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NEWS

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JAMIESON, PALONE, HTA DRIVERS OF 2009

Jody Jamieson, Ontario's new driving champion, has added North America's top harness racing award for drivers to his honors. Jamieson finished in a dead heat with Dave Palone of Pennsylvania for Harness Tracks of America's Driver of the Year award for 2009.

It was Palone's fifth HTA cup, and Jamieson became the first Canadian driver ever to win while competing almost exclusively in Canadian races. Eight other Canadians have won in the 42-year history of the competition, but all drove primarily in the United States. Jamieson drove in 3,322 purse races last year, but 3,247 of them were in Canada and only 75 in the U.S.

Both Jamieson and Palone scored 88 points in winning the honor, the toughest in harness racing to attain. To win, a driver must finish in the top 25 internationally in three categories – races won, money won and percentage standings.

Only 5 drivers, out of 4,030 who drove in at least one pari-mutuel race last year in the U.S. and Canada, were able to accomplish that feat.

Jamieson won 796 races to finish first in that category, and was 7th in both money won, with \$10,400,000 earned by his mounts and in-the-money percentages, with a .366 average. Palone accumulated his points by finishing fourth in races won with 697, 6th in money with \$10.7 million earned by horses he drove, and fifth with a .382 in-the-money average in that category. Jason Bartlett finished third with 86 points, Tim Tetrick was fourth with 78, and Jim Morrill Jr. finished fifth with 71.

Points were awarded 25 for finishing first in a category, down to 1 for finishing 25th, with a 25 point bonus for being in the top 25 in all three.

Here are the final standings of North America's top 10 in HTA's Driver of the Year 2009 trophy race.

The Top Ten	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings	UDRS	Win Points	Earnings Points	UDRS Points	Bonus Points	Total Points
1. Jody Jamieson	3,322	796	533	374	\$10,400,232	0.366	25	19	19	25	88
1. Dave Palone	2,775	697	457	327	\$10,719,380	0.382	22	20	21	25	88
3. Jason Bartlett	3,331	720	493	433	\$10,872,358	0.342	24	22	15	25	86
4. Tim Tetrick	3,103	629	467	394	\$16,269,672	0.329	21	25	7	25	78
5. James Morrill Jr.	1,326	388	231	160	\$8,217,408	0.430	5	16	25	25	71
6. George Napolitano Jr.	1,841	422	312	262	\$5,086,599	0.371	14	3	20	25	62
7. Brad Forward	2,398	516	353	302	\$3,367,176	0.339	19	-	14	-	33
8. Winston Campbell	1,620	395	328	250	\$1,091,100	0.408	7	-	23	-	30
9. Matthew Kakaley	2,395	483	405	307	\$2,323,346	0.338	17	-	13	-	30
10. Ron Pierce	2,564	394	368	328	\$12,870,708	0.276	6	24	-	-	30

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