



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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Putnam is puttin' on the Ritz

by Thom Pye

The exciting sounds of harness racing returns to Putnam County Fairgrounds this Tuesday (June 26) and Wednesday (June 27th) with a 5:00 p.m. post time for both days as the Western Ohio Colt Racing Association presents its young trotters and pacers.

When Putnam's famous 1883 Bell sounds to start the Fair it will mark the 145th year that the track has hosted harness racing. While it is steeped in history the grandstand is also witness to new records being established such as Henry Gulley's lifetime winner of over \$440,000 **T Red** pacing to a new track standard of 1:56h in 2017.

Speed Superintendents Eleanor Rissler and Luke Karhoff have put together two fine cards of WOCRA 2 and 3-year-olds along with a Signature Series Trot on Tuesday and a Signature Series Pace on Wednesday. Each group of these quality horses could produce yet another new track record.

And while the equine stars are offered for your enjoyment, the Ohio Ladies Pace Series is contested as well. At the Paulding fair fans saw newcomer Mariah Wright of Defiance take on the competition in her very first drive and win but the other Lady veterans are determined to defend their territory here in Ottawa.

As you enjoy the races be sure to stop by the Racing With The Stars tent for more fun, info, and prizes. We'll test your harness horse, Ohio, and local knowledge with questions such as "What is Ottawa named after?" If you answer "the Native American tribe that lived here... their name means 'traders'" you will **definitely** get a prize!

So come on over! We'll see you there!