

**(1) Newsroom (Always B Miki-Well Hello There-Well Said)**

Newsroom cut the fractions and wound up third in the first Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination on Friday, October 20. He was three lengths behind winner Better Is Nice and timed in 1:51.1.

Newsroom's sire Always B Miki won an elimination for the 2014 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace but then was scratched from the final. He returned to take his elimination and the final of the 2015 Breeders Crown Open Pace and the final of the 2016 Breeders Crown Open Pace.

Newsroom has a record of 7-1-1 from nine starts, earnings of \$231,025 and a mark of 1:49.4 at the Meadowlands. He won the Tompkins-Geers, two Kindergarten Series legs, his elim and the final of the New Jersey Classic, all at the Meadowlands, the Elevation at Harrah's Hoosier Park and his International Stallion Stakes division at The Red Mile.

Trainer Joe Holloway is sixth in Breeders Crown history in number of trophies won (10) and eighth in earnings (\$4,247,874). Holloway has the record for most wins in the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace with four (2022 - Ammo, 2020 - Perfect Sting, 1998 - Badlands Hanover and 1994 - Jenna's Beach Boy).

Owner Marty Granoff's Val D'Or Farms has six Breeders Crown victories and earnings of \$3,378,512, good for tenth all-time in event history.

Bred by Mark Mullen and Dr. Stephen Dey III, Newsroom sold for \$30,000 at the 2022 Standardbred Horse Sale. Dey bred 2021 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Pace champion Niki Hill. While Mullen hasn't won under his own name as breeder, his Fair Winds Farm has five Breeders Crown victories. Newsroom's dam, the Well Said mare Well Hello There, was seventh-placed-sixth-placed fifth in her elimination and tenth in the final of the 2014 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Pace.

**Quotes from trainer Joe**

**Holloway** - "Maybe he's getting a little bit tired of the front-end. He should have fought off a little bit better. But the track is not that good on the front-end tonight. At least he dug in and held on for third. There's next week."



**(2) Captain Albano (Captaintreacherous-Angelou-American Ideal)**

Captain Albano won the third Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination on Friday, October 20. He moved from third to first in the backstretch and went on to tally by 3 1/2 lengths in 1:50.4.

Captain Albano's sire Captaintreacherous was third in the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace final in 2012 and won the 3-Year-Old Colt Pace final the next year.

Captain Albano has seven wins and a second in eight outings, has banked \$288,180 and is the fastest 2-year-old male pacer in harness racing so far in 2023 by virtue of a 1:49.2 mark at The Red Mile. Captain Albano's other wins came in the Kindergarten Series, two legs and the final of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes and both of his Grand Circuit appearances in Lexington.

Trainer Noel Daley is a five-time Breeders Crown champion, including in last year's 3-Year-Old Colt Pace with Pebble Beach.

Captain Albano is owned by Patricia Stable (Harvey Fried), L A Express & Sjoblom Inc. (Louis Manfredi and Sjoblom Racing), and Michael Dolan. L A Express Stable and Patricia Stable co-owned Pebble Beach for their first Breeders Crown victory a year ago.

Captain Albano was bred by Fred Hertrich III, who has bred five Breeders Crown champions, and he sold for \$150,000 at last year's Standardbred Horse Sale. Captain Albano's dam, the American Ideal mare Angelou, is a full sister to a pair of Breeders Crown finalists in Penpal and Capital Account.

**Quotes from trainer Noel Daley** - "We always thought he was pretty good. He's a very low-key horse, even around the place. I always knew he was nice, but he's sort of just there in the barn. When I had Pebble Beach, he let you know who he was. He was a nice horse to be around, but he was a real colt. This fella has always just minded his own business.

"The only time he ever got beat, I missed a week with him because he'd been sick. The thing with him, there's been no bottom to him. I think he's got a big heart and a big set of lungs. He comes back in every time he's raced with like a yawn, like he hasn't even been around. He just doesn't appear to be getting tired. I think he's a lot better than even I thought he was. Right now, he's the one they've all got to beat.

"I think people have sort of underrated him a little bit because he's tripped out in all those wins because there's been a horse to act out those miles for him. In Pennsylvania, every week he went around, someone wanted to go a quick mile in front of him. So, we haven't had to put him on the front end since his first start.

"We haven't even got pop-out plugs on him, he's been racing with cotton in his ears and four steel shoes. I was sort of waiting to put the pop-outs on him if we needed them, but from what Todd (driver Todd McCarthy) is saying, there is still plenty there. I'm so happy with the way he pulls up after races. We'll see.

"It's a nice field. It's a competitive lot. There's half a dozen of them that are going to think they're a shot in there. We'll just see how the trip works out, but I think he can do the work, too, if he has to. It will be a good race."



**(3) Better Is Nice (Bettor's Wish-Thatsoveryverynice-Vintage Master)**

Better Is Nice converted a third-over trip into a victory in the first Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination on Friday, October 20. He won by a neck in a lifetime-best clocking of 1:50.3.

Better Is Nice's sire Bettor's Wish took his elimination and was second in the final of the 2019 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace and second in the final of the 2020 Breeders Crown Open Pace.

Better Is Nice has seven wins, a second and two thirds in ten starts and earnings of \$503,120. His other wins came in a leg and the final of the New Jersey Sire Stakes, two legs and the final of the Kentucky Championship Series and his Bluegrass Stakes split. The New Jersey Sire Stakes races were at the Meadowlands, while the other races were at The Red Mile.

Trainer Tony Alagna has six Breeders Crown trophies in total and his earnings of just over \$3.8 million are tenth all-time. One of Alagna's titles came in the 2017 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace with Stay Hungry. He'd be the first Breeders Crown champion for co-owners Alagna Racing LLC. (Tony Alagna) or Pryde Stables Inc. (Robbie Pryde). Another co-owner is Seth Rosenfeld's Birnam Wood Farms; Rosenfeld was co-owner of 1986 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Pace champion Halcyon.

Better Is Nice was bred by Alagna Racing LLC. and Marvin Katz. Alagna Racing hasn't bred a Breeders Crown champion before, but Katz has been a winning breeder in Breeders Crown competition on five occasions. He was a buy-back for Alagna for \$30,000 from the 2022 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

**Quotes from trainer Tony Alagna** - "He raced great. Really good. He was in a spot where it looked like he was going to race great to be second or third and he just kept digging and was able to get up and win. That's what he loves to do. He loves to track horses down. It's kind of ironic, he and Gem Quality qualified together, it was the first qualifier of their careers [July 1 at the Meadowlands] and he got up to beat Gem Quality. They were right on the wire together, just like the other night.

[Homebred] "I believed in the mare. I owned the second dam and bred her to Vintage Master and got Thatsoveryverynice. I bred Thatsoveryverynice to Bettor's Wish and got this colt. It's been a couple generations in the making, but he's the right one.

[Best qualities] "He's real versatile. He can leave, he can come from off the pace; he can do it a lot of different ways. He just has a really strong will to win, and that's so important. They got to him at Lexington at the head of the lane [in the Bluegrass] and he fought them off all the way. His last start at the Red Mile, he was third and he didn't really fire. Two days later, he had a temperature, so it made sense why he wasn't as sharp. But he was still a very good third. We just think so much of him that when he was third, we were a little disappointed he didn't win that day. At least there was a reason."



**(4) Storm Shadow (Bettor's Delight-Fade-Shadow Play)**

Storm Shadow converted a pocket trip into a win in the second Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace final on Friday, October 20. He won by a head in 1:52 flat.

His sire Bettor's Delight won the 2000 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace (elim and final). He was second in his elimination and fourth in the final of the 2001 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace.

Storm Shadow has a summary of 4-1-2 from ten trips behind the gate, earnings of \$223,560 and a mark of 1:51.1. In addition to his elimination, he also won an overnight race at Woodbine Mohawk Park, an Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Series leg at Flamboro Downs and the Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Trainer Dr. Ian Moore took the 2020 Open Pace with Century Farroh for his lone Breeders Crown title.

Storm Shadow is co-owned by R G McGroup Ltd. (Ronald and Gail McLellan), Hockey Hall of Fame member Serge Savard, Mac Nichol and Bolton Farms LLC. (Edward Bolton et al). Of his owners, only Nichol has taken a Breeders Crown before (2011 3-Year-Old Filly Pace with Monkey On My Wheel).

Bred by Tara Hills Stud, Storm Shadow sold for \$165,000 at the 2022 Standardbred Horse Sale. Tara Hill Stud's lone Breeders Crown champion was Poof She's Gone in the 2009 2-Year-Old Filly Trot.

**Quotes from driver Bob McClure** - "From what I know about him I have nothing but good things to say. He's nice to drive, he's good-gaited and he's handy. Last week he kind of fell into a nice trip (in the Ontario Sire Stakes Super Final) but tonight he was great.

(On the stretch battle in his elimination) "I kind of got a little bit sideways on him and it may have cost him a little bit. He also does kind of wait a little, but I would say he's as good as he has been all year right now."



**(5) Gem Quality (Captain Crunch-Twinkle-Bettor's Delight)**

Gem Quality forged his way into the lead from first-over in the opening Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination and finished second. He was a neck behind winner Better Is Nice and timed in 1:50.3.

Gem Quality's sire Captain Crunch was second in his elimination and won the final of the 2018 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace and was third in his elimination and the final of the 2019 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace.

Gem Quality has compiled a record of 3-1-1 from seven starts, has earned \$92,710 and has a mark of 1:51.4. His victories came in the Pennsylvania Stallion Series at The Meadows and two Pennsylvania Sire Stakes prelims at The Meadows and Harrah's Philadelphia.

Trainer Chris Ryder has won five Breeders Crown finals.

Gem Quality is owned by Let It Ride Stables Inc. (Eric Cherry), Bottom Line Racing LLC. (Dana Parham, Brad Grant and Enviro Stables Ltd. (Gordon Banks and Marc Hanover). Let It Ride Stables and Parham co-owned 2016 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Pace champion Call Me Queen Be for their lone victory in the event. Grant is a four-time Breeders Crown winner and Enviro Stables Ltd. has three Breeders Crown trophies.

Gem Quality is a Let It Ride Stables/Bottom Line Racing homebred and would be their first Breeders Crown winner as breeders.

**Quotes from trainer Chris Ryder** - "I wasn't surprised. I was happy with him at home, he was feeling real good. He missed a bit of time, but I think that's in his favor."



**(6) Boston Rocks (Boston Red Rocks-Scirocco Sarah-Somebeachsomewhere)**

Boston Rocks was on the lead in the second Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination on Friday, October 20 and finished third. He was 2 1/2 lengths behind winner Storm Shadow and timed in 1:52.2.

His sire Boston Red Rocks was second in his elimination and won the final of the 2015 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace.

Boston Rocks has four wins, five seconds and two thirds in 12 starts, earnings of \$345,922 and a mark of 1:54.1 at Yonkers. His victories came in three legs (at Batavia, Monticello and Buffalo) and the final (at Yonkers) of the New York Sire Stakes.

Trainer Steve Elliott has won eight Breeders Crown finals, including two editions of the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace (2015 - Boston Red Rocks, 2008 - Well Said).

Owners Peter Blood and Rick Berks co-owned 2015 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace champion Boston Red Rocks.

Blood and Berks also bred Boston Rocks, and he'd be their first Breeders Crown champion as breeders.

**Quotes from driver Tim Tetrick** - "He kind of disappointed me a little bit. He got easy fractions, but the stretch was just too long for him by himself. We'll change the tactics next week. I didn't plan to cut it, but nobody came at the half. What are you going to do? But he still made the final and he's agile enough to do the things that he needs to do. He's a nice horse."



**(7) Captain Luke (Captaintreacherous-Bodacious Hanover-Dragon Again)**

Captain Luke rallied in the passing lane off a three-hole trip in the second Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination and finished second. He was a head behind winner Storm Shadow and timed in 1:52 flat.

Captain Luke's sire Captaintreacherous was third in the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace final in 2012 and won the 3-Year-Old Colt Pace final the next year.

Captain Luke is a maiden in nine starts but has finished second four times. He has earned \$99,459 and has a mark in a qualifier of 1:53.3.

Trainer Tony Alagna has six Breeders Crown trophies in total and his earnings of just over \$3.8 million are tenth all-time. One of Alagna's titles came in the 2017 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace with Stay Hungry.

Captain Luke is co-owned by Robert Leblanc, Pryde Stables Inc. (Robbie Pryde), Brad Grant and Steven Head. Robert Leblanc has one Breeders Crown victory with Ramona Hill in the 2019 2-Year-Old Filly Trot and Brad Grant has four trophies. Pryde Stables and Steven Head are in search of their initial success.

Captain Luke was bred by Vieux Carre' Farms and sold for \$135,000 at the 2022 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Dr. John Egloff of Vieux Carre' Farms bred 2002 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace champion Totally Western. Captain Luke's second dam Bunny Lake won the 2001 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Pace final, was fourth in the 2002 Breeders Crown Mare Pace and added runner-up finishes in the 2003 and 2004 editions of the Breeders Crown Mare Pace.

Quotes from trainer Tony Alagna - "I thought he got up and won. He got up inside there and he got a little stage fright and it probably cost him the win. But he was really, really good. He did his job and he doesn't know that he lost. I was very happy with him. He was a real immature colt and we thought he would just get better as the year went on. He's done that. His last couple starts have been his best ones to date. I think he will be a very good 3-year-old."



**(8) Nuclear (Always B Miki-Can'tgetenuffofyou-Rocknroll Hanover)**

Nuclear followed along in the pocket and the three-hole in the final Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination on Friday, October 20 and wound up finishing third. He was 5 3/4 lengths behind winner Captain Albano and timed in 1:52 flat.

Nuclear's sire Always B Miki won an elimination for the 2014 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace but then was scratched from the final. He returned to take his elimination and the final of the 2015 Breeders Crown Open Pace and the final of the 2016 Breeders Crown Open Pace.

Nuclear has two wins, two seconds and two thirds from eight outings, has banked \$49,850 and has a mark of 1:50.3 at The Red Mile. His victories came in two legs of the Kentucky Golden Rod Series

Trainer Joe Holloway is sixth in Breeders Crown history in number of trophies won (10) and eighth in earnings (\$4,247,874). Holloway has the record for most wins in the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace with four (2022 - Ammo, 2020 - Perfect Sting, 1998 - Badlands Hanover and 1994 - Jenna's Beach Boy).

Owner Marty Granoff's Val D'Or Farms has six Breeders Crown victories and earnings of \$3,378,512, good for tenth all-time in event history.

Nuclear was bred by Roll The Dice Stable and sold for \$37,000 at the 2022 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Roll The Dice Stable is a three-time winning breeder in the Breeders Crown.

**Quotes from trainer Joe Holloway and driver Andy Miller -**

**Holloway:** "He did good. That was a tough division. I'm happy with him. He's developed into a horse. He's really come along. I was looking for him to go to the Kindergarten, but we gave him a shot for this. I'm happy that we did."

**Miller:** "He's been racing good. He's always close. There are a couple standouts in there, but he could get a piece. Early on, his mind wasn't really focused. As he's raced more, he's gotten more focused and put together better efforts."



**(9) Legendary Hanover (Huntsville-Lillian Hanover-Well Said)**

Legendary Hanover closed in 25.3 from second-over to grab runner-up honors in the last Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination on Friday, October 20. He was 3 1/2 lengths behind winner Captain Albano and timed in 1:51.2.

Legendary Hanover's sire Huntsville captured his elimination and the final of the 2016 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace.

Legendary Hanover has a summary of 6-2-0 from eight starts, earnings of \$296,114 and a mark of 1:50. His wins came in an overnight race, a leg and the final of the Dream Maker Series, his divisions of the Nassagaweya and Champlain and his Metro Pace elimination, all at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Trainer Linda Toscano has eight Breeders Crown victories.

Legendary Hanover is owned by Eric Good, West Wins Stable (Casie Coleman and Ross Warriner) and Mark Dumain. Of his owners, only West Wins Stable has a Breeders Crown title (Betterthancheddar, 2011 3-Year-Old Colt Pace).

Legendary Hanover was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms and sold for \$260,000 at the 2022 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. is the most successful breeder in event history in terms of earnings (\$20,514,348) and tied with Brittany Farms for trophies with 30. Legendary Hanover's brother Linedrive Hanover qualified for this year's Breeders Crown Open Pace final, and their dam, the Well Said mare Lillian Hanover, is a half-sister to multi-time Breeders Crown finalist Dealt A Winner.

**Quotes from driver James MacDonald** - "He's an amazing animal. He was off a long time, since the Metro, so I wanted to try to find him a nice trip. He was pacing his eyeballs out through the wire. I think he's got a big shot. I know the draw didn't help us a lot, but when you have a great horse, hopefully he can overcome it.

"He's always wanting to go forward. He's Linedrive Hanover's brother, and he's a lot like him. He loves to go fast. When you move him, he's always trying to blow the doors off. He doesn't want to just go by, he wants to go by fast. His speed is probably his best quality.

"It seems like if you over-drive them [at Hoosier Park] they don't finish well. He's got big lungs. He was first-up in the Metro and just missed, and he's coming in [to the Breeders Crown final] in good form now. I'm worried about the nine-hole, but I don't think it's the worst thing in the world."



**(10) Noblesville (JK Endofanera-Happiness-Rocknroll Hanover)**

Noblesville raced in the last Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace elimination on Friday, October 20 and was the fourth-place finisher from the three eliminations with the highest seasonal earnings, giving him a spot in the final. He finished six lengths behind winner Captain Albano and was timed in 1:52.

Noblesville's sire JK Endofanera was second in his elimination and third in the final of the 2014 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Pace and second in his elimination and the final of the 2015 Breeders Crown Open Pace.

Noblesville has four wins and two seconds in 11 tries, has earned \$214,934 and owns a mark of 1:51.3. His victories came in an overnight race and three Indiana Sires Stakes legs, all at Harrah's Hoosier Park.

Trainer Ron Burke is second all-time in Breeders Crown in number of trophies (18) and earnings (\$11,399,650). He won the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Pace with Summa Cum Laude in 2020.

Noblesville is owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC. (Sylvia Burke) and Weaver Brusceci LLC. (Mark Weaver and Michael Brusceci). Burke Racing Stable and Weaver Brusceci LLC. are the second- and third-winningest owners in Breeders Crown history in terms of trophies (13 for Burke Racing and 12 for Weaver Brusceci) and earnings (\$8,461,306 for Burke Racing and \$7,319,974 for Weaver Brusceci).

Noblesville is a Burke Racing Stable LLC. and Weaver Brusceci LLC. homebred and would be their first champion as breeders. Noblesville's dam, the Rocknroll Hanover mare Happiness, raced in the eliminations for the 2014 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Filly Pace but did not qualify for the final.

**Quotes from trainer Ron Burke** - "I was thrilled to make the final. He's a homebred horse and he's an Indiana-bred. He drew post 10, and I think that's a good spot. We're probably racing for a check, but it's just fun to be in it, ready to go.

"He trained down like a real nice colt. He's a beautiful animal. He just needs to find a little more speed to go with the top-top ones."

