

Dave Little's Road to the 2026 Meadowlands Pace
Week 1 (of 10) – Thursday, April 30
The Meadowlands Pace is Saturday, July 11

Rank	Horse (Earnings – Mark)	Driver, Trainer, Owner(s)	Dave Little's (and trainer's) comments
1	Beau Jangles (\$1,227,326 – 1:48.3)	B. McClure, Dr. I. Moore Graham Grace Stables LLC, Kiwi Stables LLC, Bolton Stables	On the way to the 2025 Horse of the Year trophy, “Beau” went unbeaten in 12 tries, which included victories in the \$700,000 Breeders Crown and \$730,000 Metro. He has never raced outside of Canada. The plan calls for his first race in the U.S. coming in his Pace elimination. Moore: “He’s in good shape. He had a good spring. His first start will be in the WEG/SBOA eliminations on May 9.” Breeding: Cattlewash-Mrs Major Hill Last Race: 4/17/2026 – SOTC – Qualifier – 1st (1:50.4)
2	Odds On Mr Mamba (\$314,405 – 1:47.4)	D. Dunn, M. Wrenn Odds On Racing	Last year, put up a 1:47.4 effort on October 2 in Indiana Sire Stakes action to become the only 2-year-old ever to break the 1:48 barrier for Melanie and Pete Wrenn. Pete: “He had a great winter. He’s a low-key horse. Never misses a meal. Seems to like his work. (Wednesday) was his first qualifier and it was very impressive. We’ll qualify again in 7-10 days, then we have Indiana Sires Stakes before the North America Cup.” Breeding: Odds On Equuleus-Honky Tonk Woman Last Race: 4/29/2026 – HoP – Qualifier – 1st (1:53.2)

<p>3</p>	<p>Gentleman's Club (\$239,756 – 1:50.2)</p>	<p>A. McCarthy, A. Lambert Anthony Licastro</p>	<p>His big win last year was when he held off Melillo to win the \$334,000 Governor's Cup in a lifetime best. Everything for this year appears to be in place. Lambert: "He had a great winter. He came back looking good. We'll see how his qualifier at The Meadowlands on Friday goes and then look to get a race there."</p> <p>Breeding: Downbytheseaside-See You At Peelers</p> <p>Last Race: 4/21/2026 – Phl – Qualifier – 1st (1:53.1)</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Brandon Blvd (\$389,397 – 1:48.4)</p>	<p>D. Dunn, A. Harris Punisher 11 Stable LLC</p>	<p>Harris: "I have no complaints. He came out of both qualifiers well. He is racing at Plainridge on Saturday in the Paul Revere. He's eligible to Ohio and Kentucky and I didn't want to ship too far before the North America Cup eliminations. I'm looking to get four starts before The Pace. These horses go in 1:48, with last quarters in :26, so you need more recovery time."</p> <p>Breeding: Downbytheseaside-Alexis Faith</p> <p>Last Race: 4/24/2026 – M1 – Qualifier – 1st (1:51.3)</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Al Papi (\$403,102 – 1:48.1)</p>	<p>Y. Gingras, R. Burke Burke Racing Stable LLC, J&T Silva – Purnel & Libby, Lawrence Karr, Weaver Brussemi LLC</p>	<p>Burke: "I was happy with that first start, that qualifier was great. The second qualifier? blah." Racing on May 2 at The Meadows in a PaSS event.</p> <p>Breeding: Papi Rob Hanover-Baron Remy</p> <p>Last Race: 4/21/2026 – Phl – Qualifier – 2nd (1:53.2)</p>

6	Melillo (\$385,957 – 1:48.4)	R. Wrenn Jr., R. Burke Burke Racing Stable LLC, Jason Melillo, Weaver Bruscelli LLC	Burke: “He was great in his first start and then trained great.” Will face Al Papi on Saturday. Breeding: Sweet Lou-Rosemary Rose Last Race: 4/22/2026 – Mea – W2NW4 – 1st (1:51.1)
7	Lindy Dragonwater (\$307,840 – 1:51)	C. Page, R. Burke Burke Racing Stable LLC, Knox Services Inc, Beasty LLC, Brad Grant	Won the 2025 Ohio Sire Stakes final for \$300,000 as the 3-5 favourite over Dayton’s five-eighths-mile oval on Sept. 27, yet that is not his strongest track size. Burke: “This horse trained great and is a mile-track horse.” Breeding: Downbytheseaside-Imagine Dragon Last Race: 4/23/2026 – MVR – Hackett – 5th (1:51)
8	Ubrute (\$358,507 – 1:49.4)	Y. Gingras, R. Burke Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Bruscelli LLC, Hatfield Stables, Phil Collura	Big 2025 win was the \$400,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final, beating Brandon Blvd. Racing Saturday at The Meadows in a Pa Stallion Series dash. Burke: “Qualified great both times. The breeding is there for this one to be something special.” Breeding: Tall Dark Stranger-Warrawee Ubeaut Last Race: 4/18/2026 – M1 – Qualifier – 1st (1:52)
9	Bookie J (\$230,868 – 1:51.1)	D. Dunn, C. Ryder Ken Jacobs	The 2025 Kindergarten and NJ Classic winner has never raced anywhere but The Big M. Ryder: “He came out of the race Saturday night very well. His driver is enthusiastic. He’s been finishing up strong in his miles. I think he’s going to be around when he faces the better horses in the division but he does have

			<p>a way to go.” Races Saturday at The Big M in the NJSS.</p> <p>Breeding: Perfect Sting-Skyy</p> <p>Last Race: 4/25/2026 – M1 – Home Grown – 1st (1:52)</p>
10	Windor (\$160,575 – 1:51.2)	D. McNair, M. Vanderkemp Dianna Secord	<p>Finished 2nd to Beau Jangles at 34-1 in the 2025 Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final.</p> <p>Vanderkemp: “We are 100 per cent heading to The Pace. We are going to qualify this Friday at Mohawk, then race in an elimination for the WEG/SBOA on May 9. He’s a lot wider than he was last year and filled out a lot. He’s got more life. A little stronger. In the barn, he’s a bit of a handful. Don’t get too close, he might bite.”</p> <p>Breeding: Bulldog Hanover-Winx</p> <p>Last Race: 4/24/2026 – Wbsb – Qualifier – 5th (1:56.1)</p>

Key Prep Races

MEADOWLANDS PACE ELIGIBLES IN CAPS
Supplements are permitted per the conditions of the race

Date	Stakes	Site	Winner	Trainer	Driver	2 nd Horse	3 rd Horse	Time
5/2	PaSS	Mea						
5/2	NJSS	M1						
5/9	NJSS	M1						
5/9	Pa All-Stars	PcD						
5/9	WEG/SBOA elims	Wbsb						
5/16	WEG/SBOA final	Wbsb						
5/16	PaSS	PcD						
5/23	NJSS final	M1						
5/24	PaSS	Phl						
5/30	Somebeachsomewhr	Wbsb						
6/6	N.A. Cup elims	Wbsb						
6/13	N.A. Cup finals	Wbsb						
6/19	Messenger elims	YR						
6/26	Messenger final	YR						
7/4	Meadowlands Pace elimis	M1						
7/11	Meadowlands Pace final	M1						