

## A Bounty in Bucyrus

As the Crawford County Fair celebrates its 177th year plus - since 1848 - from July 14th to July 19th and with over 180 colts and fillies entered in the two days of the **Home Talent Colt Stakes** races, the expertly manicured half-mile oval at the Fairgrounds off of Whetstone Avenue will possibly be witness to some of the fastest and most exciting miles ever held in Bucyrus.

When Bucyrus' Walter Michaels was President of the United State Trotting Association from 1958-1969, a two-year-old with a time of 2:05 (two minutes, five seconds) for the mile was considered a "good" horse. Nowadays, thanks to improvements in equipment and in part to a better breed because of men like Michaels and Hal Jones of nearby Crestline, the time we aim for has been lowered to 1:55. The current track pacing record is 1:53.1 set in 2021 while the trotter's tab is 1:58.1 established waaaay back in 2013.

Post time is 6:00 pm on Wednesday as the 12-race program brings four divisions of the Buckeye Stallion Series for two-year-old trotters. Each division (the 1st, 3rd, 6th & 8th races) carries a hefty purse of \$20,000 which is funded in part by a great Ohio harness horse industry, number one in the nation! It will feature students by Ohio's trotting stalwarts such as Rosy Weaver, Chris Beaver, Hank Le Van, Ryan Stahl amongst others.

There is a Terry Holton Youth Driving Series as the youngsters are not the horses but aspiring novice drivers. A few horses to make a note of on the day are the trotter What Say You, Legendary L (going for victory #7 on the year) and the pacers Intrepid Ivy and the "overlay" of the day: Big Bad Whamo who looks to give young Ranger Steck his very first win ever.

Due to the large amount of horses Thursday's call to post begins at 5pm as 16 contests and, even though the Ohio Fair Season has just begun, there are several stars that are already beginning to rise. The husband-wife team of Nick and Betty Clegg has 10 youngsters in to go including two-year-old pacing filly Juliet Capulet who has been 1st or 2nd in all five of her freshmen starts.

A youthful (31) Hank Le Van spearheads Team Le Van as he brings in 11 to the party headlined by the two-year-old trotting filly Hangtighthoney L as she sweetens

everyone's day with her record of 1:58.1 taken at Scioto and winning five of her six 2025 starts.

It is a fine two days of racing. Come on in and choose and cheer your favorites. That's a pair that definitely beats a full house! Enjoy the sights and sounds of America's homegrown sport as Ohio leads the nation for its 8th straight year.

Mark your calendars: Wednesday at 6 pm and Thursday at 5:00!