



The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

October 2011 Newsletter

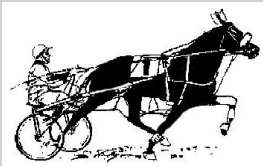
2011 Harness Racing Dates

Lebanon Raceway
March 4-June 11
Sept 23-Dec 30
(50 live days)

Northfield Park
Jan 1-Dec 30
(214 live days)

Raceway Park
April 30-Sept 18
(46 live days)

Scioto Downs
May 13-Sept 11
(57 live days)



OHHA Track Reps

Tom Blankenship
Lebanon Raceway
(513) 932-9138

Doug Eschedor
Raceway Park
(419) 287-4936

Amy Hollar
Northfield Park
(614) 778-5905

Jim Teynor
Scioto Downs
(614) 497-2481

Volume 41, No. 10

David Miller Makes History with Jug & Jugette Triumphs



Big Bad John Wins the 2011 Little Brown Jug for David Miller

Brad Conrad Photo

Big Bad John--an Ohio hometown favorite--captured the \$252,864 Little Brown Jug today (Sept. 22) at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in a national season's record time of 1:50 with Ohio native David Miller in the sulky.

The 3-year-old colt is a son of Western Hanover-TrulyaworkofArt-Artsplace.

Big Bad John became the first horse in the history of pacing's top event who is stabled and trained at the Delaware County Fairgrounds during the racing season to win the Little Brown Jug.

The bay sophomore won pacing's most prestigious event in straight heats--the first in 1:50.2--and pushed his career earnings to \$925,809 in the process. He now has a 16-2-1 record from 21 career trips behind the starting gate.

The robust colt is trained by Delaware-based Ron Potter and owned by Ed Telle, of Powell, Ohio who races under the moniker Winchester Baye Acres.

"David felt really confident about this horse's chances on the front end today," Potter offered. "So I didn't really give him any instructions about how to drive the colt."

Bret Merkle, a Newark, Ohio native had conditioned Big Bad John as a yearling and winter-trained him as a 2- and 3-year-old in Ocala, FL, before sending him north to Potter.

Miller became just the second driver in harness racing history to win both the Little Brown Jug and its sister event--the Jugette--in the same year.

Miller had steered Idyllic to victory in the Jugette on Sept. 21 (see page 4). Hall of Fame driver-trainer Billy Haughton had first accomplished that feat in 1974 with Armbro Omaha.

Miller has won the Jug twice before--in 2008 with Shadow Play and in 2003 with No Pan Intended.

Big Bad John left hard from the rail in the second heat with Roll With Joe (Ron Pierce) on the outside of him as Up The Credit (Jody Jamieson) fired hard out of the seven-hole. Big Bad John cruised through fractions of :27, :55.1 and 1:23.1 before Roll With Joe challenged him again in the final turn.

"I didn't expect Jody (Jamieson) to push the pace that much in the early going," Miller noted. "But my horse was so strong that I never even popped the ear plugs until the three-quarters and then he was super strong all the way to the wire."

Big Bad John gamely held off Roll With Joe to sweep under the wire by half a length. The colt now has nine wins in 12 tries this year and seasonal earnings of \$703,059.

General Manager's Report

by Jerry Knappenberger

VLT Update~As we reported in the September issue of The Buckeye Harness Horseman magazine. The O.H.H.A. and Ohio H.B.P.A. (Thoroughbred horsemen) continue negotiations with Ohio racetrack operators for the revenue from Video Lottery Terminals (VLT's) that would go to the Ohio horse racing industry. The negotiation sessions have been monitored by Governor Kasich's advisors, Moelis & Company and a staff member of the Governor's Policy Director. Substitute House Bill #277 will become law on October 17th.



Ohio Governor John Kasich announced on Sept. 18 that he wants the central computer system in place to run the VLTs at Ohio racetracks in less than four months, and will ask the state's Controlling Board to approve a contract to make that possible. The Governor wishes to give the gaming company Intralot—that already manages the Ohio Lottery Commission's

back-room operations—a contract to immediately develop a central monitoring system to track the activity of the VLTs. Intralot won the State's Lottery Contract through a competitive bid process in 2008—that contained a provision that allows it the first right to develop the system. The State will save three to four months by avoiding the bidding process which would eliminate a possible loss to the Lottery of \$2 million per month from each of Ohio's seven racetracks.

Once the central computer system is in place, racetrack operators would have the opportunity to begin VLT operations if machines are available from manufacturers in temporary or permanent facilities, with relocated racetracks operating at their new location, while the new racetrack is being developed.

The Ohio State Racing Commission announced at their September meeting they would begin preparing applications to relocate racetracks. The relocation process could begin after sub-H.B. 277 becomes law, with December 31, 2011 being the deadline for submission of applications. January 31, 2012 would be the deadline for approval of track relocation. As many as four Ohio racetracks may apply to move their operation to another location. If you have any questions, please contact me at the OHHA office. We will keep you updated of any additional information on the OHHA website www.ohha.com.



OSS Super Night~The Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association congratulates Scioto Downs General Manager Stacy Cahill and her staff for their effort in making the 2011 Ohio Sires Stakes "Super Night of Racing" an outstanding event. The excellent pre-race cocktail party for "Super Night" participants and the outstanding racing card with total purses of \$633,300 produced a total mutual handle at Scioto Downs of nearly 320,000 the highest of this season. Again, congratulations on a job well done to Stacy and her entire staff.



Ohio Sired Yearlings~There are more Ohio-sired yearlings to be sold this year during the Blooded Horse Sales Company's November sale at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. During a featured yearling session on Tuesday, November 15, consignments from Midland Acres (26 yearlings), Spring Haven Farm (four yearlings) and others will be offered. For more information or to request sale catalogs contact Blooded Horse Sales Company at 859-858-4415 or fax 859-858-8498.



WOCRA Banquet

The Western Ohio Colt Racing Association will hold their Annual Awards Banquet Sunday, October 16, 2011 at the Plaza Inn, Mt. Victory at 6:00 pm

Door prizes & trophies

Best Horse in Class & Best Driver in Class & CW & Bess Field Memorials

Reservations are \$20 each~send reservations and checks made payable to WOCRA, P O Box 289 East Liberty, OH 43319 or call 937-243-0793

OHHA General Manager



Jerry Knappenberger

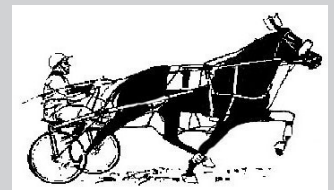
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Linda Nance

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Retirement Plan Administrator
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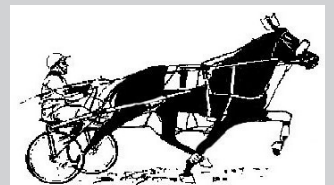
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2012 Racing Dates—The Ohio State Racing Commission approved a schedule of 694 live racing days in 2012 during its monthly meeting in Columbus. The state's seven commercial racetracks will have 12 fewer days than the 706 scheduled this year. Two racetracks announced agreements with horsemen's repre-

<u>Racetrack</u>	<u>Dates & Live Racing Days</u>
Beulah Park (<i>Thoroughbred & Quarter Horse</i>)	Jan. 9–May 5 (70 days) & Oct. 7–Dec. 22 (47 days)
River Downs (<i>Thoroughbred & Quarter Horse</i>)	April 27–Sept. 3 (96 days)
Thistledown (<i>Thoroughbred</i>)	Apr. 18–Nov. 17 (122 days)
Lebanon Raceway (<i>Harness</i>)	Jan. 6–June 9 (28 days) & Sept. 21–Dec. 8 (24 days)
Northfield Park (<i>Harness</i>)	Jan. 2–Dec. 29 (210 days)
Raceway Park (<i>Harness</i>)	April 21–Sept. 2 (40 days)
Scioto Downs (<i>Harness</i>)	May 10–Sept. 8 (57 days)

sentatives to increase the number of days originally applied for by the Aug. 15 deadline. Thistledown had its revised request for 122 days, an increase of 31 days, approved. Raceway Park added two live days to reach 40 for 2012.

Each racetrack is required by Ohio law to schedule a minimum amount of live days based on how many dates were raced there in 1991. If a racetrack does not fulfill this requirement and does not obtain an agreement to the scheduling of fewer dates from horsemen, the racetrack would lose the right to simulcast races during the following year (2013).

Two tracks did exceed their minimums—Beulah Park (114 days) and Northfield Park (182 days). Three harness tracks have signed agreements with the OHHA. Two thoroughbred tracks, River Downs and Thistledown, are expected to sign agreements with the HBPA. Above are starting and ending dates for each racetrack and the number of dates approved by the commission.

Details: Lebanon Raceway includes Miami Valley Trotting Club (28 days), Jan 6 & 7, Feb 17, 18, 24 & 25, March & April (all Fridays & Saturdays), May 4, 5 & 18, June 9 **and** Lebanon Trotting Club (24 days), Sept. 21, 22, 28 & 29, Oct. & Nov. (all Fridays and Saturdays), and Dec 1, 7, 8 (52 total days). Northfield Park races 210 days, plus the Summit County Fair (July 28). Raceway Park races 40 days (Saturdays and Sundays) April 21–Sept 2. Scioto Downs offers 57 days (Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays), May 10–Sept. 8; and afternoon programs Memorial Day (May 28), July 4th, and Labor Day (Sept. 3).

For Sale

The OHHA is offering for sale a 12X28 foot, carpeted office trailer containing a restroom.

For more information, contact Jerry Knappenberger at the OHHA office at 1-800-353-6442 or 614-221-3650

Ohio Racetracks

Lebanon Raceway

665 North Broadway
Lebanon, Ohio 45036
(513) 932-4936
www.lebanonraceway.com

Northfield Park

10705 Northfield Road
Northfield, Ohio 44067
(330) 467-4101
www.northfieldpark.com

Raceway Park

5700 Telegraph Road
Toledo, Ohio 43612
419-476-7751
www.racewayparktoledo.com

Scioto Downs

6000 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43207
(614) 491-2515
www.sciotodowns.com



Count Me In & OHHA Director Sam Noble III won the 2-year-old colt and gelding Ohio Breeders Championship trot in a track record equaling 1:58 on Sept. 20 at Delaware. Noble was catch-driving for Marty Wollam, who was injured in a farm accident prior to Delaware. *Jay Wolf photo*

What have you done to help fill the Stands?

**Take three new people to your county fair races!*

**Treat friends to dinner at a pari-mutuel racetrack!*

**Plan a trip that includes visits to county fairs and a great Ohio pari-mutuel raceway!*

We can all make a difference for Ohio racing...



Important Dates

October 18, 2011
4th Qtr OHHA Board Meeting

October 21 & 22, 2011
Breeders Crown Eliminations

October 29, 2011
Breeders Crown Finals

November 14-16, 2011
64th Fall Speed Sale

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Idyllic Wins \$292,350 Jugette

Idyllic captured the \$292,350 Jugette Final on Sept. 21 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Delaware, Ohio, stopping the timer in 1:54 for driver David Miller. The daughter of American Ideal had captured her \$54,470 elimination heat in 1:53.1 over the half-mile oval, which had endured downpour after downpour all day long.

Canadian-based trainer Casie Coleman, who also conditioned the filly's sire, harnessed Idyllic to victory in her elimination and the final for owners West Wins Stable, Joseph and Michael La Cova and John Campagnuolo.

Swinging Beauty had captured the second elim in 1:54.2 for driver Doug McNair, and finished third in the final. Rocklamation (Yannick Gingras) finished a strong second in the final to Idyllic, just getting nosed out at the wire by her rival.



Idyllic triumphs in the Jugette for David Miller

Brad Conrad Photo

"Rocklamation kind of surprised me at the end," said winning driver David Miller. "I thought we pretty much had the race sewed up at the end but that mare turned it into a real horse race. It was definitely a good race. But my mare was good and tough and raced both heats pretty easily."

Fractions for the final were :27, :56.3 and 1:24.4. Idyllic went to the top as soon as the field swung out of the first turn and maintained her lead all the way to the wire.

"This mare is just a dream come true," Coleman acknowledged. "She gives 100% and the fact that she's from the first crop of American Ideal makes her even more special." Idyllic finished second to See You At Peelers in last year's voting for Dan Patch division honors, and now has five wins in 12 starts this year and 13 of 21 victories lifetime, with over \$1.27 million in career earnings to her credit.