up and providing their business expertise and financial backing to make this possible."

\$15 MILLION IN PURSE MONEY ON-THE-LINE

The New Jersey Racing Commission approved a request for \$15 million in funds to augment purses but whether the monies will be released will be in the hands of the governor.

The Commissioners, meeting at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, NJ on June 29, 2011, had until the end of the fiscal year on June 30 to make the request to utilize the funds which would come from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. This derived from the regulatory savings from the law which created the new gaming zone in Atlantic City.

The Commissions requested that the \$15 million be utilized in 2012 and be split evenly by breed with \$2.5 million going to Atlantic City Racecourse, \$2.5 million to the thoroughbred license at the Meadowlands [which is raced at Monmouth Park], \$2.5 million to Monmouth Park, \$2.5 million to Freehold and \$5 million to the harness racing license at the Meadowlands.

In the past, Governor Chris Christie has indicated his opposition to the distribution of these funds to the horse racing industry and can veto the minutes of the New Jersey Racing Commission if he so chooses.

From the Desk of President Tom Luchento

Any trainer who has known the exhilaration of winning a race also knows that the celebration does not last very long.

The responsibilities of the barn are waiting the next morning. The horses need to be fed, and they do not want to hear about your champagne hangover.

Our joy at completing the negotiations that make possible the lease of the Meadowlands by the SBOANJ, Jeff Gural and his partners is tempered by the reality that our work is not done.

Our focus, instead, must now be on the long-term health of the racing and breeding industries in New Jersey. New Meadowlands management alone will not solve all the problems in horse racing.

While the leadership in Trenton continues to protect Atlantic City's casinos, no one doubts that slots and other forms of gaming must come to the Meadowlands. But what seems inevitable does not mean guaranteed.

The SBOANJ, through TrotPAC, will continue to lead the way in putting the issue of alternate gaming at the Meadowlands before the legislators and public to achieve the necessary changes in the laws of this state.

Without the supplements for purses, we need to continue the effort to bring alternate gaming to

New Jersey's racetracks, which some legislators feel will happen.

That does not, however, mean we can sit back and wait. We need to have everything in place. We need to have our message reach each and every legislator so that we can make this a reality.

Toward that end, we must continue to turn to you to donate to TrotPAC, the political action committee of the standardbred racing and breeding industry of New Jersey.

If you have donated in the past, please give again. If you have not made a donation, it is time to step up.

If you are an SBOANJ member, you are a horse owner, trainer, driver or someone else who loves this business. Consider TrotPAC one of your most important investments.

Enjoy our victories of the past year but do not sit back. The battle is far from over.

The Meadowlands is saved but without enhanced purses, it will not be the Meadowlands we all want it to be.

A sound Meadowlands is intrinsic to the health and well-being of everyone in harness racing.

STANDARD BRED BREEDERS & OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

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Meadowlands—201-460-4137

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BIG JIM WINS CLASSIC; MISS NJ CROWN TO KRISPY APPLE

Big Jim joined the millionaire ranks and Krispy Apple scored a victory denied her dam when they won the premier events for New Jersey-sired three-year-old pacers on Saturday, May 28, 2011 at the Meadowlands.



New Jersey Classic winner Big Jim with Phil Hudon [Photos by Lisa Photo]

They also provided the Hanover stallion Western Ideal with two more stakes credits as he sired both winners.

Big Jim, the Dan Patch winning Two-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year in 2010, breezed to a two-length victory over High Noon and Shadyshark Hanover in the \$400,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic, lifting his career bankroll to \$1,039,704 for owner James H. Carr of Hamilton, ON.

Krispy Apple drew off to a three-length tally over Honky Tonk Woman and Rocklamation in the \$150,000 Thomas D'Altrui Miss New Jersey, annexing a stakes title that escaped her dam, Apple Krisp, who was third in the 2004 edition.

Big Jim had first-time Classic driver Phil Hudon at the commands when he breezed home in 1:51 as the 1-2 favorite.

"I ended up being first up," Hudon said after the race, "so I thought I might as well take a shot to the front and hopefully get a breather on the turn. We did get a little breather so it worked out well. I let him pace a little bit late. I heard Pierce [Ron Pierce and High Noon] was coming at him pretty good so I was chasing [Big Jim]. That was a good mile today. It was pretty windy."

Big Jim, trained by James "Friday" Dean, is out of Bold Pink and was a \$35,000 Harrisburg Yearling Sale purchase for Carr from Hanover Shoe Farms. He is eligible to the Meadowlands Pace on July 16.

At two, the colt finished in-the-money in nine of 10 starts, winning the \$600,000 Breeders Crown at Pocono and \$709,000 Governor's Cup at Woodbine. His 1:49.1 Governor's Cup mile is a two-year-old world record.

It was still daylight when by Tim Tetrick guided Krispy Apple to her victory in 1:50.3 earlier in the card.

"I was really worried in the first half, getting away where I did [in fifth]," said Tetrick, who posted his second straight win in the stakes.



Miss New Jersey winner Krispy Apple with Tim Tetrick

"I didn't know if I was going to have to be first up the rest of the way. Luckily, I had cover [I Kill Time], and it led me up to the top of the lane. She did everything right from there. She had 'go' and I knew she could get me home. She did it real easy. All the way to the wire, she was still pacing."

Krispy Apple's Miss New Jersey victory improved her record to four wins in her first four starts this season. At two, she won the \$147,600 Matron final on November 13, 2010, not long after trainer Mark Kesmodel and partners Jeffrey Bamond and Joseph Davino purchased the then unraced filly from the dispersal sale of Bulletproof Enterprises.

The reigning Miss New Jersey, Ashleigh Udalovas, continued the tradition of presenting the trophy to the four-legged Miss New Jersey winner. Hall of Fame trainer and current New Jersey Racing Commission Anthony Abbatiello, who was the founding president of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey, presented the trophy for the New Jersey Classic.



Anthony Abbatiello [second from right] presents the New Jersey Classic trophy to the winning connections on May 28, 2011.

DESJARDINS & MURPHY AWARDED SBOANJ SCHOLARSHIPS

Michael E. Desjardins of East Brunswick, NJ and Emily Grace Murphy of Lambertville, NJ have been selected to receive 2011 scholarships from the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.

Desjardins will receive the top prize of \$5,000 while Murphy will take home \$2,500.

"There were a total of five applicants and all were outstanding candidates," said SBOANJ President Tom Luchento. "We picked the two most deserving with the greatest need."

Desjardins and Murphy will be saluted with dinner and a winner's circle presentation at the Meadowlands Racetrack on July 29, 2011.

Desjardins is a junior attending Quinnipiac University, pursuing a degree in broadcast journalism. His goal is to be a sports commentator although he also has a substitute teaching certificate and has tutored students and mentored learning disabled high schoolers.

The East Brunswick High School graduate is on the

Quinnipiac Dean's List. He is the son of longtime trainer-driver Michael and Donna Desjardins.

Murphy will be attending Canisius College in Buffalo, NY in the fall where she plans to major in animal behavior, ecology and conservation.

The South Hunterdon Regional High School graduate, selected for the National Honor Society, was a member of her school's Science Olympiad team which twice earned silver medals in ecology.

The daughter of Patti and Joseph Murphy, she created a documentary on the harness racing industry in New Jersey and also won harness racing's Marie Hill National Youth Writing Contest. Her mother, Patti Murphy, is the farm manager for the New Jersey division of Hanover Shoe Farms and Joe oversees the stallions.

"Such personal participation in harness racing reinvigorated both my immense love of animals and my desire to make a difference in the world," Emily Murphy said.

DRIVERS COMMIT TO THE FUTURE OF THE MEADOWLANDS

On May 20, 2011, eleven of the top drivers at the Meadowlands issued a statement of support for the Meadowlands and a thank you to Governor Chris Christie, Jeff Gural and his ownership group, the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey and others involved in keeping the Meadowlands open.

Dear Members of the Harness Racing Community:

We wanted to express our appreciation to Governor Christie, his staff, Dennis Robinson, his staff at the NJSEA, along with Jeff Gural, Mike Gulotta, Tom Luchento, Leo McNamara and their support team for working together to prevent the closure of the Meadowlands.

A strong Meadowlands Racetrack is vital to the long-term stability and prosperity of the entire harness racing industry and we are committed to helping the new ownership group make this exciting new endeavor a success.

Although purses may be slightly higher elsewhere, we want to make it clear that the Meadowlands has been our home and will continue to be our home base on a nightly basis while plans progress to build a new grandstand and to find ways to attract new and younger fans to our great sport.

Jeff has made it clear that when asked by owners and trainers to appear at other tracks to drive in their major stakes we are encouraged to do so. He believes by everyone in the industry working together to support each other in showcasing our best horses and drivers we can all benefit.

We recognize the major financial commitment that Jeff and his partners are making to revitalize the Meadowlands and are pleased to offer our support and hope others will follow. A strong Meadowlands is good for everyone.

Thank you.

John Campbell

Ron Pierce

Simon Allard

Brian Sears

David Miller

Steve Smith

Tim Tetrick

Mike Lachance

Yannick Gingras

Andy Miller

Jim Meitinis

MEADOWLANDS REPLAYS RETURN TO SNY

Meadowlands Racetrack's nightly replay show resumed airing on SNY beginning with the Thursday, June 30 card.



Jeff Gural

Shows are 30 minutes in length on weekdays and one full hour on weekends. Air times are 2 a.m. for Thursday and Friday recaps and 1:30 a.m. for Saturday.

When the Mets play extra innings or on the West Coast, *Racing From the Meadowlands* will air immediately following the conclusion of *Daily News Live* on weekdays and *SportsNite* on weekends.

"I think it is important to our customers as we enter the heart of our championship meet to get back on SNY, as well as remaining on TVG," said Meadowlands Racetrack lessee Jeff Gural. "I also think it is important to have the one-hour show on Saturday, which was something I always looked forward to as well. We are working on a plan to present to the industry that will hopefully expand our coverage next season."

Racing From The Meadowlands will continue to air on TVG at 6 a.m. (EST). Instant race replays are also available within the results charts on MeadowlandsRacetrack.com.

LEGISLATION ALLOWS NJSEA & GURAL TO OPERATE JOINTLY

A bill that would allow the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to jointly operate racetrack operations at the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park with the lessees for up to a year received final legislative approval on June 29, 2011.

"This bill provides the NJSEA with the flexibility necessary to craft and effectuate a viable lease agreement for the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park racetrack facilities without disrupting previously scheduled events," said the legislation's sponsor Assemblyman Ronald Dancer, R-Ocean.

The Senate's approval follows on the unanimous action of the Assembly in February. The bill, which goes to Gov. Chris Christie for his signature, clears the way for Morris Bailey to lease Monmouth Park and Jeffrey Gural to manage the Meadowlands Racetrack.



Ron Dancer

FINAL REMINDER FOR SBOANJ GOLF OUTING ON JULY 11

Last call for the annual mid-summer golf outing to benefit New Jersey horsemen which will take place on Monday, July 11, 2011.

The Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey's annual event will once again take place at Gambler Ridge Golf Course in Cream Ridge, NJ. The money raised through the golf tournament supports the New Jersey Standardbred Horsemen's Benevolent Fund.

The day will include a buffet lunch, a round of golf, drawings for prizes and a prime rib dinner for \$135. For dinner only, the cost is \$50.

Raffle tickets will be sold for a new premier jogger, courtesy of Allen Eggert of Pennsbury Enterprises.

For more information, contact the SBOANJ at 732-462-2357 or visit www.sboanj.com.

JULY/AUGUST 2011 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

July 11	Golf Outing	August 8	Board Meeting
July 26	Insurance Meeting	August 30	Insurance Meeting

TWO CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHTS SET FOR NJ SIRE STAKES FINALS

The \$200,000 finals for the New Jersey Sire Stakes have been split into two nights of championship racing in 2011.



Manofmanymissions, with Andy Miller, wins a first leg division of the NJSS for 3yo colt pacers on June 3. [Photos by Lisa Photo]

The finals for two-year-olds are scheduled of Saturday, July 16, part of the card with the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace, the Stanley Dancer Memorial and the Tarport Hap.

Opening rounds for the two-year-olds are June 30 through July 2 with the second leg events on July 7 through 9.

The finals for the three-year-olds are grouped on Saturday, August 13, sharing the stage with the elims for the William Haughton Memorial and the Woodrow Wilson.

This year all the Premier Division events will take place at the Meadowlands while the Green Acres Series will be offered in September and October at Freehold Raceway.

The New Jersey Sire Stakes program was established by

law in 1971 to encourage the breeding of standardbreds. Since the participants in these restricted races must be sired by registered New Jersey stallions, it gives owners an incentive to locate their stallions and horse farms in New Jersey. A healthy sire stakes program is essential to the preservation of thousands of acres of equine-related farmland in the Garden State.



Lost Symbol, handled by Trond Smedshammer, wins a first round split of the NJSS for 3yo filly pacers on June 2 at the Meadowlands.

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENT CHANGED TO 45 DAYS

At its June meeting, the New Jersey Racing Commission approved a request from the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey to waive the qualifying rules for the balance of the year and extend the period of time for horses qualifying from 30 to 45 days.

The SBOANJ pointed out that due to weather cancellations and fewer racing dates, horses were missing opportunities to race and entry boxes were short on horses. The Commission will consider a petition for a permanent rule change on this matter at subsequent meetings.

PICK 5 DEBUTS JULY 2 AT THE MEADOWLANDS

Harness racing fans will have a new wager to sink their teeth into as of July 2, 2011.

Meadowlands Racetrack is introducing a Pick 5 Wager starting in the first race. The Pick 5 is a 50-cent minimum wager with a 15 percent takeout. If nobody selects all five winners in the Pick 5, 75 percent of the net pool will be carried over to the next racing card and 25 percent will be distributed as a consolation.

"We were one of the first tracks to introduce the wager last year at Monmouth Park, and it was very well received, so hopefully the same will hold true at the Meadowlands," said Assistant Vice President of Racing Alex Dadoyan. "Starting in the first race, it won't interfere with our popular nightly Pick 4 wager, but should have the ability to generate some nice payoffs for the early part of the card and some occasional carryovers."

With the addition of the Pick 5 wager on Race 1, the Meadowlands will discontinue offering the Pick 3 on the first race.

TROTPAC STILL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

We have made tremendous progress in getting our message out to state legislators but the work continues, and we need your financial support so that we can open new doors and keep old friends.

Please send your donations for TrotPAC to 64 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ 07726.

Election laws require occupation and employer information.

Maximum permitted donation is \$7,200 per person.

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Visit sboanj.com**

AN ACTION PACKED SUMMER MEET BOTH ON & OFF THE RACETRACK

July 9

NATIONAL HARNESS HANDICAPPING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

\$50,000 Guaranteed Prize Pool

July 16

\$1 MILLION MEADOWLANDS PACE

\$150,000 Guaranteed Pick 4, cooler bag giveaway, 6 for \$10 vodka tasting, live music and more!

July 23

SUMMER BEER FESTIVAL IN PADDOCK PARK

All you can sample beer tasting featuring Long Trail, Ithaca Brewing Company, Wolaver's, Saranac, Peroni and many more
\$32 with advance reservation; \$35 walkups

July 30

HAMBLETONIAN & HAMBLETONIAN OAKS ELIMINATIONS

Top 3 year old colts and fillies compete for a spot in the Finals on August 6th

August 6

\$1.5 MILLION HAMBLETONIAN DAY

Hat giveaway, Live music, face painters, pony rides, carnival rides plus much more!
Stakes-packed race card also includes the Nat Ray, US Pacing Championship, Lady Liberty, Merrie Annabelle, Mistletoe Shalee, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Peter Haughton
Gates open 9:30 am • First race 11:30 am

August 13

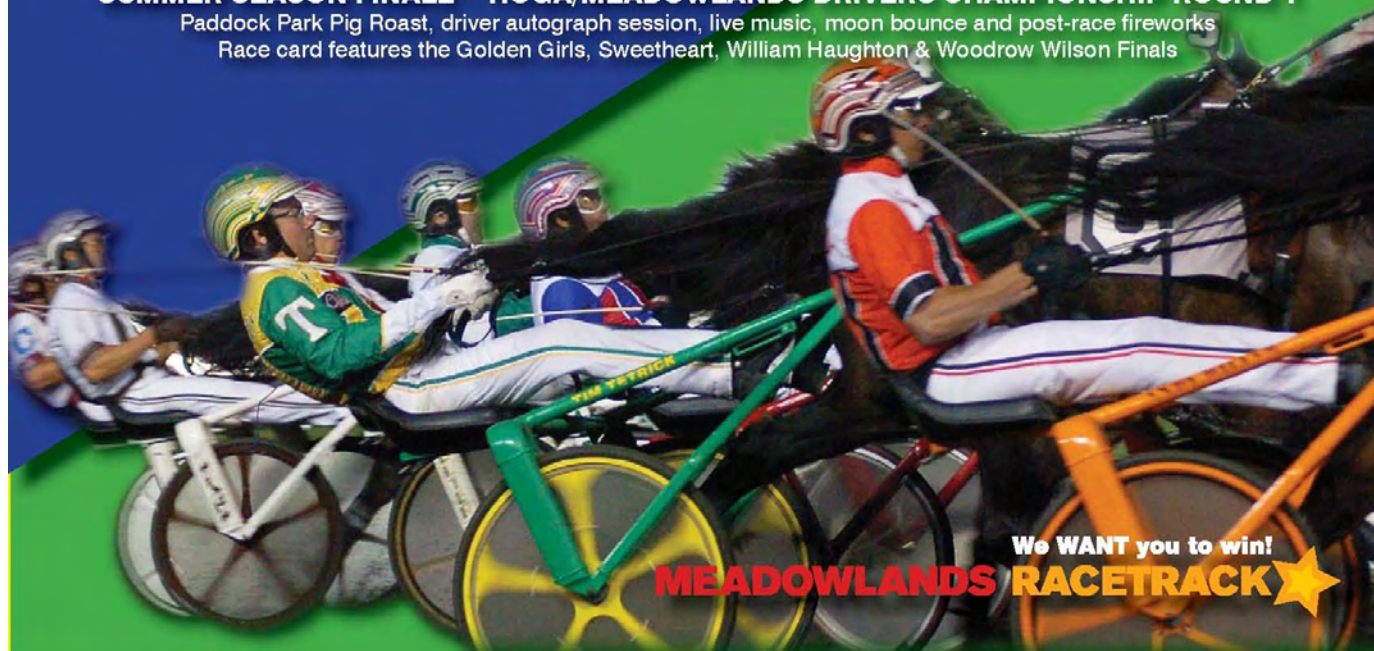
OLDIES UNDER THE STARS CONCERT

Concert begins at 6:30 pm with Richard Nader's Doo Wop Show featuring Bill Haley's Comets and The Rip Cords
Race card features \$800,000 in NJSS finals & eliminations for the Woodrow Wilson & William Haughton

August 20

SUMMER SEASON FINALE – TIOGA/MEADOWLANDS DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 1

Paddock Park Pig Roast, driver autograph session, live music, moon bounce and post-race fireworks
Race card features the Golden Girls, Sweetheart, William Haughton & Woodrow Wilson Finals



We WANT you to win!
MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK ★

JULY/AUGUST 2011 ISSUE OF THE PACESETTER



Anthony and Kathleen Abbatiello [above center] are joined in the winner's circle by SBOANJ director Al Ochsner [far left] and former director Taylor Palmer [far right] on New Jersey Classic night at the Meadowlands.



Krispy Apple, the 2011 Miss New Jersey champ, meets Miss New Jersey pageant winner Ashleigh Udalovas of Millville, in the winner's circle.



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