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2024 G1 COTILLION WINNER THORPEDO ANNA

WINS 2024 ECLIPSE AWARD
HORSE OF THE YEAR

# FEBRUARY 2025

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## **THIS MONTH**

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PTHA Main Office

SPECIAL THANK YOU EQUI-PHOTO

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## PTHA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PTHA PRESIDENT Robert "Bob" Hutt



Let me begin by wishing everyone a healthy, prosperous, and Happy New Year. May you all have many winners in 2025. Having said that the subfreezing winter weather has played havoc with PARX resulting in 8 1/2 racing cancelations and numerous days of lost training. We all feel the economic pain as no one is exempt.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, February 15th at Celebration's for our annual PTHA Awards Banquet celebrating the very best of PARX in 2024. Stop by the Administration building to purchase your tickets (\$35 each) today as we expect to sell out.

With regard to the brutally cold weather, I want everyone to know that Joe Wilson PARX COO has been very accommodating. He's onboard in making up the lost racing days whenever possible. We're also discussing the turf course as PARX is ready to spend nearly a million dollars in trying to get it right. There's no guarantee of success. Therefore, turf experts have been consulted to advise us if it's even possible? If not, there are two other options, both very, very expensive. One is to replace the turf course; or, we can remove it and install a Tapeta state-of-the-art "poly turf" course. Before any decision can be made we need to carefully study all the available data. Yours truly has been meeting with PARX Senior Management, our partner, to explore different ways to increase field size and parimutuel revenues that are mutually beneficial to the casino and you, the horsemen. We're also jointly exploring new tractors and water truck containers. No guarantees mind you as we need to look long and hard on Return-On-Investment! I can assure everyone that we will not leave any stone unturned in trying to make PARX the crown jewel of the MidAtlantic region.

Addressing the 800 pound gorilla in the room, your PTHA is well aware additional security measures are necessary to assure a LEVEL playing field for all 2,500 of our PTHA constituents. I'm proud to announce that your PTHA, PARX Management, the Pennsylvania Racing Commission, and HISA are all on the same page! To the small few that like to play "fast and loose" be forewarned, that if you get caught, and you will, you're gone as there will be a zero tolerance policy! Your PTHA is dedicated to supporting the 99% hard working men and women who all play by the rules. We'll soon be announcing another PTHA President's General Meeting in which you don't have to hold back and can ask questions to your hearts content as I'm honored to serve all of you! Until next time, stay warm!

# Goming in 2025

# PENNSYLVANIA **YEARLING SHOW!**



#### WHERE:

**Brandywine Polo Club** 232 Polo Road, Toughkenamon, PA 19374

#### WHEN:

Saturday, June 21st 2025, from 10:00am to 3:00pm

Four classes featuring PA-Sired males and fillies and Non-PA-Sired males and fillies

**Prizes and trophies** available in each class!

\$50 entry fee before June 1st, \$75 late entry fee after June 1st

Stay tuned for more details and sponsorship opportunities!



# PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Please contact our office at

610.444.1050

with any questions

# HORSEMEN Update from PTHA Executive Director



PTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey A. Matty Jr.



#### Horsemen:

This month we look to award, celebrate, and highlight those men and women of our racing community, as well as their extraordinary equine athletes at this year's Awards Banquet - Saturday, February 15, 2025, at Celebrations.

Every year we look back at successes both on and off the racetrack, ultimately culminating in both Horse of The Year and Trainer Of The Year. We congratulate all nominees for their outstanding achievements and wish them all the best to replicate or even surpass such achievements in 2025.

On Thursday, January 30th - the National Thoroughbred League hosted a lunch for the horsemen. This allowed for a brief presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. Please be on the lookout for early NTL nomination deadlines as well as circling your calendars for Saturday, June 21, 2025, NTL's Day at Parx. The team-based concept looks to engage fans of all ages while adding celebrities and professional athletes to team ownership, making it an event you won't want to miss.

Be on the lookout for the 2025 Parx Racing Stakes Schedule to be announced. Stakes will kick off in March and take us through the calendar year. On behalf of the entire PTHA, we look forward to making and adopting many new practices, programs, and committees in the first few months of the year.

See you at Celebrations,

Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.
PTHA Executive Director

# AROUND THE OVALS by Dani Gibson



# An Emotional Win for Albert Plaza with Duela Dent at Parx Racing

Albert Plaza, the proud owner of Duela Dent, celebrated yet another emotional victory at Parx Racing on Monday, January 13, 2025. In the third race of the day, the talented filly delivered a thrilling performance under the guidance of jockey Dexter Haddock and the meticulous training of Eli Betancourt, Jr. Duela Dent, a promising contender in Plaza's stable, has been capturing hearts with her consistent displays of determination and skill. Monday's race was no exception, as she broke cleanly from the gate and positioned herself well in the early stages. Haddock's expert handling allowed her to conserve energy before making a bold move on the far turn. With an electrifying burst of speed down the stretch, Duela Dent surged past her rivals to secure a decisive win. This victory was more than just another notch in the win column for Albert. Known for his deep connection with his horses, Plaza's journey with Duela Dent has been a story of patience, perseverance, and passion.

With Duela Dent continuing to make strides on the track, her connections are optimistic about what lies ahead. Plaza, reflecting on the day's triumph,

summed it up perfectly: "This is why we do what we do - for moments like this."





# HORSEMEN'S AWARDS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2025

#### CELEBRATIONS

2201 GALLOWAY RD. BENSALEM, PA 19020 5:30PM-10:00PM

FOR MORE INFO CALL AT 215-638-2012

## 2024 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS NOMINEES

# TWO-YEAR-OLD FEMALE

Five a Side
Hollywood Beauty
Honorable Win
Maximus Angelicus
Ourdaydreaminggirl

# TWO-YEAR-OLD MALE

Alchemism
Crab Daddy
Dream Talk
Fenton Forever
Global Steve
Right Wing Runner
The Boy's Warrior

Corona Campione
Designated
Eclair Blanc
Irish Maxima
Jeanne Marie
Mollewantacracker
Summersattheshore
Tiz Race Day

# THREE-YEAR-OLD FEMALE

Bartlett
Buccherino
Capo
Dropline
Harp's Hot Corner
Just Step On It
Kohler's
Lonesome Boy
Maximus Meridius
Party at Sam's

# THREE-YEAR-OLD MALE

# 2024 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS NOMINEES

# OLDER FEMALE

Ambitiously Placed
Beach Daze
Cause I Said
Confirmed Star
Morning Matcha
Our Uptown Girl
Pachelbel

# OLDER MALE

Adero
Concealed Carry
Counterspy
Divine Miracle
It's Game Time
One More Scoop
Ron Don Scorese
Smooth B
Spikezone
Summary Judgement
Traders Luck
Veeson

Adeleke
Ambitiously Placed
Bunny Bonus
Divine Miracle
Harp's Hot Corner
Leviosa
More Ransom
Souper Fly Over
Trader's Luck
Valiant Majesty
Winnin'onweekends

CLAIMING HORSE OF THE YEAR



# A LOOK AT PARX RACING 2025 with PARX Director of Racing David Osojnak

OWNER'S APPRECIATION DAY 8-18-25

SMARTY JONES DAY/PA DERBY PREVIEW DAY 8-19-25

PA DERBY & COTILLION DAY 9-20-25

WE HAVE 150 DAYS OF LIVE RACING SCHEDULED.

DERBY AND COTILLION BACK EACH WITH A PURSE OF \$1M. IDEALLY WE WOULD LIKE TO

RUN 10 RACE PROGRAMS. WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF PARX OWNERS AND

TRAINERS ALONG WITH OUR SHIPPERS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE 2024 SEASON AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER IN 2025.

RACING OFFICE OPENS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

SOME SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE TO COMPLY

WITH THE ENTRY SCHEDULE,

FOR EXAMPLE SATURDAY RACES.

TO CONTACT THE RACING OFFICE BY PHONE 215-639-9000 EXT 3310

PLEASE EMAIL STAKES NOMINATIONS FOR THE YEAR

TO STAKES@PARXRACING.COM

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### Danielle Montgomery

Program Administrator



## The Heart of Racing: A Call to Action

Another track closing, another day where it feels like the bigger tracks are all that's left. Tomorrow looks bleak for those of us invested in this industry and the way of life it has given us. The headlines scream of cheaters, whip violations, and isolated tragedies, overshadowing the true heart of our sport—the bond we share with our horses and the dedication of the people who care for them. It's easy to feel attacked, especially when critics fail to see what we see: the open spaces, the jobs built around horses, and the raw beauty that makes this sport unique.

But instead of standing on the defensive, we must focus on the proactive measures we've taken and the passion driving real, meaningful change. Racing has been part of my life since I started at Atlantic City Racecourse in the 1980s. I've seen many highs and lows firsthand, from Genuine Risk winning for the girls to the controversy that followed her. Atlantic City had the best turf course in the country—now it's being torn down to make way for an Amazon facility. This is a stark reminder that racing's landscape is shrinking—tracks are sold off for better real estate prices, and our sport is losing ground, quite literally, to a changing world.

For racing to survive—and thrive—we must come together to elevate every aspect of what we do. It starts with treating our horses as the elite athletes they are, ensuring their care and welfare reflect their incredible contributions to our lives. At Parx, we know our horses are more than just running machines. They are family, and their well-being is our priority, from the foaling barn to the finish line, and into their second careers.





"Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

# PTHA's Turning for Home, Inc. Rehab. Retrain. Rehome. Relove.

The love our horsemen and women have for these animals is evident. It's seen in our unbeatable commitment to programs like Turning For Home (TFH), which has become a model for retirement initiatives across the industry. The real beauty of our sport lies in the magnificent creatures we breed—the most versatile horses in the world, in high demand after their racing careers as sporthorses, contributing even further to everyone's enjoyment.

Yet, despite this commitment, we continue to see horses leaving Parx with untreated injuries, sold to unsuspecting equestrians. This is unacceptable. The reality is, our industry is shrinking—foal crops, the number of trainers, owners, and fans are all in decline—and yet a small few still prioritize greed over responsibility, threatening the future of our sport. The stakes are high, and we can't afford to lose sight of what matters most.

We are committed to racing with love, responsibility, and conscience. We must continue to earn the public's trust, and actions like unscrupulous sales hurt everyone. This means going beyond mandates—whether it's the trainer who retires a horse at the right time, the owner who places a horse into an aftercare program, or the breeder who values soundness over speed.

These are the stories that define us—stories of dedication, resilience, and the unparalleled thrill of seeing a horse overcome the odds to be the best they can be. And yet, we know that too often, these stories remain untold. It's time to take off the blinkers, share the good, and be transparent in how we care for the horses who make our sport great. We have to honor the traditional rituals of horsemanship: learning from the ground up, investing time to understand and read horses, working with good trainers, and coming up in the business honestly.

The few bad apples must be removed. The survival of racing depends on all of us doing right by the horses. We must protect them, preserve our heritage, and adapt to a changing world with unity and strength. If we act wisely and together, Thoroughbred racing will endure—a legacy worth preserving for generations to come. All the best finishes reflect the horsemanship involved.







## Turning for Home

#### **Adoption Updates**



#### Therisastormbrewin (NY)

Trainer: Jorge Diaz Owner: 3 Amigos 3 Stables Career Stats 50 starts with 5 wins 7 seconds 9 thirds \$265,086 earnings

NY-bred Therisastormbrewin retired just a year ago and has been thriving in his new life with his adopter, Mia, in Illinois. Together, they're gearing up to start fox hunting, but he's already proven himself to be a rock-solid trail horse who deeply trusts his partner. The bond they share is clear to see—they're having so much fun! And look at him fearlessly dragging that crocodile toy! Thoroughbreds truly are the bravest and most versatile horses. Here's to many exciting adventures ahead for this incredible pair!





#### Jeeper (FL)

Trainer: Jamie Ness Owner: Kirwan Equine Group, Inc. & Jagger, Inc. Career Stats 22 starts with 3 wins 5 seconds 6 thirds \$140,170 earnings

Jeeper is the epitome of class! After an incredible career with 3 wins, he's now enjoying a wonderful new chapter with his adopter, Sarah, right here in Pennsylvania. The pair recently embarked on their first overnight horse show adventure and had an absolute blast. Jeeper took it all in stride like the seasoned pro he is! A heartfelt thank you to our amazing partner farm, Castle Rock Farm, and the dedicated June Hillman for bringing this perfect match to life. Here's to many more joyful moments for Jeeper and Sarah!





#### Sibling Rivalry (PA)

Trainer: Cesareo Marquez Owner: PrimaVentures, LLC Sibling Rivalry and her adopter Morgan have become an unstoppable team, showcasing their incredible bond in the show ring. Together, they've made us proud, even representing TFH and OTTBs at last year's Horse World Expo as shining ambassadors for our industry. This talented mare never made it to the races, but her pedigree traces back to the legendary Broad Brush line—a testament to her natural athleticism and grace. A huge thank you to our partner farm, Another Spin in NJ, for bringing this perfect pair together. We can't wait to see more of Sibling Rivalry and Morgan shining in the show ring!





#### Supe (KY)

Trainer / Owner: Miguel Rodriguez
Career Stats 12 Starts winless with 2 thirds \$12,253 earnings

Supe has found his calling in the show ring! Though he retired winless on the track, this sweet and loving gelding has truly hit the jackpot. After some time with Lex Ryan at Ears and Gears Stables in South Jersey, Supe was adopted by Allison—and the joy on their faces says it all! With their incredible bond and Supe's shining spirit, we can already see plenty of blue ribbons in their future. Here's to a lifetime of love and success for this wonderful duo!



## PTHA TROPHY RACE JANUARY 2025

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO & PTHA

#### **January 7**



## Olliemeister

Owner
Ten Strike Racing,
Jeremy Sussman,
Corey Moelis &
Going the Distance

Trainer
Juan Carlos
Guerrero

<u>Jockey</u> Christopher Elliott

#### January 14



## Sircharlybrown

Owner
Uptowncharlybrown
Stud, LLC &
Carmelina Jerome

<u>Trainer</u> Ed Coletti, Jr.

<u>Jockey</u> Abner Adorno

#### **January 28**



## Lady Annabelle

Owner Baywood Farm <u>Trainer</u> Flint Stites <u>Jockey</u> Maicol Inirio

# Heartbeat of the Backstretch By: Nikki Guzman

Valentine's Day is a day for expressing love and devotion, which is why February is known as the month of love. It should not be limited to romantic love; rather, it should be an opportunity to express and celebrate the many other sorts of love that enrich our lives by making everyone feel included and respected.

Melvin Amaro, a native of Puerto Rico, grew up around horses. He rode horses with friends and had fun while also caring for them. He began his career at PARX in 2005 as a hotwalker for Mike Farro before becoming a groom for Victor Collazo within a year. Being a groom is not an easy job, and trainers sometimes underestimate the amount of effort put in daily, especially because some grooms not only care for the horses but may even travel with them to other racetracks. Melvin takes pride in his work, "No matter what you have to be here. A good groom always takes care of the horses. People need to appreciate them more."

Melvin is presently part of Tim Smylie's team, grooming, clipping, and running horses for races. "Timmy is a nice person. He treats me good. Takes care of me and listens when I tell him a horse should walk and not train," Melvin remarked, emphasizing the need for partnership and continued, "It's teamwork. You do the right thing. Keep the horses safe. Keep them sound and do what the horse needs." He considers it part of his responsibility to observe things when in the stall with the horse every day. Communication between a trainer and the rest of the team is crucial. He enjoys being a groom and spending time with his current favorite bay horse, Commingling, which he affectionately calls "Chocolate."

Melvin shares it's difficult not to become attached to the horses, especially "When you see the horse coming around the turn, heading for home and it takes the lead and wins. You get emotional." Melvin is extremely proud of his three children and will always prioritize his family and grandchildren whom he loves dearly. He goes above and beyond to ensure their safety and happiness, even if it means doing DoorDash in the afternoons on occasion. He applies the same kind of effort to the horses he works with.



This year on Valentine's Day, be sure to express your gratitude and appreciation to coworkers, friends, and family, to help strengthen ties and create a more supportive community. This harmonious attitude truly inspires the right kind of teamwork to make dreams a reality.

If you know someone who you would like us to write about as a Heartbeat of the Backstretch please email nguzman@patha.org

# B NEWS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

PARX RACING STALL SUPERVISOR

JOHN SHIRLEY WELCOMING THE BIRTH

OF HIS GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER

Mia Josephine German Born 12/18/24 7 Lbs. 20 Inches



Parents Christian German (Grandson) and Taylor German

THE BEST PARENTS GET PROMOTED TO GRANDPARENTS!

TRAINER TIM SMYLIE AND WIFE ANGELA BECAME





Born 1/13/25 5.6 Lbs. 17 inches WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO
TURNING FOR HOME'S SAMANTHA POTTS
AND HUSBAND DERRICK ON THE ARRIVAL
OF THEIR BUNDLE OF JOY!!
WELCOME TO THE PTHA FAMILY!

Asher Louis Potts Born 1/9/2025 6.6 Lbs.







Please make sure you have turned in your 2025 Stable Employee List.

Copies can be obtained in the PTHA office. Any questions please see Jackie DeSanctis. VISIT
PATHA.ORG
FOR UPDATED
INFORMATION

YOU CAN
ALSO SIGN
UP FOR TEXT
ALERTS ON
THE WEBSITE
IF YOU
HAVEN'T
DONE SO





















# HORSEMEN'S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION







FOR ALL YOUR RACING NEEDS AT PARX
RACING, INCLUDING BEDDING, FEED,
EQUIPMENT, SUPPLEMENTS, SUPPLIES
AND MORE!

#### **STORE HOURS**

Race Days 8 am to 4:30 pm Th.-Fr. 8 am to 4 pm Sat. 8 am to 2:30 pm

Feed trailers open until 1 pm Ice House open until 2 pm on Race Days

**CONTACT US:** 

Diane Day HPA Manager 267-223-3140 dday@patha.org



## HORSE RACING TRAINER MUSIC PLAYLIST

# TRAINER STEVE KREBS Steve Krebs

HOMETOWN WILLIAMSTOWN, NJ

SONG WHEN YOU FIRST WAKE UP IN THE MORNING SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT - NIRVANA

A SONG TO LISTEN TO WHILE EATING BREAKFAST LUCKY MAN - THE VERVE

IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK SONG FORTUNATE SON - CCR

AFTER MORNING TRAINING IS FINISHED SONG
LET IT BE - THE BEATLES

FINISHED ALL THE MORNING BARN DUTIES SONG ALIVE - PEARL JAM

> GET FIRED UP SONG THEM BONES - ALICE IN CHAINS

> > IT'S RACE DAY SONG NATIONAL ANTHEM

CELEBRATION AFTER A WIN SONG WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS - QUEEN

WRAP UP THE DAY SONG IMAGINE - JOHN LENNON

BONUS SONG/PLAYLIST TRAINER SCOTT LAKE BEST OF ROY ORBISON



# WATCH LET'S GO RACING

Every Saturday at 10 am on: www.LetsGoRacingParx.com Facebook & YouTube channels

Let's Go Racing





### **OUR CONDOLENCES**

#### **TINA COLE-DAVIS**

On January 1, 2025, a life committed to love and compassion ended. The racing world is deeply saddened by the recent passing of Tina Cole-Davis, 59, of Jackson, NJ. Before retiring from the State of New Jersey's Juvenile Justice Commission in 2021, she worked for 26 years as a communications operator. Tina was an enthusiastic horseman, who trained at several tracks, such as Monmouth Park, Parx, Laurel, and Delaware Park. Tina is survived by her best friend and wife

Joann Bertone, daughter Catrina Cole, brother-in-law Joseph Bertone, brothers Kurt and Mark Cole, sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. Tina leaves behind a stable full of her cherished horses, including her top-earning racehorse, Husion, as well as many cats. May Tina's legacy provide comfort to those who knew her and serve as a reminder to appreciate all of the relationships that enhance our lives. A Celebration of Life is scheduled for April 2025 at the barn in Jackson NJ.



#### **ROCCO GABRIELLA**

On January 6, 2025, Rocco Gabriella passed away peacefully surrounded by his son Michael and extended family. Rocco's was born and raised in South Philly starting his first career as a plumber apprentice. With the help of a neighbor and established jockey Kevin Daly Rocco's career path changed. After spending time in New Orleans Rocco returned home to win his first race at Atlantic City Racecourse on Oct 5, 1965. From there it was on to New England where he earned leading Apprentice at both Suffolk Downs and Rockingham Park. Once Rocco hung up his tack he could be found as the clerk of Scales at Philadelphia Park, always there to help with a story or kind word. Of course, let's not forget in 2004 Rocco cowrote and preformed a song called "The Legend of Smarty Jones". Rocco is a shining star that will be missed but never forgotten.



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Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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# SEE YOU IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE!