



E-NEWS AND E-NOTES FOR FRIDAY, MAY 30th, 2025



## LA MATIN'EE COMPL'ETES

A fine presentation to horsemen & fans alike as the 4 Ohio Fair Circuits hosted the 2025 Matinees

**Ohio Fair Racing Conference**

**Ohio Colt Racing Association**

**Home Talent Colt Stakes**

**Southern Valley Colt Circuit**

**The Signature Series**

**Graduate Series**

**The Buckeye Stallion Series**

**Spring Haven Farms Ladies Driving Series**

**OHHHA.com**



## BRING ON THE FAIRS!

**Paulding County Fair** on the Ohio/Indiana line hosts two days of **Ohio Fair Racing Conference** stakes beginning Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and then again on Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Post time is 4:00 PM.

**Pickaway County Fair** in Circleville (25 miles south of Columbus) begins their 2-day **Ohio Colt Racing Association** races on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>, both at 1:00 PM.

**CATCH ALL THE ACTION**

[Ohioharnessracing.com/Video](http://Ohioharnessracing.com/Video)



## NO LONGER JUST A NUMBER

Back in 2019 when we were doing Racing With The Stars in Marion, OH a 12 yr-old kid signed up along with seven other people

"What do we win?" they asked skeptically about the new contest as I explained the rules. "We draw your name, you draw a number, & if your horse wins you get a T shirt, a goodie bag and a \$25 gift card."

"Okay," they relented as they dropped their names into the draw. I drew the contestants, and they were announced over the P.A.

After the official photo the race was off:

The #3 horse makes a break leaving and the kid's shoulders slump disappointedly as he groans & throws his number on the table.

"He's catching the field!" I hollered as they approached the half & the kid is straining to see where he's at.

"Now fifth, now fourth, now third and moving up!" I did my best Roger Huston impersonation while the youngster craned his neck out to its limit. And then the colt took the lead.

"You'd better get that number back 'cause you won't get into the Winners Circle without it!" I laughed as he scooted over for it.

His horse was on top at the wire & #3 hopped and jumped with joy and ran over to the Winners Circle, laughing all the way. It was great to see such enthusiasm instead of like most of today's youths mopping around downtown with their hands in their pockets.

But it was more than just enthusiasm... it was more like being Driven to Win. The Harness Hall of Fame has a great traveling exhibit aptly named but I'd seen it many times before in person as it separates those who want to be in the thick of competition... and not just on the sidelines.

Names like **Jason Bartlett** when he started out while making the transition from New England to New York and he began to win races. They called him a "cowboy" at first as he took no prisoners. Now, just 20 years later, he's compiled over 11,300 wins and accrued \$166 million in purses.

Yippee ki yay, mama sama.

And **Aaron Merriman** (16,500) & **Ronnie Wrenn Jr** (8,600) leading a fine colony of drivers in both Northfield & at The Meadows.

Or a 21-year-old **Yannick Gingras** who took a gutsy move from mon deu Canada that has him now in The Harness Hall of Fame with earnings of close to \$250 million and 9,300 plus wins.

Back in 1982 **Ron Pierce** made the decision to return to California after a stint in NJ which netted him but 53 wins in 8 years is another Hall of Famer with 9,570 wins.

Then the Smith Brothers – Tyler and Trevor – who've accumulated more wins (6,200+) than lozenges in a carton of cough drops.

**Chris Page's** 7,200 victories include a **Little Brown Jug** with hopefully more to come. His humble response after winning 7 races on one card was "I got lucky."

And the kid who is no longer "just a number" ...he won his 1st matinee at Urbana:  
*What the heck... it's Ranger Steck!*