President’s Report
By Kelvin Childers

Summer is flying by and so is the live Quarter Horse racing at Canterbury for 2015. As I am late in getting some thoughts together for this the August newsletter issue, the last weekend of a full QH racing schedule was just completed on August 9 with the running of the NCQHRA Futurity. To date we have completed 98 races with 5 more days of scheduled QH racing which include the Cash Caravan Stakes on August 20 and the Festival of Champions Day September 6 featuring the running of the Minnesota Futurity and Derby.

You will find more details in this newsletter regarding the following happenings in July:

- Annual backside party shared with MTA for the second year
- Canterbury receiving an Event and Recognition Award as part of AQHA’s 75th Year Celebration
- Leg Up fund raising efforts
- Monthly trainer awards
- Stakes updates

As the Live Racing begins to wind down I would encourage you to become involved in your Association as plans start being made for 2016 Live Racing season. Contact any of your Board of Directors with your thoughts and suggestions for the 2016 season.

Kelvin

Look for us on the Internet
Our Facebook page name is: Minnesota Quarter Horse Racing Association
www.mqhра.com
### Trial Qualifiers for the NCQHRA Futurity
#### Sunday, August 9, 2015; Eligible Two Year Olds; Finals August 9, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE #</th>
<th>PP#</th>
<th>HORSE</th>
<th>TRAINER</th>
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<td>Cartel Dakota</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>CJB Teller Cyclone</td>
<td>Hardy</td>
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<td>Hopes Beauty</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
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<td>V Os Filo</td>
<td>Hardy</td>
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#### Minnesota Stallion Breeders’ Futurity, July 12, 2015, 350 Yards, Eligible Two Year Olds, Purse $37,500

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<th>Jockey</th>
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<td>A Mighty Fortune</td>
<td>E. Hardy</td>
<td>D. Pinon</td>
<td>Bob Hardy</td>
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<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobull Just Corona</td>
<td>V. Hanson</td>
<td>R. Ismael Suarez</td>
<td>Joe. K. Noble</td>
<td>18.415</td>
<td>79</td>
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<td>Such An Easy Chick</td>
<td>B. Johnson</td>
<td>R. Eikleberry</td>
<td>Legacy Ranch (Tia &amp; Jarvis Boehm)</td>
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<td>79</td>
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<td>Heiress To Royalty</td>
<td>R. Weidner</td>
<td>J. Torres</td>
<td>Harley Moser</td>
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<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exceptionally Fast</td>
<td>B. Johnson</td>
<td>L. Delorme</td>
<td>Gary &amp; Robert Johnson</td>
<td>18.705</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jess Hasta Be</td>
<td>B. Johnson</td>
<td>N. Goodwin</td>
<td>Jill R. Lacroix</td>
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<td>Eyra Hayes</td>
<td>J. Livingston</td>
<td>M. Swiontek</td>
<td>Terry Reed</td>
<td>18.825</td>
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<td>Fowl Play</td>
<td>B. Johnson</td>
<td>S. Golibrzuch</td>
<td>Casey J. Foster</td>
<td>18.897</td>
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<td>Mitey Thunder</td>
<td>R. Weidner</td>
<td>D. Bealy</td>
<td>Jerry Olson</td>
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#### Dash In A Flash Stakes, July 18, 2015, 110 Yards, Three Year Olds and up which are owned by MN resident, Purse $29,100

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<td>Ricky Separate</td>
<td>R. Hybsha</td>
<td>N. Goodwin</td>
<td>Camy and Allen Hybsha</td>
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<td>Irish Brew</td>
<td>C. Livingston</td>
<td>M. Swiontek</td>
<td>Paul Knapper and James Olson</td>
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<td>Red Velvet Hero</td>
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<td>I. Suarez Ricardo</td>
<td>Brenda Reiswig</td>
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<td>Tucan Sam</td>
<td>S. Kane</td>
<td>S. Martinez</td>
<td>Ralph A. Haglund</td>
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<td>Digitthiswagon</td>
<td>S. Charette-Hill</td>
<td>D. Pinon</td>
<td>Vicki J. Banks</td>
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<td>Coronas Concierge</td>
<td>J. Olmstead</td>
<td>M. Luark</td>
<td>Tom and Bill Maher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misty River Dancer</td>
<td>R. Weidner</td>
<td>D. Beaty</td>
<td>Jerry Olson</td>
<td>7.636</td>
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Mares, Three Year Olds and Upward Which Are Bank of America Racing Challenge Enrolled and Bonus Challenge Eligible, Purse $28,825

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<td>Send Me This Wagon</td>
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<td>J. Torres</td>
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<td>Call As Maybe</td>
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<td>L. Delorme</td>
<td>Michael C. Teel</td>
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<td>Xoom</td>
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<td>Paul Treadwell</td>
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<td>Thirty Six Belles</td>
<td>R. Johnson</td>
<td>Ry Eikleberry</td>
<td>George L. Seward</td>
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<td>A Priceless Gal</td>
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<td>Sam. W. Green</td>
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Backside BBQ

Members from MQHRA and MTA hosted another successful Backside BBQ on July 26th. Approximately 450 people were served at this annual event that is intended to show appreciation to all the workers on the backside of the racetrack. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the free meal.

Food included 200 pounds of pork loin and 400 brats. We used 580 plates and 450 beverage cups. Many volunteers chipped in to make this event run smoothly. Thanks to all the volunteers who include:

- Bob and Julie Petersen
- Grant Petersen
- John, Kay and Maggie King
- Lori Locken
- Ken Quade
- Jan and Tom Pouliot
- Doreen and Ralph Haglund
- Dale Borchers
- Mary Green

- Lisa Duoos
- Rosemary Higgins
- Willa Daily
- Cameron Muhlum
- Mark Zamzow
- Mary & Sue Milam of LeSueur who provided the grill
- Jeff Kraimer of Brownton Bar & Grill who stored all the cold food, provided spices and melons and ice.

AQHA Presentation at Canterbury

AQHA is 75 years strong this year and is recognizing those people and organizations that have helped to promote and encourage racing and supporting the Quarter Horse. In recognition of those efforts, AQHA presented this very special award to Canterbury Park on July 23rd. Kelvin Childers, MQHRA President and AQHA National Director presented the award to Randy Sampson, President and CEO, and Eric Halstrom, VP of Racing at Canterbury Park. Thank you Canterbury Park for supporting Quarter Horse Racing! Thanks to Coady Photography for providing this photo.
Leg Up Day for Jockeys was held on June 28th at Canterbury Park. It was a day filled with activities and opportunities to donate to a fund to help our injured jockeys. There was a dunk tank, jockey autograph booth, stick horse races, silent auction, jockey sponsorships and drawing the winner of the scooter from the raffle tickets. You could also show your support by purchasing a Leg Up Fund tee shirt and a temporary tattoo. Anne Von Rosen was present and mingled with the crowd, signed autographs and shared her story about her recovery journey. The Leg Up Fund committee is comprised of two members from each of the horsemen groups, two jockeys and two Canterbury Park employees.

The group meets once a month and is making plans for another fundraiser in the off-season. If you have any suggestions for them please let one of your MQHRA Board Members know what it is. We would like to recognize all the people that so generously donated items for the silent auction and sponsored jockeys that day. Thank you very much!

**LEG UP SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS**
Lori Harris  
Robert Lindgren  
Patrick Bends  
Cynthia Besser  
Gary Merrill Scherer  
Jilique & Ry Eikleberry  
Barry & Joni Butzow  
Jacob & Megan Olesiak  
Steven Noll  
Dale & Noreen Haglund  
Francisco J Bravo  
Bennett Reed Zimmer  
Coady Photography  
Camille McCardle  
Thomas Floyd Metzen  
Scott Rake  
Ralph Strangis  
Claudia Goebel  
Joy Melby Gorra  
Gretchen & Art Eaton  
Bob & Julie Petersen  
Mark Stancato  
Nancy Luegge  
Joe Scurto  
Pam Kight  
Tom Walsh  
Gary Chanen  
Dr. Joe Grysiewicz  
Patty Westcott  
Kurt Casby for Cam Casby’s estate

**LEG UP JOCKEY SPONSORSHIPS**
Denny Hall  
Midwest Thoroughbreds  
Scott & Troy Bethke  
Michael Grossman  
Charlie Smith & Terry Propps  
Rake Farms  
Kenneth Larson  
Curtis Sampson  
Dale & Betty Schenian  
Robertoino Diodoro  
Mac Robertson  
Doug Oliver  
Russ Rhone  
Bernell Rhone  
Tom & Karen Metzen  
Malkerson Stables, LLC  
Dale & Stacy Boyer  
Winchester Place Thoroughbreds, LLC  
Therese Faulconbridge  
Barry & Joni Butzow  
Paul Knapper & Jim Olson  
Tim & Karen Burdick  
Charles & Amy Jo Rothbauer  
Pam Eikleberry  
Thomas DiPasquale  
David Hooper  
David Eggert
Thrill of the Race
Marcus Swiontek Finds His Stride at Canterbury Park
By Annise Montplaisir

To live life fearlessly and without reserve is a feat many people only aspire to. But jockey Marcus Swiontek does this on a daily basis.

Fate led the 25-year-old to his calling back in 2004, when he watched the Kentucky Derby on TV for the first time. Smarty Jones charged across the wire for the win, giving Swiontek his first thrilling taste of horse racing.

“I literally saw the Kentucky Derby for the first time on TV and said ‘I’m gonna do that,’ ” Swiontek recalled.

Swiontek’s road to the racetrack was different from the youngsters who grow up around racing and get a leg up from their parents. Coming from a non-equine background, he had to find someone to teach him the ropes of riding.

“I actually emailed a bunch of trainers not knowing who they were,” Swiontek said. “Vic Hanson had me come out to his farm in South Dakota and I started grooming horses, tacking them up and learning from the bottom. I went out to Los Alamitos and learned to gallop from Keith Craigmyle, then came back here (to Canterbury) and started galloping for a couple years.”

Swiontek – a native of Jordan, Minn. – won his first race at Turf Paradise in 2012 aboard a Quarter Horse named Dashalongeasy Geisha. When asked how it felt to snag that first win, Swiontek laughed.

“It was really hot that day and I was glad to be done. Riding in Phoenix, it was probably over 100 degrees. But I won it pretty easy.”

Although he’s tried his hand at a number of tracks, including Turf Paradise, Remington Park, Prairie Meadows and Assiniboia Downs, he says that Canterbury Park is by far his favorite.

“I’m guessing (Canterbury) will be my summer home, at least for the next five years,” Swiontek says. “It’s just home.”

Swiontek plans to ride at Prairie Meadows this fall and Remington Park in the spring, but is still looking for a track to call his winter home.

In December of 2014, Swiontek visited the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, which sparked his interest in saddle bronc riding.

While many people would shy away from acting on that interest, Swiontek went on to attend Sankey Rodeo School in Humansville, Mo.

“If anything it helps your confidence and balance,” Swiontek said, when asked if bronc riding improved his race riding. “When a horse starts to act up it kind of seems like it’s nothing big compared to broncs. I do think it can help to relax some in the gate. In the rodeo chute you need to be still or the horse might rear or flip – same thing with race horses.”

Swiontek added that he would entertain the idea of competing in rodeos, but racing takes precedence on his agenda.

(Continued on next page)
While it takes a true adventurer’s spirit to dive headlong into horse racing and bronc riding, Swiontek expressed gratitude to his family for their support.

“They enjoy it, they come out (to the races) every day,” Swiontek said of his parents, Jim and Wendy. “There was a lot of resistance at first, mostly because they were like me – they don’t know a thing about it. They didn’t know how to help out or anything. They basically thought it couldn’t be done for a while, and then realized it was going happen one way or another.”

“You need some help because there’s just way too much to it to do it on your own,” Swiontek added about being an up-and-coming rider. “Take your time. Find another rider to learn from that will help you out as much as they can.”

Swiontek has looked to the example of other riders, including Ry Eikleberry, Canterbury Park’s leading rider in 2014.

“He’s tall like me he’s really had to work hard to be able to ride,” Swiotek says. “I’ve always been amazed with how hard he can ride a horse. He always seems to get the last little bit out of them. I remember one race in Phoenix before I started riding. I was working for Keith Craigmyle and he shipped a horse to Phoenix and had Ry on it. It looked like she was trying to quit so bad down the lane and Ry never gave up on her and won by a nose – I still have a win picture from that race.”

Whether it’s for the thrill of winning or simply the love of racing, Swiontek is passionate about advancing his career.

“There’s nothing else that I’d want to do. You win a race and everything else you’re thinking about goes away. You’re just glad you won a race, and [you want to] keep getting the next one, and the next one and the next one.”

Those Ain’t Highway Miles

Trainer and Former Jockey Herman Fennell Talks Bumpy Road and Horse Racing

By Annise Montplaisir

Horse racing is a sport that can take you to the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. Anyone who has been in the industry as long as Herman Fennell has undoubtedly seen both ends of the spectrum.

I found Fennell cleaning his shedrow on a sunny Friday morning. The horses under the care of the 65-year-old trainer stared contentedly out of their stalls as they awaited their turn on the hot walker. Fennell filled hay nets and cleaned stalls as I stood by and admired his protégés. I commented that his horses appear to be happy.

Fennell laughed.

“Well, they’ve got a 24 hour buffet!” he exclaimed.

As Fennell went about his work, passerby’s on their way to the track called out greetings. A tidy vegetable garden lies in front of his shedrow. It’s clear that Fennell’s time away from the horses is spent just feet from his barn, cultivating tomatoes and other produce in the plot. One person commented on his green thumb as they rode by.

“Just in case I don’t do no good I’ve got something to eat!” Fennell jokes back.
“That’s what I like about (Canterbury) is you don’t have a lot of negativity,” Fennell said to me as he led a horse out of its stall. “Here when I come to work I’ve got all these friends of mine and we all laugh and joke and say funny things to each other that make the day go good, and we ask each other ‘How’s your day going?’ – Oh good, good!”

As I tagged along behind Fennell from stall to stall and back and forth to the hot walker, he told me the story of how he found his way into the horse racing industry.

Growing up in Seguin, Texas, Fennell passed by a racetrack on his way across town to help his cousin.

“Growing up in Seguin, Texas, Fennell passed by a racetrack on his way across town to help his cousin. Fennell and his brother began sneaking away from home to visit the racetrack and watch the horses.

“We’d sit around there and watch them going around the track. My parents would say ‘You can go out down the road and play but don’t leave this neighborhood.’ And we’d sneak down to the track because it was maybe half a mile from us.”

One trainer took notice of Fennell’s interest in the horses and offered him the chance to learn about working at the track.

“I was standing looking at them guys go around the track, and some guy said ‘Hey, you look like you’re pretty small, would you like to do something like that?’ And I said ‘Sure!’ And he said ‘Tell you what, you just come down here to the track and I’ll teach you how to lead horses and you can clean stalls and learn how to do that stuff.’ And I said ‘Yeah sure!’ Some days I couldn’t make it because I couldn’t sneak away, so every time I got a break I’d run down to the racetrack and this guy had me cleaning stalls.”

Once Fennell had learned his way around the horses from the ground, the trainer offered to let him hop on an old pony horse. Never having previously ridden – aside from his cousin’s donkeys – Fennell was nervous to give it a try.

“I was scared,” Fennell said. “But he put me on and led me around, he was telling me how to hold the reins and he told me how to hold my feet… I rode that pony horse for two years before he let me get on a racehorse.”

“I just kept going back and finally, he started letting me gallop some of them real laid back Thoroughbreds that weren’t running. I got my balance and learned how to hold the reins and stuff, and so he’d take those Thoroughbreds and the pony and he’d pony me around the track and tell me what to do… And finally we got to where he unsnapped me and I was galloping alongside him and pretty soon he turned me loose and he said ‘Take that horse out there and gallop him.’”

Fennell jockeyed his first race as a 13-year-old back in 1963. His first approved ride came three years later at Bandera Downs – called Lost Valley Downs at the time.

So what was it like riding a race for the first time?
“Scary,” Fennell said. “I tell you what, I was so nervous; before they even called the race up I was so nervous. It was like you were on the death row and they were getting ready to take you down and put you in the electric chair. I thought man, I’m gonna die!”

Fennell has jockeyed and trained intermittently throughout his 53-year career in racing, riding with such greats as Jacky Martin – seven-time winning jockey of the Grade 1 All-American Futurity. Martin, who was a good friend of Fennell’s, passed away earlier this year. Martin was involved in a life-altering riding accident in 2011 that left him paralyzed.

Fennell recalled fond memories of the days he rode with Martin.

“Best rider I’ve ever known in my life,” Fennell said of Martin. “That’s the greatest Quarter Horse rider ever. They’ll never make another rider like him.”

Fennell continued his own riding career until 2012, when previous riding injuries began catching up with him. Around seven years ago, Fennell suffered significant damage his right leg after being drug by a horse at the racetrack in Fort Pierre, South Dakota. After undergoing therapy and rehabilitation, he made a comeback and rode at Fort Pierre again the following season.

“There’s so much stuff that can happen in a second,” Fennell says. “Even the best, when they end up in the doctor’s office, they didn’t know that was going to happen that day. You see a lot of riders look up in the sky and they thank God that they was blessed to make it back, they was blessed to win, or they just had the blessing of making it through the day without getting hurt.”

In 2012, Fennell sustained another riding injury, tearing ligaments in his left knee. He decided to hang up his tack for a while and focus on his training career. But that doesn’t stop Fennell from wanting to return to the jocks room.

“I really liked riding,” Fennell says. “Even now people tell me, ‘Herman you don’t need to do that, you’re too old, man. You’re gonna get hurt, man’. I love riding. It’s just a feeling that you never get. I can gallop horses, I can work ‘em in the mornings and I can do all this stuff out of the gate and everything else. But it’s not like riding a race.”

Fennell’s goal is to make an eventual return to the track as a jockey and ride longer than Quarter Horse jockey Roy Brooks, who is a member of the Ruidoso Downs Racehorse Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame and the Remington Park Hall of Fame.

“I’d like to beat Roy Brooks. His last year he rode, I think he was 70. If he quit at 70, I think if the good Lord blesses me I want to come back and ride at 71.”

“But it’s kind of like a car that’s got highway miles,” Fennell added. “It’s not as tough as the one that’s got all the miles on the back roads, and that’s me. I was down in the ditch and on the gravel, hitting all those bumps. I rode a pretty bumpy road!”

Fennell stands by two primary values that have carried him throughout his life and career in racing – patience and belief in the Lord.
“Anything you do, you’ve got to be patient for it. If you’re patient with everything you do in life, you live a lot longer. Stress is what really kills a lot of people. That’s what I do is I try to not stress myself out. I talk a lot to God and believe in God, and that’s what’s kept me alive, because God has always been there to save me.”

Whether they’re on the back roads or down the highway, Fennell says he has plenty of miles remaining in his racing career and doesn’t plan to quit any time soon.

“I never want to be away from them,” Fennell says about racehorses. “I always want to have some kind of contact with them.”

**NCQHRA Futurity, Two-Year Old, 350 yards, Purse $42,000**

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<td>Bill and Tom Maher</td>
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**Trainer of the Month - JUNE**

On July 12th, MQHRA presented Jason Olmstead with this beautiful flysheet for being the MQHRA Trainer of the Month for June. Olmstead was selected based on his race results during the month of June. Keith Kelley presented the award to Jason and his team. Congratulations to all! Thanks for Coady Photography and Canterbury Park for providing the photo.

**Trainer of the Week**

Week 8: Casey Black  
Week 9: Shane Miller  
Week 10: Randy Weidner  
Week 11: Justin McKinley  
Week 12: Allen Hybsha

**Welcome New Member:**

Randy Weidner
Reminder for MQHRA Members

MEMBERS can advertise HORSES FOR SALE on our website FREE of charge. They all should have received a user ID and LOGIN or can contact Jan Pouliot for assistance. jpouliott@msn.com

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/20/2015</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Cash Caravan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/16/2015-8/17/2015</td>
<td>Friday &amp; Saturday</td>
<td>MTA Horse Sale for Thoroughbreds &amp; Quarter Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6/2015</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>MN QH Derby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6/2015</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>MN QH Futurity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Qs on KFAN radio

Did you know that this season, the first race of the day on Saturday afternoons at Canterbury Park was broadcast on KFAN radio? With Quarter Horses up first each Saturday, we were lucky to be in the right spot for the broadcast. No word as of this printing if this schedule will continue now that August Saturday evening racing is in play. KFAN radio is broadcast at 101.3 on the FM dial.

NCQHRA Futurity Winner Eagle Span (photos courtesy Coady Photography)
Snapshots: Backside Appreciation BBQ (photos courtesy of Lori Locken)

MQHRA Communication Team

The MQHRA Communication Team is working diligently to provide members with regular updates regarding issues and events concerning the Minnesota Quarter Horse racing industry via its newsletter, website and Facebook page. While the information contained within these communication tools is believed to be accurate, we will not be responsible for errors. If we are notified about an error in writing, we will gladly publish a correction. All PAID members will receive the MQHRA Newsletter.

Contributors to this edition of the newsletter:
- Kelvin Childers
- Rosemary Higgins
- Lori Locken
- Annise Montplaisir

Photo credits to:
- Annise Montplaisir
- Coady Photography
- Heather Frisbee
- Lori Locken
Minnesotta Quarter Horse Racing Association

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
MINNESOTA QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION

☐ RENEW MEMBERSHIP
☐ NEW MEMBER
☐ $25 SINGLE
☐ $40 FAMILY (does not include adult children over the age of 18)

NAME ____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________________________

CITY __________________________ STATE ______________________ ZIP CODE ____________

PHONE (Include area code) ____________________________________________________________________________

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____________________________________________________________________________________

Send membership dues to:
MQHRA Treasurer, Kelvin Childer, 8200 Halstead Drive, Mound, MN 55364, Phone (952) 446-1944.

Minnesota Festival of Champions
Sunday, September 6, 2015

YOUR NAME HERE