



LONG TOM

Bay, C, 3 by Muscle Hill – Ilia by Windsong's Legacy

OWNER: AMG Stable OY, 01750 Vantaa, Finland
BREEDER: Windsong Stable, PA
SALE INFO: \$60,000 Standardbred Horse Sale
TRAINER: Marcus Melander
DRIVER: Tim Tetrick

YEAR	STARTS	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2017	5	4	1	0	\$275,020	1:52.1 M
2016	7	3	1	1	\$60,950	1:55.2 Lex
LIFETIME	12	7	2	1	\$335,970	3,1:52.1 M

Long Tom is a son of 2009 Hambletonian winner and Horse of the Year Muscle Hill out of the mare Ilia. He is a half-brother to Tight Lines, who raced in last year's Hambletonian eliminations, but failed to advance to the final.

The colt heads to the Hambletonian off a win in his division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial on July 15 at the Meadowlands. His only loss this season came in the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial, where he finished second to Devious Man.

"Long Tom hasn't raced since the Stanley Dancer, but he came out of that race very good," trainer Marcus Melander said. "I'm very happy with him. He's been training great. There's nothing to complain about there."

Melander also trains Hambletonian contender Enterprise. He is not concerned about his horses racing twice on the same day, if they advance to the Hambletonian final.

"I'm very happy with both of them," he said.

"I think (heats) would be good for both of them because they're both strong horses. I think that would be just a good factor for both."

Long Tom, who arrived from Europe to Melander's stable in April 2016, won three of seven races last year and earned \$60,950. He had three wins and a second in his first four starts, capped by a 1:55.2 victory in a division of the Bluegrass Stakes at Lexington's Red Mile. He was third in a division of the International Stallion before finishing off the board in his Breeders Crown elimination and the Matron Stakes.

"He raced very good before Lexington and he raced very good at Lexington, but then we had some bad luck in the Breeders Crown and Matron," Melander said. "He got a little sore, but he's a very good horse. We knew that when we shut him down last year."

“He came back very good. He grew a lot over the winter. He’s a very big boy now. He put a lot of muscle on him over the winter. He looks really good. I can’t be happier with him.”

AMG Stable Oy is Esa Pehkonen and Kim Vorlin.

MARCUS MELANDER (New Egypt, NJ)

Marcus Melander is only 25, but has plenty of connections to the Hambletonian. His uncle, Stefan Melander, won the 2001 Hambletonian as trainer and driver with Scarlet Knight. In addition, Melander trains at the farm that was formerly home to the legendary Stanley Dancer, who shares the record for Hambletonian training victories, with five.

Furthermore, Melander worked in Sweden for his uncle and after moving to the U.S. he worked for Jimmy Takter, who is a four-time winner of the Hambletonian as a trainer.

As a youth 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.

In 2014, the Melanders moved from Stockholm to New Egypt, N.J., to the farm owned previously by Dancer. Melander’s dad, Mikael, is a flight captain who works on the farm as much as possible, while his mom Madelene and sister Mikaela tend to the stables and help with the horses.

Melander has a stable of approximately 30 horses.

TIM TETRICK (Woolwich Township, NJ)

Tim Tetrick, 35, won the 2012 Hambletonian with Market Share. He has twice finished second in the final, with Smilin Eli in 2013 and Crazyed in 2008.

In addition, Tetrick has two wins in the Hambletonian Oaks, with Bar Slide in 2010 and Danae in 2007.

Tetrick grew up in Illinois and followed his father, Tom D. Tetrick, into the sport. Brothers Tom T. and Trace also are involved in harness racing. Trace is the all-time leader in wins at Hoosier Park, where he has won five driving titles.

In 2007, Tetrick won a single-season record 1,189 races and was named the U.S. Harness Writers Association’s Rising Star Award winner as well as Driver of the Year. That season he became the first driver to lead the sport in both wins and purses (a then-record \$18.3 million) in the same year since 1991.

Driver of the Year honors from the U.S. Harness Writers Association followed in 2008, 2012 and 2013.

Tetrick led the sport in purses seven consecutive years (2007 through 2013) and ranks fifth all time in earnings, with \$182 million. Tetrick has ranked among the Top 10 drivers in wins for 12 consecutive years, beginning in 2005. He has won nearly 9,900 career races and ranks No. 14 all time in the category.

He also is the regular driver of top 3-year-old male pacer Huntsville, who won the Meadowlands Pace on July 15. It was Tetrick's fifth victory in the Meadowlands Pace, the second most in history behind only John Campbell's seven Meadowlands Pace wins.