

Contents

Features

p. 41

41 Top Picks

Hoof Beats staff weighs in on who will be the top 3-year-old pacers and trotters this year

42 Apex Performance

Mohawk Million winner tops Melander's returning sophomores

by Ken Weingartner

50 Great Expectations

Can Beau Jangles maintain divisional dominance?

by James Witherite



Prospective top 3-year-old pacer Beau Jangles in training this spring

About our cover: USTA photographer Mark Hall captured this headshot of 2025 Dan Patch Award winner Apex at Marcus Melander's training facility in New Jersey this April.

Contents

Departments



p. 22

Voices

- 10 **The Long View**
by TC Lane
Owning the Opportunity We—and only we—control our perception
- 22 **Under Wraps**
by Tim Bojarski
Stop and Look! Harness racing was a winner for advertising
- 38 **Food for Thought**
by Tom LaMarra
Legislative Aid Can a racino bill help protect Illinois racing?

In Every Issue

- 8 Through the Binoculars
- 14 Starting Lines
- 58 In Memoriam
- 63 Horsemen's Shop
- 63 Advertisers' Index
- 64 Photo Finish

p. 14



Stories

- 18 **Profile: On To Norway**
Streak of Nature Indiana champion On To Norway pointed to Grand Circuit
by James Platz
- 25 **Greener Pastures**
Farewell Honoring the Standardbreds who have left us since last fall
by James Witherite
- 28 **Life After Racing**
Rocking On Whole Lotta Lou getting a whole lotta love in second career
by Megan Rider
- 31 **Horse Care**
Every Breath You Take While rarely life-threatening, stranglers can still wreak havoc in a stable
by Hope Ellis-Ashburn
- 34 **Betcha Didn't Know**
Aloha! Harness racing once thrived under Hawaii's volcanic skies
by Kimberly A. Rinker
- 36 **Shoeing News**
Meeting the Bar The bars of a hoof can reveal a lot about that hoof's health if you know what to look for
by Steve Stanley