

# HARNESS THE EXCITEMENT

Your Guide to  
the Sport of  
Harness Racing



Published by the  
U.S. Trotting Association

Inside: Racing History, Major Races, Celebrities, Famous Standardbreds and *more!*

I am a three-time Major League All-Star pitcher.

I was a star closer during my 18-year baseball career with teams such as the Milwaukee Brewers and Toronto Blue Jays.

I threw the last out ever recorded in Veterans Stadium while pitching for the Philadelphia Phillies.

I am Dan Plesac.

I am harness racing.



Dan Plesac has pitched against the world's best hitters, but his real passion is the sport of harness racing. You, too, can get into the race by visiting [www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com).



## Table of Contents

Here They Come .....	4
The Racetrack Experience .....	6
Who's Who at the Track.....	8
Racing's Premier Events .....	10
Grassroots Racing.....	12
America's Original Pastime .....	14
Superstars and Legends .....	16
Famous Faces in Racing.....	18
Equipped For Racing.....	20
Make a Bet.....	22
Harness Lingo .....	26
Where To Go.....	28

To find a track near you, see page 28

### Welcome to the wonderful world of harness racing!

The United States Trotting Association is proud to offer this look at one of America's most historic sports—harness racing—one which incorporates amazing people and animals, exhibiting extraordinary skill and speed.

Nowhere is the unique relationship between humans and horses better represented than in harness racing, which began as farmers challenging their neighbors to see whose driving horse was faster, and evolved into a multi-billion dollar international pastime.

We hope this guide helps you discover what makes harness racing so exciting, and that it will encourage you to further look into the sport on your own, so you can harness the excitement as the horses race toward the finish line.

# Here They Come!



## Harness Racing: Something For Everyone

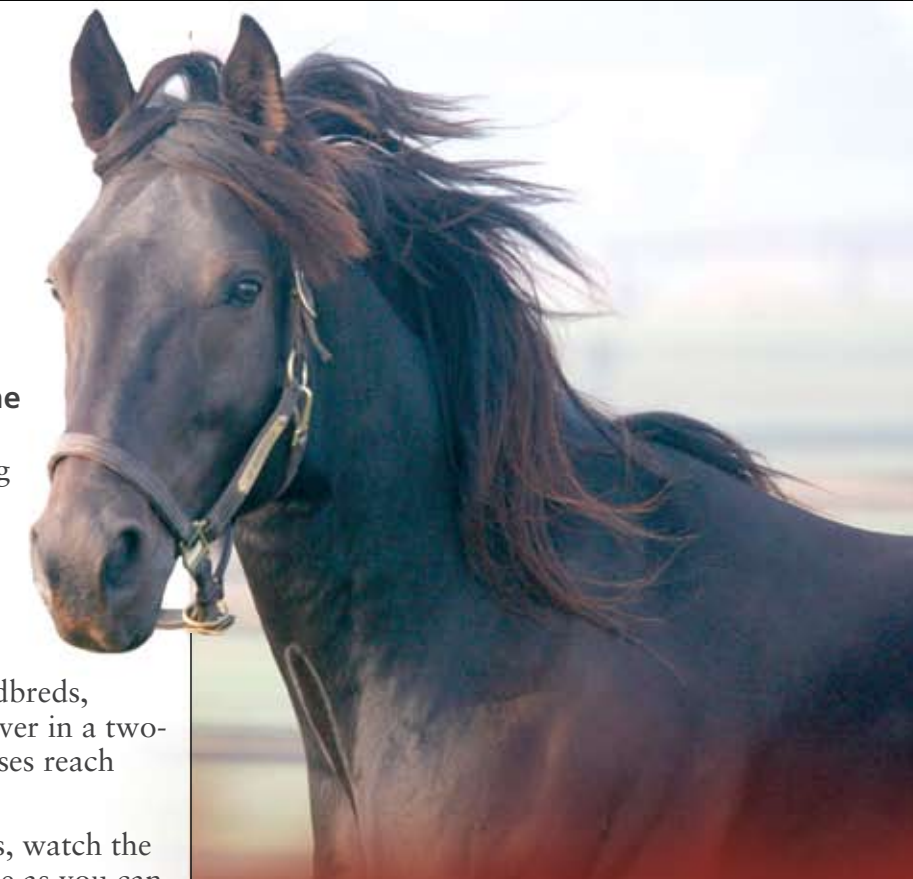
Whether you love the majesty of the horses, or the thrill of gaming, or just like to relax and enjoy people watching in well-manicured surroundings, then going to the racetrack and watching harness racing is the ideal recreational activity.

Harness racing is a sport where a special breed of horses, called Standardbreds, race around a track while pulling a driver in a two-wheeled cart called a “sulky.” The horses reach speeds of more than 30 mph.

To really feel the power of the horses, watch the races from the rail, which is as close as you can get to the action without actually driving in the race. It is a thrill to see the horses strive to do what they do best—go fast and win.

What makes harness racing great is that anyone can get involved. With a small investment, you can own a harness horse, and with the proper license, anyone can train or drive a Standardbred themselves! Even if you can't afford to own or train a horse, you can get up close and personal with the horses and drivers right at the racetrack. Many tracks offer barn and paddock tours and chances to meet with the drivers—for free.

This booklet will help you better understand the exciting sport of harness racing. Be sure to check out live racing at your local racetrack, which you can find on page 28. Only then can you experience the anticipation as the horses round the turn and begin to pick up speed as the announcer exclaims, “HERE THEY COME!”



## Nothing Standard About Them

The Standardbred is a beautiful, gentle breed of horse that is affectionate and easy to work with. The breed comes in many colors, with bay and brown being the most dominant. They weigh between 800 and 1,200 lbs. and are known for their willing temperaments.

Harness racing is based in tradition and history, but the Standardbred breed continues to improve each year. It is amazing to watch these magnificent athletes set speed records not even dreamed of when horses raced in high-wheeled sulkies and a mile in two minutes was the mark of a truly great racehorse. Now horses are routinely timed in 1:50 or faster, meaning that if a horse from today raced a champion from 1900, the horse from today would win by the length of a football field!

Although it appears most of the action happens on the track, harness racing's influence spreads far beyond that. It is a sport that employs thousands of people nationwide and contributes billions of dollars to local economies through taxes and the sale of feed, farm equipment, racing equipment, trucks, horse trailers and more.



In order to expand their gaming options, many racetracks are now offering casino-style slot machines or video lottery terminals in addition to wagering on harness racing. These hybrid tracks are called "racinos."

Revenues from alternative gaming boost harness racing by raising the amount of money for which the horses race, called purses.

The races are around 20 minutes apart to provide enough time for the horses and drivers to get ready and to allow the bettors to study the racing program and make their wagers. Between races, a water truck and a tractor with a harrow ensure that the racing surface is in the best condition possible.

Before the race starts, the horses will be introduced on the track by the announcer in the post parade. This gives bettors and fans a chance to see the horses beforehand.

The starting gate leads the horses to the starting line. The races are almost always one mile in length. After the race, the winning horse and driver return to the winner's circle to get their picture taken with the winning owner, trainer and other connections.

## The Racetrack Experience

Your first trip to a racetrack can be both exciting and overwhelming. Whether it's your very first time, or you haven't been to the races in years, there will be some unfamiliar sights and sounds, but once you get around, you'll find that the racetrack is truly one of the most unique and captivating entertainment venues around.

The viewing area for racing is usually divided into two areas: the grandstand and the clubhouse. The grandstand offers general admission, stadium-style seating and concessions. The clubhouse allows track visitors to sit in more urbane surroundings and enjoy food more likely served in a restaurant.

The clubhouse may require reservations. If you are looking for a more sports-type experience, watch the races from the grandstand. For a more sophisticated night on the town, the clubhouse is the place to be.

When you walk into the clubhouse or grandstand, you will see several TVs on the walls and at the tables. These TVs are broadcasting, or simulcasting, racetracks from all over the world to give the bettor more wagering options from which to choose. For more information on wagering, please see page 22.

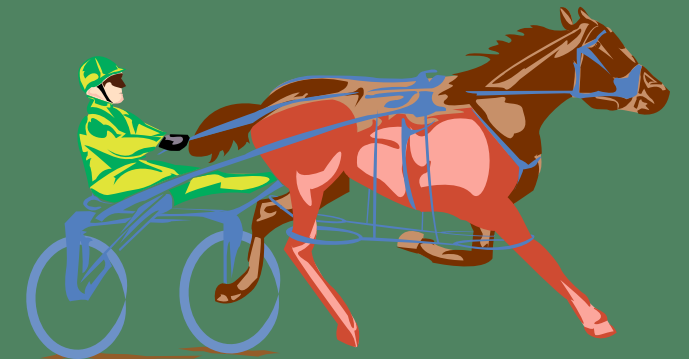
In the winner's circle



### On Gait

The races are divided into two gaits: pacers and trotters. Horses in each race are all using the same gait.

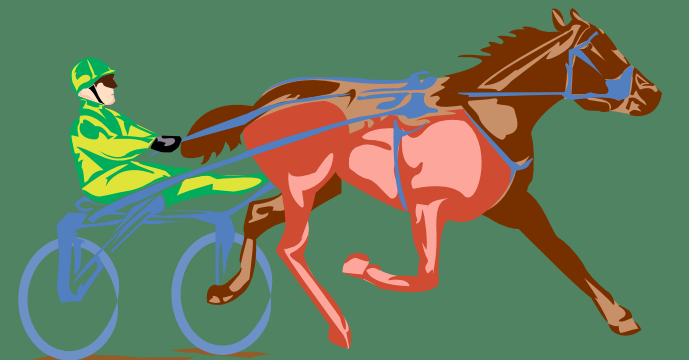
When pacers move down the track, the legs on the same side of their body move in unison. They can also be identified by the straps around all four legs, called hobbles, which help them maintain their gait. Pacers are much more common than trotters, and they tend to go faster.



PACER

With trotters, the diagonal legs move in unison. The trotting gait is more natural for the horse, so most do not need equipment to help them trot, although some wear loops on their front legs to maintain their rhythm, called trotting hobbles.

The horses you see on the track have been bred to perform at their particular gait. While some may be able to switch gaits, most race at the same gait as the generations before them. Also, the special shoes and equipment that they wear will also help them maintain that particular gait. For an glossary of equipment, please see page 20.



TROTTER

# Who's Who at the Track

**Drivers, trainers and horses are the most prominent figures in the sport of harness racing. But there are many jobs in the industry that are essential to the success of any racehorse.**

## Trainer »

A trainer is responsible for the conditioning and care of a horse. Trainers are hired by owners to get their horses ready to race, and to help them perform at their best. Trainers are also in charge of fitting the horses with the right equipment to maximize their racing potential, and making sure they stay healthy and strong throughout the season.



## Driver «

A driver sits behind the horse in a race bike, or sulky, and steers the horse around the track. A driver must have a special license from the United States Trotting Association that gives him or her permission to drive a horse in a race.

Drivers have uniforms, specific to them, called "colors." Each driver's colors has a unique pattern and arrangement of colors and must be registered with the USTA. Unlike Thoroughbred racing, where each jockey wears the horse owner's "silks," drivers wear their individual colors regardless of the owner of the horse.

## Owner

An owner is the person who purchases the horse, and pays the bills to feed and take care of it. An owner can be an individual or a partnership, which is a group of people that share the responsibilities and profits earned by a horse.

## Caretaker/Groom

A caretaker, or groom, works for a trainer, and is the person responsible for harnessing the horse and taking care of its equipment, as well as keeping the horse and its stall clean.

## Mutuel clerk

A mutuel clerk is the person at the mutuel window who takes wagers and presents the bettor with a betting ticket. He or she also pays out the money when a bettor has a winning ticket.

## Judge

Judges are like the referees of harness racing. Their job is to make sure that all the rules of racing are being followed. They watch for rules infractions such as interference and breaks (which occur when a horse gallops instead of maintaining the trotting or pacing gait). Judges can assess fines or penalties, and they even have the power to overturn race results.

## Outrider »

Riding a horse, an outrider is responsible for leading the horses out onto the track and helping to corral them if they get loose. In the event of an accident, the outrider helps collect any horses that get away from their drivers and tries to keep them safe in the process.



## Announcer

The announcer sits in a booth above the racetrack, with the best vantage point to see a race. He is the one who describes the race over the public address system.

## Photographer

Track photographers take pictures of the winner at the finish line and after the race is over in the winner's circle, as the horse poses with the winning owner, trainer, driver and other connections.

## Starter «

The starter is the person who rides in the starting gate (a car or truck with a hinged gate behind it), and is responsible for getting the horses to the starting line in the right order.

The starter calls the horses to follow the gate to the starting line. Once the horses reach the start, the starting car speeds up and pulls away.

## Farrier

A farrier, or blacksmith, is a person who specializes in hoof care. He is responsible for putting on shoes and changing them when necessary. Horses wear shoes because it helps them grip the track and it keeps their hooves from wearing down.



## Veterinarian

Like people, horses have doctors, or veterinarians, that are available at the racetrack to make sure they're healthy. Veterinarians perform routine check-ups, while other times they are called upon to treat injuries that happen during a race or training.



# Racing's Premier Events

## Trotting Classics

Every year on the first Saturday in August, all eyes are on The Meadowlands racetrack in East Rutherford, N.J., for the annual edition of harness racing's biggest trotting event. In the shadow of Giants Stadium, the finest 3-year-old trotters face off for \$1.5 million in the **Hambletonian**.

Named after the foundation stallion of the Standardbred breed, the Hambletonian has been held every year since 1926. Since 1981, the race has been held at The Meadowlands.

The Hambletonian at The Meadowlands is a spectacle not to be missed. With the Manhattan skyline in the background, which is just nine miles away, the best trotters in North America converge on this cosmopolitan scene. The huge crowd in attendance and national television coverage rouse an experience unparalleled in horse racing, if not all of professional sports. To plan your visit, go to [www.thebigm.com](http://www.thebigm.com).

The Hambletonian is one of the legs of the Trotting Triple Crown. The other two legs are the **Yonkers Trot**, held at Yonkers Raceway, and the **Kentucky Futurity** at The Red Mile in Lexington, Ky.

The best trotters race for some big money in the United States and Canada. Over Labor Day weekend, 3-year-olds race for \$600,000 in the **World Trotting Derby** in Du Quoin, Ill.. In mid-September, Mohawk Racetrack in Toronto hosts the \$970,000 **Canadian Trotting Classic**.

For one night in late fall, the top horses trotters and pacers meet in the **Breeders Crown** for total purses of over \$6 million. The horses are grouped by age, gait and gender into divisions. The winners of each Breeders Crown race are generally considered to be among the best in their class. For more information visit [www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com).



## Pacing Classics

Held each year on the third Thursday after Labor Day, the \$500,000 **Little Brown Jug** is the most prestigious and popular pacing race of the year. The event draws crowds of over 50,000 to the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Delaware, Ohio.

First raced in 1946, The Little Brown Jug is one of the few races remaining in which a horse must finish first in two "heats" in order to be declared the winner. Sometimes a horse will have to race three times on Little Brown Jug Day in order to claim the trophy, which is a testament to the hardiness and tenacity of the Standardbred breed.



Named in a newspaper contest, the "Jug" is a way of life for residents of Delaware, as many schools and businesses are closed for Jug Day. For more information or to plan your visit, visit the Little Brown Jug Web site at [www.littlebrownjug.com](http://www.littlebrownjug.com).

The Little Brown Jug is just one of the jewels of the Pacing Triple Crown, along with the **Cane Pace** and **Messenger Stakes**. Besides the **Breeders Crown**, many other major pacing events race for some big money: In mid June, the **North America Cup**, held at Mohawk Racetrack near Toronto, races for a purse of \$1.4 million. The **Meadowlands Pace** races for \$1 million in mid-July. Two-year-old pacing colts vie for \$950,000 in the **Metro Stakes** in early September at Mohawk.



# Grassroots Racing

In the early days of harness racing, county fairs provided an ideal venue for friends and neighbors to race their horses against one another. In a more agrarian time, when the fair was the highlight of the summer, people would bring their fastest road horse for racing just as they brought their prize livestock or produce for judging.



As time has passed, county and state fair harness racing has remained. More than 200 fairs in 22 states host harness racing, giving novice horses and horsemen a chance to get some racing experience before heading to the bright lights and fast pace of a pari-mutuel racetrack.

While many fair races are designed with beginners in mind, there are also several Grand Circuit races that take place at prominent fairgrounds around the country. The Grand Circuit is like a Major League of racing that moves from track to track.



Du Quoin State Fair

Each year the **Du Quoin State Fair** in Du Quoin, Ill. hosts some of the biggest races on the Grand Circuit, including the World Trotting Derby. The Hambletonian was held at Du Quoin from 1957-1980. Many of the top drivers and trainers from around the world compete at Du Quoin, so, unlike many of the traditional fair races, this is no place for beginners.

Other notable fairs include the **Indiana State Fair** in Indianapolis, Ind., which hosts three Grand Circuit events: the Horseman Stakes, the Hoosier Stakes and the Fox Stakes, and the **Illinois State Fair** in Springfield, Ill., which is known for its fast track where many racing records have been set.



## Fair Tradition

If nothing else, county fairs are about celebrating tradition; a throwback to a simpler time and a natural partner for a sport as timeless as harness racing. And for many fairs, harness racing continues to be a critical part of their success.

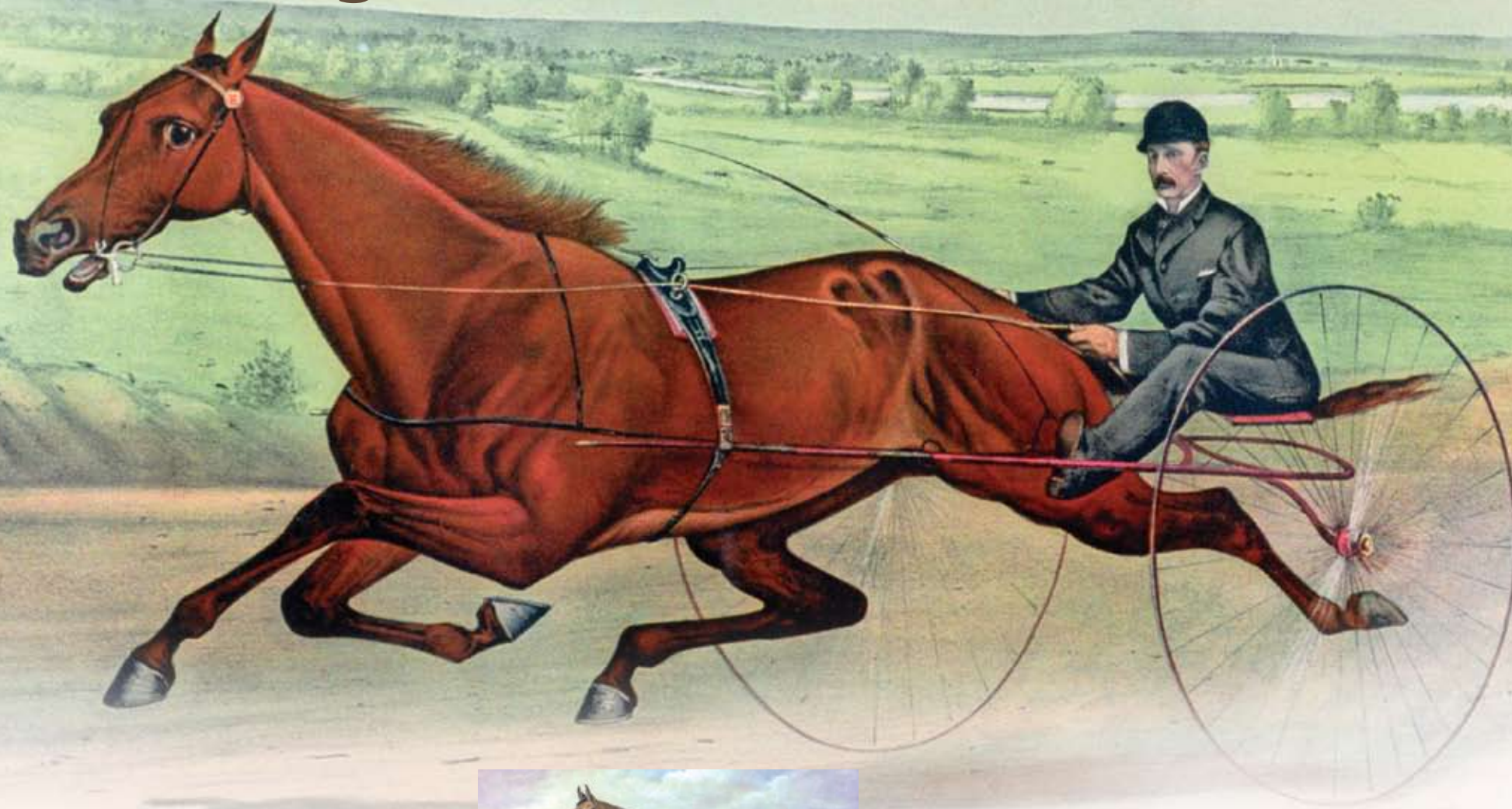
Part of what makes fair racing so popular is its accessibility. Older horses, young drivers and newer harness racing participants can all find opportunities to compete at the county fair level. Almost all of the top drivers and trainers that you see winning races on the sport's biggest stages got their start circling a fair track with the Ferris wheel in the background.

The county fair is an experience the whole family can enjoy, both for the spectators and the participants. Nowhere can you get closer to the horses and the action, and horsemen enjoy bringing their families to enjoy a pleasant afternoon at the fair.

A trip to watch county fair racing is a heartwarming, wholesome experience that shouldn't be missed. For more information on fairs in your area, visit <http://fairs.ustrotting.com>.

# America's Original Pastime

Maud S by Currier & Ives



Hambletonian

**Standardbred racing is a rich part of American history. In America's formative years, nearly every household had a horse. Inevitably, people began to race their horses against one another to see whose horse was faster.**

**These races initially took place on country roads and village streets**, but as these casual contests grew more popular, racetracks were built to accommodate the horsemen and fans.

The first harness racing tracks were opened in the mid 1800s, but harness racing events could be found as early as 1825 at county fairs all around the country. By the late 19th century, harness racing was the most popular sport in America.

In the United States, every Standardbred horse can trace its heritage to Hambletonian, born May 5, 1849, in the tiny hamlet of Sugar Loaf, N.Y.

The name "Standardbred" originated because the early trotters (pacers would not come into the picture until later) were required to reach a certain standard of time for the mile distance in order to be registered as part of the new breed. The mile is still the standard distance covered in nearly every harness race.

Today, harness racing can still be found in the hundreds of county fairs that host the sport each year, and the numerous pari-mutuel tracks across North America. The sport is also popular worldwide in countries such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Norway, Italy, and France.



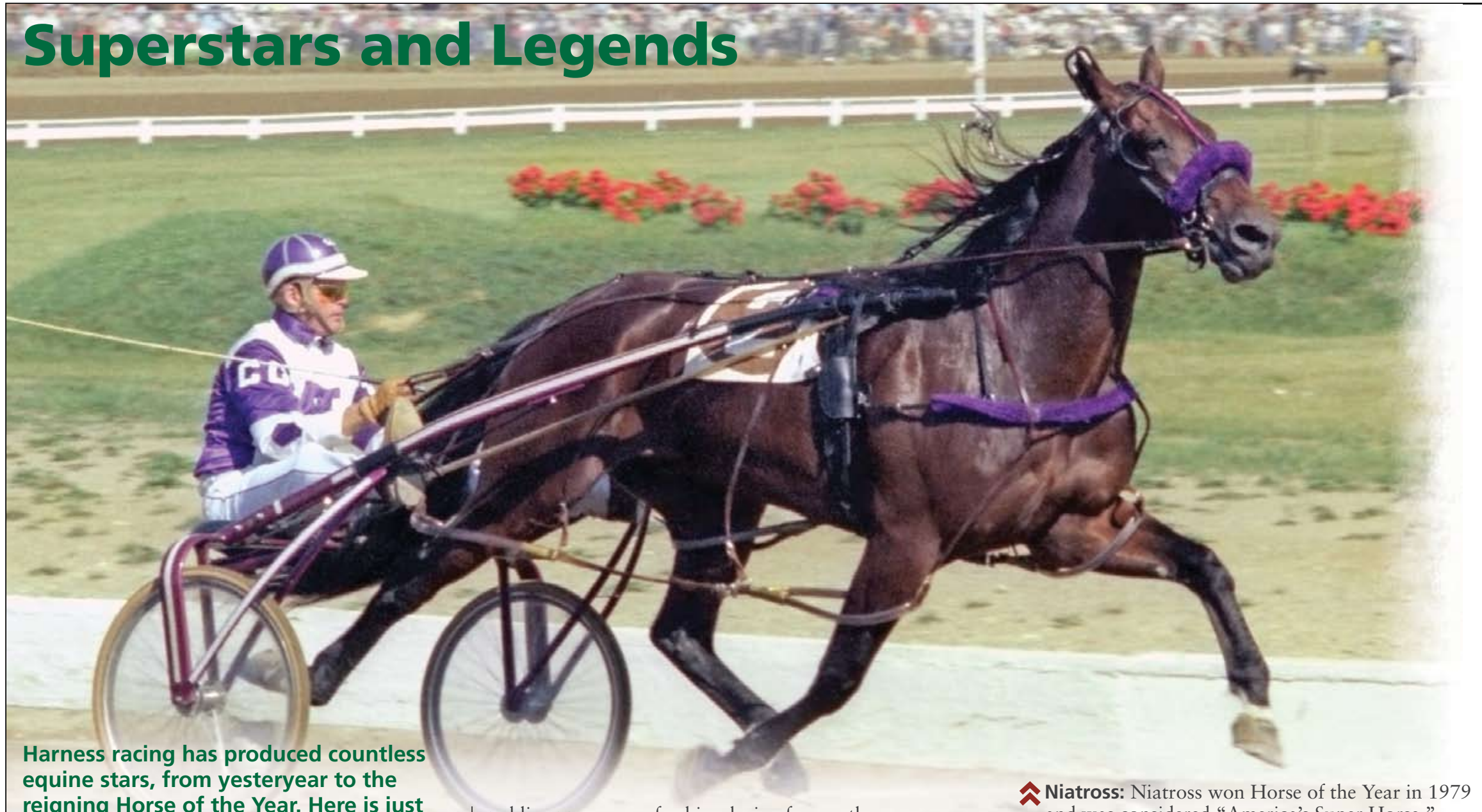
## The Cradle of the Trotter

**Goshen, N.Y.**, not far from where the great Hambletonian laid the foundation for the Standardbred breed, is home to the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame. Over the Fourth of July weekend each year, racing dignitaries gather to induct the newest Hall of Fame members.

During that week, Goshen is also the home of exciting racing at Historic Track, which has been hosting harness racing since 1838, making it the world's oldest active harness track. Because of this rich history, Goshen has been called "The Cradle of the Trotter." Visit their Web site at [www.harnessmuseum.com](http://www.harnessmuseum.com).



# Superstars and Legends



Harness racing has produced countless equine stars, from yesteryear to the reigning Horse of the Year. Here is just a sampling of some of history's most legendary pacers and trotters.

❖ **Dan Patch:** An unmatched celebrity in his time, Dan Patch set many records and never lost a race. In 1905, he set a record of 1:55-1/4 at Lexington, Ky., a new world mark for pacers that stood for 33 years. Glorified with memorabilia and merchandise, Dan Patch was America's most famous athlete, human or equine, at the turn of the 20th century. He earned money even after his racing career ended by traveling the country, making



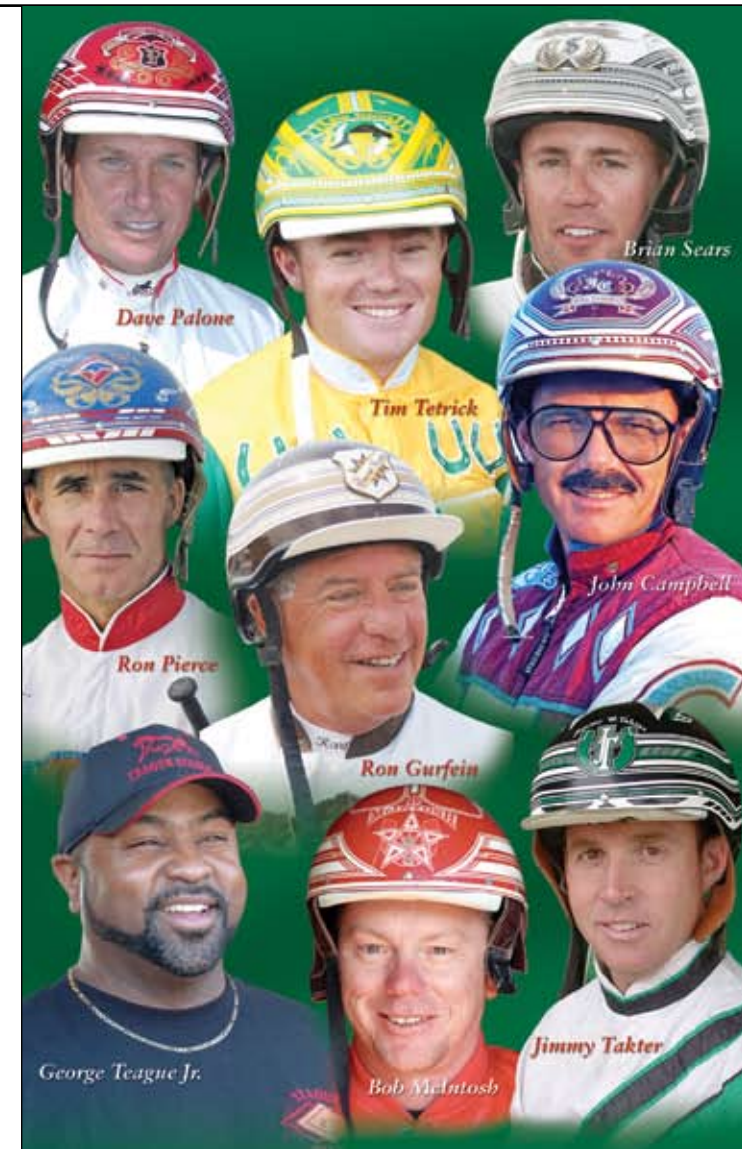
public appearances for his adoring fans as the "King of the Pacers." He is featured in the book, *Crazy Good: The True Story of Dan Patch, the Most Famous Horse in America*, by Sports Illustrated Executive Editor Charles Leerhsen.

❖ **Bret Hanover:** A three-time Horse of the Year from 1964 through 1966, Bret Hanover was one of the greatest pacers ever to look through a bridle. He won 62 of 68 races, including the Pacing Triple Crown: the Cane Pace, Messenger Stakes and Little Brown Jug. He retired as the fastest and richest Standardbred of all time, and as a stallion, was one of the most in-demand sires of his day. He is often considered one of the top stallions and broodmare sires of the 20th century.



❖ **Niatross:** Niatross won Horse of the Year in 1979 and was considered "America's Super Horse." At 3, he won the 1980 Pacing Triple Crown and another Horse of the Year title. He was the first horse to top \$2 million in earnings, and in 1980 he beat the existing world record for pacers by nearly three seconds when he time-trialed in 1:49.1. Considered by many to be the greatest Standardbred in history, he was also a successful stallion, having sired two Little Brown Jug winners in his first two crops.

❖ **Moni Maker:** One of the greatest trotters ever, Moni Maker was named Horse of the Year in 1998 and 1999. She competed both in the United States and in Europe successfully, and retired as the richest female horse of any breed with \$5,589,256 in purse earnings. She set records both in harness and under saddle, toting famed jockey Julie Krone around Lexington's Red Mile in a record mile of 1:54.1.



## The Best and Brightest

**Drivers are the stars of harness racing.** The most famous driver is John Campbell, who has won more than \$250 million in purses and was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame at the age of 35. Dave Palone has won more than 12,000 races in his career. Tim Tetrick holds the record for wins (1,189) and earnings (\$18.3 million) in a single season. Ron Pierce is also a Hall of Famer, and Brian Sears is perennially one of the top drivers at The Meadowlands.

While drivers are in the spotlight, some very talented trainers are sending out top racehorses year after year. Ron Gurfein and Bob McIntosh are both members of the Hall of Fame. Jimmy Takter has won many major stakes, including the Hambletonian and Little Brown Jug. He also trained top trotting mare, Moni Maker. And George Teague Jr. conditions some of the top stakes horses every year.

# Famous Faces in Racing

What do boxer George Foreman, writer-producer Alan Kirschenbaum and baseball All-Star Dan Plesac have in common? They are all active participants in the sport of harness racing. In fact, celebrities from many different walks of life have been involved in the sport over the years.

One of the most prominent sports figures in harness racing is the former Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World, George Foreman. Foreman has been involved in the sport for many years, first as an owner, and in recent years, as a trophy presenter at the biggest trotting event of the year, the Hambletonian.

But Foreman does a lot more than just smile for the cameras. Since 1991, he's owned more than 20 horses and he's just one of the many famous faces that are an integral part of harness racing.



George Foreman



Dan Plesac

Dan Plesac, former Philadelphia Phillies pitcher and three-time All Star, is now an accomplished Standardbred owner and trainer. And he's not the only Major League pitcher getting in on the action. Curt Schilling of the Boston Red Sox also owns horses.

Famous athletes aren't the only celebrities involved in harness racing. Hollywood has sent some of its brightest stars to the racetrack as well. In addition to being an outspoken fan and advocate of harness racing, Alan Kirschenbaum, the head writer for the television series "Coach" and "Yes, Dear," and a producer of "My Name Is Earl," has owned more than 180 horses and has even competed as a driver.



Alan Kirschenbaum

Michael Landon, perhaps best known for his starring role on the series "Little House on the Prairie," was also a Standardbred owner, and fellow actors such as James Cagney and Billy Barty were Standardbred fans, too. Former Mouseketeer Annette Funicello married into the sport when she wed longtime California trainer Glen Holt.



Annette Funicello



Sam Bowie

## The Thrill Of Competition

Other athletes who have participated in harness racing over the years include former New York Jets wide receiver Wayne Chrebet, NHL superstars Wayne Gretzky, Bobby Hull, Peter Forsberg, Tie Domi, Darren McCarty and Kris Draper, and NBA stars Wilt Chamberlain and Sam Bowie. The Rooney Family, owners of the 2006 World Champion Pittsburgh Steelers, also owns Standardbreds, and currently owns Yonkers Raceway in New York. Even the late NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt Sr. owned some harness racehorses.

Baseball greats such as Mickey Mantle and several of his Yankee teammates, including Whitey Ford and Charles "King Kong" Keller, were harness racing participants. Keller even operated a prominent breeding farm after he retired from baseball named Yankeeland Farm. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner has owned nearly 50 horses since the 1980s.



George Steinbrenner

# Equipped for Racing

Every piece of equipment used on a Standardbred has been selected specifically for that horse's individual needs. This guide will explain the purpose of the most commonly used equipment.

## 1 Racebike

Also known as a sulky, an aerodynamic cart used only in races, which reduces drag and provides lift on the horse.

## 2 Driving lines

Straps attached to the driving bit that run back to the handholds, which the driver uses to control the direction and speed of the horse.

## 5 Bridle

Consists of several straps, usually leather, that fit over the head and face of the horse, allowing the driver to control the horse through the use of a driving bit. The blind bridle shown here obscures sight from the sides as well as from behind, which prevents the horse from seeing anything that may cause anxiety.

## 6 Driving bit

Usually a jointed metal bar seated in an area of the horse's mouth between the front incisors and molars, where there are no teeth. By creating pressure on the sides of the mouth through the driving lines, the driver can steer the horse.

## 10 Open bridle

Allows the horse a full range of sight with no obstruction. Open bridles are useful to relax an otherwise tense or aggressive animal.

## 11 Overcheck

A rein generally attached to the overcheck bit, running over the top of the head and down the neck where it is strapped to the harness. It prevents the horse from lowering its head, which helps maintain a proper gait.

## 14 Jog cart

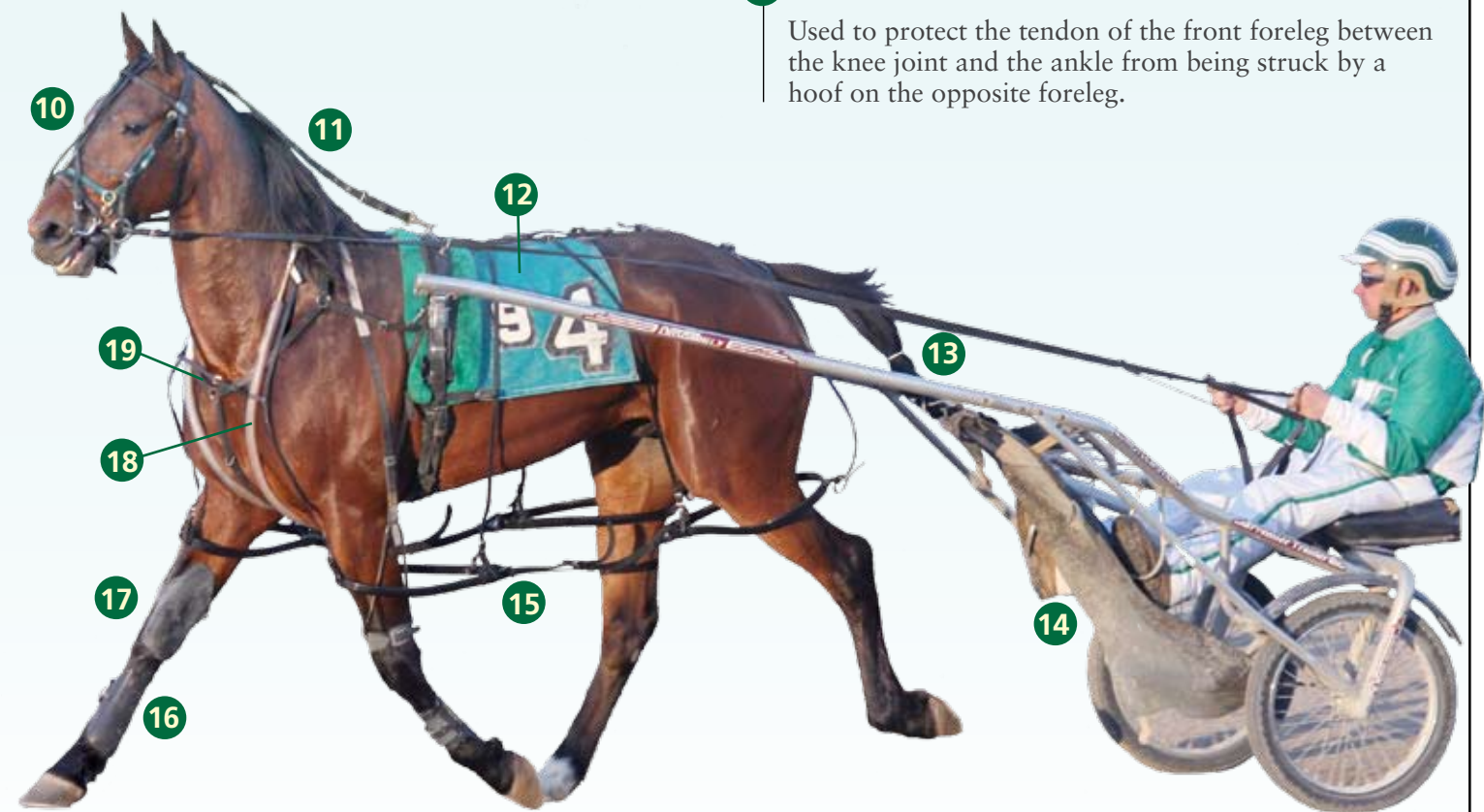
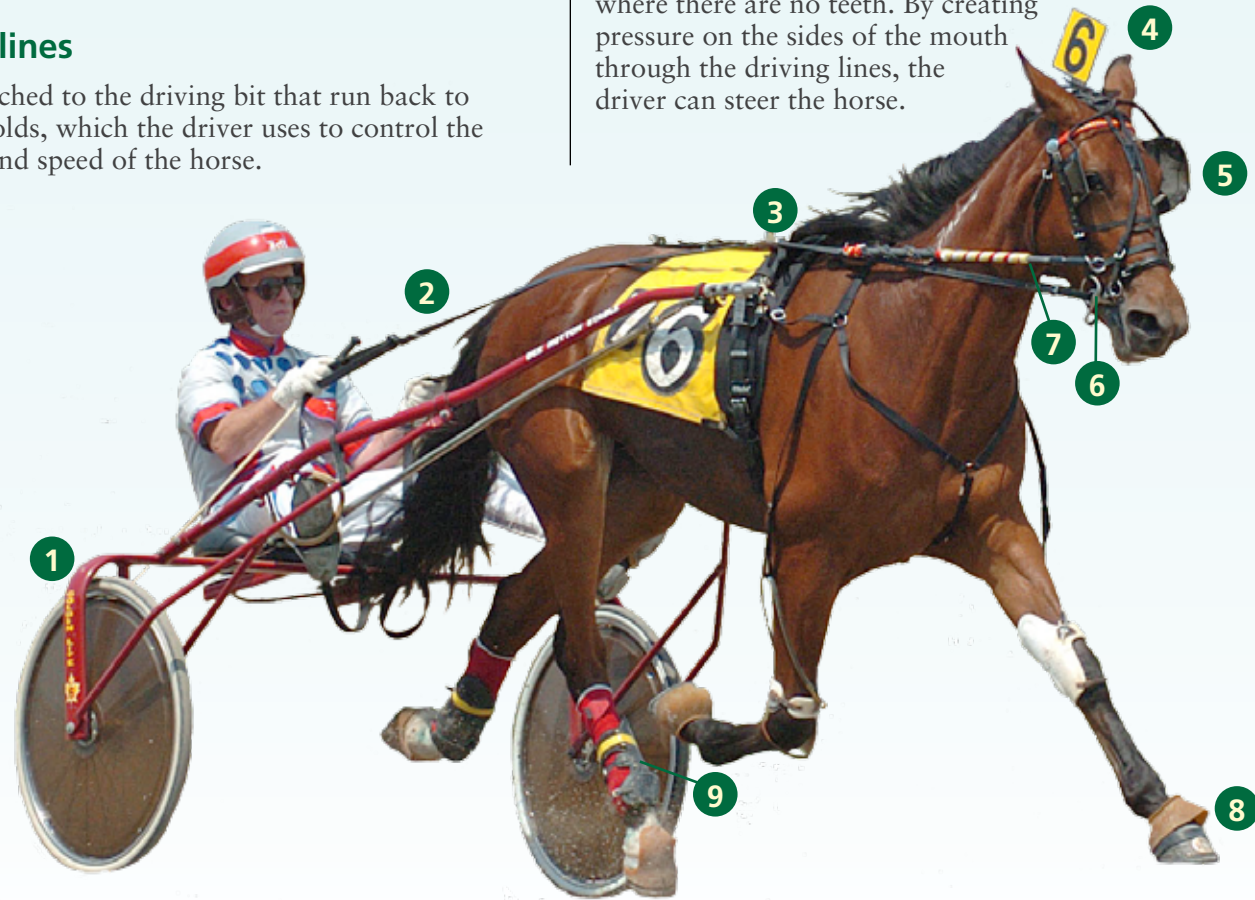
Used for training, it is heavier than a race bike and is more comfortable for the driver. Many horses warming up between races will also be seen pulling a jog cart.

## 15 Hobbles

Also called hobbles, plastic loops worn by pacers to help the horse maintain the pacing gait. Hobbles for trotters are similar to pacing hobbles, but the loops are worn only around the front legs, and are joined by a rope and pulley that hangs underneath the horse.

## 16 Tendon boots

Used to protect the tendon of the front foreleg between the knee joint and the ankle from being struck by a hoof on the opposite foreleg.



## 3 Harness

Holds the equipment in position on the horse, and consists of the bridle, saddle, girth and crupper. The girth connects the harness around the belly. The crupper is a loop that slides under the base of the tail to keep the harness from moving forward.

## 4 Head Number

Connects to the crown of the bridle and designates the horse's number in the racing program.

## 7 Headpole

Runs along the head and neck and hooks to the harness to keep the horse from turning its head, which may cause it to break stride.

## 8 Bell boots

Rubber hoof covers used to protect a horse from hitting its front heels with its rear hoof.

## 9 Shin boots

Worn on the hind legs just beneath the hock and over the ankle, covering the hind legs to provide additional protection from getting struck with a hoof.

## 12 Saddle pad

Designates the horse's program number in the race. Each numbered saddle pad corresponds to a particular color. The smaller number is the race number.

## 13 Tail tie

When a horse wants to swish his tail, it is generally a sign that it is going to kick. A tie may be used to brace the tail from movement, which helps the horse resist the urge to kick.

## 17 Knee boots

Worn on the forelegs to protect from knee-knocking, which occurs when the knee is struck by the hoof of the opposite leg.

## 18 Knee spreaders

Used to widen the horse's gait in its front legs to prevent it from hitting its knees.

## 19 Buxton

Nylon strap that runs across the shoulders, around the neck and between the front legs in a Y-shape, which prevents the harness from slipping backward.

# Make a Bet: Placing a Wager

The difference between wagering on horse racing and gambling in the casino is that in the casino, the odds of winning each game are fixed in favor of the casino every time you play. Wagering on horse racing is called pari-mutuel wagering, which literally means “among ourselves.” Here the payoff odds change as money is wagered, meaning that you are in fact playing against those wagering around you.

Wagering on harness racing may look daunting, but it can be as simple as you want to make it. You can pick your favorite horse based on its number, color, name or whatever catches your eye. But for more sophisticated handicapping, see page 24.

After you’ve made your selection, go to any betting window and make your bet.

## Basic types of wagers

**Win:** Collect if your horse finishes first.

**Place:** Collect if your horse finishes first or second.

**Show:** Collect if your horse finishes first, second or third.

**Exacta:** Collect if you select the first two finishers in exact order.

**Trifecta:** Collect if you select the first three finishers in exact order.

**Superfecta:** Collect if you select the first four finishers in exact order. Often the least expensive wager, as some tracks offer a 10-cent Superfecta!

## What to say at the window

Say the name of the TRACK. Many tracks are racing at one time, so designate which track you’re playing.

Say the RACE NUMBER.

Say the AMOUNT OF THE WAGER. For win, place and show bets, the minimum is \$2.

Say the TYPE OF BET.

Make your selection using the HORSE’S NUMBER. The machines and the tellers do not know the horses’ names, so use the numbers next to the horses’ names in the program when betting.

For example, you might say, “Meadowlands, race 4, \$5 exacta 4-3.”

After you’ve made your wager, just sit back and wait for the race to start. You can watch the odds on the tote board or the TV screen.

## Understanding the odds

On the infield tote board, you will see the “win” odds for each horse in the race. These are updated frequently—every 45 seconds—to reflect the amount of money wagered on each horse in relation to all money wagered in the entire win pool.

## The Tote board

RACE	POST TIME	APPROX. ODDS					
9	2:59	1	3	2	6	1	2
MTP	TIME OF DAY	2	1	5	7	2	8
	3:00	3	3	6	8	9	
TRACK CONDITION		4	5	9			
		5	7	10			

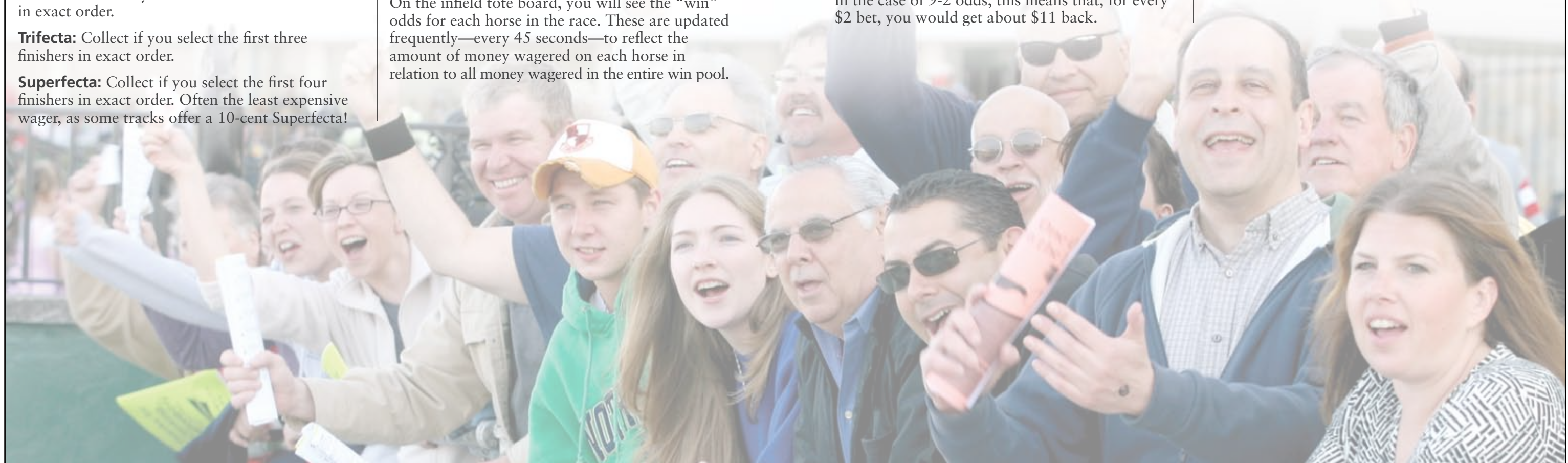
If you see a single number next to your horse on the odds board, for example, “5,” then the horse is 5 to 1. This means that, for every dollar wagered on that horse to win, the winning ticket holder would win about \$5. Plus, you always get your original bet amount back!

So, for a \$2 winning ticket on a 5 to 1 horse, you would receive about \$12. (\$5 + \$5 + your \$2 bet = \$12.)

Sometimes, when a horse is below the odds of 5 to 1, you might see two numbers with a dash between them. The odds of 9-2 or 8-5 are typical examples. In the case of 9-2 odds, this means that, for every \$2 bet, you would get about \$11 back.

## Approximate payoffs for a \$2 wager

Odds	Payoff	Odds	Payoff
1-9	\$2.20	5-2	\$7.00
1-5	\$2.40	3-1	\$8.00
2-5	\$2.80	7-2	\$9.00
1-2	\$3.00	4-1	\$10.00
3-5	\$3.20	9-2	\$11.00
4-5	\$3.60	5-1	\$12.00
1-1	\$4.00	6-1	\$14.00
6-5	\$4.40	10-1	\$22.00
8-5	\$5.20	20-1	\$42.00
9-5	\$5.60	50-1	\$102.00
2-1	\$6.00	75-1	\$152.00





# Harness Lingo

Below are some of the terms you may hear an announcer say or may read in the racing program. For equipment terms, please see "Equipped for Racing" on page 20. For wagering terms, please see "Make a Bet" on page 22.

**Bay:** A horse that has a brown body and black legs, mane and tail. White markings may be present.

**Black:** A horse that is black over its entire body, except for a few white markings.

**Boxed In:** A horse that is racing along the inside rail and is surrounded by other horses in front, outside and behind.

**Break:** A horse who begins galloping, and who loses his trotting or pacing gait is said to "go off stride" or to be on a "break."

**Broodmare:** A female horse, generally retired from racing, used for breeding purposes.

**Brown:** A horse that is a uniform brown over its entire body. White markings may be present.

**Card:** Another term for a racing program.

**Catch-Driver:** A driver hired by a trainer to drive horses on a freelance basis.

**Chestnut:** A horse that has a reddish coat color. White markings may be present.

**Class:** The category of racing in which a horse competes such as a claimer, conditioned event, stakes race, etc.

**Closer:** A term used to describe a horse that finishes well at the end of a race, despite being behind in the early part of the race.

**Colt:** A male horse 3 years of age or younger.

**Distanced:** A horse that is more than 25 lengths behind the rest of the other horses in the race.

**Driver:** The person who steers a horse in a race. Drivers are required to be licensed for this activity.

**Early Closer/ Late Closer:** A race requiring payments weeks or months prior to the race date in order to start.

**Elimination:** A race held prior to a major stakes where only enough top finishers to complete a full field move on to the race final.

**Fast:** A track in ideal condition.

**Field:** All of the horses in a race.

**Filly:** A female horse 3 years of age or younger.

**First-Over:** The first horse to make a move on the leader in a race, moving up on the outside.

» **Foal:** A newly born horse. Also describes the act of a mare giving birth.

**Free-legged:** A pacer that races without wearing hobbles.

**Garden Spot:** When a horse is in second place, directly behind the leader. A favorable position because the front horse blocks wind resistance.

**Gelding:** A castrated male horse of any age.

**Good:** When the track condition has deteriorated slightly due to precipitation to where it is no longer "fast."

**Grey:** A horse that has a mixture of white and black hairs.

**Hand:** A unit of measurement used to measure a horse's height from the ground to the top of its shoulder, or withers. A hand equals four inches.

**Handicap:** A race in which post positions are assigned; the best horses are given the outside posts.

**Handicapping:** The art of attempting to determine the outcome of a race.

**Heats:** In a heat race, a horse must win two or more times in a single day before being declared the overall race winner.

**Homestretch:** The straight length of the track, nearest the spectators, where the finish line is situated.



**Horse:** An unaltered male horse 4 years of age or older.

**Inquiry:** A situation where the judges re-examine a race to determine if any rules infractions have occurred.

**Invitational:** A race for the top horses at a track. The contestants are invited by the race secretary to participate.

**Lame:** An adjective describing a horse who has a leg injury.

**Lease:** In the same way that some people lease a car instead of paying the money up front, leasing a horse gives people use of a horse without large capital outlay.

**Length:** A unit of measurement used to determine a horse's distance from the leader. A length is equal to the length of a horse.

**Maiden:** A horse which has not yet won a purse race.

**Mare:** A female horse 4 years of age or older.

**Muddy:** A track condition that has deteriorated due to precipitation to where it is no longer "fast," "good," or "sloppy."

**Off the Pace:** A horse who is racing near the back of the field of horses, and improves his finish position late in the race.

**Pari-Mutuel Race:** French for "among ourselves," a race in which wagering is allowed, held at a track licensed by a state's racing commission. The track, conducting a service, accepts the wagers, determines the odds, and pays out the winners, after taking a percentage for operating costs.

**Parked:** A horse racing on the outside, with at least one horse between it and the inside rail.

**Photo Finish:** When two horses cross the finish too closely to identify a winner, officials call for a photograph of the race, taken at the finish line, to help them determine the winner.

**Pocket:** A horse racing directly behind the leader. A "pocket trip" allows a horse to draft on the back of the race leader and save more energy for the final push to the finish line.

**Post Position:** A horse's starting point in a race.

**Purse:** The amount for which a race is contested. The distribution of a purse is usually 50 percent to the winner, 25 percent to the second-place finisher, 12 percent to third, 8 percent to fourth, and 5 percent to fifth.

**Qualifier:** A race in which a horse must go a mile in an established time standard to prove itself capable of competing in pari-mutuel races.

**Roan:** A horse's coat color that is a mixture of white hairs over a darker base color, such as chestnut, black or brown.

**Scratch:** A horse that is withdrawn before the start of a race.

**Sire:** The father of a horse.

**Sloppy:** A track condition that has deteriorated due to precipitation to where it is no longer "fast" or "good."

**Slow:** A track condition that has deteriorated due to precipitation to where it can no longer be called "fast," "good," "sloppy," or "muddy."

**Sound:** An adjective describing a horse's good physical health.

**Stakes Race:** A race where owners make a series of payments in advance to keep a horse eligible.

**Start:** One horse's performance in one race.

**Three-Wide:** The third horse out from the inside rail during the race.

» **Tote Board:** An electronic board, usually in the infield of a track, which posts the odds, amount of money bet, results of a race and the wagering payoffs.



**Time-Trial:** An attempt to have a horse beat its own best time in a non-competitive event. A time trial is not a race. Galloping horses hitched to sulkies, called prompters, may be used to push a horse to its best effort.

**Weanling:** A foal, less than 1 year of age, who has been weaned from its mother.

**Wire-to-Wire:** When a horse leads a race from beginning to end.

**Yearling:** Any horse between its first and second birthday. Regardless of their birthdate, all horses become one year older on January 1.



**Cover:** A horse that races with another horse in front of him—the leading horse cuts the wind resistance.

**Dam:** The mother of a horse.

« **Dead-Heat:** A situation in which the judges, using a photograph, cannot separate two or more horses when judging the outcome of a race.

# Where To Go

## CALIFORNIA

**Cal Expo** 1  
1600 Exposition Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
(916) 263-3000  
www.calxharness.com

## DELAWARE

**Dover Downs** 2  
1131 N. DuPont Highway  
Dover, DE 19901  
(302) 674-4600 or 800-711-5882  
www.doverdowns.com

**Harrington Raceway** 3  
15 West Rider Rd.  
Harrington, DE 19952  
(302) 398-7223  
www.harringtonraceway.com

## FLORIDA

**Pompano Park** 4  
1800 SW 3rd St.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33069  
(954) 972-2000  
www.theislepompanopark.com

## ILLINOIS

**Balmoral Park** 5  
26435 South Dixie Highway  
Crete, IL 60417  
(708) 672-1414  
www.balmoralpark.com

**Hawthorne Race Course** 6  
3501 S. Laramie Ave.  
Cicero, IL 60804  
(708) 780-3700  
www.hawthornracecourse.com

**Maywood Park** 7  
8600 W. North Ave.  
Melrose Park, IL 60160  
(708) 343-4800  
www.maywoodpark.com

## INDIANA

**Hoosier Park** 8  
4500 Dan Patch Circle  
Anderson, IN 46013  
(765) 642-7223  
www.hoosierpark.com

**Indiana Downs** 9  
4200 N. Michigan Rd.  
Shelbyville, IN 46176  
(317) 421-0000  
www.indianadowns.com

## IOWA

**Prairie Meadows** 10  
One Prairie Meadows Drive  
Altoona, IA 50009  
(515) 967-1000  
www.prairiemeadows.com

## KENTUCKY

**Player's Bluegrass Downs** 11  
150 Downs Drive  
Paducah, KY 42001  
(270) 444-7117

**The Red Mile** 12  
1200 Red Mile Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40504  
(859) 255-0752  
www.theredmile.com

**Thunder Ridge** 13  
164 Thunder Rd.  
Prestonsburg, KY 41653  
(606) 886-7223

## MARYLAND

**Ocean Downs** 16  
10218 Racetrack Rd.  
Berlin, MD 21811  
(410) 641-0600  
www.oceandowns.com

**Rosecroft Raceway** 17  
6336 Rosecroft Dr.  
Fort Washington, MD 20744  
(301) 567-4000  
www.rosecroft.com

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Plainridge Racecourse** 18  
301 Washington St.  
Plainville, MA 02762  
(508) 643-2500  
www.prcharness.com

## OHIO

**Lebanon Raceway** 19  
665 N. Broadway  
Lebanon, OH 45036  
(513) 932-4936  
www.lebanonraceway.com

**Northfield Park** 20  
10705 Northfield Rd.  
Northfield, OH 44067  
(330) 467-4101  
www.northfieldpark.com

**Raceway Park** 21  
5700 Telegraph Road  
Toledo, OH 43612  
(419) 476-7751  
www.racewayparktoledo.com

**Scioto Downs** 22  
6000 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43207  
(614) 491-2515  
www.sciotodowns.com

## MICHIGAN

**Hazel Park Raceway** 23  
1650 E. Ten Mile Rd.  
Hazel Park, MI 48030  
(248) 398-1000  
www.hazelparkraceway.com

**Jackson Harness Raceway** 24  
200 W. Ganson St.  
Jackson, MI 49204  
(877) 316-0283  
www.jacksonharnessraceway.com

**Northville Downs** 25  
301 S. Center St.  
Northville, MI 48167  
(248) 349-1000  
www.northvilledowns.com

**Sports Creek Raceway** 26  
4290 Morrish Rd.  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473  
(810) 635-3333  
www.sportscreek.com

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Harrah's Chester Casino and Racetrack** 27  
777 Harrah's Blvd.  
Chester, PA 19013  
(484) 480-8020  
www.harrah.com

**The Meadows** 28  
200 Race Track Rd.  
Meadow Lands, PA 15347  
(724) 225-9300  
www.themeadowsracing.com

**Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs** 29  
1280 Hwy 315  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702  
(570) 831-2100  
www.poconodowns.com

## MINNESOTA

**Running Aces Harness Park** 30  
15201 Zurich St. NE  
Columbus, MN 55025  
(651) 925-4600  
www.runningacesharness.com

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Rockingham Park** 31  
Rockingham Park Blvd. (I-93 exit 1)  
Salem, NH 03079  
(603) 898-2311  
www.rockinghampark.com

## NEW JERSEY

**Freehold Raceway** 32  
130 Park Avenue  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
(732) 462-3800  
www.freeholdraceway.com

**The Meadowlands** 33  
50 State Route 120  
East Rutherford, NJ 07073  
(201) 843-2446  
www.thebigm.com

## NEW YORK

**Batavia Downs** 34  
8315 Park Rd.  
Batavia, NY 14020  
(585) 343-3750  
www.batavia-downs.com

**Buffalo Raceway** 35  
5600 McKinley Parkway  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
(716) 649-1280  
www.buffaloraceway.com

**Monticello Raceway** 36  
204 Route 17B  
Monticello, NY 12701  
(845) 794-4100  
www.monticelloraceway.com

**Saratoga Gaming and Raceway** 37  
342 Jefferson St.  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
(518) 584-2110  
www.saratogaraceway.com

**Tioga Downs** 38  
2384 West River Rd.  
Nichols, NY 13812  
(607) 946-8464  
www.tiogadowns.com

**Vernon Downs** 39  
4229 Stahlman Rd.  
Vernon, NY 13476  
(315) 829-6825  
www.vernondowns.com

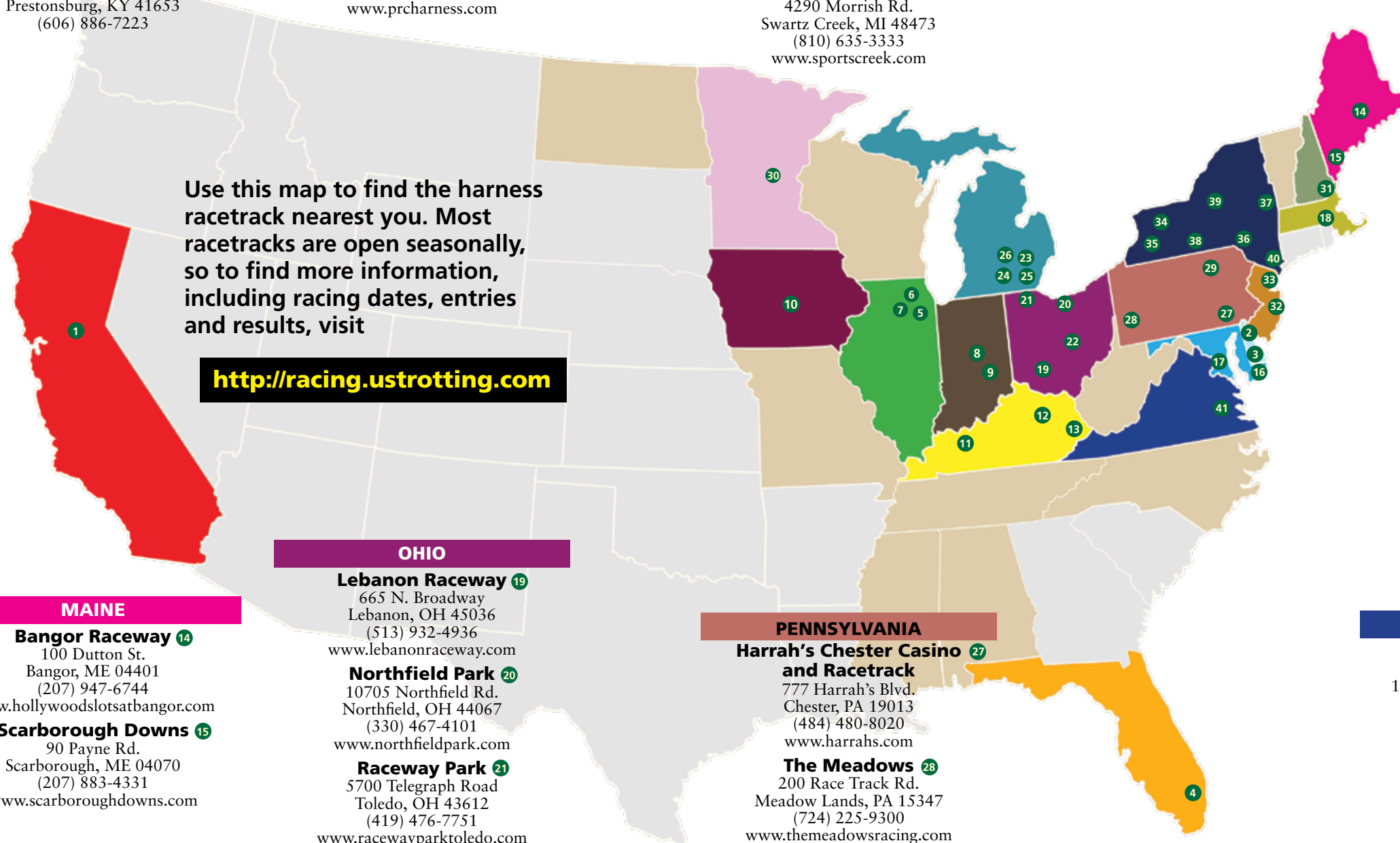
**Yonkers Raceway** 40  
810 Yonkers Ave.  
Yonkers, NY 10704  
(914) 968-4200  
www.yonkersraceway.com

## VIRGINIA

**Colonial Downs** 41  
Colonial Downs  
10515 Colonial Downs Parkway  
New Kent, VA 23124  
(804) 966-7223  
www.colonialdowns.com

Use this map to find the harness racetrack nearest you. Most racetracks are open seasonally, so to find more information, including racing dates, entries and results, visit

<http://racing.ustrotting.com>



States that hold county fair racing only.

List subject to change

# Speed Reading

The United States Trotting Association offers a number of publications that will get you in the know—fast! Visit the USTA online store at <http://shop.ustrotting.com> to order these titles:

## 100 Years In Harness

Take a photographic journey through the history of harness racing with a first-of-its-kind book featuring images from the archives of the United States Trotting Association.

## The Trotting and Pacing Guide

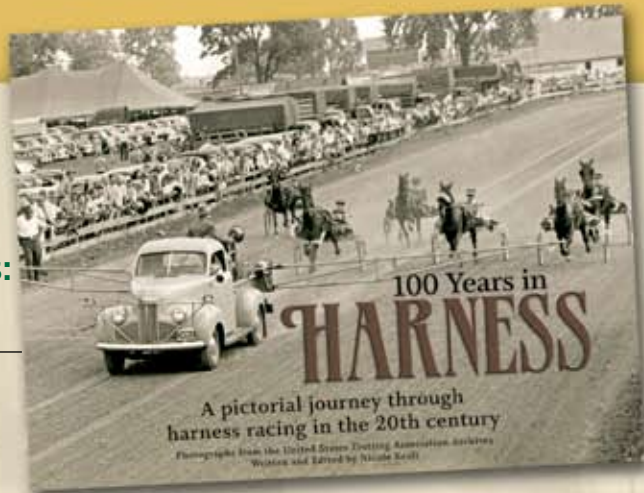
Perhaps the most comprehensive media guide in all of sports, the Guide contains data on tracks, drivers, breeders, world and track records, harness racing organizations and results of major races.

## The New Care and Training of the Trotter and Pacer

Seventeen chapters of advice from some of harness racing's most respected trainers, drivers, and breeders. Learn what the experts have to say about yearling selection, bloodlines and breeding, breaking and training the yearling, stable management, equipment, shoeing, lameness and other topics related to the Standardbred industry.

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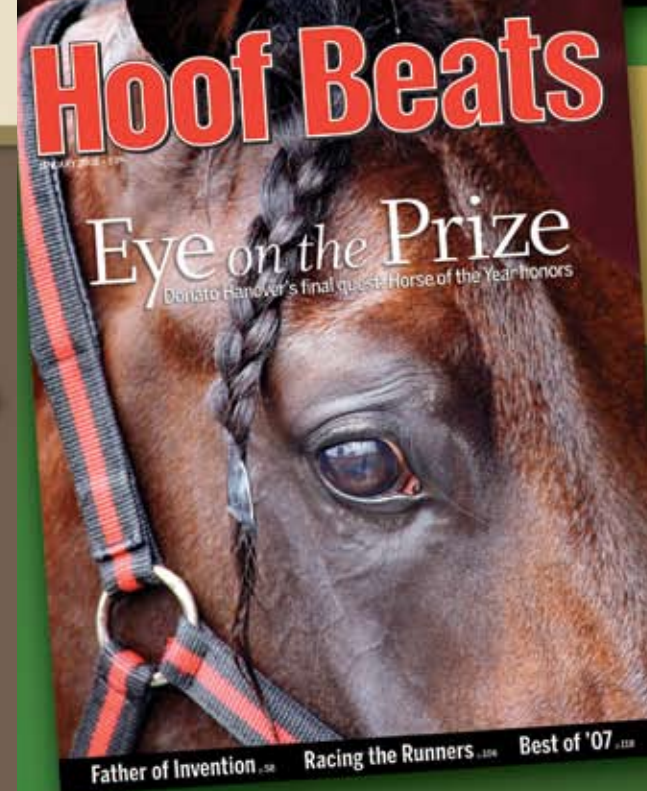
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