



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - April 2026 -

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Book'em Danno three-peats as New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year

Book'em Danno is the New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year for a third consecutive year, as honored by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. He also is named 2025 Champion Older Male and Champion Sprinter following another exceptional campaign.

Owned by Atlantic Six Racing LLC and trained by Derek Ryan, the standout gelding delivered a remarkable 2025 season, winning four of five starts and earning Eclipse Award honors as Champion Male Sprinter.

Book'em Danno launched his championship season with a decisive 2½-length victory in the \$100,000 Boston Handicap at Colonial Downs, carrying 125 pounds and running 7 furlongs in 1:20.03. The state's all-time leading New Jersey-bred money earner, now boasting \$1,855,425 in career earnings, next finished fourth, beaten just a neck, in the Grade 1 \$1,000,000 Churchill Downs Stakes beneath the Twin Spires – a race that proved to be his only defeat of the year.

He rebounded in dominant fashion, sweeping Saratoga Race Course's prestigious

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older sprint series – the Grade 3 True North Stakes, Grade 2 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Stakes, and Grade 1 Forego Stakes. Those victories propelled the New Jersey-bred to national prominence, as racing fans across the country were captivated by his Saratoga performances.

Bred by Gregory Kilka and Bright View Farm, Book'em Danno is a son of Buccheri out of the Ghostzapper mare Adorabella.

Holly Crest Farm's homebred **Riding Pretty** was named Champion Older Female for the second consecutive year following a season highlighted by two stakes victories.

The daughter of Jack Milton out of the Girolamo mare High Renaissance captured the \$85,000 Jersey Girl Handicap at 1 mile on the turf by 3¼ lengths and the \$125,000 Charles Hesse III Handicap at 1¼ miles on dirt against male rivals. Trained by Eddie Owens Jr., Riding Pretty also finished second in the Smart N Classy Handicap at Monmouth Park, contested at a mile on turf. She has compiled career earnings of \$526,570.

Gold Trust, bred, owned and trained by Mike Dini, was named Champion Turf Runner after winning three of five starts on the year, all a Monmouth Park.

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Adorabella, dam of 2025 NJ-bred Horse of the Year Book'em Danno, was named Broodmare of the Year for the fourth time.



Two-time stakes winner **Riding Pretty** was named 2025 NJ-bred Champion Older Female.



Gold Trust, winner of three of five starts, including the Joey P. Handicap, is the 2025 NJ-bred Champion Turf Runner.



Sea Wizard takes his third NJ Stallion of the Year title thanks to stakes winners Great Navigator (above) and Bingo's Birkin.

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The son of Handsome Mike out of Taty's Gold, by Touch Gold, scored victories in two open turf sprints during the summer before earning his first stakes triumph in the \$85,000 Joey P. Stakes against fellow New Jersey-breds. Bred by Ballybrit Stable LLC, Gold Trust owns five career victories from 11 starts and earnings of \$223,581.

Adorabella was honored as Broodmare of the Year for the fourth consecutive year. Bred by Tracy Farmer, the 10-year-old daughter of Ghostzapper out of Alydorable, by Arch, is the dam of New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year Book'em Danno.

Gregory Kilka purchased Adorabella at the Keeneland January 2020 Horses of All Ages Sale while she was in foal to Fast Anna. That foal became the 2022 New Jersey-bred Champion Two-Year-Old Filly Girl Trouble, earner of \$283,890.

Sea Wizard has been named New Jersey Stallion of the Year for the third consecutive year after his progeny earned \$1,183,104 in 2025.

From his fourth crop of runners, Sea Wizard sired stakes winners Great Navigator (\$159,985) and Bingo's Birkin (\$98,820), stakes-placed J J Zo Zo and Slick Merlin, and a total of 13 individual winners during the season. Sea Wizard is standing the 2026 breeding season at Pegasus Farm in Colts Neck.

2025 New Jersey-bred Champions

Horse of the Year, Champion Sprinter, Champion Older Male: Book'em Danno

(Bucchero—Adorabella, by Ghostzapper)
Breeder: Gregory J. Kilka & Bright View Farm
Owner: Atlantic Six Racing LLC
Trainer: Derek Ryan

Champion Turf Runner: Gold Trust

(Handsome Mike—Taty's Gold, by Touch Gold)
Breeder: Mike Dini
Owner: Ballybrit Stable LLC
Trainer: Mike Dini

Champion Older Female: Riding Pretty

(Jack Milton—High Renaissance, by Girolamo)
Breeder: Holly Crest Farm
Owner: Holly Crest Farm
Trainer: Eddie Owens, Jr.

Broodmare of the Year: Adorabella

Owned by Gregory J. Kilka & Bright View Farm

Stallion of the Year: Sea Wizard

Owned by Colonial Farms

Index of New Jersey-bred races at Monmouth Park

MSW Fillies, Two-year-Olds: July 3, 26, August 23, September 12
MSW Boys, Two-year-Olds: June 14, July 5, 31, August 23, September 13
MSW F&M Short Dirt: May 16, June 26, August 23
MSW Boys Short Dirt: May 17, June 28, August 23
MSW F&M Long Dirt: August 9
MSW Boys Long Dirt: August 14
MSW F&M Short Turf: August 16
MSW Boys Short Turf: August 22
MSW F&M Long Turf: May 23, August 23
MSW Boys Long Turf: May 24, August 23
\$100K NW2L Girls Short Dirt: May 25, August 15
\$100K NW2L Boys Short Dirt: May 30, August 21
\$150K NW3L Girls Short Dirt: July 10, August 30
\$150K NW3L Boys Short Dirt: July 17, September 5
\$150K NW3L Girls Long Dirt: August 7
\$150K NW3L Boys Long Dirt: August 8
ALW NW1X or NW2 Girls Short Dirt: May 10
ALW NW1X or NW2 Boys Short Dirt: May 9
ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Girls Short Dirt: July 19, August 23

ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Boys Short Dirt: July 18, August 23
ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Girls Long Dirt: May 31, August 23
ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Boys Long Dirt: June 13, August 23
ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Girls Short Turf: June 20, August 1, August 23
ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Boys Short Turf: June 21, August 2, August 23
ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Girls Long Turf: July 11, August 23, September 6
ALW NW1X or \$15,000 Boys Long Turf: July 12, August 23, September 7
ALW NW2X or \$30,000 Girls Short Dirt: July 24
ALW NW2X or \$30,000 Boys Short Dirt: July 25
ALW NW2X or \$30,000 Girls Long Turf: August 28
ALW NW2X or \$30,000 Boys Long Turf: August 29
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Stakes Boys Short Dirt: June 7, August 23
Stakes Girls Long Turf: June 27
Stakes Boys Long Turf: July 4
Stakes Boys Long Dirt: August 23



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Leading New Jersey Breeders of 2025

The following table lists the leading New Jersey-bred breeders based on North American earnings in 2025.

Breeder	Starts	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Earnings
Gregory J. Kilka & Bright View Farm	5	4	0	0	\$817,300
Colonial Farms	75	16	11	3	\$698,609
Holly Crest Farm	64	7	10	12	\$588,233
Law Legacy Stables	43	7	10	5	\$448,793
New Farm	49	8	7	2	\$347,697
Isabelle de Tomaso	53	7	4	5	\$281,622
Hope H. Jones & Isabelle de Tomaso	31	4	7	2	\$278,750
Dennis A. Drazin	36	7	3	1	\$266,213
ARM Consulting	17	4	1	4	\$242,535
Barrister Breeding	18	5	4	1	\$240,865
Mike Dini	15	4	3	2	\$201,925
Hidden Acres 4-D Farm	25	4	4	1	\$199,159
Fazio Stables	67	6	15	10	\$192,943
ABL Stable	17	3	1	3	\$164,092
Jose Armando Garcia	25	1	5	8	\$145,120

2026 New Jersey-bred stakes schedule at Monmouth Park

Run Date	Stakes Name	Purse	Division	Distance
June 6	Spruce Fir Handicap	\$75,000	F & M, 3 and up	6 furlongs
June 7	John J. Reilly Handicap	\$75,000	3 and up	6 furlongs
June 27	Jersey Girl Handicap	\$75,000	F & M, 3 and up	1 mile (Turf)
July 4	Irish War Cry Handicap	\$75,000	3 and up	1 mile (Turf)
August 23	Charles Hesse III Handicap	\$100,000	3 and up	1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles
August 23	NJ Breeders Handicap	\$75,000	3 and up	6 furlongs
August 23	Eleven North Handicap	\$75,000	F & M, 3 and up	6 furlongs



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