

Blissfull Hall the favourite for Breeders Crown

Mohawk Raceway will host the \$5.3 million Breeders Crown championships for two and three-year-olds this Friday. And Milton-trained Blissfull Hall is poised to add another piece of hardware to his bulging trophy case.

In case there was a skeptic out there among the crowd Saturday evening, the brilliant pacer proved again in his elimination that it will take a Herculean effort from another horse to deny the new Pacing Triple Crown champion another major victory in the \$588,000 Three-Year-Old Colt Pace.

Blissfull Hall, who has emerged as a serious contender for Horse of the Year honours, coasted home in his elimination in 1:51.2 — equaling his own Mohawk mark set in September's Simcoe Stakes.

Driven by Ron Pierce, Blissfull Hall — the

prohibitive 1-9 choice — was a contented fourth for most of the mile as Full Scholarship cut out wicked fractions of :27.4, :55.4 and 1:23. Turning for home, Pierce unleashed the son of Cambest and he sailed on by the leaders to win by a comfortable two lengths over Arts Conquest, with CPW a distant third.

It was Blissfull Hall's 13th win in 18 starts this year for owner Daniel Plouffe of Bedford, Quebec and trainer Ben Wallace of Milton, as the bay colt has now earned over \$1.14 million in a sparkling sophomore campaign.

Along the way, he became only the ninth horse to win Pacing's Triple Crown.

"I knew they were marching pretty good up front," said Wallace. "It was a good trip for us going into next week's (\$588,000) final. When you first put the harness on a horse, the last thing



Photo by MICHAEL BURNS

Milton trainer Ben Wallace has Blissfull Hall primed and ready for Friday.

you'd think about was a Triple Crown."

Added Pierce, "There was no question he was the best tonight. I was never concerned anywhere in the mile."

Blissfull Hall will no doubt be favoured Friday. But it won't be a cakewalk.

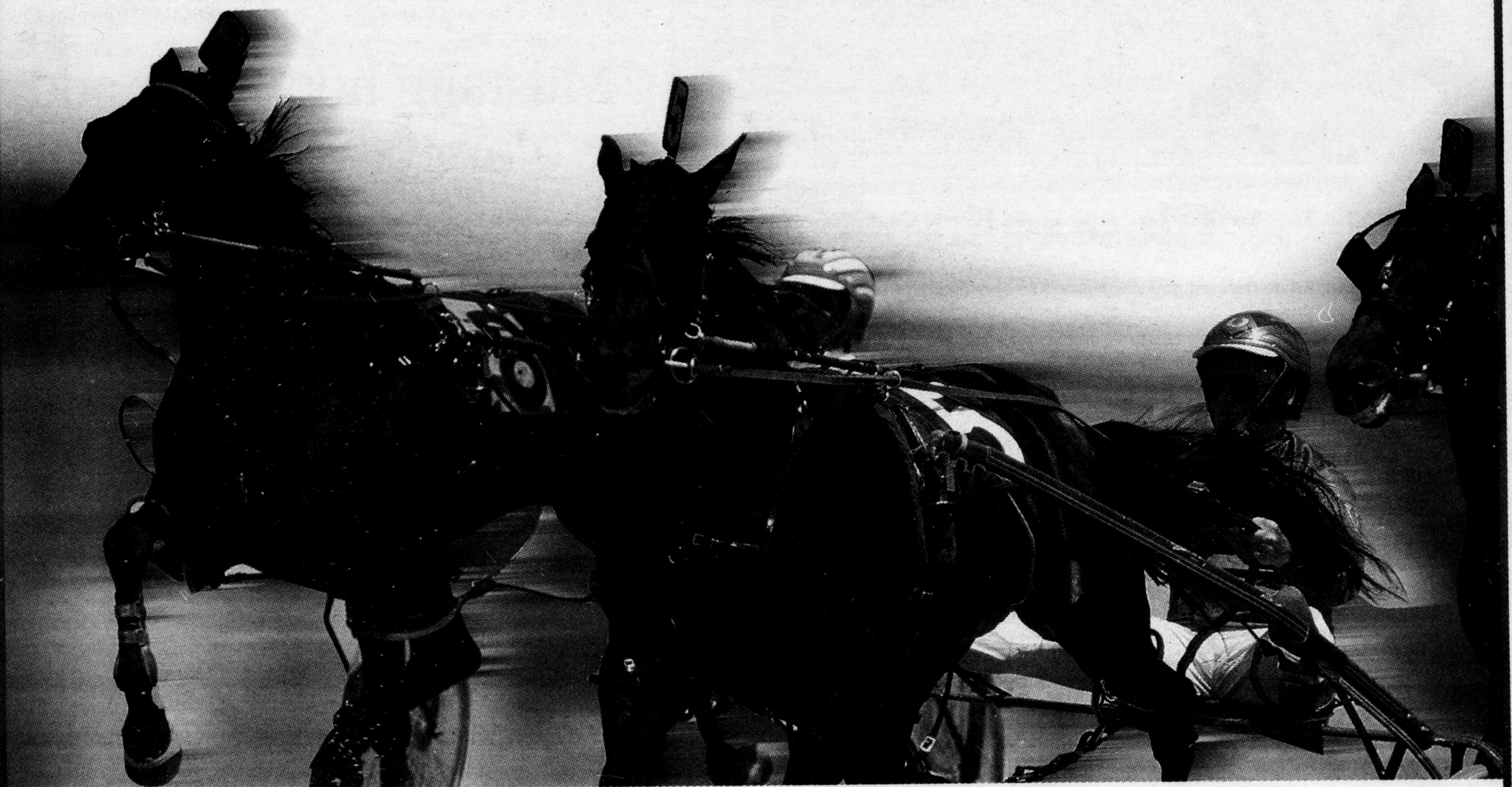
His chief rival will likely be Grinfromeartear, who won his elimination courageously, in 1:52, hanging on for a head win over Sign of Success after setting all the fractions under driver Chris Christoforou. The millionaire son of Artsplace will look for revenge against Blissfull Hall after finishing second to him in last week's Messenger Stakes.

There will be eight Breeders Crown races Friday night in the richest harness racing event of the year in Canada. Besides driving Grinfromeartear, Christoforou will also pilot Astreos, one of the favourites in the richest event, the \$823,347 Two-Year-Old Colt Pace — which also includes Milton's Steve Condren aboard highly regarded Intrepid Seelster.

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Limited free general public seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. Seating will also be available in our trackside lounge & patio (\$10 cover charge).



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