

1 Max Contract (Huntsville-Big McDeal-McArdle)

Max Contract easily captured her Breeders Crown elimination with a 1:50.3, come-from-behind effort for driver Andy Miller and trainer Julie Miller. The 4-year-old mare, who was bred by Steve Jones now has 14 victories in 25 starts and earnings of \$435,305 for owners Andy Miller Stable Inc. and Jean Goehlen.

Max Contract has been the model of consistency all season, rarely finishing off the board for her connections. Besides winning a \$20,000 Open at Harrah's Philadelphia, she was a strong second in the \$100,000 Clara Barton to Mikala at Plainridge. Last season, at age 3, she won the \$111,500 EBC Final at Tioga, the \$92,000 Shady Daisy, the \$52,400 Geers, and the \$150,000 Mistletoe Shalle at The Meadowlands in a heart-stopping 1:48.3.

Max Contract is the third of six foals out of Big McDeal p, 3, 1:49.1f (\$818,544) and is a half-sister to I'm A Big Deal (Somebeachsomewhere) p, 4, 1:49f (\$418,910) and Hungry Man (Stay Hungery) p, 3, 1:49f (\$121,790).

Quotes from Trainer Julie Miller

"That was really nice (the elimination). She raced here at Hoosier Park on Sept. 23 and came home sick. It took a long time getting her over it. I could have raced her maybe at Lexington, but you have to be 110 percent for the Breeders Crown. It looks like right now we made the right decision. I was worried. I thought she might be a little short, but she had enough in the tank."

Quotes from Driver Andy Miller

"She loves the long stretch here and loves to close," winning driver Andy Miller said. "It's just a shame we were not able to race her in Lexington on a big day. She got sick on us. She raced here in Indiana and then got sick on us for two weeks. We were fighting that and seems back to being healthy now."



2 Silver Label (Bettor's Delight-Hidden Gem-Real Desire)

Silver Label was fourth in her elimination to Max Contract, timed in 1:51.1, with a :27.2 final panel brush, in rein to Scott Zeron. Bred and owned by Millar Farms of Stouffville, ON, Silver Label is trained by Nick Gallucci, and has amassed \$1,019,268 in career earnings from 20 wins, nine seconds, and two thirds in 29 starts.

The 4-year-old mare captured the \$171,400 Lady Liberty at The Meadowlands on Aug. 5 in a blistering 1:47.3, career best and has consistently trotted in 1:52 or faster in most of her miles all season, and earlier in the year dominated the open and preferred ranks in Canada. She took a mark of 1:50.2 at age 3 at Woodbine in the \$162,000 Ontario Sires Stakes Final with Doug McNair at the lines.

Silver Label is the fifth of eight foals out of Hidden Gem p, 4, 1:52.3s (\$88,880), and is a full sister to Savethelastdance p, 3, 1:51.3s (\$193,782); Scouts Report p, 4, 1:51s (\$192,654); and Franschoek p,5,1:51.2s (\$179,383).

Quotes from Trainer Nick Gallucci

"I was disappointed. It hasn't seemed like she's been racing too well when she's on the front in the early part of the race. We'll see. Hopefully next week she can advance somewhat later in the race. I don't think fitness is an issue at this point in the year. She's got enough races in her. I just hope I can get her straightened away and get her somewhat back to the Silver Label that we saw in the summer. You like to finish the year strong, too, so we'll see what happens."



3 Dabarndawgswatchin (He's Watching-Addison Bay-Camluck)

Dabarndawgswatchin was fifth in her Breeders Crown elimination for driver James Macdonald and trainer David Menary, racing evenly to the winning Kobe's Gigi and timed in 1:51.1. Despite finishing fifth, she did pace home in :26.3. Bred by Julia Ferguson, who also owns her, and Lloyd Stone of Ontario, this 5-year-old mare has career earnings of \$456,160 from 19 wins, 21 seconds, and 15 thirds in 83 lifetime starts.

Dabarndawgswatchin has been a tough competitor on the Ontario circuit this year, winning a \$33,000 Preferred event on Sept. 23 in a career best 1:49, and a similar event on Aug. 11 in 1:49.4, and on May 13, when she was clocked in 1:50. Dabarndawgswatchin is the second of five foals out of the Camluck mare Addison Bay p, 5, 1:51.3s (\$414,066) and has a full sister in Baywatching p, 4, 1:52.3s (\$91,614).

Quotes from Trainer David Menary

"Nobody in there really made up a lot of ground in the elimination. Hopefully, with a good post in the final, coming back in seven days and being in a regular rotation, maybe she can get a good check. She's had a good year. She hung around home and raced against some good mares and had a good year. It seems like she's gotten a little better every year. Hopefully, that continues. She never really throws in a clunker. I wish they had mile-and-a-quarter races. She's always pacing through the wire. She's got a lot of stamina. Some of those other mares may have a little quicker turn of foot, but she always puts forth a good effort."



4 Marloe Hanover (Captaintreacherous-Mesmerize Bluechip-Sportswriter)

Marloe Hanover finished fifth in her Breeders Crown elimination for driver Doug McNair, timed in 1:51.3, with a :27.2 final quarter. Trained by Virgil Morgan, Jr., the 6-year-old mare was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms and is owned by Let It Ride Stables, J. L. Benson Stables, and Bottom Line Racing and has \$1,001,757 in her career coffers. To date she has amassed 34 wins, 27 seconds, and 25 thirds from 138 career starts for her connections. She took her career mark of 1:50 for driver Brett Miller on July 22, 2022, in a Scioto Downs Filly & Mare Open Pace, when she cruised to a front-stepping performance.

Marloe Hanover is the second of six foals out of Mesmerize Bluechip p, 2, 1:55s (\$12,306), making her a full sister to the 2-year-old gelding Magnifico Hanover p, 2, 1:51. (\$107,625), and a half-sister to Marksman Hanover (Bettor's Delight) p, 5, 1:51.4f (\$120,128) and to the 4-year-old mare Mexican Hanover (Somebeachsomewhere) p, 3, 1:53.2 (\$97,309), etc.

Quotes from Trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr.

"She's just a big, tough, strong mare. We decided to put her in, hoping it would be a short field. She just tries so hard. She's got tactical gate speed. I was happy with her effort. She needed a little room in the stretch and maybe would have finished a little better. But she's a good girl."



5 Kobe's Gigi (JK Endofanera-Twin Oaks Tess-Western Hanover)

Kobe's Gigi took her elimination handily in 1:50.1 for driver Dexter Dunn and trainer Melissa Essig, who conditions the 5-year-old mare for breeder Harvey Fry, and owners Leander Schwartz and the Black & White Stables. This was her 14th win in 50 career starts, and she owns a hefty lifetime bankroll of \$554,891. She's done well this season in the Opens at Hoosier Park and at Harrah's Philadelphia, and was second by a nose to Grace Hill in the \$100,000 Cleopatra at Scioto Downs on July 29, timed in 1:48.4.

Kobe's Gigi is the fifth foal out of Twin Oaks Tess p, 4, 1:52.3f (\$281,192), and has half-siblings in That's A Bingo (Shadyshark Hanover) p, 3, 1:53s (\$73,963) and to Isitlikeittell (Tellitlikeitis) p, 3, 1:52.3s (\$19,230).

Quotes from Trainer Missy Essig

"I was very pleased with her. She's had a lot of bad luck, and she finally got a great trip and showed us what she's really made of. We'd been racing her in an open bridle and Dexter said she was kind of [looking around] in her last start, so we put cups on her with slits and he said she was on her 'A' game tonight. She was able to focus more. She wasn't just out there lollygagging. She gives her all. She's a gutty girl."

Quotes from Driver Dexter Dunn

"We put blinkers on her and she was sharp. She was good. It is important to win the elims to get them a good draw in the final. If you don't win you are likely to draw the nine-hole which makes it extremely tough in the final. You want to give them the chances to get a nice draw."



6 Drama Act (Well Said-Lounge Act-Cam's Card Shark)

Drama Act finishing third to Max Contract in her Breeders Crown elimination, driven by Yannick Gingras for trainer Ron Burke to a 1:51.1 clocking. Impressively, she paced her final panel in :26.1. Bred and owned by The Ok Corral of Hampshire, IL, Drama Act has \$1,092,228 in her bank account from 40 wins, 16 seconds, and nine third in 93 career trips behind the starting gate.

This 6-year-old mare has been a terror in the Filly & Mare Open ranks this season, winning at Yonkers in 1:51.1 on Oct 6, in 1:52.4 on Sept. 1, in 1:51.4 on Aug. 11, and in 1:52.3 on Aug. 4. She has been teamed with the Burke Brigade since the start of her 3-year-old campaign in 2020. Drama Act is the first of three foals out of Lounge Act p, 3, 1:53f (\$137,020) and is a half-sister to Chase Lounge (Sweet Lou) p, 4, 1:50.2f (\$235,088).

Quotes from Trainer Ron Burke

"She as good, I was happy," said the Hall of Fame conditioner.



7 Boudoir Hanover (Captaintreacheraus-Bedroomconfessions-American Ideal)

Boudoir Hanover finished third to Kobe's Gigi in her Breeders Crown elimination, in rein to Todd McCarthy for trainer Tony Alagna, timed in 1:51. This 4-year-old mare comes into the Final with \$1,087,915 in lifetime earnings for owners Riverview Racing, Alagna Racing, Caviart Farms, Daniel Plouffe, and S. Head. She took her career mark of 1:48.3 in the \$115,000 Nadia Lobell at age 3, on July 1, 2022, at Hoosier Park.

Boudoir Hanover was bred by Riverview Breeding and Visionary Breeders and was a \$200,000 yearling purchase at Harrisburg. She is the first foal out of the Bedroomconfessions p, 5, 1:48.4s (\$1,001,441), and is a full sister to Bellisima Hanover p, 3, 1:50.1s (\$256,905), and to the freshman pacing mare Bree Hanover (\$6,950).

Quotes from Trainer Tony Alagna

"I thought she raced well. She left good off the rail and got a good trip. I was happy with her. She's had a good year. She was able to make money at Oak Grove early. We were able to pick and choose our spots. She was very good at Cumberland Run on Oct. 17."



8 Grace Hill (Always B Miki-Western Silk-Western Terror)

World Champion Grace Hill was fourth in 1:51 for driver Doug McNair and trainer Virgil Morgan, Jr., in her elimination, timed in 1:51 behind Kobe's Gigi. She captured the \$400,000 Breeders Crown Open Mare Pace in 2022, clocked in 1:48.4 and besting Test Of Faith by a head with Doug McNair in the bike. She was fifth in the \$600,000 Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Pace to that same rival in 2021, after winning her elim in 1:50.3.

The 5-year-old mare was riding a three-race win streak prior to her elim, capturing the \$162,800 Milton at Woodbine in 1:48 on Sept. 16; the \$250,000 Dayton Distaff at Dayton in 1:49.2 on Sept. 30, and the \$69,500 Allerage on Oct. 8 in 1:49.3. She also captured the \$100,000 Cleopatra at Scioto Downs on July 29 in 1:48.4.

Grace Hill is the fourth foal out of Western Silk, p, 3, 1:50.1s (\$1,679,347), and is a full sister to Banus Hill p, 3, 1:53.4 (\$31,544), and is a half-sister to Annie Hall (Captaintreacherous) p, 3, 1:50.3f (\$217,984) and Cherrio Hill (Captaintreacherous) p, 2, 1:51.2f (\$59,378).

Quotes from Virgil Morgan, Jr.

"That was a tough spot. Doug got away sixth and they went a good first quarter, but I knew when the half came up and they went the second quarter in :29-and-change, she was going to have to do a lot of work. There was no live cover. That race just did not materialize for her at all. She will be put into play this week for sure. She does like to pass, she came home in :26 flat, but it wasn't enough. At the half, it was just kind of an impossible spot to overcome."

"She's going to have to do some work," he said, regarding Post Eight. "She's going to have to go forward and be put into play. She's been in this situation before, and her record speaks for itself."

Quotes from Driver Doug McNair

"She wasn't 100 percent either I don't think. I but didn't have her in the right spot either. I mistimed the gate with her, and it was over at the quarter pole."



9 Valar Dohaeris (Huntsville-Bon Mot-Allamerican Ingot)

Valar Dohaeris was a strong second to Kobe's Gigi in her Breeders Crown elimination, beaten 2¾ lengths and timed in 1:50.4. Trained by Ake Svanstedt, the 4-year-old mare paced a final quarter in :27.1 for driver Yannick Gingras. Bred by the LST Stables and William DeVan, Jr., Valar Dohaeris is owned by Knutsson Trotting Inc., and has \$321,150 from eight wins, six seconds, and eight thirds in 31 lifetime starts. She took her mark of 1:50 in a Meadowlands conditioned race on Sept. 1 with Mark MacDonald in the sulky.

Valar Dohaeris is the seventh of nine foals out of Bon Mot p, 3, 1:53.4f (\$74,060) and is a half-sister to Al Hambra (Art Major) p, 5, 1:53.3h (\$313,999); Grave Dancer (Rock N Roll Heaven) p, 4, 1:51f (\$194,237); and Frenzie (Bettor's Delight) p, 5, 1:53.3h (\$156,248), among others.

Quotes from Trainer Ake Svanstedt

"She was a surprise. Yannick (driver Gingras) used her hard the first quarter, but she came home good. She has always been a slow starter, but today she went :25.4. So, I am happy with her. She has been OK, but she hasn't made so much money, just racing in overnights. We'll see what she can do in the final. This was a step up for her."



10 Mikala (Always B Miki-Shes Some Treasure-Somebeachsomewhere)

Mikala finished second in her elimination to Max Contract after leading throughout most of the mile for driver George Brennan and trainer Nik Drennan. The 5-year-old mare has amassed career earnings of \$512,567. She also captured the \$100,000 Clara Barton in 1:49 at Plainridge on July 23 of this year, and the \$159,000 Haughton at The Meadowlands in 1:47.4 on July 15.

Mikala was bred by White Birch Farm and is owned by Joseph Davino, Brad Shackman, Anthony Perretti Farm and the Drennan Stable. She is the second of five foals out of Shes Some Treasure p, 2, 1:54.4f (\$15,200) and is a half-sister to Odds On St. Lucie (Sweet Lou) 3, 1:49.4f (\$241,067) and to Sweet Treasure (Sweet Lou) 3, 1:49.2 (\$221,976).

Quotes from Trainer Nik Drennan

“She was good. I thought she should have been better, but she hasn’t raced since Dayton on September 30, so she needed that. George (driver Brennan) said it’s pretty windy out there, so he was happy with her. I think she should improve off that trip.

“I’m happy with her year. There have been a few little hiccups, but she’s had a good year. It’s a long year, but she’s still doing well. She’s been hot her whole life and we’ve tried to keep her quiet with an open bridle and stuff, and I’m actually going to change her up and put blinkers on her next week and see if that helps her.

“She is going to retire after the FanDuel next month. We bought her for a broodmare. She’s bred really well, and her foals will be worth a lot of money. That was the plan from the get-go. It’s been a five-year plan; get a good record on her, win a big race, so we’ve done that. Her mother is a sister to Captaintreacherous. Hopefully she can pull off one more win before it ends, and everyone will be happy.”

