
July 13, 2024

LEGENDARY HANOVER SETS STAKES RECORD IN MEADOWLANDS PACE

Legendary Hanover took the lead at the half-mile point of Saturday's \$650,000 Meadowlands Pace and dominated from there, drawing away in the stretch for a stakes-record 1:46.3 victory in the 48th edition of the one-mile event for 3-year-old pacers at the Meadowlands.

Legendary Hanover's stablemate Nijinsky, the 6-5 favorite, finished second, his first loss in seven races this year. Gem Quality was third. The margin of victory was 5-1/2 lengths.

The previous stakes record of 1:46.4 was set in 2014 by He's Watching.

Legendary Hanover, the 2-1 second choice, was fifth as the field reached the opening quarter in :26.2, but on top in a :53.2 half after a big move on the backstretch with driver James MacDonald.

He reached three-quarters in 1:20.2 and was unthreatened the rest of the way as he won for the fourth time in seven starts this season for trainer Anthony Beaton.

"I don't know what to say right now," Beaton said. "It's pretty awesome."

"He earned this race tonight. James made a bold move, but it was the winning move in the end. He just showed what kind of caliber horse he is."

MacDonald admitted the race didn't develop the way he imagined prior to heading onto the track.

"It was exactly what I didn't want to do before the race, but he's a big, strong horse and sometimes he likes to drag me around the track. That's kind of what he came up with tonight," MacDonald said. "I know he's got the gears to do it. The second he cleared, it wasn't like, oh, this is too much. It was like he was going to jog. He's a good horse."

"I wanted to give him a shot, try to put him in position to win. Even if you've got to overdrive a little bit, that's just how it goes in these big races. You don't want to be at the back saying 'what if.' I'm just so proud of the horse, so proud of Tony. I'm just thrilled."

Legendary Hanover came into the Meadowlands Pace final off a 1:48 win, with a :24.4 last quarter, in his elimination last week.

"The horse really solidified last week what he was, and what we've always thought he was," MacDonald said.

MacDonald and Beaton both won the Meadowlands Pace for the first time.

"I never dreamed in a million years I'd be winning races like this," said MacDonald, who has won Canada's Driver of the Year Award the past three years. "It was a thrill for me to just watch these races, so to be in them and win them, it's really special."

Nearing the finish line, MacDonald gave several celebratory fist pumps.

"A couple times (in the past) he would get lost on the front, but he didn't feel like that tonight," MacDonald said about his colt. "He was all business. And when he's all business, he's a scary animal. I'm just so happy to be along for the ride."

Legendary Hanover has won 10 of 16 career races and earned \$710,959 for owners Eric Good, West Wins Stable, and Mark Dumain. The son of Huntsville-Lillian Hanover was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms.

"I've said from day one that Legendary is a phenomenal animal," Beaton said. "Nijinsky is a phenomenal animal. There were others, too, in there. I'm just glad that James took the shot when he did, and the horse did the rest."

While Legendary Hanover's time was impressive, Beaton had other numbers on his mind when asked about the stakes-record clocking.

"We're just happy to win, whether it's the fastest, the slowest, as long as the checks keep coming in," he said.

Legendary Hanover paid \$6.00 to win.

FIVE MILL! WHAT A THRILL: A total of \$5,136,129 was wagered on the 14-race Pace Night program, the biggest night of business in the sport during 2024, and the third time in the last five years that wagering cleared the \$5-million hurdle on Pace Night.

Wagering on the Meadowlands Pace itself totaled \$628,010.

A LITTLE MORE: James MacDonald, the three-time defending O'Brien Award-winning Driver of the Year as the top pilot in Canada, recorded four winners on the Pace Night program to lead the driver colony. ... After Legendary Hanover won the Meadowlands Pace, there was one winning ticket in the 20-cent Pick-6, which was good for a return of \$57,497.22. ... The biggest 50-cent Pick-4 pool of the year was recorded on races eight through 11 after \$144,968 was pushed through the windows.

Meadowlands Pace Night (July 13) brought a mixture of predictability and surprise, and was highlighted by the fastest-ever Pace – a mythical 1:46.3 mile put up by Legendary Hanover – as well as the third \$5-million night of business at the windows over the last five Pace Nights.

The Pace – as well as five other major stakes events – were broadcast live to a nationwide audience on FOX Sports 2 (FS2) as The Big M and the TV team at the New York Racing Association (NYRA) continue to team up in a continuing effort to expand harness racing's exposure.

"Without question, FOX Sports has raised the bar significantly," said track Chief Operating Officer and General Manager Jason Settlemoir. "I want to thank NYRA and their team for their commitment to excellence in broadcasting. The three-hour show was informative, and their exciting way of showing the best in Standardbred racing to an international audience has clearly raised the interest on Meadowlands Pace Night to another level."

The numbers prove that Meadowlands Pace Night clearly is bigger at the most important place: the windows.

The average Pace Night handle over the last five years (2020-2024) is \$5,051,261. That number is over \$1-million more than the \$4,048,993 Pace Night averaged over the first five years of the New Meadowlands era (2011-2015).

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ELIMINATION RACE 7 - 7/6/2024 - 1:48.0 Fast

	Horse	Driver	Trainer
3	Legendary Hanover	James MacDonald	Anthony Beaton
1	Mirage Hanover	Tim Tetrick	Jake Leamon
2	Gem Quality	Dexter Dunn	Chris Ryder
4	Captain's Quarters	Jody Jamieson	Herbert Holland
5	Number Cruncher	Scott Zeron	Erv Miller
9	Remember The Alamo	Todd McCarthy	Tony Alagna
8	Miki Ray	Louis Roy	Andrew Harris
7	Better Is Nice	Andrew McCarthy	Tony Alagna
6	Ivy Park	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter

ELIMINATION RACE 10 - 7/6/2024 - 1:47.3 Fast

	Horse	Driver	Trainer
5	Nijinsky	Louis Roy	Anthony Beaton
6	Funtime Bayama	Dexter Dunn	Andrew Harris
4	Captain Albano	Todd McCarthy	Noel Daley
8	Captain Luke	Scott Zeron	Tony Alagna
3	Its Saturday Night	Andrew McCarthy	R. Nifty Norman
7	Huntinforchrome	Matt Kakaley	Travis Alexander
2	McCrunch	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter
1	Nuclear	Andy Miller	Joe Holloway

\$668,000 FINAL - 7/13/2024 - 1:46.3

	Horse	Driver	Trainer
1	Legendary Hanover	James MacDonald	Anthony Beaton
2	Nijinsky	Louis Roy	Anthony Beaton
3	Gem Quality	Yannick Gingras	Chris Ryder

2024

RACE 11 PACE	1 MILE	MEADOWLANDS PACE	\$50,000	Quarter times: 26.2; 53.2; 1:20.2; 1:46.3	TEMP.	82-0	TRACK: FAST	OFF: 10:46			
6	Legendary Hanover	6 ⁵ 3/4	1 ⁰ 1/4	1 ¹ 1/4	1 ² 1/2	1 ⁵ 1/2	1:47.0	26.1	2.00	James MacDonald	Anthony Beaton
3	Nijinsky	6 ⁵	5 ⁰ 3/4	4 ⁰ 2 3/4	4 ⁴ 3/4	2 ⁵ 1/2	1:47.3	26.3	*1.30	Louis Roy	Anthony Beaton
5	Gem Quality	3 ¹ 1/4	4 ² 3/4	5 ² 3/4	3 ⁴	3 ⁵ 1/2	1:47.4	26.3	8.80	Yannick Gingras	Chris Ryder
8	Captain Luke	1 ¹ 4	3 ¹ 1/2	3 ¹ 1/2	2 ² 1/2	4 ⁵ 3/4	1:48.0	27.0	50.20	Scott Zeron	Tony Alagna
9	Captain's Quarters	10 ⁷ 1/2	8 ⁰ 5/4	8 ⁰⁰	5 ⁶	5 ⁷	1:48.0	26.2	13.00	Jody Jamieson	Herbert Holland
10	Number Cruncher	7 ⁵ 3/4	9 ⁵ 3/4	9 ⁷	6 ⁶	6 ⁷ 1/4	1:48.1	26.1	112.10	Jordan Stratton	Erv Miller
4	Mirage Hanover	9 ⁰	7 ⁰ 4 1/2	6 ⁰⁴	8 ⁷	7 ⁸ 1/2	1:48.3	27.0	7.50	Tim Tetrick	Jake Leamon
1	Its Saturday Night	4 ² 1/2	6 ⁴ 1/4	7 ⁵	7 ⁶	8 ⁹	1:48.4	27.0	11.20	Andrew McCarthy	R. Nifty Norman
7	Captain Albano	8 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁷	10 ⁰⁰ 1/4	9 ⁸ 1/2	9 ¹¹	1:48.4	27.0	72.60	Todd McCarthy	Noel Daley
2	Funtime Bayama	2 ⁰ 1/4	2 ¹ 4	2 ¹ 1/4	10 ⁹ 1/2	10DQ ³¹	DIS		51.40	Dexter Dunn	Andrew Harris

Winning Owners: Eric K Good, West Wins Stable, Mark B Dumain

Winning Trainer: Anthony Beaton

Exacta (6-3) 9.70
 Trifecta (6-3-5) 93.40
 10-cent Superfecta (6-3-5-8) 85.60