

HARNESSE HORSEPOWER

From: Iowa Harness Racing News - Independence, Iowa - April 30, 2007 – For Immediate Release
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Developed on the state's county fair tracks....competitive across the continent, Iowa's Standardbred race horses are earning berths among the elite at the most prestigious tracks in North America. Rising star Beach Nut Brand cast the spotlight into Iowa recently, when he won the \$50,000 second leg of the Su Mac Lad series on April first, at The Meadowlands in East New Rutherford, NJ. The five-year-old trotter was favored to conquer the \$100,000 final event on April 22nd, but was edged as he approached the wire by CR Dream Catcher by just one and one half lengths.



Beach Nut Brand and Daniel Dube win the second leg of the Su Mac Lad series at the Meadowlands in New Jersey - photo credit: Lisa Photo

Back in Iowa, "There they go!" A new crop of two-year-olds, fields of sturdy sophomores and select aged horses are off and racing at Iowa's fair tracks from June thru September, competing for more than a million dollars in total purse money, and championship points in the Iowa Registered and the Iowa Sire Stakes programs. The trotting and pacing races that brought acclaim to Iowa in the late 1800s are preserved and perpetuated today by the passion and diligence of members of the Iowa Harness Horsemen's Association.

The Iowa bred, five-year-old Beach Nut Brand was foaled at the farm of father and son Caroll "CD" and Rick Huffman of Sigourney, Iowa. The Huffmans raise and campaign both pacers and trotters, and stand the sire of Beach Nut Brand, the classically bred Branded, a son of Supergill (by Super Bowl), out of Castleton Blaze, a daughter of the legendary Speedy Crown. The dam of Beach Nut Brand is She's A Lil Vixen, from the lineage of the New Jersey-bred Valley Victory.

Mentored by both of his grandfathers in the care and training of harness horses, Rick Huffman has excelled with trotters in recent years. While pacers achieve faster marks at their lateral gait, it requires much skill by the trainer to get trotters moving perfectly at high speeds. Huffman does his own shoeing and drives his own trainees as much as possible, given the growing number of charges he has trained in recent seasons.

Beach Nut Brand excelled on the fair circuit in 2004 and '05, winning 19 of his 25 race starts, and the Iowa championship trophies. He was sold to new owners Scott Kurzkrok of Bryn Mawr, PA and Stable 45 of

Happauge, NY in the summer of 2006. He trotted a mile in 1:53.3 as a four year old and has earned nearly \$175,000 in his racing career thus far.

Iowa horsemen consider competition at the fair tracks to be an essential part of developing strong and hearty race horses that are in demand beyond their three-year-old season. "There is now a growing marketplace for our Iowa bred horses, as tracks out East are getting slots and other gambling venues that allow them to expand their racing programs," said CD Huffman. He went on to say that, "The Iowa fairs benefit as well. I know the association (Iowa Harness Horsemen's Assoc.) spent around \$300,000 for improvements and fees at about a dozen county fairs last year."

It appears to be a winning situation all the way around, as the public enjoys a family-oriented attraction, and the Standardbred industry helps fuel Iowa's agricultural and tourism economies.

A newly-formed Diamond Harness Alliance includes associations from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and California and promises more opportunities for Iowa's Standardbred sport and industry in the near future.

For a racing schedule and more information, please see www.iowaharnessracing.com

Note the Iowa Reg Winners link on the menu at the left.



Beach Nut Brand and trainer / driver Rick Huffman capture the Carl Hein Memorial Trot at the Great Jones County Fair in Monticello, Iowa on July 22, 2004 - photo by Mary Lou Lawless



Iowa's Will Roland Captures North American Driving Title

From: Iowa Harness Racing News
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The concept of living "happily ever after" got off to an exceptionally good start in 2006 for newlyweds Will and Rebecca Roland of Gilman, Iowa, as their passion for harness racing brought International recognition to Iowa's Standardbred sport and industry.

On the eve of the couple's first wedding anniversary, friends and extended family rejoiced as Will accepted the US Trotting Association's coveted Achievement Award for his driving accomplishments during last year's racing season. This accomplishment by the fifth generation harness horseman was especially gratifying, as his maternal great grandfather, the late Royce "Red" Carey, earned a USTA Achievement Award in 1961.

The twenty-three-year-old harness horseman surpassed professional drivers from all across the nation and Canada in 2006, earning the highest universal drivers rating among all drivers in the category of less than 300 race starts. In 2006, his sixth year of driving, Will Roland won 62 of 133 purse starts, finished second 21 times and put 11 third place finishes on the board. While his counterparts across the continent made circuit stops at the most prestigious tracks in the world, Will and his partner Rebecca campaigned a stable of nearly a dozen Standardbreds, competing on half mile ovals at Iowa's county fairs, and, briefly, on Iowa's only full mile horse track at Prairie Meadows in the fall.

Will is quick to point out that he has good racing stock to work with, as his charges are products of Iowa's Horse (& Greyhound Dog) Breeding Program, which originated on the heels of the "Pari-mutuel Wagering Act" passed by Iowa's legislature in 1983. Formatted within the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the



Will Roland, right, accepts the USTA Achievement Award from District Chairman Jim Coulter at the annual banquet in Marshalltown.

program stimulates the breeding and development of higher quality racing stock by providing financial incentives to owners and breeders of racing horses and dogs.

Eight of Iowa's thirty-eight trophy winners of 2006 were trained by Will Roland. His USTA *training records* for the year credit him with 68 wins in 154 purse starts, 28 seconds and 17 third place finishes.

Along with the accolades, harness racing also brought the Rolands financial blessings in their first year of marriage. Funded primarily by Prairie Meadows, Iowa's harness racing program provides substantial purses at the fairs, with opportunity for both small stables and the more sizeable operations. Will's combined career driving and training earnings were very near \$100,000 at the end of the season.

Though most harness horsemen in the

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Hot Panties Action: Will Roland crosses the finish line at What Cheer with Hot Panties, a filly by the Iowa sire Hot Pans.

IDNR Trail Web Site

Reviewed by Denise Schieffer

A website from the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, called *IowaDNRTrails*, has links and a pdf file of trails, including equestrian, that the IDNR manages. [<http://www.iowadnr.gov/trails/equestrian.html>] Although still not as good as the booklet that was previously published, it is definitely a step in the right direction!

Clickable links take a browser to a Park Locator Map, Trail Mileage Chart (the pdf file), GIS Interactive Mapping for more in-depth mapping, a State Park list, State Forest list, and information about State Preserves.

The park reservation site has two new buttons (see <https://eservices.iowa.gov/iowaparks/>). One is Park Notices/Reservation Closures, and the other is Equestrian Trail Closures. Clicking on either button leads to a screen that describes in some detail what parks are closed, when and why. Check this site before heading out to ride or camp at any of Iowa's State Parks, Forests or Preserves. The Equestrian Trails site lists all the parks/forests with horse trails and the current status.

I noticed one day that the forester put his phone number to call for the latest update.

Now if only the County Conservation parks and trails were listed like this!

