



# Evaluate

Bay colt, 3 by Andover Hall – Blathin by Classic Photo

**OWNER:** Stall TZ Inc. (Stefan Melander), Vero Beach, FL  
**BREEDER:** John Egloff, PA  
**SALE INFO:** Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg \$25,000 (sold as Irishman)  
**TRAINER:** Marcus Melander  
**DRIVER:** Örjan Kihlström

| YEAR     | STARTS | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | EARNINGS  | MARK     |
|----------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|----------|
| 2018     | 7      | 2   | 2   | 0   | \$107,140 | 1:51.4 F |
| 2017     | 4      | 2   | 2   | 0   | \$27,750  | 1:56.0 F |
| LIFETIME | 11     | 4   | 4   | 0   | \$134,890 | 1:51.4 F |

- Evaluate is owned by Stefan Melander, who trained and drove 2001 Hambletonian winner Scarlet Knight. Evaluate is trained by Melander's nephew, Marcus Melander.
- Örjan Kihlström is one of Europe's top drivers and was elected to Sweden's Hall of Fame in 2015. He already has two stakes wins at the Meadowlands in his career, capturing the 2014 Breeders Crown Open Trot with Commander Crowe and 2015 Fresh Yankee with D'One on Hambletonian Day. He drove Cruzado Dela Noche in his Hambletonian elimination in 2015, finishing ninth and failing to advance to the final.
- He is perhaps best known internationally for his wins with Nuncio, Magic Tonight, and From Above in the Elitlopp and his win with Maharajah in the Prix d'Amerique. He also has driven stars such as Giant Diablo and Propulsion.
- Kihlström's most recent drive in the U.S. came in 2016 when he finished fourth with On Track Piraten in the Yonkers International Trot.
- When he was elected to the Hall of Fame, Kihlström's bio proclaimed: "Magic hands. Nerves of steel. Ice cold as few. He has the ability many want, but few possess."
- Evaluate won twice and finished second twice in four starts in 2017. His first victory came in a maiden class against 3-year-olds at Harrah's Philadelphia. He also won a division of the Liberty Bell Series at Philly. He capped the season with a second-place finish to 4-year-old Skyway Cobra in a conditioned race at Philly.\
- Evaluate opened this season with a second in a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes at The Meadows and followed with a win in the series at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. After picking up a victory in a conditioned class at Pocono, he was second to Six Pack in his elimination of the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial and fourth in the final.
- His most recent starts have come at the Meadowlands, where he was fourth in his division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial on July 14 and went off stride on a sloppy surface in the Arthur Tompkins Memorial on July 21.
- "I think he had a little problem with the track," trainer Marcus Melander said. "The track was very hard and he didn't like that. But he feels very sharp, actually."

- “Of course, he is not one of the favorites, but he’s got some potential. With a good draw he’ll be right there.”
- Evaluate’s family includes two-time Dan Patch Award-winner Wesgate Crown.
- Marcus Melander, 26, made his Hambletonian debut in 2017 and saw Enterprise win his elimination and then finish fourth-placed-third in the final. Melander’s Long Tom also raced in an elimination, leading through three-quarters of a mile before going off stride and failing to reach the final.
- Melander came to the U.S. from Sweden less than five years ago and worked for four-time Hambletonian-winning trainer Jimmy Takter before starting his own stable in late 2014. He is based in New Egypt, N.J., at a farm that was home previously to each the legendary Stanley Dancer, a five-time Hambletonian winner, and Continental Farms stables.
- Last year, Melander’s horses won 38 races and \$1.31 million in purses, nearly tripling his earnings from the previous season. His victories in 2017 included the Valley Victory Stakes with Fourth Dimension, a division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial with Long Tom, and the aforementioned elimination of the Hambletonian.
- Melander’s uncle, Stefan Melander, won the 2001 Hambletonian as trainer and driver with Scarlet Knight.
- Growing up in Sweden, Melander stayed up all hours of the night following the results of U.S. harness racing. He was making a name for himself as a driver in Europe, but was always fascinated by racing in the States. At age 19, Melander won Sweden’s equivalent to the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s Rising Star Award. He had just more than 100 wins when the Melanders moved to America.
- Melander has a stable of approximately 40 horses.