

Future Star Award Candidates

Landon Campbell, Orwell, PE

Training	Starts	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Earnings	UTRS
	277	71	49	42	\$389,604	.405

Landon Campbell grew up in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and was introduced to harness racing at a young age by his father — Marc Campbell — who frequently brought him to the track. He began carving out his own path in the sport early on, showing dedication and grit; when asked what he remembered most, Landon points to the first time his father let him train a horse — a proud milestone in his career.

Landon's first career training victory came in May 2024, when the mare Plain Jane won at Red Shores Racetrack & Casino. Since then, he has continued to build his presence on PEI's harness-racing circuit. In 2025 he was regularly sending out horses in stakes and preferred-class races and scored a training triple with three stakes wins on one card during Atlantic Grand Circuit Week. For Landon, the appeal of the sport is — above all — the horses themselves: he has said that caretaking and training demand more than meets the eye, and that "success never comes easy."

Mark MacDonell, Port Hood, NS

	Starts	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Earnings	UDRS/ UTRS
Driving	468	47	61	58	\$283,039	.214
Training	71	2	10	12	\$58,062	.162

Mark MacDonell is an emerging driver from Port Hood, Nova Scotia, carrying forward a proud, fourth-generation family tradition in the sport. He celebrated his first career driving win on February 25, 2024 — piloting Dapper Fella at Flamboro Downs in Ontario, just his 18th career start. Beyond driving, Mark also trains a small stable which includes Dapper Fella — demonstrating a commitment to both aspects of harness racing. MacDonell has continued to build momentum on the Ontario circuit, known for his calm hands, thoughtful race strategy, and strong work ethic.

Damian MacLellan, Inverness, NS

	Starts	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Earnings	UDRS / UTRS
Driving	582	73	65	60	\$546,241	.221
Training	14	0	2	2	\$12,130	.126

Damian MacLellan is a young and rising driver from Inverness, Nova Scotia. He made his pari-mutuel debut in May 2022, winning his first race aboard Elm Grove Mistress. In November 2022 he scored his first Ontario win with Dontdoubtthelakers at The Raceway at Western Fair.

After a successful year racing on Prince Edward Island, returning to Ontario in late 2024 paid off for the young horseman when on December 20, 2024, he drove Howmac Maximus to his first-ever victory at Woodbine Mohawk Park, a milestone that marked him as a driver to watch at Canada's top track. Damian showed his commitment to driving this past summer as he made himself available to drive from Dresden to Kawartha and everywhere in between and showed outstanding work ethic. MacLellan combines both roles as he works to build a reputation in the competitive Ontario harness-racing circuit

Mary Ratchford, Caledonia, ON

	Starts	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Earnings	UTRS
Training	154	17	18	18	\$272,395	.214

Mary Ratchford is a young and rising trainer based in Ontario. She earned her first ever training win in January 2024 when her mare Shay Seelster broke through after 28 attempts — a milestone just three starts into her training career.

By 2025, Mary dramatically stepped into the spotlight when her trainee Ritchie Rich captured a prestigious \$90,000 Ontario Sires Stakes Gold victory at Woodbine Mohawk Park — the biggest purse win of her career so far.

Despite still being very early in her career, she's shown a steady hand and maturity, earning a growing stable of horses and proving that even a small, family-backed barn — shared with her brother Todd Ratchford — can compete successfully at the top levels.

Jacob Roberts, Fergus, ON

	Starts	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Earnings	UTRS
Training	308	48	36	39	\$315,781	.262

Jacob Roberts is an emerging trainer steadily making his mark on the Ontario harness-racing scene. He recorded his first career training win in early 2022 with Rocknrolls Shadow, a wire-to-wire victory that signaled he had both the patience and eye for detail needed to develop competitive racehorses. Since then, Roberts has worked methodically to build a small but efficient stable, earning a reputation for consistency and strong year-over-year improvement.

By 2025, he had become one of the top trainers at Hanover Raceway, posting an impressive win percentage and demonstrating his ability to keep horses sharp throughout the season. He finished the season as Hanover's leading dash winning trainer. One of his top performers this year was older pacer Etherium Party, a winner of more than \$67,000.