

ABUCKABETT HANOVER (Betting Line – All Tucked Up – Western Ideal)

This phenom wassent to Canada but then encountered some mishaps, Abuckabett Hanover continues his rebound into the Breeders Crown following a fourth-place finish in his elimination (pacing a final quarter in :25.4).

With just three starts under his belt to start his career, trainer Tony Alagna sent Abuckabett Hanover north for the Grand Circuit month at Woodbine Mohawk Park. He spurred onto the scene with a 1:52.1 victory in a \$117,029 division of the Nassagaweya and followed with a 1:50.3 blowout in a \$93,759 division of the Champlain. Winning his Metro Pace elimination, he entered the final the 2-5 favorite but faltered to sixth off a first-over trip. He returned to the races in a \$99,700 division of the International Stallion Stakes, finishing fourth after making a break at the start.

Trainer Tony Alagna has quickly risen on the Breeders Crown leaderboard. With six trophies, he sits 13th all-time in earnings with \$2.9 million in event purses. Last year Alagna won three Breeders Crown trophies with Reflect With Me (2YO Filly Pace), Ramona Hill (2YO Filly Trot) and American History (Open Pace)—becoming the fourth trainer to ever win three Breeders Crown events in the same year (joining Jimmy Takter, Ron Burke and Bob McIntosh). The Illinois native started his stable in 2009 and has won over 1,500 races and \$48 million in purses.

Driver Andrew McCarthy struck Breeders Crown glory in 2019, becoming the eighth driver in the history of the event to win four Breeders Crowns in the same year. He steered two of Alagna's three winners while also catching the drive on Dancin Lou (3YO Colt and Gelding Pace) and driving Caviart Ally (Mare Pace) to a win over eventual Horse of the Year Shartin N. A native of Australia, McCarthy came to the US in 2007 to race for trainer Noel Daley before expanding his presence to the tune of a US career worth \$51 million in purses with over 2,500 wins.

The Hanover Shoe Farms-bred colt competes for owners Barbera Stable, Jablonsky Held Stable (Dr Bridgette Jablonsky of Hanover Shoe Farms), Joe Deguara and Alagna and Inthegym Partners.

ALWAYS A MIKI (Always B Miki – Beach Gal – Somebeachsomewhere)

Third in his elimination, Always A Miki fired to the finish in :25.4 to secure a spot in the final behind elimination winner Perfect Sting.

Always A Miki has three wins to his credit from 10 starts—all three of which coming in divisions of the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS). He finished sixth in the \$253,000 PASS Championship after making a break in stride at the top of the stretch. He has since finished third in a \$120,100 division of the Bluegrass and in a \$99,700 division of the International Stallion Stakes.

His dam, Beach Gal, competed in the 2014 Three-Year-Old Filly Pace, finishing third (to Sayitall BB).

Trainer Nancy Takter is having a career year with over 100 wins on the season and \$5.6 million in purses, placing her second for the year behind Ron Burke. She has won four Breeders Crown events including back-to-back victories in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace with Captain Crunch (2018) and Tall Dark Stranger (2019). She's the first trainer to win the event in back-to-back years and will try to become the first trainer to win the event three years in a row. A win would tie her with trainer Bob McIntosh for most victories in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace.

Nancy Takter also trains finalist Caviart Lotus.

Driver Dexter Dunn is in his second full season driving in North America. He made his Breeders Crown debut in 2019 while winning two titles, driving Amigo Volo (2YO Colt and Gelding Trot) and Manchego (Mare Trot). The 2015 World Driving Champion currently sits No. 1 in earnings for the year following a campaign which earned him the USHWA Driver of the Year Award in 2019.

Sergent Stables LLC bred Always A Miki. He is owned by Christina Takter, Goran Anderberg, Herb Liverman and Rojan Stables.

"He's been consistent all year, never really done anything wrong," Nancy Takter said. "He's kind of just the handiest horse you can be around. He's super small, he's like the size of a miniature pony, so we wanted to try and trip him out a bit and let him finish. It's hard to do all the work for a little horse like him but he's super honest and gives the best effort he can every time he's on the track."

BAYFIELD BEACH (Somebeachsomewhere – DB Blue Chip – Art Major)

Faltering in the stretch, Bayfield Beach clung to a berth into the final with a fifth-place finish in his Breeders Crown elimination (to Perfect Sting).

Winning his career debut in a division of Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS), Bayfield Beach has not won a race since. From 10 starts, he has finished second in two PASS events, third in a preliminary and third in the \$253,000 PASS Championship (to Southwind Gendry). He then shipped north to Woodbine Mohawk Park for the Metro Pace, where he finished third in the elimination but missed winning the final by a half length and settled for second (to Exploit). His last start before the Breeders Crown was in a \$99,700 division of the International Stallion Stakes, where he finished fifth (to Perfect Sting).

Trainer Brian Brown has sent two Breeders Crown winners: Colors A Virgin (2015 Mare Pace) and Blazin Britches (2017 3YO Filly Pace). The Ohio-based trainer is known for training Downbytheseaside, a winner of \$2.2 million with wins including in the Governor's Cup, Art Rooney, Carl Milstein and Messenger Pace. His stable is on its way to topping \$2 million in earnings for the seventh-consecutive year. In his career, he has won nearly 1,700 and \$28 million in purses.

Harrah's Hoosier Park's leading driver Trace Tetrick will drive Bayfield Beach as the Illinois native and brother to Tim Tetrick tries for his fourth Breeders Crown trophy. He made his Breeders Crown debut in 2014 with Color's A Virgin (2014 3YO Filly Pace) and finished fourth in the final. He won his first Breeders Crown in 2015 with supplemental entry Freaky Feet Pete and won two when the event last came to Harrah's Hoosier Park, steering Fiftydallarbill (2017 3YO Colt and Gelding Trot) and Blazin Britches (2017 3YO Filly Pace) to victory.

Bayfield Beach was bred by Schooner II Stable, the same connections who campaigned Somebeachsomewhere. He is owned by Crossover Racing, Country Club Acres Inc., Richard Lombardo and Joe Sbrocco.

"We missed the best two horses in the country up there [in the Metro]," Brown said. "Tony's horse, Abuckabett, was the best horse—he just wasn't good that day. And with no Perfect Sting and Southwind Gendry, I probably had a chance to be second. I didn't expect Tony's other horse to beat me, I thought it'd be Abuckabett Hanover. He's just had a little bit of tying up here lately so hopefully we'll have that fixed this weekend and he can be back at 100 percent again."

CAPTAINS PLACE (Captaintreacherous – Dream Outloud – Bettor's Delight)

After making his Breeders Crown debut in 2019 with Catch The Fire (2YO Colt and Gelding Pace), trainer John Ackley returns with Captains Place.

Collecting minor checks in his first five starts, Captains Place collected his first victory in a \$5,000 overnight race at The Red Mile. He qualified for the \$250,000 Kentucky Sires Stakes Final, sneaking for a third-place finish. The colt again snuck in for a check in a \$119,100 division of the Bluegrass but then finished sixth in a \$99,700 division of the International Stallion Stakes. He landed in the Breeders Crown final with a fifth-place finish.

Ackley, who for 20 years prior to training horses made his living as a forklift driver, is in the middle of a career year in 2020 with over \$600,000 earned. His star Catch The Fire scored a win in the \$400,000 Adios Pace earlier this year.

Driver Tyler Smith will make his Breeders Crown debut behind Captains Place. The 27-year-old Ohio native made history at the age of 20 when becoming the youngest driver to win 1,000 races. At age 23, he became the youngest driver to win 2,000 races. He currently has over 3,000 wins and \$31 million earned in his career.

CAVIART LOTUS (Betting Line – Lunar Tide – Artsplace)

With eight starts on his resume, Caviart Lotus enters the Breeders Crown final a maiden following a second-place finish in his elimination (to Southwind Gendry).

Caviart Lotus debuted with a third-place finish in an overnight race at the Meadowlands before shipping to Lexington for the Kentucky Sires Stakes. He finished second and third in preliminaries before finishing fifth in the \$250,000 final. He then left restricted competition to race on the Grand Circuit, finishing fifth in a \$120,100 division of the Bluegrass and third in a \$99,700 division of the International Stallion Stakes.

Trainer Nancy Takter is having a career year with over 100 wins on the season and \$5.6 million in purses, placing her second for the year behind Ron Burke. She has won four Breeders Crown events including back-to-back victories in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace with Captain Crunch (2018) and Tall Dark Stranger (2019). She's the first trainer to win the event in back-to-back years and will try to become the first trainer to win the event three years in a row. A win would tie her with trainer Bob McIntosh for most victories in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace.

Nancy Takter also trains finalist Always A Miki.

Driver Tim Tetrick has won 20 trophies in Breeders Crown events and sits fourth among active drivers in event earnings and seventh all time. His most recent Breeders Crown victories came in 2018 with Shartin N (Mare Pace) and Lily Stride (3YO Filly Trot). Tetrick sits third all-time in career earnings with \$225 million in purses and eighth all time in wins with more than 11,700. Tetrick has won the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace twice, winning with Boston Red Rocks (2015) and Huntsville (2016). He is just the second driver to win the event back to back years with Ron Pierce being the other (and doing so twice with: I Am A Fool in 2003 and Village Jolt in 2004 & Well Said in 2008 and All Speed Hanover in 2009).

Caviart Lotus is a homebred for Caviart Farms, which won its first Breeders Crown in 2018 with Captain Crunch (2YO Colt and Gelding Pace). It won its other two trophies in 2019 with Tall Dark Stranger (2YO Colt and Gelding Pace) and Caviart Ally (Mare Pace).

"If you're going to break the maiden, it'd be a perfect time to do it on Friday night," Nancy Takter said. "He's a little green that horse, he's finally starting to get it. He's got a really good last quarter usually in him. If he can be positioned in a good position, I think he can probably be right there and be a little bit of a shocker. He's always finished well from his first baby race."

JK GOING WEST (JK Endofanera – Southwest – Western Hanover)

From the first crop of North America Cup winner JK Endofanera, JK Going West entered the Breeders Crown eliminations off a 1:51.2 victory in the \$270,000 Indiana Sires Stakes Super Final. Finishing third in his elimination, JK Going West will try to join the likes of past Breeders Crown winners Hannelore Hanover (2017 Mare Trot), Fiftydallarbill (2017 3YO Colt Trot) and Beckhams Z Tam (2017 3YO Colt Pace) as horses able to parlay a victory in the Indiana Sires Stakes into a Breeders Crown win on home turf.

Originally trained by co-owner Bill Beechy, JK Going West was sent to trainer-driver Lewayne Miller for his third pari-mutuel start—coming in the first preliminary of the Indiana Sires Stakes. He won two of the six preliminaries and finished second in three. In Grand Circuit company, JK Going West finished second in a \$57,235 division of the Fox Stake at the Indiana State Fair and eighth in the \$120,000 Elevation Stakes at Harrah's Hoosier Park (to elimination winner Southwind Gendry).

Trainer-driver Lewayne Miller makes his Breeders Crown debut with JK Going West. The driver, growing up in a small Amish town in Indiana, began his career in 2009 working for trainer Erv Miller (no relation). Lewayne opened a large-scale training stable by 2016 and to date has banked over \$15 million in driving earnings and just over \$3 million in training earnings.

Bill Beechy owns JK Going West—bred by Silver Linden Farms—along with David Ferch.

LITERL LAD HANOVER (Somebeachsomewhere – Latte Lady – Jenna's Beach Boy)

With just a single win to his name from 11 starts, Literl Lad Hanover draws the second-tier spot following a fourth-place finish in his elimination.

Debuting in the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) with a second-place effort, he scratched sick from his next start. Following a sixth-place effort in a PASS event, he romped in a maiden event at The Meadows by 10-and-a-quarter lengths in 1:53. He has since finished seventh in the \$253,000 PASS Championship, fifth in the \$120,000 Elevation Pace (at Harrah's Hoosier Park) and second in a \$119,100 division of the Bluegrass.

Trainer Ron Burke leads all active trainers in the Breeders Crown with over \$9 million earned in Breeders Crown events and 17 total trophies. He sits second on the all-time leaderboard to Jimmy Takter. Since taking over his father Mickey's stable in 2008, Burke has become the winningest trainer in the history of harness racing (winning his 11,000th race on Sept. 7 at The Meadows) and is the only trainer to record at least 1,000 wins in a single season. Burke's most recent Breeders Crown win came in 2019 with Warrawee Ubeaut (3YO Filly Pace). He has yet to win in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace.

Burke also trains finalists Southwind Gendry and Summa Cum Laude.

Driver Matt Kakaley will try for his third Breeders Crown win. He scored his lone wins in 2018 when steering Dorsoduro Hanover (3YO Colt and Gelding Pace) and Percy Bluechip (3YO Filly Pace) to victory, rebounding from an injury sustained in a racing accident at Yonkers earlier that year. The Burke teamster had a career year in 2017 with over \$9.04 million earned and currently has more than 4,800 victories in his career with \$79 million earned.

"Right now for whatever reason [he] only wants to race at the end of the mile," Burke said. "If you put him into the race he doesn't seem like he does as well. I think he'll grow out of that, but I don't think it'll be an issue next year. But right now he's pretty much a one-move horse. He's got to be my one who, if it gets crazy, picks up the pieces."

PERFECT STING (Always B Miki – Shebestingin – Bettor’s Delight)

By world champion and two-time Breeders Crown winner Always B Miki (2015, 2016 Open Pace) out of world champion Bettor’s Delight mare Shebestingin (finished fourth as the favorite in the 2014 3YO Filly Pace), Perfect Sting has remained perfect in nine starts heading into the Breeders Crown final. Recent undefeated Breeders Crown champs include Gimpanzee (2018 2YO Colt Trot), JK She’salady (2014 2YO Filly Pace) and Seeyou At Peelers (2010 2YO Filly Pace).

Starting his career with a dead-heat victory in a conditioned pace, Perfect Sting began his stakes career in the Kentucky Sires Stakes. He swept the three preliminaries and powered to a 1:49.4 victory in the \$250,000 final. Perfect Sting then scored narrow victories in a \$120,100 division of the Bluegrass and a \$99,700 division of the International Stallion Stakes before posting a three-and-three-quarter length victory in his Breeders Crown elimination.

Brittany Farms LLC and Val D’or Farms bred the colt trained by Joe Holloway, the same man who conditioned Shebestingin and first trained Always B Miki. Holloway—inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2019—sits ninth in all-time earnings in Breeders Crown events and also has seven trophies including three with Jenna’s Beach Boy (1994, 1995, 1996), who is the only pacing standardbred in the history of the event to win three consecutive Breeders Crown trophies. Holloway last won a Breeders Crown in 2015 with Divine Caroline (3YO Filly Pace).

Driver David Miller ranks second all-time in Breeders Crown earnings while having 24 trophies to his name. The Hall of Famer set the record for most Breeders Crown wins in a single year back in 2015 when he won five of the 12 events contested at Woodbine Mohawk Park. He ranks No. 2 among all drivers in harness racing history in purses, with \$247 million, and is No. 5 in wins. He has ranked among the top five in earnings 20 of the past 21 years and is again in the top five this season. Miller is yet to drive a winner in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace, though he came close last year with Papi Rob Hanover but was placed from first to second for interference to eventual winner Tall Dark Stranger.

Brittany Farms leads all owners in Breeders Crown earnings and sits second to Hanover Shoe Farms on the Breeders Crown breeder earnings leaderboard.

“I said back in about March or April—he’s got the potential to be the best horse I’ve ever had, and I think he is,” Holloway said after Perfect Sting’s victory in the Bluegrass at The Red Mile on Oct. 3. “Nobody was this advanced at 2. Always B Miki wasn’t this advanced, Jenna’s Beach Boy wasn’t. I was 38-years-old when I had Jenna and I thought they’d come along all the time. I now realize they don’t come around that often. He’s getting there, and he’s still learning. He dug in, came [home] in :26.2... does what he has to do.”

Joe Holloway trained the 1998 2-year-old Colt Pace Badlands Hanover winner in 1:50. At Colonial Downs.

SOUTHWIND GENDRY (Always B Miki – Gambler’s Passion – Cam’s Card Shark)

With two breaks on his card, Southwind Gendry has otherwise been perfect. From the first crop of Always B Miki, Southwind Gendry has won every start where he has stayed flat—leading to a record of nine wins from 11 starts.

Southwind Gendry began racing on the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes (PASS) circuit. He broke stride in a division of PA All Stars and later in a preliminary for the PASS, but the gelding won two other preliminaries for the PASS and a \$19,896 division of the Arden Downs before winning the \$234,000 PASS Championship in 1:51.3 at Pocono Downs. Southwind Gendry then added to his resume wins in the \$44,450 Keystone Classic, \$120,000 Elevation Stakes (at Harrah’s Hoosier Park), \$120,100 Bluegrass Stakes and \$99,700 International Stallion Stakes.

Off the 2-5 betting favorite, Southwind Gendry strolled to the lead past the half and cruised to a 1:51 victory in his Breeders Crown elimination while pacing a final quarter in :25.4.

Trainer Ron Burke leads all active trainers in the Breeders Crown with over \$9 million earned in Breeders Crown events and 17 total trophies. He sits second on the all-time leaderboard to Jimmy Takter. Since taking over his father Mickey’s stable in 2008, Burke has become the winningest trainer in the history of harness racing (winning his 11,000th race on Sept. 7 at The Meadows) and is the only trainer to record at least 1,000 wins in a single season. Burke’s most recent Breeders Crown win came in 2019 with Warrawee Ubeaut (3YO Filly Pace). He has yet to win in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace.

Burke also trains finalists Summa Cum Laude and Literl Lad Hanover.

Driver Yannick Gingras ranks sixth all-time, third active, on the Breeders Crown leaderboard with over \$10 million earned and 23 trophies won. Gingras drove Tall Dark Stranger to victory last year in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace—his second in the event (his first coming with Rockin Amadeus in 2012). Gingras won his first Breeders Crown in 2007 driving 50-1 shot Southwind Serena to an upset in the Three-Year-Old Filly Trot.

Southwind Gendry was bred by Southwind Farms. He is owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC, Phillip Collura, Knox Services Inc. and JandT Silva Purnel & Libb.

“Up until [getting gelded], he just wanted to fight other horses instead of race other horses,” Burke said. “He’s done some really impressive miles along the way. He’s running into finally now the one that we’re going to find out who the best is.”

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

(Somebeachsomewhere – Western Graduate – Western Hanover)

Finishing second to Perfect Sting in his last three starts (including in his Breeders Crown elimination), Summa Cum Laude will attempt to come out at the top of the class.

Summa Cum Laude scored his first victory in his fourth start, winning the \$40,000 Homegrown Pace at the Meadowlands in 1:51.4. He qualified for the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes Consolation but finished sixth. He rebounded in the Kindergarten Series, scoring back-to-back victories before shipping to Lexington. There, he finished a narrow second to Perfect Sting in a \$120,100 division of the Bluegrass and a \$99,700 division of the International Stallion Stakes.

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Brian Sears picks up the drive on Summa Cum Laude. Sears leads active drivers in Breeders Crown wins with 32 trophies, the second-most wins in the event behind John Campbell's 48. Last year Sears won two Breeders Crown events, driving Winndevie (3YO Filly Trot) and Bold Eagle (Open Trot) to victory. Of all his Breeders Crown trophies, Sears has never won in the Two-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Pace.

Summa Cum Laude was bred by Nick Surick Stable LLC and J L Benson Stables Inc. He is owned by Burke Racing Stable, Phillip Collura, JandT Silva Purnel & Libb and Weaver BrusceMI LLC.

"He just doesn't get through turns and I don't know why—there's just no reason," Burke said, saying Summa Cum Laude prefers a bigger track. "Even Hoosier's not as good for him as Meadowlands and The Red Mile are. Right now he's a big-track horse. I think he'll finish the year strong in the Kindergarten and the Governor's Cup. On a mile track he's a different horse—like he's able to stretch out, let his hobbles out. Maybe he's not mature enough to go on the smaller track yet. I look for big things from that horse next year."