

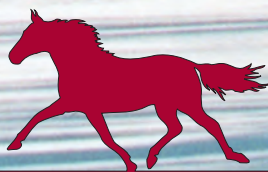
Selling February 8 & 9 at Delaware, Ohio

- **26 Trotting Mares In Foal to Cash Hall, Conway Hall, Deweycheatumnhowe, Striking Sahbra, and Tom Ridge.**
- **25 Yearlings (Foals of 2009) by Cambest, Cash Hall, Like A Prayer, Mach Three, Real Desire, Striking Sahbra, Tom Ridge, and Valley Victor.**

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All horses in this consignment will be available for inspection at the farm beginning Monday, January 18, until they are shipped to Delaware on Saturday, February 6, where they can be seen until they sell at Albert and Mark Adams Winterwood barn.



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p,2,1:50.4 (\$896,060)

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- Won first career start in 1:54.1 (Goshen Cup at Meadowlands)
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p,2,1:53s, 3,1:49.2s, 1:47.4-1:48f (\$4,143,492)

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- 12 miles in 1:49 or lower
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Photo by Lisa Photo



One Shy Of Perfect

LUCKY JIM had a nearly flawless season in 2009 and will be looking for greater goals to conquer this spring by challenging the best the world can muster in Sweden's much coveted Elitlopp. By Harold Howe • Photos by Monica Thors

The perfect season.

It is almost inconceivable to think in these times that a horse could go undefeated. Somebeachsomewhere couldn't and neither could Muscle Hill. In fact the last horse of note to achieve a flawless season was Artsplace in that 1992 season orchestrated by Bob McIntosh when he went 16 races without a loss.

When you have been 'oh so close' to doing it there is that constant thought of 'what if' according to David Prushnok.

It's been six months since Lucky Jim suffered his sole defeat of the year in the Maple Leaf Trot at Mohawk Racetrack last July. His 17 other starts were all victories and the loss still grates on Prushnok who shares ownership of Lucky Jim with his brother John and Bill Gregg of Pennsylvania.

"It shouldn't bother me but it does because I feel we were robbed and the best horse (Lucky Jim) did not win the race. It took that European horse (Triton Sund) and his driver (Orjan Kihlstrom) to get in our way and get us beaten. Andy (Miller) had to grab on and that cost us six lengths. I think it cost Arch Madness as well. Hey, (winner) San Pail is a nice horse but as I say, the best horse did not win." **To watch the race click here.**

Still there should be no tears shed for Lucky Jim and his connections. The horse came from non-winners of three races to win over \$1 million and was recently awarded the Dan Patch as older trotting horse of the year.

But still...

Now the focus is on Europe. If things go according to plan Lucky Jim will take his game to Sweden in May and show the Europeans his true game. And according to his connections there is every reason to think that



the horse will be at least as good in 2010.

"Right after he won the Nat Ray in early August we stopped with him. He was turned out at Blairwood Farms in New Jersey and when we brought him back to the stable in mid-December he looked just super," says trainer Julie Miller.

"He is not one of those horses who needs a rest, but when we stopped with him we were thinking about Europe and to do it right that was the time to give him a break. As we speak today I could not be more pleased with the physical health he shows."

The plan calls for the horse to qualify in early March and start in the Su Mac Lad series at the Meadowlands as a springboard to the European junket.

"I really cannot see changing anything with him from what we were doing previously," notes Julie.

"Right now he's jogging three to four miles a day and then will get some endurance work and slow training miles. Sickness is always a worry and it would be

a huge ask of him not to get sick for a second consecutive year. All we can do is watch his diet and overall state of health.

"As far as vaccinations are concerned I believe in doing what is required and that applies to Jim and all the horses. I especially believe in Eqstim which is an immune booster. After having raced Jim all of last year and him not getting sick it would be hard not to believe in it," said Miller.

"I do what is necessary in terms of vaccination and am a big believer in daily temperature taking. When I come to the barn in the morning the first thing I do is take a walk down the aisle to look at every horse searching for something that may be out of order. Then we investigate and truthfully, that is about all one can do."

In theory the act of sending a horse to race overseas does not appear to be a big deal. But the truth is it is a very difficult proposition.

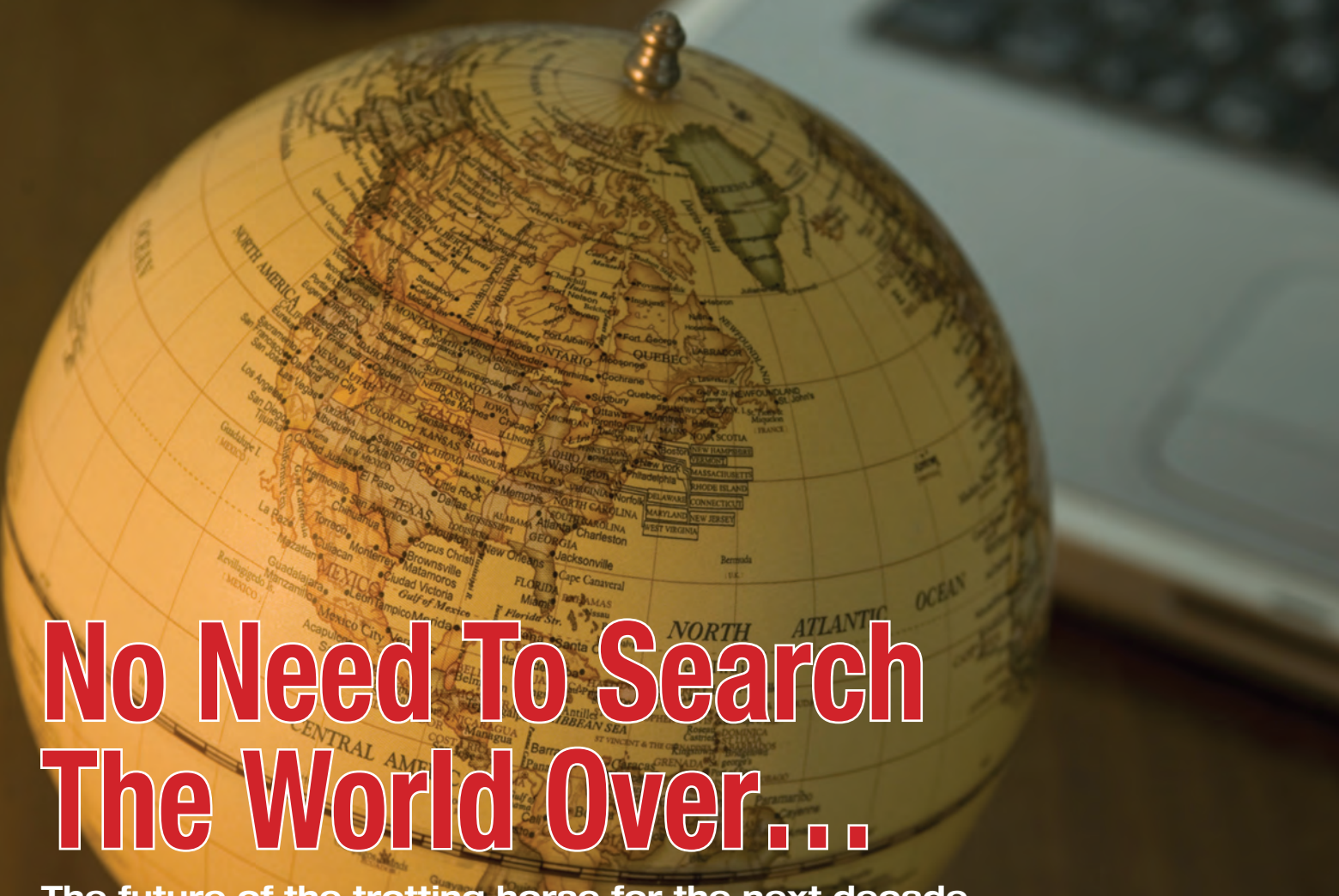
Ask any of the people who have done

"He is not one of those horses who needs a rest, but when we stopped with him we were thinking about Europe and to do it right that was the time to give him a break. As we speak today I could not be more pleased with the physical health he shows."

– trainer Julie Miller

it and they have soon discovered that they knew a heck of a lot less about shipping horses than they thought they did. Every horse is different and there are very few that do not demonstrate some ill effect.

"To date Jim has never shown any anxiety to anything. He's a calm horse and



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2,1:56.4 (\$436,790)

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I ship him myself in a three horse trailer and all he does is get in and get out. Having said that the time frame of going to Stockholm does worry me," says Julie.

"We do not have everything in place yet but Jenny Melander, an assistant of Erv's (husband Andy's brother, noted trainer Erv Miller) has volunteered to go with the horse. She is from Sweden so knows her way around and that option is there for us."

Then there is the matter of the driver. Many believe in the axiom of when in Rome do as the Romans, in other words use a Scandinavian driver and not risk a North American getting run all over the track. But in Lucky Jim's case that is not an option.

"There has been no discussion on it but in my mind a top catch driver like Andy is supposed to be able to adapt and assimilate in different situations. He has raced in county fairs where anything is possible and probable. He's raced Down-under where it's altogether different from here and he's even done some under saddle stuff so I have confidence in his ability aside from him being my husband. He knows the horse and I feel more comfortable with him than anyone else."

Prushnok concurs.

"Driving in the European races against their different style is a concern. This is a new experience for us but I know Andy will do his homework. We have lots of video footage of past Elitlopps so he'll be prepared with a strategy. I'm comfortable with that."

Julie Miller takes her stable star out for a jog. She believes one of the main reasons Lucky Jim performed so well last season is his killer instinct. "He wants to be a winner and will find some way to put his nose in front," she says.

The Elitlopp involves two heats, something which is almost non-existent in North American trotting today.

"That does not worry me. Jim is not hard on himself and he's shown he rebounds well. I have no issue with the heats."

The Lucky Jim camp is not arrogant; they simply have confidence in their animal which is a 180 degree change from a year ago.

The horse's three-year-old season ended on September 7, 2008 after finishing out of the money in the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes Championship. While he did bank \$47,000 he was winless in nine starts and the future was less than encouraging. At best his report card showed a D as in disappointing.

"He had shown some moments of brilliance but overall there was little success, it was just not meant to be. After going zero for nine and Trond (Smedshammer) not being able to put his finger on what the problem was I said I'd bring him home," recalls Prushnok.

"I also decided to geld him. We stood S Js Photo and if you check the records he has a lot of good aged geldings. I thought 'what have we got to lose?' He also had some serious growing up to do to become

the horse we felt he was capable of being.

"No one knows if that was the difficulty, or if it was just several months more of maturity or being in the company of Julie Miller, but come mid-January when he qualified at the Meadowlands he was a different horse."

"It's funny but I don't have a great recollection of first seeing Jim. He was a new horse in the barn and we didn't know anything about him so we just started out fresh. But it was not long before we began to think that he was not ordinary. When you think about it, coming from non-winners of three races to win the Breeders Crown and Nat Ray, it is pretty amazing," says Miller.

"What would he have brought as a yearling I can't say. I'm not a good one to judge but he would not have been expensive. I can tell you this and that is he has the instinct of a winner. He wants to be a winner and will find some way to put his nose in front. It's that killer instinct that Andy first pointed out when he wanted to win every training mile."

There is no bigger believer in the horse than Prushnok.

"He has fulfilled what I always thought he could become. I saw world class in this horse at two but he just could

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JUST LESS THAN PERFECT

not put it all together. Watch his videos and see how easily he covers the ground. In comparison, the others look to working so much harder. And he loves beating other horses and doesn't need any coaching to do it."

People love to dissect the premier horses to try to discover what makes them so good. When pressed, Julie Miller is no different.

"If I brought you to his stall right now and you did not know it was Lucky Jim what you would see is a big, dark horse maybe a little shaggy at the moment. His head is always up looking around. In my opinion he's not the best conformed horse as he stands a little straight in front for my liking which just proves conformation is not everything," she points out.

"We all go to the sales, look at yearling videos, look at the horse, watch him walk down the aisle, we've maybe seen him moving in the paddock but none of that shows what he will be like when he gets between the shafts. Jim may not stand the best but when he places the hoof on the ground it's right, that is what matters."

"Going to Europe is not about the money. We could make as much or more staying at home but this is an event that you have to take part in if you get the chance. It's not a chance you get every year." – David Prushnok

David Prushnok has owned horses for the better part of 30 years and knows the financial pain it can bring. That is what makes him appreciate Lucky Jim.

"I wish all my horses were like him. I'm into maybe 20 at the moment and with some of them the veterinary bills are more than the training fees. There is something wrong with that arrangement," he admits.

"There are virtually no veterinary bills with Jim which may be part Julie as well. We sent her Gabbys Dream, a three-year-old Dream Vacation filly at the same time Jim went to her and that filly won \$99,000 despite a knee problem. Had she been sounder she would have been a top filly."

The whole Lucky Jim saga has been an intriguing one from the start as the sidebar story reveals (on page 16). He is less than impeccably bred, is not the best standing horse but is arguably the best trotting horse in the world.

And in a little less than four months time he will set out to prove it as Prushnok acknowledges.

"Going to Europe is not about the money. We could make as much or more staying at home but this is an event that you have to take part in if you get the chance. It's not a chance you get every year. We are just hoping that Jim can come right back to where he was last August and show everyone just how great a horse he is." 🐾

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SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Nomination Fee: \$ 200 due February 15, 2010 (added to final)

Sustaining Fee: \$ 200 due April 15, 2010 (added to final)

Starting Fee: \$ 400 due at time of declaration to start in elimination races
(added to eliminations)

Supplemental Entry Fee:..... \$7,500 due prior to the closing of the box for the eliminations.

**For information contact: Hanover Raceway, 265 5th Street, Hanover, Ontario N4N 3T1
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Pacific Fella - Everything's Easy - Artsplace
p, 2, 1:53.3; 3, 1:48.4; 1:48f (\$2,640,532)

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A GENETIC LOTTERY

Over the years David Prushnok has spent a lot of money and expended a great deal of effort to own good horses. He's bought yearlings, produced homebreds, raced overnight horses and has the t-shirts to prove it.

Nothing has come close to the journey that brought Lucky Jim into his life.

David and his brother operate Andray Farm in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The mining business is their life's work but the horses provide them with the true challenge.

David served as syndicate manager for the sire S Js Photo who was standing at Lindwood Farm in Pennsylvania.

"I got a call one day from Bill Troyer, an Amish breeder from Ohio. He wanted to breed to S Js Photo but had a tough year and really could not afford it. He wanted to talk about a foal sharing deal with me. So after going back and forth we did a deal.

"Lucky Jim was one of the two. In the spring of his yearling year we entered them in the Harrisburg Sale but (Sale Manager) Murray Brown would not accept them. Now, I know Jim is a very decent looking yearling and said to Murray that we had to rethink this and get him in. His answer was that all he could do was allow me to take one out in place of Jim. I didn't want to go there either. Bill suggested the Delaware sale but I was not into that so I did a deal to buy them both and have them trained. Buddy (Charles) Stillings got the job to train them."

In that rookie season Lucky Jim won approximately \$95,000 thus proving Prushnok to be a shrewd horse trader.

"I felt he was the second best two-year-old in Pennsylvania that year and his second place finish in the PaSS Championship pretty much said it all. Lear Jetta was there and he was a barn burner, nobody was going to handle him. He looked world class so to be next best was pretty good."

The next year was a series of problems.

"It began by going to Canada for the Valley Victory. Rick Zeron got the drive and this was a horse that you had to give a lot of attention to at the time. He got all bunched up and broke stride and that started a string of problems. We wanted to move to horse to Erv Miller but he had gone to Australia and suggested Trond Smedshammer but he had no luck with the horse so I brought him home and gave him to Julie later on. The rest is history."

Not quite.

Hawaiian Sierra, a daughter of Sierra Kosmos is the dam of Lucky Jim. Ironically, she had been trained by Rick Gillock who happens to be one of the principal trainers that Prushnok uses.

"Rick later told me that she just could not get the job done but was able to turn her into Perretti Farms for yearling

credit. They bred her twice to Muscles Yankee, twice to Enjoy Lavec and once to Dream Vacation getting two \$100,000 earners before selling her at the Delaware mixed sale where my Amish friend Bill bought her," relates Prushnok.

"So he gets a few foals out of her (the second breeding went to S Js Photo on his own) before he sells her to some buggy guy who wants to breed buggy horses from her. Meanwhile Jim gets good and Bill goes back and buys the mare in foal to this buggy horse.

"The mare is open and Bill asked me if I want to buy her for \$20,000. I think about it and decide I do but by then Jim is still winning and he wants more money. I said no way and no deal takes place. What happens? He breeds her to Classic Photo and sells her in last fall's Harrisburg mixed sale for \$85,000 to people in Sweden. Who's looking like a dummy now?"

Bob Boni of Northwood Bloodstock sold the mare on behalf of Troyer and said there was no magic to it.

"Hey, the guy got lucky. It happens. She was a nice big, showy mare who had produced a marquee horse but she was not a one trick pony. There had been some other highlights. Was she worth \$85,000? Obviously she was but I would have been hard pressed to tell him we could get that before the sale."

The one man who had no sorry tale to tell is Lucky Jim's co-owner Bill Gregg.

"Bill is a good friend and partner with us in the energy business. He has a gas drilling company and had been racing claiming horses for years and I mean a lot of them under the name of FLG Partnership but yearlings were not his thing.

"I did try to get him interested in a colt we were selling, a son of Dragons Lair that brought \$40,000 but he didn't want to go any more than \$30,000. That was Dragon Again who won \$2.3 million."

Ten years later Prushnok did get Gregg to join up with him on a homebred daughter of Dragons Lair. Her name was Vysoke Tatry who would win \$671,000.

Later that year Gregg was invited to take a piece of Lucky Jim.

"The horse had a different name then which none of us liked. Bill asked if we had a problem naming him after his late father. He had been a blue collar guy around The Meadows for years and we said sure. Maybe that's why he's turned out like he did.

"The truth is this breeding horses is a genetic lottery. All of us who breed horses always see possibilities or we would not do it. Sometimes those possibilities work out. Lucky Jim was lucky enough to be one of those." ★



FEBRUARY 2010 STAKES PAYMENTS

NOMINATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.THEREDMILE.COM

Grand Circuit Events

#1) Kentucky Futurity #118

Foals of 2007 to Race in 2010

#2) Tattersalls Pace 2010

Foals of 2007 to Race in 2010

PAYMENT DUE FOR EVENTS #1 & 2:

	OPEN	FILLY
February 15	\$1,000	\$500
March 15	\$1,500	\$750

#3) Bluegrass Series #35

Foals of 2007 to Race in 2010

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR EVENT #3:

February 15	\$550
March 15	\$750
April 15	\$850

*Supplemental Payment due February 15 \$5,000

*Ineligible three year olds may be made eligible to the three year old events in 2010 by making the three-year-old supplemental nomination fee on February 15 of \$5,000 plus the March 15 and April 15 payments

THREE YEAR OLD FILLY EARLY CLOSERS (OPEN)

#4) NADIA LOBELL 3YO FILLY PACE

\$175,000E Final: Thursday, Sept. 9

#5) THE MONI MAKER 3YO FILLY TROT

\$175,000E Final: Thursday, Aug 19

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS #4 & 5:

February 15	\$500
March 15	\$750
April 15	\$1,000
May 15	\$1,500
Declaration Fee	\$2,500

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