

## HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS DINNER

By Steven Appel, DDS

"We're here to celebrate excellence." Those words, spoken by PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi, kicked off our Annual Awards Banquet. And what an excellent year it was for Philadelphia Park horsemen! The year 2004 could be summed up in two magic words... "Smarty Jones." However, there were many other outstanding performances, both equine and human, that helped make 2004 our most memorable year.

It was "Déjà vu, all over again" as Sherry Servis accepted the 2 y.o. colt and gelding award for Fox Hill Farms "Rockport Harbor". The steel grey son of Unbridled Song, trained by her husband John, is hoping to keep Philadelphia Park as the "Derby Capitol of the World" again this year.

Star Search Stable's "Hedging," trained by Allen Iwinski took the 2 y.o. filly awards, with 4 in-the-money finishes in her 5 race campaign.



Participants of the 2004 Horse of the Year Awards Dinner enjoying the evening event

The top 3 y.o. colt and gelding was PA-Bred "Prince Joseph." The Tony Correnti trainee won or placed in 5 stakes. Barbara Geraghty's homebred son of Harry The Hat, was off the board just once in 11 starts and banked \$154,592.

"Blind Canyon" garnered the older filly and mare award for Knew Stable and trainer John Dunn. The 4 y.o. highlighted her 2004 campaign with a 2nd place finish in the \$100,000 Maryland Million Oaks.

PTHA Board Member Mary Kernan, and partner Charles Biggs co-owned the leading older horse, "Heroic Spirit." The Jayne Vaders trainee continued a long run of success for Philly Park horses at the National Claiming Crown by winning the \$100,000 Rapid Transit Stakes.

One of the most popular winners of the night was Lupe Preciado trained "Caught In The Rain." The champion older mare, bred in PA by Casino Royale Farms, won 3 more stakes in 2004 boosting her earnings to \$455,034.

Another Pennsylvania Bred, "Flintville" was the claiming horse of the year. Owned by Adam Russo's Finish Line Racing Stable and trained by Scott

Lake, the son of Deposit Ticket did very little wrong in 2004, with 11 in-the-money finishes from 13 starts.

The Outstanding Claim of the Year was "Lone Traveler." Victory Thoroughbreds founder Lou Cacchio has made some astute claims for his partnerships, but the \$7,500 he spent for "Lone Traveler" turned out to be quite a bargain. He won 7

races for his delighted partners, including the \$40,000 Shumaker Hcp at Penn National. Like the above mentioned "Flintville," he was bred in PA by Ron Houghton.

Other winners of the evening were:

Leading Owner – Jack Armstrong

Leading Owner (B Division) – Lori Goodz

Winningest Horse – Assaggini

Leading Trainer – Scott Lake

Leading Trainer (B Division) – Stephen Mick

Apprentice Jockey of the Year – Frankie Pennington

2004's Leading Jockey was Jose Flores, after finishing 2nd for 4 consecutive

*Continued on page 3*

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**LARRY RIVELLO**  
President

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

On February 16th, our new board members **Mary Kernan**, **Kate DeMasi** and **Scott Lake** attended our board meeting. I welcomed them stating the purpose of this board's duty is to look out for the health and welfare of its membership; also if anyone disagrees with an agenda item please be heard. My philosophy is "Disagreeing is not disloyalty."

I appointed **Steve Appel** treasurer, **Salvatore DeBunda** was re-elected 1st Vice President, **Donald Reeder** 2nd Vice President, **Michael Ballezzi** Executive Director and **Connie Youmans** secretary.

*Update on gaming.* This gaming issue like breeding horses. It takes so long to get your horses to the races.

On July 5, 2004 **Governor Edward Rendell** penned his signature to the legislation known as House Bill #2330. The Bill allowed slot machines in

the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It's now nine months later and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board has yet to hire its top managers to regulate the industry.

Politics!!!!

Rockport Harbor ran a big race at Oaklawn Park in the Rebel Stakes Gr. III, Rockport Harbor now is battling hoof problems and a blood clot. We wish the best of luck to owner **Rick Porter**, trainer **John Servis** and Rockport Harbor.

If you weren't at the 2004 Horse of the Year Awards Dinner celebrated March 30th, you missed an evening of fun and excitement. It's nice to see our horsemen and horsewomen honor each other. This is the American way. The results of the awards are elsewhere in this edition.

Congratulations to all the Awards recipients.

I made an after dinner toast: May Philadelphia Park be very, very successful. May our horsemen and horsewomen profit from their success.

May we all be racing for daily purses of \$400,000. May God Bless and protect our horses because without the horses, there would be nothing.

Many thanks for attending the awards dinner to Secretary of Agriculture **Dennis C. Wolff**, **Ben Nolt, Jr.**, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission and **Mark McDermott**, PHBA Executive Secretary.

Thanks to **Bruce Casella** for his coverage of this event, **Keith Jones** for being Master of Ceremonies, **Connie, Cathy, Leslie, Maggie** and committee chairman **Steve Appel** for putting this ceremony together in a first-class fashion.

I take a moment to mention the passing of the well known and respected jockey **Nick Jemas**. Nick rode in the 40's and 50's and was the past National Manager-Director of the Jockey Guild. Above all he was my friend. God Bless.

**Thought of the Day**  
*Patience is a virtue.*

*(Awards Dinner) Continued from page 1*

years. His award was presented by his primary client, PTHA Board Member **Scott Lake**.

The 2004 Horse of the Year was **Fox Hill Farms "Rockport Harbor."** **John Servis** is once again hoping to keep **Philly Park** in the Triple Crown spotlight with his undefeated 2 y.o. He shipped to New York to win the Grade 3 **Nashua Stakes** and the Grade 2 **Remsen Stakes**. We all wish John well in his quest for a "Derby Double."

**Sal DeBunda**, **Ralph Delaney** and **John Servis** also received our PTHA Special Achievement Awards.

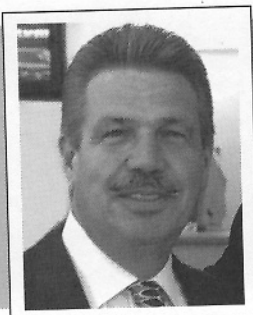
**Ralph Delaney** was honored for his many years of service to Pennsylvania's thoroughbred horsemen. The always smiling **Ralph** is a walking history book

of racing in the 20th Century. He has had a storied career, first as a jockey, then as a trainer for **George Widener** and **Erdenheim Farm**, in their heydays. Even when he competed at the upper levels of the sport, he made serving horsemen a top priority in his life.

**Salvatore DeBunda**, our PTHA Vice President, has worked tirelessly behind the scenes on legal issues involving our horsemen. Never were his legal strengths more evident that in our recent battle for slot machine legislation. Not only did his political connections enable horsemen to have a voice in the legislative process, but his behind the scenes crafting of the language of the bill, provides security for horsemen and their families that is unprecedented. We truly have the most horsemen-friendly slots bill in the

country thanks to **Sal's** hard work.

Our final Special Achievement Award went to **John Servis**. John's award went beyond his handling of 3 y.o. champ "Smarty Jones." Throughout a pressure packed Triple Crown run, John (and his wife **Sherry**) was an eloquent spokesman for our wonderful game of racing, and for the horsemen of Philadelphia Park. It became evident throughout the spring, that not only was a champion horse emerging, but a champion human was emerging too! We all marveled at his skillful handling of the press and the pressure, looking as if he'd done it a zillion times before. John, it wasn't just "Smarty" who floated all our boats a lot higher in the spring of 2004. It was you, also ■



## LEVELING THE TRACK

### PA. HORSEMEN PUSH FOR TESTING, PUNISHMENT OF CHEATERS.

*Reprinted with permission from the Philadelphia Inquirer and Craig Donnelly*

Handicapping at its best is the study and weighing of numerous variables that give each race its uniqueness, deciding which factors are critical in solving the race puzzle.

But no handicapping factor has ever been as significant as the rise in recent decades of the "super trainers" who often improve horses dramatically in brief periods of time, leaving other variables irrelevant.

Mike Ballezzi, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, says he is aware of the public's perceptions and suspicions and feels that, with the imminent arrival of slots and major-league racing at Philadelphia Park, now would be an ideal time to remedy various loopholes.

"We need uniform medication penalties and testing that is the best it can be," Ballezzi said yesterday. "The stewards need to have consistent and fair but stricter penalties for drug violations. It's a problem in that in my opinion, it's not currently a level playing field. My ambition is to

let every owner and trainer here realize that it is a level playing field."

Ballezzi said that projected changes don't target anyone specifically but that many horsemen have complained about what they view as cheating.

"If you work hard and get a horse ready for a race and lose because somebody's cheating, then that's unfair," Ballezzi said. "As long as there is racing, someone is going to try and take an edge. Every industry leader has a role here. The commission [Pennsylvania Racing Commission] can exert tremendous influence economically and [by] making sure we have the best testing possible. The stewards and [testing] lab are under them. Management has a role in that it's their house and any impropriety affects their bottom line."

Ballezzi feels that a national uniform policy on medication has yet to be reached in part because the Association of Racing Commissioners, International and the North American Pari-Mutuel Regulators Association are competing regulatory groups "that can't get together on a uniform medication policy. Until they do, there is no national leadership, so we need to take care of our own house first."

Ballezzi says previous small fines or brief suspensions dealt to offending trainers using enhancement drugs fail to solve the problem and that "penalties should be as severe as possible."

"Seven days or a \$500 fine is not prohibition, in my opinion," Ballezzi said. "A 10- or 20-thousand-dollar fine or an indefinite suspension has some teeth to it."

"We are prepared to take the initiative at Philadelphia Park. I would encourage the public to make their voices heard by contacting the necessary people and writing letters. This should be a combined effort by everybody."

One practice in effect in New York is the random testing of entire fields about 15 minutes before post time, which Ballezzi sees as significant.

"If you look at California [where several trainers had their horses quarantined after positive tests and subsequently saw their winning percentages plummet], it shows a remarkable change in performance prior to testing," Ballezzi noted.

Ben Nolt Jr., the executive director of the Pennsylvania Racing Commission, said yesterday that his office, "hasn't been approached on anything yet" concerning the horsemen's plans.

Veterinarian Steve McBride, a private practitioner at Philadelphia Park, said, "Everybody wants a level playing field, but the commission must initiate any action. Any effort that makes it less likely that someone is bending the rules is a positive thing. For example, there is no real blood test for epogen [EPO, a blood enhancer] that has really negative side effects," McBride said.

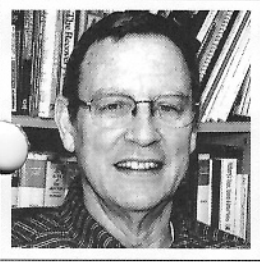
One change that is already being implemented at Philadelphia Park is restricting each owner to having a maximum of two trainers at the track.

Ballezzi cites a case in which one owner has two horses coupled in a race, and two other horses in the same race are trained by two of his other trainers.

"Bettors aren't going to want to play in a situation like that," Ballezzi said ■

## TROPHY LIST

DATE	OWNER	HORSE	TRAINER
4/16/2005	Timber Creek Farm	Yankee Bride	Cynthia Reese
4/9/2005	Joseph Asbell	Purple and Gold	Phillip Aristone
4/2/2005	Menotti Lembo	Anjiz's Prospect	Manuel Berrios
3/26/2005	Gerald Artz	Respectable Gal	Mark Fusco
3/19/2005	Anita Racing Stable	Elegant Paradox	Alfredo Velazquez
3/12/2005	Emmanuel Tzortzakis	Tail Gate	Emmanuel Tzortzakis
2/26/2005	Jonathan Pukrop	Angels and Saints	Jennie Wilhelm Saldana
2/26/2005	JPK Stable	Alarming Fantasy	Ernest Cranfield



CHAPLAIN, JACK CORDELL

### TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE

by Chaplain Jack Cordell

Someone has suggested that there are two kinds of people in the world – “*Here-I-am*” and “*There-you-are*” types. That thought has rattled around in my mind, because it has lots of truth to it. As I see it there are actually two kinds of “*Here-I-am*” people. One type will stand off from others but wish for someone to talk to them. They hang back in the shadows. They need someone to affirm them, to care about them, to make them a part of what’s happening. So often they go unnoticed and even ignored in life because people think they neither want nor need recognition.

How mistaken we are about them.

A second kind of “*Here-I-am*” person stands opposite the first. These folks always seek to draw attention to themselves. Ego is in no short supply with these types who have no difficulty putting others down to build themselves up. They constantly think about, talk about and brag about ol’ number one. The topic of conversation begins and ends with them, “*I*”. This type reminds us of the words from the song, “*You’re so vain, you probably think this song is about you.*” If the first “*Here-I-am*” type needs attention, the second needs correction.

But the other kind of person is the “*There-you-are*” type. This man or woman constantly thinks about others without calling attention to themselves. We find him/her serving others, looking out for the needs of others, seeking out those who seem

left out, overlooked or ignored. We usually gravitate to them, because they seem to care genuinely for people. In fact, the “*There-you-are*” type reflects something about what the Bible calls love in I Corinthians 13 – “*... love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, and “It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” Love stays in the “there-you-are” mode, always looking out toward the needs of others. Strangely enough, the “there-you-are” types find great joy and meaning in life because they first give of themselves without grabbing for attention from others.*

Today is a good time for us to work on becoming “*There-you-are*” people in a world filled with “*Here-I-am*” types. It’s about learning what the Bible calls – **love.** ■

### FAREWELL & MANY THANKS TO SUE FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE

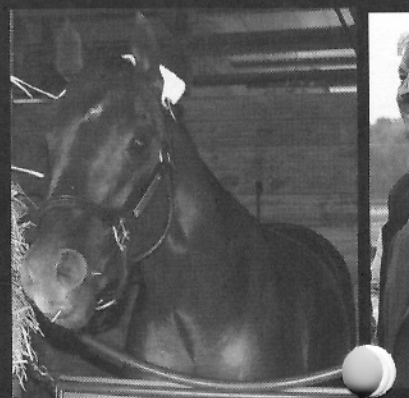
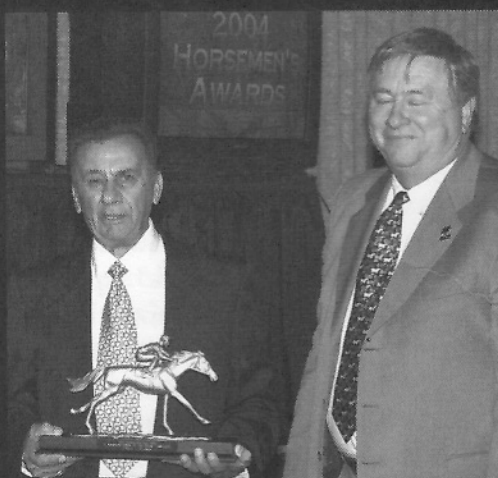


Sue Hall recognized for outstanding service to the Chaplain at Philadelphia Park Racetrack, April 2001-April 2005

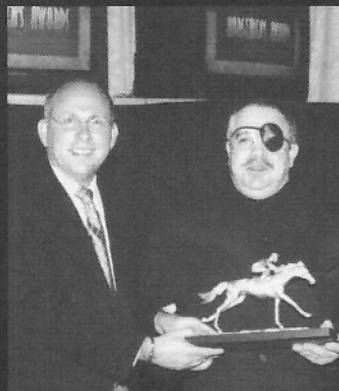


Photos from the Easter Bunny Egg Hunt

# 2004 HORSE OF THE



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(CONTINUATION)



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# A CHAT ON THE BENCH

...WITH BRUCE CASELLA

By Allan Mason

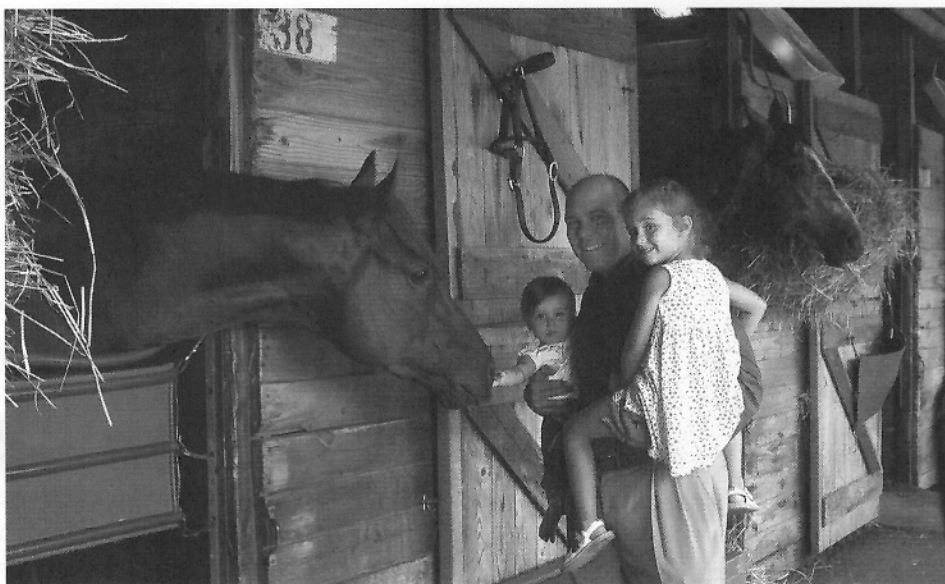
This is my first time meeting Mr. Casella, but I like him from the start. Many of us know him from his horse racing show *Let's Go Racing*, which airs Fridays on CN8 at 2:30 PM and again at midnight.

Bruce just got back from the Arkansas Derby where he did a story on a local horse, who also happens to be a contender in this year's Kentucky Derby: *Afleet Alex*. *Afleet Alex* is based out of Delaware Park and trained by Tim Ritchey. The owners, all from Philadelphia and the surrounding area, let Bruce put a wireless mic on them to capture their emotion as *Afleet Alex* ran to the largest victory in Arkansas Derby history. Bruce is also covering Rockport Harbor, another Kentucky Derby hopeful, trained by John Servis (of *Smarty Jones* fame).

Bruce has an obvious love of horse racing, which dates back to his college days at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. He majored in broadcasting, but became interested in horse racing as a hobby. It was common for ECU students to cut classes and go to the Keeneland Meet thirty miles north of Lexington; as a result he was swept up in the thrill and excitement of the sport.

His junior year, he focused on his broadcasting career and worked for a TV station in Lexington as a sportscaster. After that, he worked in several different states at various jobs as a reporter and anchor. Locally he has worked with Channel 10 (weekend anchor), Channel 3, Prism Sports, Comcast Sportsnet (morning sports anchor), and has been with CN8 for the past 5 years.

His resume reads like a who's who of the sports broadcasting world. Over the years he's had the opportunity to work in a variety of interesting positions. "I've been a sportscaster since



*Bruce Casella, his daughters Sarah and Jenna, with Smarty Jones*

1978 and have been involved in a wide range of projects. For example, I was involved in the TV show *Football, Basketball, and Baseball's Funniest Pranks* where we would travel around the country and pull pranks on athletes." When I asked if the athletes had a good sense of humor and enjoyed it, he grinned, "That was a lot of fun. They all did."

"I also worked on the Randall Cunningham Show. And I started, and was the original producer, for the famous Philadelphia show, *The Great Sports Debate*. It was popular during the late eighties and early nineties."

"Event though I've been a sportscaster for 27 years, there have been times when I've been involved in other things, and most of them related to horse racing. In 1985, I worked at Garden State Park where I was part of their PR department coordinating their TV coverage. This was during the time of *Spend A Buck*." (According to one website, *Spend A Buck's* career earnings were \$4,220,689.) "That was the thrill of a lifetime. *Spend A Buck* made history, because he forced the establishment to raise the purses for the Triple Crown Races. After he won the

Kentucky Derby, since there was no bonus structure, *Spend A Buck* came back and raced at Garden State Park in the Jersey Derby instead of the Preakness Stakes. He really forced the industry to take a closer look at their sport. I was a part of that whole scene, which was unbelievable."

"I left GSP and began working at channel 3 for a year before ESPN called me to co-host and produce a show called *Thoroughbred Digest* (this show evolved into what is known today as *Wire to Wire* on ESPN). I traveled around the country with this show and covered horse racing for about 3 years before I decided I wanted to get back into regular sports broadcasting." So, in 1990, he came back to this area to start a racing show with Sal DeBunda. Then, with the added support of Larry Riviello, Mike Ballezzi, and the rest of the PTHA Board, *Let's*



*Bruce Casella and his colleagues at CN8*

Go Racing was born.

His current work on Let's Go Racing must be rewarding. He is the producer, editor, and photographer of the show. As a result, he enjoys free rein to pursue stories and ideas that interest him but he is also committed to appealing to a wide audience in order to broaden the popularity of the sport. He is able to draw on his years of experience covering the Sport of Kings to add depth to the show. "I've covered a ton of Kentucky Derbys. It was an unbelievable experience back in the Howard Cosell days. I can remember Jack Klugman when he had Jaklin Klugman in the race (he came in third for the 1980 Derby). And, I also remember back to when it wasn't as popular as it is now."

Yes, horse racing is a big business, and growing in popularity thanks to Smarty Jones' run for the Triple Crown last year. In addition, we will soon have slots at racetracks in Pennsylvania. The outcome should help bring more high-quality horses and therefore excitement around the sport, to the area.

Because of Smarty Jones, Let's Go Racing hit its heyday last year with the story Smarty Jones: The Inside Story—a video that finished Runner Up in the Local Television category for the National Eclipse Awards. "We got beat out by the Louisville Kentucky NBC station that actually has the Kentucky Derby. They did 11 hours of coverage with over 100 people. I got edged out by those guys." Not bad to place second in the same competition

when it was just him with his camera and a mic. He was also the only person allowed back into the barn and to have a wireless mic on John Servis. "John Servis and I developed a great relationship. For Christmas, he and his wife Sherry gave me the bridle and the reins that Smarty Jones wore when he won the Kentucky Derby," Bruce says, as one would talk of a friend. "The chance to cover a horse like Smarty Jones only comes along once in a lifetime." At first I think that might be a shame, but I realize there is pride in having done so much with such limited resources and it really is a testament to how much a man and his camera can accomplish.

"I get to cover the Super Bowl, the Eagles, Phillies, the Flyers, the Sixers, all of it, but horse racing has always been my favorite. I've always thought it was important for the television industry to promote it. Fifteen years ago, there wasn't anyone who produced horse racing shows and it was a struggle to keep Let's Go Racing on the air. We started out on Prism Sports, moved to Sports Channel Philadelphia, then Comcast Sportsnet, and have finally found home on CN8. Thank goodness the PTHA and key members including Mike Ballezzi, Sal DeBunda, and Larry Riviello, decided to support this show. With the support of all of the board members, we've been able to keep it going. They pay the freight and I produce it and get it done."

Of course, as with any great production, there are numerous people whose help is invaluable, yet they go unno-

ticed by the viewers. Bruce tells me of all the people who are so dedicated to helping make each show great. There is obviously the support of the PTHA Board of Directors; it seems without their support there might not even be a show. However, there are also key individuals who contribute their talent to the success of the show:

Dr. Steven Appel, Reporter. "When I get tight, and need an interview, he is always ready to come over at the drop of the hat, which I so appreciate," Bruce tells me. In fact, I have to say the same thing. Dr Appel has also helped me out with articles for the newsletter as well.

Dick Jerardi, Co-host. Writer for the Philadelphia Daily News.

Keith Jones, Co-host. Track announcer.

Kerri Walsh, Reporter. "She'll probably be on once a month or so. She's played a big part in creating the popularity of the show," Bruce mentions.

When I ask what motivates him in life, he quickly tells me, "I have two daughters, Sarah (5 ½ years) and Jenna (21 months), and my wife, Jenny. They're fantastic. They mean the world to me. Everything I do is to try to keep them happy."

As our chat comes to a close, I realize Bruce is a hard working family man, and one of the fortunate few who has a job he enjoys immensely. What isn't to love? He spends a lot of time with the horses, and the many hard working, committed, people who live and breathe the sport of horse racing ■

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## RECENT EVENTS

Our thoughts and prayers go out to trainer **Janet Polachek** for a complete recovery. **Janet** was critically injured in a training accident at Mt. Holly Farm.

Good to know trainer **Paul Bonaventura** is recuperating after his brief hospitalization. **Paul** loves this business!

Condolences and prayers are sent to **Joseph Rosen** on the sudden loss of his beloved wife, **Bev**. We hope his grief will be tempered by the wonderful memories of their life together. **Joe** is a long-time New Jersey jockey agent.



Wonderful news! Trainer **John F. Scanlan's** son **Patrick**, a 26 year old native of Bensalem that enlisted after his high school graduation from Bensalem High School, is home from a ten month deployment in Iraq. **Patrick** is an AM tracker attached to the 31st MEU, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, and 3rd Marine Regiment. He is an 8 year veteran that re-enlisted after 9/11. **Patrick** took shrapnel while in combat and underwent surgery in Okinawa to repair the injury before coming back to Bensalem. His recent awards include Navy Achievement medal V, Combat Action, Marine Core Good Conduct 2nd award, National Defense medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal and Sea Service Deployment ribbon. We can only imagine the great homecoming the **Scanlan's** are having with wife **Holly** (who teaches school in California), father **John**, mother **Lynn** and brother **John, Jr.** WHO-AAH!



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Anne Peters, Pedigree Specialist of Three Chimneys Farm, Midway, Kentucky says:

"LUCKY CLONE is by leading sire BROAD BRUSH, and is a full brother to BROAD BRUSH'S leading earner, Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner CONCERN. His dam is G1 winner FARA'S TEAM, far and away the best runner by her sire, TUNERUP. With this background of genetic upgrading, LUCKY CLONE has tremendous potential as a stallion."

- Lucky Clone won or placed in 21 of 30 starts.
- Out of TEST STAKES (G1) winner FARA'S TEAM (\$360,515).
- Full brother to Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner CONCERN (\$3,079,350) sire of 14 stakes horses and the earners of over \$5.1-million.
- Full brother to Martha Washington S. (G3) winner TENNIS LADY (\$283,047) and stakes-placed BROAD EXPECTATIONS.
- By leading sire BROAD BRUSH, second only to DANZIG in percentage of stakes winners from foals (15.2).
- Family of leading California sire STRIKE GOLD.

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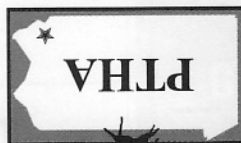
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