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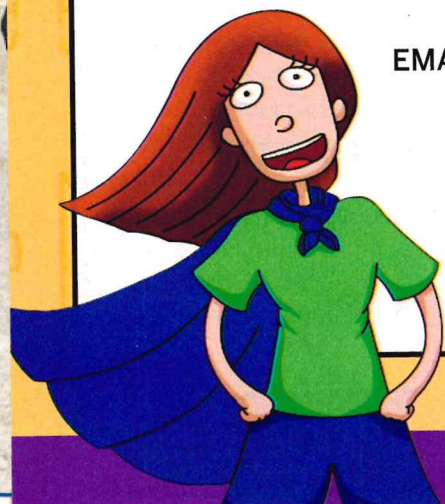
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Spotlight On:

Warren Emery

Medical professional is hooked on harness racing

interview by **Rose Flood**

With the current chaos going on in the world, it's important to hang onto things that make you happy. Warren Emery, a chemist who works with manufacturing at Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company, focuses not only on his love of harness racing, but also his love of being a part of several partnerships with trainer Ernie Gaskin. While his start in the sport was unexpected, he's now an advocate for the sport, not only for partnerships, but for doing as much as one can about the industry. In fact, Emery was one of 20 participants in the 18th edition of the USTA Driving School conducted at Delaware County Fairgrounds in Delaware County, Ohio. He is currently involved in the ownership of seven horses and has previously owned 10 head. During his short time in the sport, Emery has been involved with horses such as The Cusp (Camluck, \$345,837) and Rockin Machine (Rockin Image, \$704).

JB: How did you get started in the sport?

Emery: It happened by absolute chance. I was downtown at the Winslow Circle with a few friends from work just to have some beers and bet on some races. Amanda Gaskin was there for a promotion going on that night. She sat at a table next to us and we were looking at her drawings and give some wagering advice. We figured she must have



HANDS ON / Warren Emery took part in the USTA Driving School in 2017.

Spotlight On: Warren Emery



had some wagering knowledge since she had every program you could have, so we finally asked what she was doing. She explained the promotion and started giving us tips on what to look for in a horse while choosing who to place a wager on. She went on to explain that her family was in the business and Ron Crodell, who was highly respected at Eli Lilly, owned horses with her dad for 20 years, prompting us to begin asking about ownership.

I didn't know much about the concept, but I always assumed it was expensive. Amanda invited us to Harrah's Hoosier Park to sit with them and the other partners. I came at the start of the season and had a lot of fun. It was fun to watch Ron's horses do well and Ernie (Amanda's father) and Emily (Amanda's sister and race marketing manager and commentator at Harrah's Hoosier Park) taught me a lot. That was when I realized that you can get into a partnership without spending a crazy amount of money. The following year, I got started

The camaraderie is easily the best part. When a horse of ours does well, I always text the other partners and we talk about how we cheered for it.

and I was hooked from the get go.

HB: If you were recommending to a new owner the best way to become involved in harness racing, what approach would you suggest and why?

Emery: Partnership is the best way. It's great financially. If you're coming in with a fixed amount of money instead of having it all in owning, you can spread it out over three or four horses. It's also good to try and go the extra mile with learning about it, as well. A few summers ago, a friend and I went to the USTA Driving School to try and learn a bit more. They do things like teach you how to work in the barns and take care of horses. The hands-on experience really taught me so much.

HB: What would you say is your favorite thing about the industry?

Emery: The camaraderie is easily the best part. When a horse of ours does well, I always text the other partners and we talk about how we cheered for it. It doesn't matter what type of horse it is or how high the purse is; it's always fun. I also love going to the yearling sales and watching horses train.

HB: What would you say is the biggest influence that COVID has had on the industry?

Emery: Obviously, it delayed the start. The hardest part for me has been the fact that I've not been able to come up to Hoosier as much as I would like to. It's nice to see that the yearling sales are still pretty strong. They seem to be holding on, so hopefully there won't be

a negative effect lingering. Working at Lilly, I specifically work on the manufacturing side of the research. If people want to learn more, there are press releases and other information on Lilly.com.

HB: Do you have goals you would like to accomplish within the sport?

Emery: I'd love to have a sire stakes champion at some point, be it Indiana or Ohio. The majority of the horses I've been in partnership with have been in Indiana. There have only been several in Ohio.

HB: Are there specific things you seek when buying a horse?

Emery: I would probably say that I'm looking for an athlete, but that's what everyone is doing. I try to find horses with good conformation. I think

WITH FRIENDS / Far left: Emery is part of several partnerships with Indiana trainer Ernie Gaskin. Left: Three-year-old pacing gelding High Impression is one of seven horses Emery currently co-owns.

that helps them stay sound and take less time off from racing. We don't look for the most expensive horses; we look for value. Pedigree is important as well, but it can be tricky to get a horse with a great pedigree for a lower price.

HB: What do your friends or family outside of the industry think of your ownership?

Emery: When I first brought into a horse in the fall of 2014, I didn't tell my parents; I thought they'd think I was crazy. That next fall we sent him to Canada and he was racing well, so I decided I was going to tell my parents because at that point I was pretty committed. So I got to their house and pulled it up online, waiting for him to get ready to race at Flamboro (Downs). I told them I had a horse coming up in the next race. They thought I was talking about a wager, but I explained that I was a part owner. It surprised them for sure. Funny enough, he won that race, which got them hooked. Yes, they get a kick out of it, but they're pretty invested too. **HB**

Rose Flood is the race marketing and operations administrator at Hoosier Park. To comment on this story, email us at readerforum@ustrotting.com.

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Dan Patch Two Year Old Trotting Colt of the Year and full brother to World Champion Father Patrick

Pastor Stephen, an incredible talent with a Grand Circuit pedigree, comes to Indiana for the 2021 breeding season. The son of Cantab Hall won 10 of 22 lifetime starts, missing the board only four times in two seasons while earning over \$1 million on the track. As a freshman, Pastor Stephen captured a Peter Haughton Memorial elimination, \$98,489 Champlain division and the \$500,000 William Wellwood Memorial on his way to being named the Dan Patch Award winner as the nation's top two-year-old trotter. He also raced second in the \$600,000 Breeders Crown final and \$539,000 Valley Victory final to earn over \$650,000 in his freshman campaign. As a sophomore, Pastor Stephen added a victory in a \$126,117 Simcoe division and trotted second in the \$500,000 Earl Beal final and third in the \$500,000 Colonial Trot. The trotter finished fifth in the \$1.5 million Hambletonian final.

"He was a really good-gaited colt. An easy horse to be around and to race. He was top three of his class as a three-year-old. Unfortunately, he got injured in a transport incident before the Hambletonian where he finished third in his elimination and fifth in the final from Post 10. After that, a coffin bone injury put an end to his career in the USA and was sold to Europe. I am glad he is back in the USA. He will be a big asset to the Indiana breeding industry, as he is the full brother to Father Patrick, as a matter of fact I reserved two breeding rights to Pastor Stephen myself." -Trainer Jimmy Takter

Pastor Stephen's European progeny quickly made an impact overseas, with just over 76 percent of his 321 foals making it to the races. Last season the success of his progeny ranked him fourth among all trotters in Europe with 28 stakes winners to his credit. The sire of eight millionaires thus far, Pastor Stephen is also represented by Avalon Mists, 2018 Germany Filly Derby winner, as well as Officer Stephen and Inspector Bros, winner and third-place finisher in the 2020 European Breeders Crown for colts and geldings. Don't miss the opportunity to breed to this great looking millionaire son of the sire of sires! A limited number of lifetime breeding shares are available.

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