

After reaching 'the pinnacle,' Matz aims for more success

by Ken Weingartner, USTA Media Relations Manager

Hightstown, NJ --- Bill Matz enjoyed the highest of highs last year when Beckham's Z Tam delivered the longtime owner his first Breeders Crown trophy. As Matz awaits the pacer's return this spring, he is keeping an eye on Heavenly Sound; a 3-year-old that he hopes can follow in Beckham's Z Tam's hoof prints and develop into a stakes player as the season progresses.

Heavenly Sound, owned by Matz and Cary Potkin as M & M Harness Racing, won two of 13 races last year. He started this season in conditioned-level races and finished second his first two starts, by a total of less than a length, before posting back-to-back victories.

The colt's first win was in 1:50.4, with a :26.1 final quarter-mile, at the Meadowlands. The time is tied for the season's fastest by a 3-year-old pacer. His second win was a 1:52.2 triumph in the first round of the Bobby Weiss Series for 3- and 4-year-old male pacers at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

NY-Bred Heavenly Sound returns to action Saturday in the second round of the Weiss. He will start from post five in the first of three divisions, with Tom Jackson driving for trainer Bruce Saunders. The colt is the 5-2 morning-line favorite.



USTA/Ken Weingartner photo

Heavenly Sound is a son of 2010 Horse of the Year [Rock N Roll Heaven](#), out of Frankie's Dream.

The colt is eligible to a number of events including the Breeders Crown, Max C. Hempt Memorial, Cane Pace, Matron Stakes, New York Sire Stakes and Empire Breeders Classic.

"I've got to give Bruce all the credit," Matz said. "Bruce picked him out and thought we had a good one. He told us to shut him down last year and give him some time and he's come back great. He went a big mile at the Meadowlands and it looks like he's one of the top ones in the Weiss, which is always a great feeling."

Heavenly Sound is a son of 2010 Horse of the Year [Rock N Roll Heaven](#), who was trained by Saunders, out of Frankie's Dream, who is a full sister to stakes-winner Happy Dreamer. Heavenly Sound was purchased for \$27,000 at the 2016 Standardbred Horse Sale.

"I love that he's showing some speed, especially when I know he's got a lot of races on half-mile tracks down the road," said Matz, a New Yorker who owns two dozen horses. "If you don't have speed and get away toward the back, it's game over before you even start."

Following Saturday's races, the Weiss Series for male pacers will continue with preliminary rounds April 21 and April 28. The \$30,000 championship is May 5.

For Saturday's complete Pocono entries, click [here](#). First race post time is 7 p.m. (EDT). The Weiss divisions are races three, four, and 12 on the 14-race card.