

Dave Little's Road to the 2026 Meadowlands Pace
Week 10 (of 10) – Thursday, July 2
The Meadowlands Pace is on Saturday, July 11

Rank	Horse (Earnings – Mark)	Driver, Trainer, Owner(s)	Dave Little's (and trainer's) comments
1	Brandon Blvd (\$660,977 – 1:48.1)	D. Dunn, A. Harris Punisher 11 Stable LLC	<p>With Odds On Mr Mamba opting out and Beau Jangles nursing a lung infection, the target is now squarely on Brandon's back. Could have taken a bye but will race in the elimination Saturday night. Has post 3. Harris: "The complexion of the race has changed, and for Brandon to be the favorite, well, he's a really nice horse, so he deserves it." On racing instead of taking a bye: "For me, I want to win the elimination, so I don't get worse than post six. And, mine needs a race. this was the plan all along."</p> <p>Breeding: Downbytheseaside-Alexis Faith</p> <p>Last Race: 6/13/2026 – Wbsb – North America Cup – 2nd (1:48.1)</p>
2	Gentlemans Club (\$273,631 – 1:47.4)	A. McCarthy, A. Lambert Anthony Licastro	<p>Became the fastest 3YO of 2026 in an eye-popping mile at The Big M last Friday, vaulting him all the way to No. 2. Has post 4 in the elim. Lambert: "I'm not surprised at how well he raced last week. I think he's been that good, he just over raced in his North America Cup (elimination). I think racing against some good older horses earlier in the year really helped my colt."</p> <p>Breeding: Downbytheseaside-See You At Peelers</p>

			Last Race: 6/26/2026 – M1 – 3YO NW5 – 1st (1:47.4)
3	Al Papi (\$526,820 – 1:48.1)	Y. Gingras, R. Burke Burke Racing Stable LLC, J&T Silva – Purnel & Libby, Lawrence Karr, Weaver Brusceci LLC	Was gunned down by Fragment in the Messenger in a good speed effort. Will take a bye into the final. Burke: “I don’t think any horse can think they can definitely win (the Pace). Al Papi raced at Yonkers (in the Messenger) last week, so taking the bye was good for him. He was fine in the race.” Breeding: Papi Rob Hanover-Baron Remy Last Race: 6/26/2026 – YR – Messenger – 2nd (2:21.4 – 1¼ miles)
4	Melillo (\$478,787 – 1:48.4)	R. Wrenn Jr., R. Burke Burke Racing Stable LLC, Jason Melillo, Weaver Brusceci LLC	Ended up fourth after going first-up in the Messenger. Another Burke trainee who will take the bye. Burke: “He actually got run into at the top of the lane (in the Messenger). He was actually good.” On taking the bye: “I think it’s better with the Adios and the Hempt coming up.” Breeding: Sweet Lou-Rosemary Rose Last Race: 6/26/2026 – YR – Messenger – 4th (2:22.3 – 1¼ miles)
5	Bookie J (\$375,868 – 1:48.4)	J. Bartlett, C. Ryder Ken Jacobs	Took last week off. Suffered a blip in his season when beaten by stablemate Obliterate. Has the rail in the elim after opting to not take a bye. Ryder: “While every horse has problems, he couldn’t be doing any better. We haven’t seen the best of him yet. When he got beat, he took some bad steps in the stretch. He doesn’t do that, and he better not do it again.” Breeding: Perfect Sting-Skyy

			Last Race: 6/20/2026 – M1 – NJSDF final – 2nd (1:50)
6	Obliterate (\$74,950 – 1:48.3)	P. Ryder, C. Ryder Robert Mondillo, Craig Henderson FAC Racing LLC	One of two making their debut in the Top 10. Connections loved the effort in the NJSDF so much they supplemented to the Pace for \$66,000. Has post 8 in the elim. Ryder: “All three partners have been wanting to get into the Pace and it’s on our back doorstep. We know it’s a gamble, but America is celebrating its 250th birthday. It is the land of opportunity.” Breeding: Perfect Sting-Triple V Hanover Last Race: 6/20/2026 – M1 – NJSDF final – 1st (1:49.4)
7	Sweet Lovin Lou (\$233,437 – 1:48.2)	S. Zeron, D. Lagace Lagace Stables, Edwin Buhler, Big Als Stables, Brittany Farms Micki Rae	Qualified Monday with a :27.1 kicker. Has post 2 in the elim. Lagace: “We were real happy with his qualifier. James (MacDonald, who drove him) said he was really sharp. He seems great and shipped well to New Jersey.” Breeding: Sweet Lou-Lovers Dream Last Race: 6/29/2026 – Wbsb – Qualifier – 1st (1:53.2)
8	Azrael Blue Chip (\$166,950 – 1:51)	B. Beckwith, B. Odza CT Stables LLC	Gentlemans Club was awesome, but Azrael was second. So, you were happy with the effort, yes? Odza: “Yes. The owner and I had a conversation about it. It was kind of like a two-horse race. It was one of those situations where we would have had to come home in :25.3 to win, so I was very happy with how he went. I want to sit up close now. I’d like to see a more aggressive try.” Has post 9 in the elim. Breeding: Perfect Sting-Bathsheba

			Last Race: 6/26/2026 – M1 – 3YO NW5 – 2nd (1:48.1)
9	Always B Charlie (\$35,218 – 1:51)	J. Bartlett, N. Takter Upstart Racing	Has post 10 in the elim. Finished an unspectacular fourth in a Meadowlands overnight. Takter: “I don’t agree with that. My horse is very green and has had only 6 lifetime starts. Hopefully, we can overcome the 10 hole and get into the final. I think it’s a very average group of horses, but Andrew’s horse is the best in there. I think the Pace is his to lose.” Breeding: Always B Miki-My Little Delight Last Race: 6/26/2026 – M1 – 3YO NW5 – 4th (1:48.4)
10	Ubrute (\$374,757 – 1:49.4)	Y. Gingras, R. Burke Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brusceci LLC, Hatfield Stables, Phil Collura	KYSS champ from a year ago hasn’t done all that much thus far in ’26, but will be there Saturday, leaving from post 6 in the elim. Aiming to give Burke 4 in the final. Burke: “He got used hard (in his last race). Yannick and I thought he needed a race, that’s why he’s racing Saturday and did not take the bye. I think this is an average group of 3-year-olds.” Breeding: Tall Dark Stranger-Warrawee Ubeaut Last Race: 6/26/2026 – M1 – 3YO NW5 – 3rd (1:48.3)

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	Sneaky Squeaky Another C Note	J. Bongiorno R. Burke	T. Tetrick R. Wrenn Jr.	MELILLO Frantic Hanover	AL PAPI Twin B Thriller	1:50.1 1:51.2
5/2	NJSS	M1	BOOKIE J	C. Ryder	D. Dunn	AZRAEL BLUE CHIP	Thisbe estings Deo	1:50
5/9	NJSS	M1	Sonofanutcracker	T. Cancelliere	D. Dunn	AZRAEL BLUE CHIP	ROCK NACIO US	1:50
5/9	Pa All-Stars	PcD	Another C Note Captain Apple Traacherous Lou Toast Of The Town	R. Burke C. Ryder R. Cleary N. Daley	T. Buter P. Ryder T. Tetrick T. McCart hy	Papi Rick Southwind Spencer Easy Breeze Superchamp Hanover	Spunky Hanov er Really Bright TALBO T ANDRE TTI Good Friday	1:52.2 1:54.1 1:53.4 1:52.2
5/9	Ontario SBOA elims	Wbs b	BEAU JANGLES Borderline Mobby	Dr. I. Moore D. Menary	B. McClure	Tilthecowscom ehome WINDOR	Mega Moves Redlan d	1:51 1:50.4

					J. MacDo nald		Rocket Man	
5/16	Ontario SBOA final	Wbs b	BEAU JANGLES	Dr. I Moore	B. McClur e	Borderline Mobby	WIND OR	1:49.3
5/16	PaSS	PcD	APOCALYPSE BLUECHIP Sneaky Squeaky Another C Note	J. Bongior no J. Bongior no T. Buter	J. Bongior no J. Bongior no R. Burke	Superchamp Hanover Captain Apple MELILLO	South wind Spence r Silent Investo r Papi Rick	1:50.3 1:51.1 1:50.4
5/23	NJSS final	M1	BOOKIE J	C. Ryder	D. Dunn	AZRAEL BLUE CHIP	Thisbe estings Deo	1:50.2
5/24	PaSS	Phl	MELILLO Another C Note Papi Rick	R. Burke R. Burke N. Daley	T. Tetrick Y. Gingras A. McCart hy	Easy Breeze ALWAYS B CHARLIE Sneaky Squeaky	TALBO T ANDRE TTI Thai Hanov er AL PAPI	1:48.4 1:50.3 1:50.3
5/30	Somebeac hsomewhr	Wbs b	BRANDON BLVD	A. Harris	J. Bartlett	SWEET LOVIN LOU	No Waitlist	1:48.1
6/6	N.A. Cup elims	Wbs b	SWEET LOVIN LOU ODDS ON MR MAMBA	D. Lagace M. Wrenn	J. MacDo nald	AL PAPI BRANDON BLVD	AZRAE L BLUE CHIP	1:48.2 1:48.2

					J. MacDo nald		BEAU JANGL ES	
6/13	N.A. Cup final	Wbs b	ODDS ON MR MAMBA	M. Wrenn	J. MacDo nald	BRANDON BLVD	BEAU JANGL ES	1:48.1
6/26	Messenger	YR	Fragment	P. Engblo m	J. Bartlett	AL PAPI	MIGHT Y MATT	2:21.4
7/4	Meadowlan ds Pace elim	M1						
7/11	Meadowlan ds Pace final	M1						