Katricia Adams saw limited action at The Big M in 2023, and she spent most of the second half of the season at The Red Mile, Hoosier Park and Cumberland Run.

Adams passed the $2 million mark in career earnings in 2022. Adams posted her second half million season and scored a career high 43 wins in 2021.

Adams continued to make inroads at the Meadowlands in 2020, finishing in the Top Five during the Fall Meet with 11 wins and seventh for the year with 19 wins. Her top horses were Paduka N, Solo Story, A Major Omen, Aces Rock, Apple Hanover, The Bettormack N and Oberto.

Adams came bursting onto the Meadowlands racing scene in 2019 while in the best season of her young training career. Together with her husband Patrick Dellavecchia and her prominent owner John Barnard, Adams won a Graduate division with Breeders Crown champion Fifty-dallarbill in 1:50.2.

Adams’ 1:49 pacer Mctrhiller tied with Trolley for the most wins during the 2018-19 meet with nine. Her streaking pacing mare Backseat Terror reeled off six in a row, and pacer On Duty took a mark of 1:49.2 at the Big M.

Adams graduated from Penn State University with a teaching degree, and also has Associate Judges and Clerk of the Course licenses. Her family had heavy draft and riding horses, and she worked for trainer Mickey Burke.
## Tony Alagna

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**Birthdate:** 1972-06-08  
**Birthplace:** Champaign, IL  
**Residence:** Manalapan, NJ  
**Age:** 52

In 2023, Tony Alagna finished second in The Big M trainer standings with 43 wins and $1,749,444. Overall, Alagna won 199 races and $7,448,784, and he passed 2,000 career wins and the $74 million mark. His top horses included Honey’s Sweet, Glamorous Hanover, Royal Filly, Heart On Fire, Mambacita, Slay, Energetic Hanover, Taurasi, Bellissima Hanover, Treacherous Penny, Boudoir Hanover, Hungry Angel Boy, I Did It Myway, Caviart Davia, Mars Hill, El Rey, Better Is Nice, Captain Luke and Ari Ferrari J.

Tony Alagna enjoyed his first $9 million season in 2022, which placed him second in North America. Alagna also had over 200 wins and passed the $66 million mark in career earnings. He finished fourth in the Meadowlands standings with 33 wins and overall had a .317 UTRS rating. His top horses included Fast As The Wind, Slay, Rockyrooad Hanover, Abuckabett Hanover, Ahundreddollarbill, Caviart Camden, I Did It Myway, Watch Me Now N, Boudoir Hanover, Pink Coco Chanel, Mabacita, Heart On Fire, Stormalong and El Rey.

Tony Alagna remained in the top five in the Meadowlands trainer standings in 2021. Alagna also enjoyed a career best season overall with $7.97 million and 212 wins. He won the Valley Victory and a Kindergarten Classic Final with Hambletonian prospect and Breeders Crown runner up Fast As The Wind. Captain Barbossa set a track record for four-year-old pacing geldings of 1:47.1.

Alagna maintained his prominence at the Meadowlands finishing third again in 2020 with 40 wins and $1,725,415, and landed in the Top Five during the Championship Meet. On Meadowlands Pace Night, Alagna made a powerful statement when Ramona Hill pulled an 8-1 upset from post ten in the $253,500 Del Miller Memorial in 1:50.3. Angers Bayama took a mark of 1:48 for Team Alagna with a :25.4 final quarter. That four-year-old son of Big Jim made it three in a row with a 1:48.3 tally at the Hambletonian Day opener. Also, Reflect With Me won the $90,525 Shady Daisy in 1:48.3. Then, Alagna hit the mountaintop when Ramona Hill dominated the $1,000,000 Hambletonian and equaled the stakes record of 1:50.1. Alagna’s stable finished third in the sport in 2020 with 149 wins and $5,330,460.

Alagna also passed the $40 million mark in 2019 with his ninth straight season past $3 million. His late-blooming Hambletonian prospect Pilot Discretion won his first six starts, including the Goodtimes Final @ Woodbine at Mohawk Park. Alagna won the Shady Daisy in a Meadowlands track record of 1:48 with Tall Drink Hanover. Alagna also scored three Breeders Crown upsets with Ramona Hill, Reflect With Me and American History.

In 2018 his star three-year-old pacer was Stay Hungry, who equaled the stakes record of 1:47.3 in the Cane Pace. That millionaire Somebeachsomewhere colt also won the $500,000 Messenger Stakes at Yonkers and banked well over $700,000 in 2018. Alagna added to his reputation for developing major young stars in 2017 by pulling a Breeders Crown upset with Stay Hungry, and the two-year-old son of Somebeachsomewhere finished a close second in the Governor’s Cup. Alagna also campaigned two-time O’Brien Award winner Caprice Hill.

Alagna maintained his status as a top producer of stakes winners in 2014 with another promising contingent of two-year-olds, including the standout Artspeak. His stable passed the $3 million mark for the fourth straight year. Following a breakout season in 2012, Alagna’s career soared in 2013 with the spotlight shining brightly on his two-time Pacer of the Year and triple millionaire Captaintreacherous. “The Captain” helped Alagna vault past the $5 million mark for the first time and he won over 100 races for the third straight season. Captaintreacherous more than lived up to his press clippings in 2013, emerging with a stellar season that included major wins in the North America Cup, Max Hemp Memorial, Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace, Bluegrass, Tattersalls and Breeders Crown. The 1:47.1 performer fashioned a $2 million season and became the first horse since the great Niatross to be named Pacer of the Year back-to-back at ages two and three.

Alagna was born into the racing business, and by age eight he was working side by side with his parents who trained a large stable of horses in Urbana, Illinois. His mother, Donna Lee Ozment, still trains in Chicago. Alagna worked for the late Brian Pinkske, Doc and Pat Walker’s Fox Valley Standardbred Stables and Erv Miller before making the decision, at age 37, to strike out on his own in 2009. He started with three horses and one employee, and peaked at 90 horses and 20 employees. The 45-year-old from Champaign, Illinois is stabled at Gaitway Farm in Englishtown, NJ, and has attracted high profile owners such as Brittany Farms.
Travis Alexander kept the arrow pointing up in 2023, posting a career best 194 wins and $3,866,481. Alexander finished third at Pocono Downs and sixth at Yonkers Raceway.

Alexander was by far coming off the two best seasons of his career in 2021 and 2022. In 2021, Alexander posted 101 wins and $2,112,387 in purse earnings, followed by 173 wins and $3,812,001 in 2022. He finished second in the Yonkers Raceway trainer standings and seventh at Pocono Downs.

Alexander is a fifth generation horseman, who has battled Leukemia. He worked for Joe Holloway and Jim Campbell, and won back-to-back Jugettes as head trainer for Fashion Farms from 2006-2007.

Alexander’s main owner is Mark Washington (Fiddlers Creek Stables), and works out of Mark Ford’s Training Center in New York. Together they have developed homebreds. Their top horse is American Courage. That son of American Ideal has pushed his career earnings close to $800,000. As a four-year-old in 2022, American Courage took a mark of 1:47.2 at Pocono Downs.

Alexander experienced one of his best moments in 2005 upsetting undefeated Jereme’s Jet with Western Cyclone in a Breeders Crown elimination before finishing second in that final.
Ron Burke

The Ron Burke juggernaut continued to soar to new heights in 2023, posting a career high 1,158 wins, to go along with $27,553,949 in purses, his second highest season total ever. Burke reached 14,502 wins $322,913,835, both all-time records. His stable led The Big M with 113 wins and $2,977,100. In 2022, he passed Jimmy Takter as the leading money-winning stable in Meadowlands history with just under $45 million and is second all-time in Big M wins with 1,485. Burke also topped the trainer standings at Pocono Downs, Harrach's Philadelphia and The Meadows. The Burke Brigade was also the top stable on the Grand Circuit, and for the fifth straight year Team Burke won the Jerry Kaltenbach Memorial Trophy as the top stable on the Ohio Sires Stakes Circuit. Burke's top horses included M-M's Dream, Breeders Crown winner My Girl EJ, Camerican, Lou Vuitton, Booming Economy, Noblesville, Dan Patch Award winners It's Academic and Bythemissal, Southwind Gendry, Lou's Pearlman, Canigeticalouploupa, Hambletonian prospect T C I, Railee Something, Strong Poison, Mceaside, Celebrity Bambino, Drama Act, Herodotus, Lexus Kody, Hillextotic, Workin Ona Mystery and This Is The Plan.

Another unprecedented season for Ron Burke in 2022 was highlighted by his induction into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Team Burke amassed over 1,000 wins for the fourth time and hit the $21 million mark for the ninth time in the last ten seasons. The leading trainer in history also passed 13,000 career wins and $295 million in career earnings. Burke led the Meadowlands standings with 90 wins and $2,397,679. His stable also led the standings at Pocono Downs and The Meadows, and Burke won his fourth Little Brown Jug with Bythemissal. Burke's fourteen consecutive money titles are also the biggest in history. For the fourth straight year and fifth time overall, Burke won the Jerry Kaltenbach Memorial Trophy for training the top stable on the Ohio Sires Stakes circuit.

The Ron Burke Brigade rolled on in 2021, leading the Meadowlands with well over $3 million and 79 wins. Burke also passed 12,000 career wins and his stable won more than $21 million for the eighth time in the last nine years. He was nominated to the Hamms Racing Hall of Fame and will be inducted in 2022. Burke won both the Jugette with Scarlett Hanover and his third Little Brown Jug with Lou’s Pearlman, the same week his parents Mickey and Sylvia Burke were Little Brown Jug Wall of Fame honorees. Burke’s other stable stars included triple millionaire trotter Atlanta, 1:47.1 Graduate winner Cattlewash, world champion This Is The Plan, 1:47.4 Kentucky Championship Series winner Blue Diamond Eyes, Southwind Gendry and It’s Academic.

Burke continued to redefine dominance as the leading trainer in the sport in 2020 with 883 wins from 4,096 starts at various venues, and $17,541,537 in purse earnings. The Burke Stable rolled past the unprecedented $250 million mark and finished 2020 at 11,335 career wins. Burke captured his ninth consecutive Championship Meet title with 50 wins and $1,099,667, and led the Big M in 2020 with 72 wins and $1,939,101. On Hambletonian Day, the Burke Brigade sent out 28-1 upsetter Filibus to win the $410,400 Canadian Pacing Derby in 1:48.4, and This Is The Plan was an 8-1 upsetter in the $140,000 Hoosier Park Pacing Derby in 1:49.1. Southwind Gendry was third in that $600,000 event for freshman pacers after winning nine of his first 11 starts. The great trotting mare Atlanta scored major wins in the $425,600 Maple Leaf Trot in 1:50.4, the $175,000 Dayton Derby in 1:51 and the $148,500 Allerage Farms in 1:50.2. Southwind Gendry was third in that $600,000 event for freshman pacers after winning nine of his first 11 starts. The great trotting mare Atlanta scored major wins in the $425,600 Maple Leaf Trot in 1:50.4, the $175,000 Dayton Derby in 1:51 and the $148,500 Allerage Farms in 1:50. Blue Diamond Eyes pulled a 9-2 upset in the $323,600 Three Diamonds in 1:51.1.

Burke’s rampage as the sport’s runaway leader rolled on during the 2018-19 meet at the Meadowlands, taking his eighth straight training title with 101 wins and $2,397,679. The leading trainer in history also passed the unprecedented 10,000-win mark and $225 million in 2019, while divisions of his stable continued to dominate at several venues. The Burke Brigade passed the $20 million mark for the seventh straight season.

Burke continued to dominate the sport in 2018 with his sixth $20 million season in a row and became the first trainer in history to pass the $200 million mark. The massive Burke operation sent out more than 4,000 starters for the seventh consecutive year, dominated several venues, posted a 1,000-win season for the third time and romped to a seventh straight Meadowlands training title. Burke joined Jimmy Takter and Ray Remmen as the only stables to win more than $30 million at The Big M. His 2017 Horse of the Year Hannelore Hanover beat the boys from post 12 in the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial. Burke also won three Breeders Crowns with Warrawee Ubeaut, Percy Bluchip and Adios champion Dorsoduro Hanover, the Shady Daisy with Youaremymcandygirl in a stakes record of 1:48.2 and the Goldsmith Maid with Sonnet Grace. Warrawee Ubeaut became the fastest two year old in history with a 1:48.3 world record at The Red Mile.
In 2023, the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), in conjunction with the Harness Racing Hall of Fame announced the election of trainer Jim Campbell to the greatest honor in the industry, membership in the Living Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

Overall, Campbell won 42 races and $1,549,622 in 2023, and he passed the $54 million mark in career purse earnings. His top horses included Once In A Lifetime, Greenspan, Walcango, Smart Schooner, Stormcloudfashion, Santa Croce, Wild Bill Kelso, Executive Game and Take All Comers.

Jim Campbell, the winner of the 2022 Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year Award, had a UTRS of .428, and put up his third-best season- al earnings figure, nearing $2.9M, after starting far few horses than he did in his two best years for earnings.

Campbell earned $750,000 of that lofty earnings figure in the space of two hours on August 6 at the Meadowlands, where he became only the third trainer to send out the winners of the Hambletonian (Cool Papa Bell) and the Hambletonian Oaks (Fashion Schooner) in one year. Fashion Schooner overcame the outside post ten in the Oaks, while in the Hambo Cool Papa Bell overcame 52-1 odds with a big late burst to win the prestigious sophomore trot as the longest shot in the race’s 97-year history. Campbell had previously won the 1995 edition with his Hall of Famer brother John driving Tagliabue. Cool Papa Bell was voted a 2022 Dan Patch Award winner.

Campbell also campaigned Next Level Stuff, a trotting mare who defeated Trotter of the Year Bella Bellini twice in the Miss Versatility Series, and his Once In A Lifetime was victorious in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Championship for two-year-old trotting colts. And his “Big Two” also won their Sire Stakes Championships (Cool Papa Bell in New York, Fashion Schooner in New Jersey).

“I started off working for my dad, Jack, and raced mostly at Windsor Raceway. I both drove and trained. John was at the Meadowlands and was quite successful. That was the big time. Dad suggested that I might broaden my experience if I went down there and worked with him. At the time, he had his own stable in addition to being a top catch driver. I worked for John and learned a great deal from him — mostly how to work with trotters and high-level horses. There is a difference. I kept learning from John until the day he retired. I then went to work for Glen Garnsey where I was a second trainer. I was with him when he had many good horses for the Armstrong Brothers. I got to know Dr. Glen Brown and to this day I have a great deal of respect for that man. I then went out on my own.

“Talk about some rain falling in a dry place. I was down to five horses in my stable. Jules and Arlene Siegel were looking for a trainer for their horses. Fred Grant and Wally Hennessy put in the good word and recommended me. The rest is history. We’ve been together through 27 years — some lean, many of them fairly successful. Even in the poorer years, we’ve always had a horse or two that allowed the sun to shine. They are among the greatest people I’ve ever known, either in or out of the horse business.”

Jim Campbell’s oldest client is the Farber family for whom he has had horses for 35 years beginning with the late Sandy and now on to the next generation with his son, Scott, for whom he won the Breeders Crown with his homebred Sebastian K filly Next Level Stuff in an emotionally-packed winner’s circle. Fast forward to 2022 when Campbell and Scott Farber hoisted the Hambletonian trophy together.
In 2023, Stacy Chiodo posted a record of 213 – 22-17-17, $277,660 at the Meadowlands.

Stacy Chiodo passed the $4 million mark in career earnings in 2022.

Stacy Chiodo enjoyed a career best season in 2021 winning 39 races and $493,107. Assisted by her husband Bruno, who was also active in the GSY Amateur Driver Series, the Chiodo Stable won 18 races at the Meadowlands.

Chiodo sent out two three-year-old fillies in a Breeders Crown elimination, Shezafreaklikeme and Beach Crazy. Shezafreaklikeme is owned by Chiodo Racing, which also bred the filly. The filly’s mother is a full sister to past Chiodo star Mighty Young Joe, who Chiodo trained and drove throughout his 11-year career. The gelding earned $537,279 lifetime and posted a best win time of 1:49.3 at age 11 in 2014. The triumph made Chiodo the first female driver in history with a sub-1:50. Chiodo has 124 driving victories.

“I used to Barrel Race with Laurie Molnar and bought my barrel horse off of her,” said Chiodo. “She owns Crystal Brook Training Center and that is where I kept the horse. It came up that Ross Croghan was looking for a stall cleaner and I was just getting out of high school, so that was my first job in the business. I went from that to being a groom to basically being more hands-on. Then my mom bought me a couple of cheap horses for me to start training with. One was a pretty good Winners-over horse at Freehold and the other was a cheaper claimer. She decided that we would sell the cheaper claimer to get a young horse that would be sound-
The Jeff Cullipher Stable continued its upward trend with career high totals in 2023, including 318 wins and $4,945,289, along with a .315 UTRS. Cullipher finished sixth at The Big M with 28 wins.

Jeff Cullipher posted a career best season in 2022 with 245 wins and $4.4 million in purses. Cullipher also passed 1,000 career wins and the $19 million mark in career earnings. Team Cullipher finished third in the Meadowlands standings with 46 wins, and was also third at Hoosier Park with 80 wins.

The Middletown, Indiana resident won his first training title at The Meadowlands when the meet concluded Saturday, August 7, 2021. Horses from Cullipher’s barn won 54 races during the 61-day meet to take home the title. Cullipher, who splits his time between Indiana and New Jersey with owner Tom Pollack, maintained a 36 percent in the money percentage. His stable just missed earning $1 million in purse earnings for the meet. Cullipher and Pollack also teamed up for another leading owner title. Horses from their stable at The Big M were led by Lovedbythemasses, a trotter who won six races. Dealer’s Table and Kenziesky Hanover each added five wins to the tally.

Cullipher continued to race a prominent stable of solid overnight horses at the Meadowlands in 2020, finishing fourth during the Championship Meet with 21 wins and $509,277, and second overall in 2020 with 42 wins and $754,237. His top horses included Ana Afreet N, Harambe Deo, B Stoney, Saying Grace N, Kenziesky Hanover and Roll With Jr.

The Indiana-based trainer sent a division of his stable to the Meadowlands for the first time in 2019, and together with PA owner Thomas Pollack, the pair enjoyed a consistent and successful season at the Meadowlands. The Cullipher stable tied for fifth in The Big M standings with 25 wins and were leading owners for the 2018-19 meet. Cullipher also passed the $2 million mark for the first time in 2019.

Raised by a family rich in harness racing tradition, Cullipher quickly made a name for himself as a trainer at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino. The native of Henderson, KY native is no new comer to the sport of harness racing. Jeff has been a driver since 1988 and trainer since 1991.

In 2013, Cullipher’s training career found a new gear as he increased his earnings by over 75% from the previous season. He recorded his best season to date as a trainer in 2015 with 282 pari-mutuel starts and an impressive $812,599 in purse earnings. Cullipher has accumulated a majority of his training wins racing throughout the Indiana harness racing circuit. After tying with trainer Jamie Macomber for the leading trainer title at Hoosier Park in 2017, Jeff Cullipher took the next step and secured the 2018 leading trainer title outright.

Cullipher hails from a harness racing family as his father, Roger Cullipher, is a veteran of the sport and campaigns a successful stable throughout the Midwest. His brother, Terry Cullipher, is also a competitive driver and trainer on the Indiana circuit.
Noel Daley finished fifth in The Big M trainer standings with 32 wins and $1,291,006. Overall, Daley won 117 races and $3,748,275, and he passed $72 million in career earnings. Daley’s top horses included NJSS Champions Sig Sauer and Buy A Round, Dan Patch Award winner Captain Albano, Goldsmith Maid winner Pizzelle, Miraculous Deo and Soaring Now.

Noel Daley posted one of his best seasons ever in 2022 with 93 wins and $4.1 million in purses. Daley also passed the $68 million mark in career earnings. His standout freshman trotter Volume Eight finished the year winning five in a row, including finals of the Kindergarten Series in 1:52 and Valley Victory in a stakes record of 1:52.2. Daley enjoyed a scintillating four-race winning streak overseeing super pacer Bulldog Hanover, who reeled off miles of 1:47, 1:46, 1:46.1 and a world record of 1:45.4 at The Big M. Daley’s Pebble Beach and Volume Eight were both voted 2022 Dan Patch Award winners. Pebble Beach was the second richest horse in the sport with $1.35 million and finished no worse than second in 16 of 18, winning 10. Volume Eight was the fastest 2-year-old trotter of the season, with a mark of 1:52.

Noel Daley continued his comeback in America in 2021 with Grand Circuit stakes winner Palermo Hanover, a two-year-old Father Patrick filly, who went two-for-two at The Red Mile. Daley also campaigned world champion two-year-old pacer Pebble Beach, Kentucky Championship Series Final winner in 1:48.3, and Breeders Crown runner up Anoka Hanover. Daley passed the $20 million mark at The Big M and has amassed $64 million in his career overall, which ranks him sixth all-time.

Daley was all set to launch his first full season in 2020 since returning to the US late in 2019, until the pandemic hit. His stable star was the Dan Patch Award winning Anoka Hanover, a daughter of Donato Hanover, who capped her freshman season with seven straight wins, including the $252,340 Kindergarten Classic Final in 1:52.3 and $451,800 Goldsmith Maid in 1:53.2.

Late in 2018, Noel Daley announced he was returning to Australia to become private trainer for Emilio Rosati, who was building a new facility in Sydney.

Daley’s stable star in 2017 was Caviart Ally. The three-year-old filly pacer by Bettor’s Delight won the Jugette in straight heats, the PASS Final and a Bluegrass division. She also finished second in the James Lynch Memorial, Shady Daisy, Glen Garnsey and Breeders Crown. Daley also passed 2,500 career wins and $60 million.

After working for the sport’s all-time money winner Brett Pelling, Noel Daley established one of the most successful stables at the Meadowlands and beyond.

Daley grew up in Mt. Isa, Australia, where he worked for Qantas Airlines. He began working with horses when he came to the United States and first settled at Los Alamitos racetrack in California. Daley shipped east in 1990 to work as a caretaker in the Brett Pelling Stable. He stayed with Pelling for eight years, working his way up to second trainer. He enjoyed much success as the Pelling stable dominated at the Meadowlands in the 1990s, winning the training title six times. The two trainers parted ways in 1998 and Daley quickly filled a stable with the help of owner and friend Adam Victor and his son, Adam Victor, Jr. He won his first Meadowlands training title in 2003.

Daley won the biggest race of his career in 2011 when Broad Bahn went all the way to capture the $1.5 million Hambletonian. The son of Broadway Hall earned $1.5 million and a Dan Patch Award, along with another Daley trainee, Cedar Dove, a Breeders Crown runner up in 2013.

His greatest success stories have been Mr Muscleman ($3,582,823), a three-time Dan Patch Award winner and the 2005 Trotter of the Year, and two-time Dan Patch Award winning mare My Little Dragon ($2,318,623).
Nik Drennan

Nik Drennan won 31 races and $689,136 in 2023. Drennan's top class pacing mare Mikala rallied to a shocking $84.80 upset in the Dorothy Haughton Memorial in 1:47.4. She also won the Clara Barton at Plainridge Park in 1:49 and finished a close second in the Lady Liberty.

Nik Drennan had another strong season in 2022 with 44 wins and $866,246 in purses. Drennan also passed the $7 million mark in career earnings. His top horses included Crunch Time A, PD The Big Easy, Poseidon Seelster, Mikala and Robertsin.

Nik Drennan posted his best season in 20 years in 2021 winning 38 races and $898,959. His top performers included Yacht Seelster, Poseidon Seelster, Gia’s Surreal, Robertsin, Patrik-thepiranha A, Heavens Showgirl A and Mikala.

Drennan has enjoyed success teaming with veteran driver George Brennan, who explained: “It goes way back to when Nik was a kid working for Tony Montini and I was driving for him then, and then he went on his own and I continued driving for him and did well.”

In 2007, Drennan moved to the States from Canada to work for Montini and run his New Jersey operation. A few years later, when Drennan went on his own, Brennan was one of the many drivers he used at The Big M.

“Alexie Mattosie won the 2011 William Haughton Memorial for me 10 years ago, and Brennan drove him for me,” said Drennan. “We weren’t really close friends back then, but over the years, we’ve become pretty good friends.”

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Birthdate: 1982-10-09
Birthplace: Burlington, Ontario
Residence: Allentown, NJ
Age: 41
Per Engblom

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The rise of Per Engblom continued in 2023. His stable finished third at The Big M with 38 wins and $665,359. Overall, Engblom recorded personal highs of 363 wins and $6,097,248. He was the top trainer at Yonkers Raceway with 231 wins and $3,834,415 and finished third at Harrah’s Philadelphia. His top horses included Mcmarkle Sparkle, Eurobond, Strengthfromabove, Fresh Mist and Tony’s Mom.

Per Engblom enjoyed the best season of his career in 2022 with 173 wins and $2.8 million in purses. Engblom also won the training title at Harrah’s Philadelphia with 74 wins. His top horses included Weslynn Quest, Castle House, Chake, Smuggle Tina and Hayek.

Overall in 2021, Engblom sent out 341 starters, won 65 races and $1,670,149. Beads came back as a four-year-old in 2021 to pull a post ten upset in the Hambletonian Maturity and added another $370,000 to his earnings.

Beads had a quarter million dollar sophomore season in 2020, winning the Muscle Hill in 1:51.2.

Per Engblom started his own stable in 2019 after spending six years as the top assistant to Hall of Fame trainer Jimmy Takter. The Takter Stable won 19 of its record 34 Breeders Crown trophies during that time frame.

Engblom made his Breeders Crown debut in 2019 and had five finalists. His best finish came with Synergy in the 2-year-old colt-and-gelding trot. Synergy won his elimination and was fifth in the final. Two-year-old filly trotter Ms Savannah Belle also was an elim winner. She finished seventh in her final.

In 2019, Engblom won 72 races and $2.81 million in purses, and in 2020 he won 35 races and $1.47 million.

Engblom grew up in Mantorp, Sweden, which is also Takter’s birthplace. Both men began their careers at the local racetrack, which was started by a group that included Engblom’s grandfather, Bengt Engblom. Per Engblom’s father, Raoul, also is a trainer.

This is Enblom’s second stint in the U.S. He was 19 when he came to the States for the first time. His sister, Pernilla, worked for Takter and the stable needed additional help. Engblom worked as a groom for two years before assisting with training for another three years. He then returned home to Sweden, where he was the private trainer for Stall Tilly, and later worked in Italy before starting his own public stable.

At the beginning of 2012, Engblom and his wife, Helene, decided to move to the U.S. with their then 4-year-old son, Tom, who was ready to start school. Engblom worked for a year with trainer Tony Alagna before returning to the Takter Stable, where Helene joined him.
Mark Ford posted numbers comparable to his previous season with 61 wins and $1,185,114 in 2022. Ford also passed the $68 million mark in career earnings.

In 2021, Mark Ford passed the 4,000-win plateau and $67 million in earnings, which ranks him fifth all-time. Ford’s stable also went past the $1 million mark for the twentieth season.

Ford completed the 2020 season with 3,946 career wins and went past the $66 million career earnings mark.

Ford continued to close in on the 4,000-win plateau and passed $65 million in career earnings in 2019.

In 2017, Ford maintained his busy schedule as trainer, training center proprietor and President of the SBOA of New Jersey. Ford earned more than $1 million for the eighteenth year in a row. Ford’s career totals went past 3,700 wins and $63 million.

Ford sent out his 6,000th Meadowlands starter in 2016, and also passed 25,000 career starts and 3,600 wins. Ford’s stable passed the $1 million mark for the 17th consecutive season. It was also Ford’s first full year as President of the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey.

Ford set career highs of 299 wins and $5,236,730 in 2010 led by New Jersey Sire Stakes two-year-old filly pacing champion Ace Of Pace. Also that year, Ford became the first trainer to pass $40 million before the age of 40, and only the sixth trainer to hit that milestone.

Ford owns a 200-horse state-of-the-art training center in upstate New York. A native of West Virginia, Ford passed up an agricultural scholarship in England, and instead traveled to Florida after high school to work with Clint Galbraith. He moved to the New York/ New Jersey area in 1990 and eventually met Ted Wing, who became a big influence on him. He also credits Ray Schnittker with assistance on his road to stardom.

Ford stepped into the national spotlight thanks to the pacing gelding Gallo Blue Chip, the 2000 Horse of the Year, who became the richest pacer in the history of the sport with $4,26 million in earnings. He is also noted for conditioning millionaires Whosurboy, Turnpike Token, Armbro Animate, Stonebridge Kisses and Self Professed, as well as On The Attack.

Ford was named co-winner (along with Jimmy Takter) of the 2000 Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year Award by the United States Harness Writers’ Association.

One of Ford’s first success stories was the purchase of the durable double-gaited Six Day War, for whom he paid just $12,000. Six Day War earned more than $400,000 on the pace and nearly $90,000 on the trot. “There would never have been a Gallo Blue Chip without Six Day War,” said Ford, who admitted the horse was responsible for unequivocally changing his life. Ford was just 23 in May of 1994 when he scraped together $12,000 — virtually every dollar he had — and risked it all to purchase Six Day War, a double-gaited son of Nihilator out of Pampered Lady. “I’m not going to say we weren’t going to eat the next day, but we were going to have to decide what we were going to eat,” Ford said, adding that Six Day War was the horse that determined whether he would continue to have a career in harness racing or be forced to find a different line of work. “It was either stay or not stay. We got him straightened out and he was, in reality, nothing more than a 20 claimer, but he put a lot of money on the table at the right time for a 22- or 23-year-old guy just getting started,” Ford said.
Andrew Harris

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In 2023, Andrew Harris won 50 races and $1,686,739, and he passed the $20 million mark in career purse earnings. His top horses included Abuckabett Hanover, Seven Colors, Timestorm, Tyga Hanover, Legal Scholar, Arden Messi N and El Rey.

Andrew Harris won 80 races and $1.4 million in purses in 2022. Harris also passed 1,000 career wins and $18 million in career purse earnings.

Andrew Harris scaled back his activity at the Meadowlands in 2021, yet overall his stable won 100 races and $1,891,861. Some of his noteworthy Big M performers were Deltasun A, Pappy Go Go, Lovely Donna and San Domino A.

Harris sent out None Bettor A, who won the Quillen Memorial at Harrington in 1:49.4 on September 20, and the next day guided the Somebeachsomewhere mare Silver Tail from out of the clouds at Pocono Downs to post his first driving success in 12 years.

Harris captured his first Meadowlands training title during the Fall Meet of 2019 with 18 wins and $288,361. Then, Harris finished third during the 2020 Championship Meet with 24 wins and $394,377, and in the Big M’s Top Five overall in 2020 with 32 wins and 506,472. His top horses included Tricky Sister, None Bettor A, San Domino A and Elysium Lindy. The Harris Stable sent out 151 winners and banked $2.4 million in 2020. It was the fourth straight season Harris passed the $2 million mark.

The Andrew Harris Stable passed the $2 million mark for the third straight year in 2019. Harris campaigned Open pacer and 1:49.3 performer Trump Nation at The Big M, and Solsbury Hill won a James Doherty Memorial elimination in 1:55.3.

In 2018, Harris flew past 100 wins and the $2 million mark for the second consecutive season. His top performers included Perfect Summer K and Cruising In Style. He also handled the US training duties for sophomore stakes star Jimmy Freight and Hambletonian elimination starter Lawmaker.

In 2018, Harris housed and handled Lawmaker when racing stateside. Harris, a former assistant to star Canadian trainer Casie Coleman, made his second appearance in the Hambletonian, finishing fourth in 2016 with Waitlifter K (to Marion Marauder). Harris followed his father, Jack, and grandfather, Ron, into the sport.

Harris saw himself on the biggest stage in 2016 when he sent the three-year-old trotter Waitlifter K postward in the Hambletonian. It was an unexpected position to be in, but Harris acquitted himself rather well at the highest level. “He just turned out to be fourth or fifth best. He wasn’t as good as Marion Marauder, Bar Hopping or Southwind Frank,” said Harris of the colt who went back with trainer Rich Gillock.

Harris had a breakout year in 2016 that saw his stable earn above $1.5 million, the first time he exceeded the seven-figure mark and more than double any of his previous yearly earnings. With 91 winners, Harris surpassed his win output from both 2014-15 combined.

Based at White Birch Farm, Harris has committed to a strong racehorse stable, but also has aspirations of hitting a home run with the youngsters. His understanding of the dynamics of a racehorse stable combined with his ability to focus in on quality young horses and bring out the best, are sure signs he has attracted stakes caliber horses.

The wife of trainer Andrew Harris, Amanda was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2015. After 12 rounds of chemotherapy doctors reported her tumor had shrunk significantly, and a fundraising effort was launched. Sadly, Amanda passed away on February 15, 2020 at age 34.
In 2023, Joe Holloway posted an overall record of 110 – 22-21-19, $898,041, with a .364 UTRS. Holloway’s top horses included Newsroom, Blue Pacific, Ammo, Sudden Impact, Cantgetoutamymind and Nuclear.

Joe Holloway passed the $37 million mark in career earnings in 2022, and he remained a prominent player on the stakes trail with Early Action and 52-1 Breeders Crown shocker Ammo, Holloway’s ninth Crown trophy.

In 2021, Joe Holloway enjoyed another vintage season in the big spotlight, spearheaded by back-to-back Dan Patch Award winning pacer Perfect Sting. That three-year-old led the entire sport in earnings with $1,273,847 and won his second straight Breeders Crown. Holloway also campaigned Grand Circuit winning two-year-old pacer Early Action, who capped his freshman season winning the Governor’s Cup in 1:50. Holloway was voted the 2021 William R. Haughton Good Guy Award.

Holloway has been blessed with several great horses in his Hall of Fame career, and his latest is the Dan Patch Award winning pacer Perfect Sting. The son of Always B Miki, out of Holloway’s world champion Shebestingin, lived up to his name with a perfect ten-for-ten freshman season in 2020. Perfect Sting swept the Kentucky Sires Stakes Series, took a mark of 1:49.4 at The Red Mile and was involved in the first ever Breeders Crown deadheat for win in 1:50.2.

Holloway reached a well-deserved pinnacle in 2019 when he was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Holloway also passed 1,000 career wins and $33 million.

Holloway was back in the major stakes spotlight in 2017 with a pair of prolific two-year-old pacers. Rainbow Room, a regally-bred daughter of Somebeachsomewhere and Rainbow Blue, didn’t miss the board in 12 starts, banked $467,880, won the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes Champion and took a mark of 1:51.2 at Pocono Downs. Closing Statement, a Somebeachsomewhere colt, was a Grand Circuit stakes winner, earning $286,281 and won the $125,000 Elevation in 1:50.4 at Hoosier Park.

In 2016, Holloway unveiled a late-blooming freshman pacer named Air Strike, who finished first in a 1:52.1 deadheat in the $147,200 Kindergarten Classic Final at the Meadowlands. Holloway’s dynamic duo of pacing mares Divine Caroline and Bettor Be Steppin vaulted past a combined $1.6 million.

Holloway was back under the major stakes spotlight in 2015 with a solid one-two punch of Dan Patch Award winner Divine Caroline and Bettor Be Steppin. The pair of three-year-old filly pacers emerged as stars in New York Sires Stakes and stepped up to the Grand Circuit level. Bettor Be Steppin rallied to a 16-1 upset in the $300,000 James Lynch Final and also won the $350,000 Valley Forge at Pocono Downs.

Holloway finished second in the 2014 Meadowlands Pace with Always B Miki. He also campaigned Somwhereoverarainbow, who won the $371,400 Blue Chip Matchmaker Final at Yonkers Raceway, and Shebestingin, the fastest female in history by virtue of a 1:47 clocking at The Red Mile at age three in 2013.

Holloway teamed up with David Rovine to dominate the Meadowlands in the eighties and set a record for wins in a single meet in 1987 with 106.

In the mid-nineties, Holloway campaigned the three-time Dan Patch Award winner and legendary pacer Jenna’s Beach Boy. His other top horses include She’s A Great Lady, Tooter Scooter, Florida Jewel, Lady Macbeach and Always A Virgin. He pulled an upset in the 2010 Hambletonian Oaks with Bar Slide.
Marcus Melander recorded his fifth consecutive $1 million season at The Big M in 2023. Overall, Melander won 74 races and $4,361,639, and he passed the $27 million mark in career purse earnings. His top horses included Hambletonian Oaks winner Heaven Hanover, Hambletonian runner up Oh Well, NJSS champion Air Power, Muscle Hill winner Kilmister, My Way, Date Night Hanover, Security Protected, Wild Ticket, Dire Straits, Venerate, Crown, Secret Volo and Kayleigh S.

Marcus Melander maintained his status as a trotting powerhouse in 2022 with 80 wins and $4,963,452 in purse earnings, good for a Top Five ranking in the sport. Melander finished first, second, third-placed-fourth in the Peter Haughton Memorial with Kilmister, Oh Well and Upstaged. He was also second, third and fifth in the Hambletonian with Joviality S, Temporal Hanover and Periculum. Joviality S was voted a 2022 Dan Patch Award winner. She was the sport’s top earning trotter in 2022 with $1.08 million. She became the first filly to defeat the boys in the MGM Yonkers Trot since 1986, doing it with a track-record-equaling performance of 1:53.1, and finished second in the Hambletonian.

Marcus Melander’s rising star was shining bright in 2021 with Breeders Crown champion and Goldsmith Maid winner Joviality S and Hambletonian Oaks runner up Iteration. Overall in 2021, Melander won 71 races and $3,784,017. His other prominent performers were Sonofamistery, In Range, Dancinginthedark M, Temporal Hanover and Hypnotic AM.

Melander continued to enhance his rising prominence as one of the sport’s top trotting trainers in 2020. On Meadowlands Pace Night, his 2020 Trotter of the Year Gimpanzee overcame post 13 to win the $464,900 Hambletonian Maturity. He finished second in a $142,250 division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial with Hollywood Story. On Hambletonian Day, Gimpanzee won the $291,350 John Cashman Memorial in a stakes record equaling 1:50, he also finished third in the $350,300 Jim Doherty Memorial with Ineffable, second in the $319,000 Peter Haughton Memorial with Moonstone S, and second from post 12 in the $600,000 Hambletonian Oaks with Hypnotic AM. From three longshots in the $1 million Hambletonian, he took home a fifth-place check with Hollywood Story. Melander was second in a $600,000 Breeders Crown with 2021 Hambletonian prospect In Range. Gimpanzee won his third straight Breeders Crown in that $500,000 Final in 1:51.3.

Melander was the youngest at age 27 to be named Trainer of the Year in 2019, the same year Greenshoe and Gimpanzee both won a million dollars and Green Manalishi S also became a millionaire. Greenshoe also gave Melander back-to-back Trotters of the Year.

Melander quickly emerged as an elite trainer of trotters and made headlines with his “Big 3” of sophomore trotters Greenshoe, Gimpanzee and Green Manalishi S. Greenshoe was rated number one on the Road to the 2019 Hambletonian. That son of Father Patrick won his second straight New Jersey Sires Stakes Final in 1:50.2 and division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial in 1:50.1. After dominating his Hambletonian elimination in 1:50.2, Greenshoe finished second in the $1 million final. Gimpanzee won his first 12 career starts before finishing fourth in his Hambo elimination and third in the $1 million final. Green Manalishi S won his Hambo elimination in 1:50.3 and finished fifth in the $1 million final.

Melander received the 2018 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

Melander came to the U.S. and worked for Jimmy Takter before starting his own stable in 2014. He is based in New Egypt, NJ at the farm that was home previously to the legendary Stanley Dancer. Growing up in Sweden, Melander stayed up all hours of the night following results of U.S. harness racing. His uncle, Stefan Melander, won the 2001 Hambletonian as a trainer and driver with Scarlet Knight.

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Residence: New Egypt, NJ  Age: 33
2023 was almost a mirror image of 2022 for Julie Miller as her stable won another 89 races and $2,489,457, and Miller passed the $53 million mark in career purse earnings. Top horses for Team Orange Crush were Breeders Crown Open Mares winner Max Contract and Hambletonian finalist French Wine, the season’s fastest three-year-old trotter with a mark of 1:50.

Julie Miller led Team Orange Crush to another strong season in 2022 with 86 wins and $2.5 million in purse earnings. With over 2,200 career wins, Julie also passed the $50 million milestone in career earnings. Her top trainees included Shady Daisy winner Max Contract in 1:49.3, Grand Circuit winner Espresso and French Wine, who won a Kentucky Championship Series Final.

Julie Miller, along with her husband Andy and son Tyler, continued to guide a path of success for Team Orange Crush in 2021. Their Big M winners included Maple Leaf Trot upsetter Lindy The Great, Hambletonian finalist Venerate, Priceless, Get Legs and San Cristobal.

Miller enhanced her status as an elite trotting trainer in 2020 with stars like Venerate, Love A Good Story, Lindy The Great and Hambletonian Finalist Big Oil. Miller to staged a 27-1 upset in the $255,000 Kentucky Filly Futurity with New York Sires Stake star Love A Good Story in 1:51.2. Her biggest win came in the Mohawk Million with Venerate, who rallied from post ten in 1:53.2 for catch-driver Andrew McCarthy. She finished the season with 2,010 career wins and $45,636,256.

Team Orange Crush, the husband and wife stable of Andy and Julie Miller maintained their Top Ten presence at the Meadowlands during the 2018-19 meet with 20 wins. Julie Miller also passed the $40 million career mark, with over $10 million coming at The Big M.

Team Orange Crush reached career highs of 150 wins and $4.6 million in 2018. The Millers finished a hard-charging second in the $1 million Hambletonian with Met’s Hall, who was also second in the Canadian Trotting Classic and Breeders Crown. The son of Cantab Hall capped a $1 million season in 2018 with a wire-to-wire victory in the $256,000 Carl Erskine at Hoosier Park and took a mark of 1:51.2 in the Bluegrass at The Red Mile.

Miller maintained her Top 10 presence at the Meadowlands during the 2016-17 meet, posted a career best $4,679,554 million season with 138 wins, and continued to build a strong reputation with trotters.

In 2016, the Julie Miller Stable continued to build its strong reputation as a top trotting producer, advancing Mulligan’s School and Sutton to the $1 million Hambletonian Final. With her husband Andy Miller driving, the Julie Miller-tuned Sutton finished a fast-closing third, and the Donato Hanover colt was beaten only a neck. “Team Orange Crush” also had success with a pair of sophomore filly trotters as Southwind Hope won a $100,000 New Jersey Sires Stakes Final and Women’s Will captured a $95,250 division of the Del Miller Memorial in a deadheat.

Although she has a bachelor’s degree in science, Julie Miller’s first love has always been harness racing. Miller grew up in Iowa, where she spent many summers assisting her father, Owen Julius, at the county fairs. Miller attained her training license when she was 18 and won her first race at Quad City Downs in 1993. She began her career as a trainer-driver, and after graduating from Southern Illinois University in 1995, she married top catch driver Andy Miller.

Miller’s top trainee was Lucky Jim, who won 17 of 18 races and $1 million on his way to 2009 Older Trotting Horse of the Year. Lucky Jim trotted a world record of 1:50.1 in the Nat Ray at the Meadowlands and went on to also win the Breeders Crown.
Richard “Nifty” Norman enjoyed another strong season in 2023, winning 109 races and $3,094,410, and Norman passed the $53 million mark in career purse earnings. Norman’s top horses included Hankins Hanover, Poof Of Record, Blonde Bombshell, Kobe’s Gigi, Sambucca Hanover, Its Saturday Night, Wish You Well and Doug’s Babe A.

Richard “Nifty” Norman posted another solid season in 2022 with 114 wins and $3,869,174 in purse earnings. Norman also passed the $50 million mark in career earnings and has over 1,600 career wins. His stable stars included 2022 Trotter of the Year Bella Bellini, Delilah Hanover, Venerable, Libbitalesis, Fire Start Hanover, Kobe’s Gigi, Grace Hill, Amigo Volo, Gotthegreenlight, Check Her Out and Blonde Bombshell. Bella Bellini hit the board in 18 of 19 races, winning nine and earned $936,702 to lead all older trotters. Her mark of 1:49.4 was the fastest among female trotters in 2022. Her victories included the Dr. John R. Steele Memorial, TVG Series Final, Six Pack Mares Open and Breeders Crown Mare Trot.

Richard “Nifty” Norman enjoyed a career best season in 2021 and was voted the Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year. Norman campaigned Dan Patch Award winners Bella Bellini and Venerable, and both fillies had $1 million seasons. Bella Bellini gave Norman his third Hambletonian Oaks and Venerable beat the boys in the Mohawk Million. Norman also had two half million dollar winning fillies in Fire Start Hanover and Grace Hill, along with Bluegrass winner Libbitalesis and Matron winner Joyride Hanover. He won 15 races of $100,000 or more, pushing him past the $6 million mark for the first time, won a career high 141 races and posted a .348 UTRS percentage. Norman had 54 wins at the Meadowlands in 2021, third highest in the trainer standings and also ranked third in Big M earnings with $2,500,045.

Nifty continued in his usual solid role in the Top Ten at the Meadowlands in 2020 with 26 wins and $1,161,051. Norman enjoyed a career best $4,456,767 season overall, topping 1,000 career wins and the $40 million mark. Norman won a pair of Breeders Crowns with Fire Start Hanover and Amigo Volo, who was the second leading money winning trotter of 2020 with $939,498. Fire Start Hanover also won a $151,030 Kindergarten Classic Final in 1:50.4, and Bee Forever rallied to a 1:54 upset in the $398,650 Valley Victory.

In 2018, Norman continued to concentrate on developing young stakes stars in 2018. Norman pulled a 15-1 upset in the $435,900 Valley Victory with Southwind Avenger. He also won the Kindergarten Classic Final with Reign Of Honor, and campaigned Grand Circuit stakes winners staking filly Evident Beauty, and Pennsylvania Sires Stakes winning trotters Piranha Fury, Live Laugh Love and Lindy’s Big Bang. Norman passed the $2 million mark for the eighth season of his career.

Norman kicked off 2016 with a big win in the $150,000 Mack Lobell Elitlopp Playoff when his prized trotting mare Bee A Magician finished second and was placed first through a disqualification. Unfortunately, the six-year-old daughter of Kadabra spent most of the season sidelined with an injury, but made a successful comeback and vaulted past $4 million with a second in her fifth Breeders Crown appearance.

Norman engineered a bounce-back season for his triple millionaire trotting queen Bee A Magician, who had won eight of nine starts in 2015 before her second place finish in the $181,450 Fresh Yankee on Hambletonian Day.

Norman is a native of New Zealand. His father had thoroughbreds, yet when he came to the US in 1985 he began working with harness racing horses and trainer Ross Croghan in California. Norman spent nearly two decades as an assistant with seven-time Big M leading trainer Brett Pelling before striking out on his own in 2006. His stable vaulted past $3 million for the first time in 2012.
Brett Pelling enjoyed his best season since returning to the US, winning 92 races and $4,519,832, and Pelling passed the $69 million mark in career purse earnings. Confederate was Pelling’s third Horse of the Year. The sophomore son of Sweet Lou was the sport’s leading money winner with $1,633,854, and he became the fastest three year old in history with a world record of 1:46.1. Confederate also gave Pelling his fifth Meadowlands Pace and won 11 straight races, including a Breeders Crown. Confederate also equaled the Cane Pace stakes record of 1:47.3. Pelling also campaigned Allywag Hanover, who won a Sam McKee Memorial division in 1:47.2 and pulled a 17-1 upset in the FanDuel Championship in 1:49.1.

Brett Pelling posted another solid season in 2022 with 84 wins, $3,725,848 in purse earnings and an impressive .475 UTRS rating. Pelling also passed the $64 million mark in career earnings and has over 1,800 career wins. His top horses included Allywag Hanover, When Dovescry, Test Of Faith, Earthwindfire, Combustion and Energetic Hanover. Test Of Faith won her second straight Dan Patch Award division title.

Brett Pelling enjoyed another stellar season in 2021, producing his second Horse of the Year Test Of Faith and another Dan Patch Award winner Allywag Hanover. Test Of Faith, a three-year-old Art Major filly, fashioned a 16 – 14-2-0 record in a million dollar season. The 1:48.3 performer won the Matron, Breeders Crown, Courageous Lady, Glen Garnsey, Bluegrass, New York Sires Stakes Final and Empire Breeders Classic. Allywag Hanover, a four-year-old Captaintreacherous gelding, was voted the sport’s top older pacer, winning the TVG Final, Allerage Farms, Mohawk Gold Cup, Canadian Pacing Derby, and divisions of the Sam McKee Memorial and William Haughton Memorial. He paced a world record of 1:47.2 at Pocono Downs and took a mark of 1:46.4 at The Red Mile. Allywag Hanover equaled a tracked record for four-year-old pacing geldings of 1:47.1.

Pelling continued his American comeback in 2020, and finished the season with 1,646 career wins and $56,475,798 in career earnings. Pelling finished second and third in the $636,650 Meadowlands Pace with Papi Rob Hanover and Allywag Hanover. Papi Rob Hanover went on to win an Adios elimination in a world record of 1:47.1 before being forced to retire due to injury.

In 2019, Pelling enjoyed his best season since returning to America, led by the prolific Open class pacing mare Caviart Ally, who won the Rainbow Blue Final in 1:48. Pelling passed the $2 million mark in 2019 and $54 million in his illustrious career.

Pelling held the record for seven Meadowlands training titles, also the single season record of 122 wins set in 1991 and repeated in 1998. Pelling has trained a long list of award winning champions including Mystical Maddy, Western Ideal, Armbro Romance, Pizza Dolce, Lyell Creek N, Like A Prayer, I Am A Fool and Timesareachanging. In 2005, the legendary Rocknroll Hanover earned a record $2.2 million, one of four Meadowlands Pace winners Pelling has trained.
Edwin Quevedo

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Birthdate: 1983-09-04  
Birthplace: Guatemala City, Guatemala  
Residence: East Windsor, NJ  
Age: 40

In 2023, Edwin Quevedo finished in the Top Ten at The Big M with 23 wins. Overall, Quevedo won 88 races and $760,440, and he passed $4 million in career purse earnings. Quevedo was also the leading trainer at Freehold Raceway with 35 wins.

Edwin Quevedo posted another strong season in 2022 with 93 wins and $929,185 in purse earnings. Quevedo finished among the top five trainers at the Meadowlands and top three at Freehold Raceway.

Quevedo became a prominent player in overnight races at the Meadowlands in 2021, finishing fourth in the trainer standings. Overall, Quevedo won 97 races and had his first $1 million season. The former top trainer at Cal Expo ventured east to Running Aces in Minnesota before settling in New Jersey. He also finished second in the 2021 Freehold trainer standings. His top horse was the 1:48.1 performer Heza Real Diamond.

Chris Ryder maintained his status as a major stakes player in 2022, and Ryder posted the best season of his career with $3,902,651 in purse earnings (78 wins). His top horses were Tattoo Artist, Proud Mary, Niki Hill, I’ll Drink To That, Handlelikeaporsche, Twin B Joe Fresh, Lisa Lane, Goldin Greatness, Waiter Payton and Admiral Hill.

Chris Ryder enjoyed another solid season in 2021 winning 59 races and $2,381,307 overall. His pride and joy was Dan Patch Award winning filly pacer Niki Hill. That two-year-old daughter of Always B Miki won nine of ten starts, including a Breeders Crown, She’s A Great Lady, Three Diamonds and Kindergarten Classic Final. Ryder ranks in the Top 25 all-time with $46 million.

Ryder continued to polish his image as one of the sport’s elite trainers in 2020. His Dan Patch Award winner Bettor’s Wish won the $229,660 Sam McKee Memorial in 1:47.3. Ryder’s amazing 1:47.2 performer and Dan Patch Award winner Party Girl Hill won her first 14 career starts before finishing third in a $500,000 Breeders Crown. Bettor’s Wish capped his $2,601,233 career with a 1:48.1 romp in the $340,000 TVG Open Final.

Ryder’s star in 2019 was the sophomore pacer Bettor’s Wish, who romped in the Art Rooney at Yonkers Raceway in 1:51.4, and finished second in the North America Cup, Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace and Messenger Stakes enroute to a $1 million season.

Ryder’s big gun in 2018 was sophomore pacer This Is The Plan, who capped a near half million season with major wins in the Matron Stake and Progress Pace at Dover Downs. Ryder’s stable earnings passed the $1 million mark for the 19th season.

In 2016, Chris Ryder’s stable earned more than $1 million for the 17th year, and campaigned stakes performers Kissmeonthebeach, That’s The Ticket, JJ Flynn and Pointtomygranson. In 2015, most of Ryder’s power came from New Jersey Sires Stakes champion The Show Returns, a sister to Ryder’s former standout Put On A Show, and New York Sires Stakes star National Seelster.

Ryder has played at the top end of the game for many years, producing champions like Sealed n Delivered, Cathedra Dot Com, McArdle, two-time Breeders Crown champion Mystical Sunshine and 2010 Crown winner Put On A Show, who set a world record of 1:47.3 and banked $2.4 million.

The New Zealand native arrived in the US in 1989 when his wife Nicola was transferred to a Manhattan accounting firm. Ryder worked as an agent Down Under and also when he first came to America. He first gained national attention with 1997 Two Year Old Colt Pacer of the Year Sealed N Delivered.
For Meadowlands veteran Bruce Saunders, 2023 was his 33rd season at the Big M and he maintained a steady nightly presence. Overall, Saunders won 19 races and $280,262, and he was closing in on the $34 million mark in career purse earnings.

Bruce Saunders continued to be a prominent player in overnight racing at the Meadowlands 2022. It was Saunders’ 32nd season in East Rutherford.

Bruce Saunders remained quite active in his 31st season at the Meadowlands in 2021, and overall, Saunders won 34 races and $574,092. His top performers included Rockin The Aces, Decision Day, So Irresistible, Dee’s Red Delicious, Betalady, Thundra and Walknafter Midnite.

Saunders completed his 30th season in 2020 finishing sixth during the Fall Meet with 10 wins and $230,215. Saunders finished fourth in the $636,650 Meadowlands Pace with Manticore. He won a $207,570 Kindergarten Classic Final with Dee’s Red Delicious in 1:54.3.

Saunders competed in his 29th season in 2019, has won more than 1,300 races and $31 million, and his stable earned more than $1 million for 14 straight seasons from 2000 to 2013.

In 2018, Saunders enjoyed his best season since 2013 with over 40 wins and more than $900,000.

Saunders remained quite active in 2016, spanning the spectrum from seasoned trotter Sweet Justice to Kindergarten Series competitors Sky Fulla Star and Rock N Blue, and New York Sires Stakes player Lady Of Heaven.

Saunders jumped back into the limelight in late 2013 and early 2014 with his $25,000 bargain purchase named Sweet Justice. The son of Justice Hall won his first five starts for Saunders, including a 1:52 track record for three-year-old trotting geldings and a FFA Handicap in 1:51.1.

Saunders has enjoyed a long, successful career, and he struck gold with his best horse to date, 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven, who finished second in the Meadowlands Pace, and went on to win the Little Brown Jug and Breeders Crown. The Rocknroll Hanover colt won 16 of 21 starts and $2,156,192 in his award-winning season, and took a mark of 1:47.3 in a Meadowlands Pace elimination. The pacer propelled Saunders to a personal best $4,118,950 campaign.

Saunders did not follow the typical path to a career training horses. Raised in Farmingdale, New Jersey, Saunders spent two years in the army, including a year in Vietnam (1969). He became a stockbroker and from 1972 to 1976 was the Director of Economics for the State of Delaware. For one day, he was even the acting Governor of the State. Saunders earned a masters degree in finance from Temple University in 1980.

A licensed trainer since 1979, he campaigned two different Delaware Valley Horses of the Year early in his career: Perky Fiddler and Chipper Frost. Saunders has handled many other top pacers, including Misfit, Casimir Camotion, Mandretti, Indiana Sam, Master Barney, Die Lute, Armbrro View and On The Way Again.

A class act who always says the right thing at the right time to further a positive image of the sport, Saunders has received numerous accolades, including Grand Circuit Trainer of the Year and the W.R. Haughton Good Guy Award from the United States Harness Writers. He was the keynote speaker at the 2012 USTA Standardbred Driving School.
In 2023, Ake Svanstedt was recognized for career highs of 162 wins and $9,854,369 with Trainer of the Year honors. Team Svanstedt also passed 1,000 wins since moving to the US and $52 million mark in purse earnings. His top horses were Dan Patch Award winners Bond and Jiggy Jog S, Warranee Michelle (one of his four Breeders Crown winners), Alrajah One II, Special Way, Daiquiri Hanover, Flying Kronos S, French Champagne, Pisco Sour, Kierkegaard K, Chamba, Stonebridge Helios, FanDuel Championship winner Southwind Tyrion, Rattle My Cage, Up Your Deo, Sunkist Beauty, Sierra Girl, Senorita Palema, Mr Bluebird and Situationship.

Ake Svanstedt posted the best season of his career in 2022 with 125 training wins and his stable earned a personal best of $7.5 million. The prominent stakes player and developer of young talent sent out stars like world champion Ecurie D DK, Alrajah One IT, Back Of the Neck, Jiggy Jog S, Special Way, Bond, Incommunicado, Ambassador Hanover, Delayed Hanover, Rattle My Cage, Justice, Up Your Deo, Kimmeridgian, Villain, Paramount Legend N, Captain Cowboy, Baptism, Wild Jiggy S and Ghostintheshell S. Svanstedt won a pair of 2022 Dan Patch Awards with Special Way and Ecurie D DK. Ecurie D DK was the top-earning older male trotter of the year with $733,439. Special Way was the richest 2-year-old female trotter of the season with $697,475. She won seven of nine starts, including a Breeders Crown in a Canadian record of 1:52.

Ake Svanstedt reached the peak of the harness racing mountaintop for the second time in 2021, going all the way in the $1 million Hambletonian with Captain Corey. That three-year-old son of Googoo Gaagaa romped in his elimination in 1:51.2 and came right back in the final without shoes in 1:51. Captain Corey went on to win the Earl Beal, Jr. Memorial in 1:51 and a Pennsylvania Sires Stakes Consolation in 1:51.4 at Pocono Downs before being retired due to injury. Svanstedt posted a career best $6,312,341 season with 104 wins overall.

Svanstedt continued to trot out a powerful contingent in 2020. Svanstedt enjoyed his best season since arriving in America with 51 wins and a career high of $5,213,649.

Svanstedt continued to make a major impact on the trotting side of the sport in 2019. Swedish import Darling Mearas S set a Meadowlands track record of 1:49.4 in a stunning US debut. World champion Six Pack won a Graduate Series division in his 2019 debut, finished a close second in the Graduate Final and third in the John Cashman Memorial. Earl Beal, Jr. Memorial upsetter Marseille and Soul Strong both advanced to the $1 million Hambletonian Final, with Soul Strong picking up a fourth-place check from post ten.

Svanstedt shook the trotting world in 2018 with a trio of world champion trotters, Six Pack, Plunge Blue Chip and Ice Attraction. Six Pack won a division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial in 1:50. Also on the Meadowlands Pace Night, New York Sires Stakes champion Plunge Blue Chip won a Del Miller Memorial division in 1:49.4. Six Pack also won the Empire Breeders Classic, Yonkers Trot, Kentucky Futurity and Matron Stake in a million dollar campaign and set a world record of 1:49.1.

In 2017, Svanstedt enjoyed one of the greatest days of his four years in America when he finished second and was placed first through a disqualification in the $1 million Hambletonian Final with Perfect Spirit.

Svanstedt remained a dominant force in the trotting world in 2016 with Resolve, one of the sport’s top Open class trotters. After finishing second in Sweden’s Elitlopp, the five-year-old son of Muscle Hill shipped back to America and cruised past $1 million with major wins in the $200,000 Arthur J. Cutler Memorial, the $275,600 John Cashman Memorial, the $480,320 Maple Leaf Trot and set a world record of 2:23.4 for a mile and half in the $1 million International Trot.

Svanstedt captured five Trainer of the Year titles and three Driver of the Year Awards in Sweden, and has more than 5,000 wins as a trainer and 6,400 as a driver. In his first two seasons in the US, his stable won more than 100 races and banked over $4 million. Svanstedt immediately made a huge impact in America, spearheaded by his super trotter Sebastian K. On May 10, 2014, the eight-year-old barefoot wonder was making his first start in the US, his first start in eight months, and was coming off a nondescript qualifier (finished fourth timed in 1:56.2).
In 2023, Nancy Takter finished fourth in The Big M trainer standings with 38 wins and $2,108,556. Overall, Takter enjoyed another big season, winning 103 races and $6,437,014, and she passed $36 million in career purse earnings. Most importantly, Takter won her first Hambletonian with post ten 12-1 upsetter Tactical Approach. The leading money winning trotter in the sport banked $1.5 million. Takter’s other top horses included Dan Patch Award winner Karl, Cannibal, Christchurch, Three Diamonds winner Caviart Belle, Always B Naughty, Save America, Bella Macchiato, Ice Cream, Pretender, Keg Stand and Treacherous Dragon.

Nancy Takter posted another strong season in 2022 with 92 wins and $4,435,874 in purse earnings. Takter was also just shy of the $30 million mark in career earnings by year’s end. Her prominent performers were Selfie Queen, Pretender, One Eight Hundred, Balance, Market Based, Sweet Treasure, Treacherous Dragon, Cant Stop Lou, Save America, Brunella, Keg Stand and Looks Like Moni. Treacherous Dragon was voted a 2022 Dan Patch Award winner. She led all 3-year-old female pacers with $717,835. Her victories included the Jugette and Breeders Crown.

In 2021, Nancy Takter continued to solidify her status as one of the sport’s elite trainers. Manchego came back out of retirement to capture her third Dan Patch Award, winning the John Cashman Memorial, Spirit of Massachusetts and Arthur J. Cutler Memorial, while passing the $3 million mark in career earnings. Manchego equaled a track record for Older Trotting Mares of 1:49.4. Takter finished seventh in the Meadowlands trainer standings.

Takter was voted 2020 Trainer of the Year by the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA) – and her year was so spectacular, the decision to have her receive the award did not even have to go to a vote. Takter’s stable led the way at the Meadowlands in 2020 with $2,428,472. With over $8 million won by her trainees, 31% victories and a UTRS rating of .442, the horses in Nancy’s stable seemed to almost never miss in the big events. The leader of the barn was Tall Dark Stranger, a three-year-old pacing colt who was named for Horse of the Year off of a year where he won 11 of 13 starts and earned $1,302,681, tops among all North American harness horses. The Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace, North America Cup, and two Grand Circuit victories at Lexington all were taken by a horse who earned widespread praise from seasoned veterans for his fierce tenacity to hold on to the lead late when threatened with defeat.

Nancy also trained the great trotting mare Manchego, whose 1:49.3 victory at Plainridge, a 5/8-mile track, was not only the sole sub-1:50 trot of the year, but probably the most impressive trotting mile of all. There was also Kissin In The Sand, who capped her year with seven straight wins against the top older pacing mares including her Breeders Crown, and Hambletonian Oaks champion Sorella, and Governor’s Cup winner Always A Miki.

Nancy emerged from the shadow of her Hall of Fame father Jimmy Takter to compete successfully at the Grand Circuit level. Takter passed the $4 million mark for the first time in 2019 and her stable star Captain Crunch rallied for a mild upset in the North America Cup in 1:47.2. That Dan Patch Award winning son of Captaintreacherous also won the Cane Pace at The Big M in 1:48 with Scott Zeron in the bike.
In 2023, Linda Toscano enjoyed her best season since 2013, winning 96 races and $4,051,206, and Toscano passed 2,500 career wins and $68 million in purses earnings. Her top horses included North American Cup winner and world champion It’s My Show, Lineative Hanover, Jugette winner Ucandahl Blue Chip, Sarasota Hanover, Cultured, Amazing Dream N, Fulton and Legendary Hanover.

In 2022, Hall of Fame trainer Linda Toscano sent out 84 winners and her stable won $2,927,422 in purse money. Toscano also passed 2,400 career wins and $64.5 million in career purse earnings. Her top horses included Amazing Dream N, Bare My Soul, Cultured, Tickertape Hanover, Jabberwocky, Fly like An Angel, It’s My Show, American Dealer N and Fulton.

Back where Linda Toscano won her first Breeders Crown with Molly Can Do It in 2002, the Hall of Fame trainer won the same event for Older Pacing Mares in 2021 with Rocknificent in 1:49, upsetting heavily favored divisional champion Lyons Sentinel and fresh off a Red Mile track record of 1:48 in the Allerage Farms. That four-year-old daughter of Captaintreacherous vaulted past the $1 million career earnings mark in 2021. Her other top performers in 2021 include Marsala Hanover, Find Happiness, Lean Hanover, Lady Chaos, High Minded and Ken’s Walner.

Toscano continued to add to her Hall of Fame legacy as a great developer of young stars in 2020, while sending out a consistent stable of overnight stock. Her top horses included 1:49.1 performer Somebaddude, New Jersey Sires Stakes champion Play Trix On Me, Pennsylvania Sires Stakes winner Rocknicient, Baby You’re The Best, Dip Me Hanover, Breeders Crown winner Lady Chaos, Marsala Hanover and Classicist.

With almost 2,200 training wins and $54 million, Toscano was fittingly given a rousing reception when she was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2019. Toscano also added a huge feather in her cap when Best In Show rallied to a 27-1 upset in the Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace.

In 2018, Toscano reached a pinnacle in her great career when she was nominated to the Harness Racing Hall Fame. Helpisontheway, a sophomore son of Toscano’s 2012 Horse of the Year Chapter Seven, overcame post 12 to take a mark of 1:51.4 in the Dennis Drazen.

Toscano saw her dream of winning her second Hambletonian in 2017 dashed by the career-ending injury of world champion Walner, who set a stakes record of 1:50.2 in a Stanley Dancer Memorial division shortly before being retired. The son of Toscano’s 2012 Horse of the Year Chapter Seven won nine of ten career starts. Toscano passed 2,000 career wins and was just shy of $50 million. Her stable reached the $2 million mark for the 11th straight season.

Toscano caught lightning in a bottle again in 2016 with world champion freshman trotter Walner. From the first crop of Toscano’s 2012 Horse of the Year Chapter Seven, Walner unleashed a world record of 1:51.3 in a $56,000 division of the International Stallion Stake at The Red Mile, and went on to set a Meadowlands track record of 1:53 in the $600,000 Breeders Crown. Walner capped a seven for eight season with another easy win in the $200,600 Kindergarten Series Final at The Big M.

Toscano enjoyed a dream season in 2012 when she was voted Trainer of the Year, campaigned Horse of the Year Chapter Seven, became the first female trainer to win the $1.5 million Hambletonian with Market Share and banked $6 million for the first time. The millionaire four-year-old trotter Chapter Seven blazed a world record of 1:50.1 winning the Nat Ray. Toscano also won a New Jersey Sires Stakes final for two-year-old trotting fillies with Southwind Cocoa. She sent out a pair of top flight three-year-old pacers in Heston Blue Chip and Bettors Edge, plus freshman pacing star Doctor Butch.

The breast cancer survivor started attending the races some 40 years ago when her father would take her to Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceways. She got her start with Buddy Regan in New York, and also worked with John Campbell when he had a stable. She went out on her own in 1984 and was the leading trainer in her home state before moving full-time to the Meadowlands in 1988.

The Rutgers Equine Science Center named Toscano the 2013 recipient of their annual ‘Spirit of the Horse’ award, which recognizes individuals whose lives have been profoundly changed because of their involvement with horses and who have acknowledged the impact by giving back to the horse industry.

Toscano became the first woman to harness a Breeders Crown winner with Molly Can Do It in the 2002 Mares Pace. Molly Can Do It entered Toscano’s barn at the end of her four-year-old season and banked more than $700,000 from 2002 to 2004.
Lucas Wallin enjoyed the best season of his young career, winning 44 races and $1,726,586. Wallin’s top horses were Dan Patch Award winner Soiree Hanover, D’Apper, Double Dippin and Devilish Hill.

Lucas Wallin continued his ascent into trotting’s upper echelon in 2022. Over the last couple of years Wallin has shown himself to be a master handler of stakes trotting stock, and he comes off of by far his best year – with only 135 starters, his stable earned almost $1.7 million (34 wins). Among the talent he has developed is Rebuff, one of his division’s top trotting males both last year and this. Rebuff equaled a Meadowlands track record of 1:49.4 in a division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial. Wallin also trained the two winners of their $253,000 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Championships for three-year-old trotters with Pour Mea Double conquering the males and Manon beat the females.

Lucas Wallin is one the young guns from Sweden. He posted his first $1 million season as a trainer in 2021, and won his first Breeders Crown with Rebuff, who was driven by Tim Tetrick. That three-year-old son of Muscle Hill is now one of the top prospects for the 2022 Hambletonian. Some of Wallin’s other big moments came with Hambletonian finalist Cuatro De Julio. That three-year-old son of Trixton won a Breeders Crown elimination in 1:52.2 and finished fourth in that final. Trained by Marie Otolan Bar, Cuatro De Julio took a mark of 1:51 at The Red Mile where he was also second by a nose in the 1:49.3 Kentucky Championship Series Final. At The Big M, he won a division of New Jersey Sires Stakes in 1:53.1 and was second by a neck in that final in 1:52.2.

In 2020, Wallin won the New Jersey Sire Stakes championship for three-year-old filly trotters at the Meadowlands with Ab’sattitudexpress. That Trixton filly also took a mark of 1:51.4 in a division of the Bluegrass, and finished third in both the Breeders Crown and Matron.

Lucas Wallin had two finalists in the 2019 Hambletonian Oaks. Princess Deo finished fifth and Queen Of Trix finished sixth. Each filly finished third in her elimination.

In 2018, Wallin started Winbak Noelle in the Oaks elims, but failed to reach the final.

Wallin grew up in Sweden, where he was driving ponies at the age of eight. Several years later, he began helping at his uncle Joakim Wallin’s stable.

In mid-2014, Wallin was alerted to an opportunity to work for Ake Svanstedt’s stable in the U.S. by childhood friend Oskar Florhed. Wallin spent two years with Svanstedt before deciding to go on his own.