



# \$500,000 Breeders Crown

## Open Pace

<b>Mister Big</b>	
<b>Breeding</b>	5, b, h, by Grinfromeartear – Worlds Sweetheart – Jate Lobell
<b>Breeders</b>	Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par, Lexington, Ky
<b>Owner(s)</b>	Joseph Muscara, Huntingdon Valley, PA
<b>Sales Info</b>	\$255,000 Harrisburg Mixed Sale November 2006, \$55,000 2004 Kentucky Yearling
<b>Trainer</b>	Virgil V Morgan Jr.
<b>Driver</b>	Brian Sears

Year	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	US. Earnings	Mark
2008	8	6	2	0	\$1,001,440	1:48.1 Chst
2007	28	12	9	3	\$1,310,914	1:47.4 M
2006	16	3	3	2	\$276,046	1:49.2 Wdb
2005	10	3	2	1	\$105,229	1:53 Moh
<b>Lifetime</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$2,693,629</b>	<b>4,1:47.4 M</b>

<b>Stakes Summary</b>					
Date	Purse	Stakes	Finish	Time	Track
08/16/2008	\$702,000	Canadian Pacing Derby Final	1/1T	1:50	Moh
08/02/2008	\$322,000	US Pacing Championship	1/NK	1:48.2	M
07/12/2008	\$600,000	W R Haughton Final	1/HD	1:49	M
07/05/2008	\$50,100	W R Haughton	1/T	1:48.1	M
06/15/2008	\$500,000	Ben Franklin Final	2/3Q	1:48.3	Chst
06/08/2008	\$50,000	Ben Franklin Elim	1/3Q	1:48.1	Chst

<b>PREVIOUS BREEDERS CROWN STARTS</b>					
Date	Purse	Stakes	Finish	Time	Track
09/01/2007	\$540,000	Breeders Crown Final	2/ns	1:49.2	Moh
10/28/2006	\$610,000	Breeders Crown Final	2/1h	1:52.2	Wdb
10/21/2006	\$25,000	Breeders Crown Elim	1/Q	1:49.2	Wdb

### Quotes & Notes

With his win in the Canadian Pacing Derby at Mohawk two weeks ago, Mister Big topped \$1 million in earnings for 2008. In the process, he became the first pacer in history to notch million-dollar seasons at both ages 4 and 5 and only the eighth ever to have consecutive million-dollar campaigns.

"He's had a week off and he's doing fine," trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. said. "I wouldn't have minded racing him last week, but he'll still be fine. Any time you can win a Breeders Crown, it punctuates your year. He still has six races after this, but this is the last major one."

Interestingly, it was Mister Big's second-place finish to Shark Gesture in the Breeders Crown for 3-year-olds in 2006 that led to him ending up in Morgan's stable. Morgan purchased Mister Big for \$255,000 for owner Joe Muscara.

"When we were looking to buy him, I think the main race we focused on was when he was second in the Breeders Crown," Morgan said. "We were more confident after that mile."

The last horse to defeat Mister Big was Artistic Fella, who paced a world record mile to claim the Ben Franklin Pace at Harrah's Chester in June. Mister Big edged Artistic Fella by a head in the Haughton and by a neck in the U.S. Pacing Championship.

Owner Joe Muscara, a retired real estate developer from the Philadelphia suburb of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, has owned hundreds of racehorses since he got interested in harness racing in the 1970s at the Liberty Bell and Brandywine ovals. Among the top horses he has owned is Mach Three, a winner of the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace and \$1 million North America Cup.

<b>Owner Record</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Starters</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Champions</b>	<b>Earnings</b>	<b>Sts W-P-S</b>
<b>Muscara, Joe</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$171,250</b>	<b>2-0-1-0</b>

Virgil Morgan Jr., a native of Columbus, Ohio, has won the Scioto Downs training title each of the past 13 years. Twice he led North American trainers in wins, in 2000 and 2002. He was second four times, in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2005. Last year, he was fifth with 288 victories.

Morgan, 42, got his love of harness racing from his uncle, Emory Lewis, and his father. Virgil Sr., who passed away last year, and his son often went to the races, and the elder Morgan first ventured into horse ownership with a Thoroughbred. It was the younger Morgan who was drawn to Standardbreds.

“We would go to Scioto Downs two or three nights a week when I was young,” he recalled. “From the time I was 8 or 9, I could read a program. I was always intrigued by equipment changes, and I think that’s what drew me to Standard reds rather than Thoroughbreds.”

<b>Stable Record</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Starters</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Champions</b>	<b>Earnings</b>	<b>Sts W-P-S</b>
Morgan Jr., Virgil	7	11	9		\$324,340	8-0-1-2

Breeder Kentuckiana Farms General Partners is an offshoot of Kentuckiana Farms, run by Tom Crouch of Lexington. Crouch was elected into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in voting announced Tuesday. The Kentuckiana Farms General Partners includes Rebecca Brady, Robert Brady, Michelle Goodman, Ken Jackson, and Lisa Jackson.

Started in 1975, the farm is a family concern, run with the help of Tom’s wife, Betty, their three daughters and their spouses. Crouch, originally a commodities broker and livestock analyst, has been a pillar of support in the harness community, as a partner in the Kentucky Standardbred Sales Co., a founding member of the Classic Series, a patron and benefactor of the American Championship Harness Series, a stakes sponsor, and a Hambletonian Society director.

The farm’s first Crown breeder credit came from Follow My Star, one of the greatest pacing fillies of all time and once the richest distaffer ever. The partnership also bred two-time trotting Crown champ Mystical Sunshine.

<b>Breeder Record</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Starters</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Champions</b>	<b>Earnings</b>	<b>Sts W-P-S</b>
Kentuckiana	68	96	78	7(4)	\$3,991,365	70-8-13-4

Sire Grinfromeartear upset Blissfull Hall in the 1999 3-Year-Old Crown Pace here at Mohawk. The Ontario sire has yet to sire a Crown champion, though Mister Big has been second twice..

<b>Sire Record</b>	<b>Horses</b>	<b>Starters</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Champions</b>	<b>Earnings</b>	<b>Sts W-P-S</b>
Grinfromeartear	3	4	4		369,100	3- 0- 2- 1