

90th Hambletonian A Taktertonian

by Dave Briggs for the Hambletonian Society

If the return to heat racing in the Hambletonian in 2013 was all about drama, the format provided that and more Saturday afternoon for the 90th edition of trotting's greatest race.

As nearly 22,000 at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, NJ and thousands more watching live, continent-wide, on the CBS Sports Network awaited driver Yannick Gingras' version of The Decision — would he pick the filly Mission Brief or the gelding Pinkman? — owner John Fielding knew exactly how it would play out. His trotter Pinkman would be looking for a driver and that driver would be Brian Sears.

"I actually knew what was going to happen when I saw the filly win the second division so easily," Fielding said of Mission Brief, who impressively won the second of two eliminations shortly after Pinkman won his from the 10-hole.

The final win photo said it all with Gingras watching Pinkman and Sears sail to victory with Ron Burke pupil Mission Brief a game three-quarters-of-a-lengths back in second in the \$1 million test won in 1:51.

The on-track product will be difficult to top and will go down in Hambletonian lore as the year Gingras had an agonizing decision, picked wrong and handed Sears the Hambletonian in front of a sea of hunter green Hambletonian ball caps.

"I know (Gingras) made the wrong decision and it was going to cost him," said Pinkman's trainer Jimmy Takter. "I asked him right after and he said, 'I've got to go with the filly.' I said, 'Are you sure? It's a bad choice.' I was a little disappointed, but Ronnie (Burke) would have been disappointed the other way around. I'll get over it."

So, too, will Gingras, who has yet to win the Hambletonian and was heartbroken a year ago when Takter-trained favorite Father Patrick made a break at the gate.

"I'm not disappointed in her effort at all," Gingras said of Mission Brief. "She wasn't quite as strong as in the first heat. She wasn't quite as good-gaited as before so I couldn't make the moves I wanted to with her... I knew I didn't have enough at the top of the stretch. You have to give it to Pinkman. He's a great horse and he's a winner."

Asked how quickly Sears agreed to drive Pinkman, Takter said, "I didn't have to twist his arm."

Sears, grinning like a lottery winner, said if he had inkling when the day started that he might end up a Hambletonian winner he likely wouldn't have agreed to race at Yonkers that night.

"Opportunity knocks and you try to take advantage of it," Sears said. "He is a great horse and he drew a great spot. When he landed in the two hole, I didn't know who Yannick was going to go with, but I knew (Pinkman) was in a good spot."

It was the third Hambletonian victory for Sears after Muscle Hill in 2009 and Royalty For Life in 2013, the first year the same-day heat format had been employed since 1996, which was also the last time a filly — in this case the great Continentalvictory — won the Hambletonian.

Apart from winning this year with Pinkman, Takter also finished third (Uncle Lasse), fourth (The Bank) and eighth (French Laundry) to grab \$680,000 of the total seven-figure purse. He also won the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks a race earlier with Wild Honey with Gingras in the bike. It was the trainer's

second straight Hambletonian and fourth lifetime. In 2014, he drove his trainee Trixton to victory.

"I'm grateful for what God has given me," Takter said. "He granted me a very good gift. My father (Bo) is the one that probably was the most gifted horseman I know. Fortunately, I maybe got his talent to do this."

John Fielding, a Toronto native, owns Pinkman with his brother, Jim, fellow Canadian Herb Liverman, now living in Florida, Christina Takter and Joyce McClelland of Zanesville, OH.

It was the first Hambletonian for the Fieldings and McClelland. John said he's tried to win the Hambletonian for 30 years.

"It feels fantastic. We've had a lot (of horses), but we're finally here. We finally did it," he said.

Takter was just as pleased to win it for Fielding. "It's very special," Takter said. "John has been with me a long time. Everybody knows in this sport that there's nobody better. I can race 20 horses and 19 race bad and one race well and he will never mention the 19 bad ones. Doing this for John means very much for me."

Liverman was part of the ownership group that won the 1998 Hambletonian with Muscles Yankee. The exact same group, minus McClelland, also owns Wild Honey.

"This is the best," Liverman said. "You can't do better. Last November we won two Breeders Crowns, but this is better. Even though I've won it before (with Muscles Yankee), to win this and the Oaks the same day is, wow."

Pinkman has won 14 of 17 races lifetime with earnings of \$1,766,800. Not bad for a horse the connections placed in the Harrisburg Mixed Sale as a two-year-old, but reconsidered after gelding the trotter improved his results on the track.

"I think castrating him was a big factor. It really was," Takter said last November after Pinkman won the Breeders Crown at the Meadowlands en route to U.S. two-year-old trotting colt of the year honors.

The card also included a major upset in the \$319,450 Cane Pace when 1-5 choice Wiggle It Jiggle It and driver Montrell Teague couldn't withstand hot early fractions and finished fourth. Dealt A Winner (David Miller), a 26-1 shot that was previously winless this year, held off Artspeak, the 2014 two-year-old of the year, by one-and-a-quarter lengths in a career best 1:47.3.

The win was so surprising owner Jeffrey Snyder had already left the Meadowlands to head home before Dealt A Winner was victorious, leaving his son Mike to pick up the spoils of the first leg of the pacing Triple Crown the first time it has been held at the Meadowlands.

"He didn't think the horse had a shot to win today. That's why he left," Mike said of his father. "He just contacted me. He's in shock now. He can't believe it."

Through it all, the Meadowlands threw a day-long celebration of its second Hambletonian in the new \$88 million building with a party that raged on the rooftop decks, in the owners' suites and from the tarmac all the way to the top of the lane in the track's stretch-running-park called The Backyard.

Even Gingras, who won the \$349,850 Peter Houghton Memorial for Burke with Southwind Frank, said, "it's still been a great day."

After all, Southwind Frank is now the early favorite for the 2016 Hambletonian where Gingras will try again to capture the Holy Grail.



- Pinkman, bay gelding, 3 by Explosive Matter – Margie Seelster by Angus Hall. Owned by Christina Takter, East Windsor, NJ, John & Jim Fielding, Toronto, Ont., Joyce McClelland, Zanesville, OH, Herb Liverman, Miami Beach, FL. Bred by O Narutac Equine Nursery [Vince Caturano], NY.
- There were 19 entrants in the Hambletonian, the third year of the return to same-day heat format. In 2014, only 11 entered and went straight to the final. In 2013, the last Hambletonian raced in front of the old Meadowland grandstand, there were 23 trotters entered.
- Pinkman posted his 14th victory in 17 starts, also providing a fourth training victory for Jimmy Takter. Takter is now tied with Chuck

Sylvester at four wins. Bill Houghton, Stanley Dancer and Ben White all have five training victories.

- Pinkman overcame post 10 to take first elimination in 1:51 2/5, equaling the world record for 3-year-old geldings on a mile track with The Bank second. Donatomite, Habitat and Jacksons Minion also advanced to the final.
- Mission Brief took the second elimination by 4 ¾ lengths over long shot Aldebaran Eagle in 1:51 3/5. French Laundry, Uncle Lasse and Wings of Royalty also made the final.

Pinkman

PINKMAN, bay gelding, 3, by Explosive Matter-Margie Seelster by Angus Hall
 Driver: Brian Sears
 Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owners: Christina Takter, John & Jim Fielding, Joyce McClelland, Herb Liverman
 Breeder: O Narutac Equine Nursery

MISSION BRIEF, brown filly, 3, by Muscle Hill-Southwind Serena by Varenne
 Driver: Yannick Gingras
 Trainer: Ron Burke
 Owners: Burke Racing Stable, Our Horse Cents Stable [Marcia Gingold, Eugene Kurzrok, Scott Kurzrok, Stephen Springer, Richard Taylor], J&T Silva Stables, Weaver Bruscemi
 Breeder: S Stewart; Black Creek Farm

UNCLE LASSE, brown colt, 3, by Donato Hanover-Solveig, by Yankee Glide
 Driver: David Miller
 Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owners: Solveig's Racing Partners [Goran Anderberg, John Fielding, John Fodera, Martha Frank, Frederick Hertrich III, Christina Takter], Goran C Falk
 Breeder: Solveig's Breeders

TIME BY QUARTERS	¼	½	¾	MILE
1ST ELIMINATION	:26.2	:54.3	1:23.2	1:51.2
2ND ELIMINATION	:27.3	:54.2	1:23.0	1:51.3
FINAL	:27.2	:55.2	1:23.2	1:51.0

PAYOFFS		FIRST ELIMINATION		SECOND ELIMINATION	
PINKMAN	5.60	3.40	2.80	MISSION BRIEF	3.60 3.40 2.10
THE BANK	5.40	3.60		ALDEBARAN EAGLE	38.60 11.20
DONATOMITE		9.00		FRENCH LAUNDRY	3.00

FINAL PAYOFFS

PINKMAN	5.60	2.60	2.60
MISSION BRIEF	2.40	2.40	
UNCLE LASSE		6.40	



- Elimination heat winners Pinkman and Mission Brief were both driven by Yannick Gingras. His choice to remain loyal to the filly Mission Brief in the final meant he lost the drive on eventual winner Pinkman (picked up by Brian Sears for his third Hambletonian victory.)
- Takter also continued his domination of Hambletonian Day at Meadowlands Racing & Entertainment. He swept both the \$1 million Hambletonian and the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks for a second straight year.
- In 2014, it was Trixton in the Hambletonian and Lifetime Pursuit in the Oaks. In 2015 it was Pinkman in the Hambo, and Wild Honey in the Oaks.
- Takter became the first trainer since Per Eriksson in 1991-92 to win the Hambletonian in consecutive years. The only other trainers to accomplish the feat are W. R. Haughton (1976-77), Frank Ervin (1966-67), Ben White (1942-43) and Henry Thomas (1937-38).
- Of his five trotters entered in the Hambletonian, four advanced to the final. Uncle Lasse (David Miller) was third followed by The Bank (driven by Takter's brother Johnny), so Takter horses finished first, third and fourth, good for \$680,000 of the \$1 million at stake. Ron Burke trainee Mission Brief was second for a \$225,000 paycheck, while the Tom Jackson trained and driven Jackson's Minion got the nickel for \$45,000.
- Gingras, who dominates the Meadowlands driver colony as well as national driver standings, has had a star-crossed record in the Hambletonian. Going into the 2015 race, he had earned just \$34,300 in five years. Most disappointing was a gallop before the start by heavy favorite Father Patrick in last year's Hambo edition. Mission Brief's elim win and runner-up effort in the final raised his bankroll considerably, but the Hambletonian remains one of the very few classic events Gingras hasn't won.
- Pinkman was a Lexington Selected Sale yearling purchase for \$77,000. Originally named Traffic Jam, he was renamed by the Takters after Jesse Pinkman, a fictional character in the American television drama series Breaking Bad. The character is portrayed by actor Aaron Paul.
- He was the first foal of his dam, Margie Seelster, who was sold shortly before his divisional championship freshman year by breeder

Vince Caturano's O Narutac Equine Nursery. "Story of my life," said Caturano. "At least I got some nice trophies."

- Margie Seelster, a solid earner of more than \$250,000 during her racing career, was sold to Jay Mossbarger of Ohio, but Pinkman's \$2.5 million bankroll remains her only claim to fame to date despite subsequent breedings to Jailhouse Jesse and Manofmanymissions.
- Pinkman failed to show Takter much as a 2-year-old, so he was gelded, and consigned to the Standardbred Horse Mixed Sale in Harrisburg in November of 2014. A change in the taciturn trotter's attitude caused Takter to withdraw him from the sale in mid-summer. Pinkman rewarded the ownership group by winning six of eight freshman starts, including the \$463,690 Valley Victory in 1:55.4 at Woodbine and lowered his own Meadowlands track record to 1:53.3 in \$500,000 Breeders Crown. He also won a \$77,120 division of the International Stallion Stake at The Red Mile.
- Pinkman kicked off his sophomore season in May, setting a track record of 1:52.2 in Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at Harrah's Philadelphia, and went three-for-three in PASS events. Stake wins for Pinkman prior to the Hambletonian included a \$157,250 division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial in 1:52.2 on July 18; a world record 1:51.3f mile in the \$500,000 Earl Beal, Jr. Memorial at Pocono Downs on July 4; and a 1:52 stakes record in the \$370,000 Zweig Memorial at Vernon His sole loss prior to Hambletonian day was when he was second, beaten a half-length in his Beal elimination.
- He is the first gelding to win since Vivid Photo in 2005, and one of three in the Meadowlands era of the race- Shiaway St. Pat being the first in 1981, the year the race moved to the Meadowlands. Add Flirth (1973) and Greyhound (1935) for a total of just five altered sons winning trotting's ultimate prize. Surprisingly, he was also one of three geldings entered in the race this year.
- The last two Hambos have been won by the sires who were one-two in the 2009 version of the race: Muscle Hill (Trixton) and Explosive Matter (Pinkman)

Pinkman

- Hambo entrants Centurion ATM won last year's Peter Haughton Memorial while Mission Brief captured the Merrie Annabelle, both in world-record-equaling times. 2015 marks only the second time that the winners of the Meadowlands' top races for 2-year-old trotters have returned in the same year for the premier event for 3-year-olds. The first occurrence was in 1986 when filly Britelite Lobell and colt Express Ride finished third and fifth, respectively, in the Hambletonian.
- Mission Brief bypassed the Oaks, which is restricted to 3-year-old filly trotters, to attempt to become the first female to beat the boys and win the Hambletonian since Continentalvictory in 1996. She is the 161st filly to start in the Hambletonian, but only the fourth since Continentalvictory's win in 1996. Pampered Princess, who finished seventh-placed-sixth in the 2007 final won by Donato Hanover, was the most recent.
- Thirteen fillies have won the Hambletonian, but only Continentalvictory and Duenna (1983) have accomplished the feat since Kerry Way in 1966.
- Mission Brief was the 2014 Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old female trotter and has won 12 of 17 career races and earned \$791,417. She also holds the world record for the fastest time for any 2-year-old trotter in history, 1:50.3.
- She comes by her speed naturally, as the daughter of 2009 Hambletonian winner Muscles Hill and Breeders Crown champion Southwind Serena, who was not only the first Crown champion for driver Yannick Gingras but also an offspring of the world's fastest trotter, Italian-bred Varenne, who set a world record of 1:51.1 at The Meadowlands in the 2001 Breeders Crown.
- Mission Brief, trained by Ron Burke, has won three of four starts this year and 12 of 17 lifetime. Leading up to the Hambo, she won three of four races while dealing with back woes, which were treated by an equine chiropractor. Mission Brief enters the Hambletonian off a 1:51 4/5 win in the Zweig Memorial for 3-year-old filly trotters.
- That victory was the clincher in making the decision to pass the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks for fillies to take on the boys. "Maybe financially it would have been better to go to the Hambletonian Oaks, but pride-wise and for the sport, it would be better to go to the Hambletonian," said Ron Burke, who trains and co-owns the filly with Our Horse Cents Stables, J&T Silva Stables, and the partnership of Mark Weaver and Mike Bruscelli. "If we won the Hambletonian Oaks, we'd have been happy, but it's not going to change anybody's life. We've all done things like that before. We thought this for some of us would be a lifetime experience, so we said let's go.
- Mission Brief won her elim and was second in the final.
- Centurion ATM, who won the 2014 Peter Haughton by 3-3/4 lengths over Uncle Lasse in a world-record-equaling and stakes-record 1:53.2, will try to join Donato Hanover (2007) and Muscle Hill (2009) as the only Peter Haughton winners to also win the Hambletonian. He is trained by Ake Svanstedt.
- Centurion ATM finished eighth in his elim, failing to advance to the final.
- Starter Muscle Diamond was owned and trained by a family with a rich Hambletonian heritage. Charlie Keller III, a recent Hall of Fame nominee, helped guide the fortunes of Yankeeland Farm, a breeding operation in Maryland begun by his father in 1955. Though the farm has closed operations, Keller III couldn't resist the colt with a double Hambletonian-Yankeeland pedigree on both the sire and dam side.
- Sired by 2009 Hambo winner Muscle Hill (son of Yankeeland stallion and 1998 Hambo winner Muscles Yankee) from the 2002 Hambletonian Oaks winning dam Windylane Hanover, Muscles Diamond was a \$40,000 yearling. Yankee Blondie, a daughter of Yankee Bambi is the dam of Muscle Hill. Yankee Bambi was a sister to Yankee Bambino, runner-up to Bonefish in the four-heat 1975 Hambletonian at DuQuoin. Yankee Bambino was named after the legendary Babe Ruth. Yankee Duchess, the dam of Yankee Bambi was a foundation mare for the Yankeeland Farms producing for more than 20 years.
- A runner-up to Pinkman in last year's Breeders Crown, Muscle Diamond was expected to be among the elite three-year-olds in North America this year, but instead has hampered by setbacks and minor injuries. An ill-timed break in his elimination ended the chances for another Keller-connected Hambletonian victory.
- Hall of Fame driver John Campbell was on the sidelines for the Hambletonian for the first time since 1982, ending his record streak of 32 consecutive years of participation in harness racing's top race for 3-year-old trotters. Campbell was the regular driver of Muscle Diamond, but injured his wrist in an accident at qualifiers the week before the Hambletonian. He was also the regular driver of Oaks winner Wild Honey.
- Trainer George DuCharme won the 2013 Hambletonian with Royalty For Life, driven by Brian Sears. This year, he sent out Wings Of Royalty for much the same owner connections, and the homebred colt finished fifth in his elim to advance to the final. Sears opted to go with eventual winner Pinkman, and Tim Tetrick drove Wings Of Royalty, who was tenth in the final.
- Both Pinkman and Mission Brief were divisional winners last season. Pinkman was the first Dan Patch honoree since Muscle Hill in 2009 to capture the Hambletonian. He also captured the Kentucky Futurity, the third leg of the Trotting Triple Crown but in the second leg, the Yonkers Trot, a race marred by breakers, Pinkman was second to Habitat but eventually placed fifth.
- Dan Patch Trotter of the Year went to Pinkman, for his 11 sophomore victories and \$1.89 million in earnings. He also was voted the best trotter in his division. Pinkman received 85 votes for Trotter of the Year. Hambo runner-up Mission Brief, a 3-year-old filly, finished second with 18 votes, followed by 2-year-old colt Southwind Frank with 14, 5-year-old mare Bee A Magician with 13, 4-year-old gelding JL Cruze with five and 3-year-old filly Barn Doll with one.
- The Hambletonian Oaks, solely for 3-year-old filly trotters, began in 1971. The 2015 version, with a purse of \$500,000, turned into a wide-open affair with Mission Brief headed to the Hambletonian.
- The elimination heats were held the prior weekend with one of those winners, Lock Down Lindy, getting the rail as the 3-1 second choice. Tragically, Spirit To Win, the other elim winner, suffered a fatal training injury Monday morning.
- Wild Honey, owned by many of the same members of the Pinkman team, won giving trainer Takter a fifth Oaks. (1994: Gleam, 2003: Southwind Allaire, 2006: Passionate Glide, 2014: Lifetime Pursuit and 2015 Wild Honey.)
- "This little filly overcame her size," Takter said. "She's not a very big filly but she's got a big heart. She gives her all every time."
- Gingras put Wild Honey on the lead midway down the backstretch and she took it from there, securing a 1 3/4 length victory over Rules of the Road with Bright Baby Blues third. She paid \$4.60 to win. The time was 1:52 2/5.
- It was one of five wins on the afternoon for Gingras.
- Wild Honey ended her year with a slate of 13 wins in 19 starts for Christina Takter, the Fielding brothers and Herb Liverman. She lost divisional honors to the spectacular Mission Brief, despite besting her in the season-ending championship of the Breeders Crown and having the edge in money earnings.
- Hambletonian day 2015 also marked the first time the Cane Pace was raced at the Meadowlands and the first time any Triple Crown pacing event was contested over a mile track. It's also the first time two Triple Crown events were held on the same day at The Meadowlands.
- The switch to the mile track provided the opportunity to set up the fastest ever Triple Crown race in history in 453 editions of those vents. The record was 1:48.4 set by Dynamic Youth in the Cane Pace at Tioga Downs. A supplement by speedball Wiggle It Jigglet increased the odds, but a battle to the half in 52.1 with In The Arsenal catapulted Dealt A winner to the finish line in 1:47.3, a new Triple Crown speed record.
- The Meadowlands is the 5th location for the Cane Pace. It has been races at Yonkers Raceway, NY; Freehold Raceway, NJ; Tioga Downs, NY; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, PA; and now the Meadowlands, NJ.
- Attendance on the day was 21,968. Total handle was \$7.89 million. On-track handle gained slightly at \$1,320,325 compared to \$1,280,854 last year. This marked the first time since 2005 that the on-track handle showed a year-over-year increase.

2014

The Meadowlands • August 2, 2014 • Purse \$1,006,125

89th Hambletonian An Unexpected Takter Triumph

Filed by Horseman & Fair World

In the midst of the winner's circle celebration following Trixton's upset victory in the 89th Hambletonian on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 2, at the Meadowlands, co-owner Christina Takter mentioned the shock she felt when the 2-5 favorite Father Patrick—who she also co-owns—made a break at the start of the \$1,006,125 race and lost all chance.

"When Father Patrick made a break I almost fell down on my knees," said Takter, who has stood in winner's circles over the years but never before as the owner of a Hambletonian champion. "Then I tried to sort it out and see what happens."

What happened was that Takter watched as her husband, Jimmy, drove second-choice Trixton to a career-best 1:50.3 victory, edging stablemate and third favorite Nuncio by a half length. It was a distant 10 3/4 lengths back to third-place finisher Harper Blue Chip.

Early forecasts for steady daylight rain never came to fruition as the showers subsided by the time the track gates opened at 10 a.m. Instead, the program was raced mostly under overcast skies, although by the time the Hambletonian went off at 5:15 p.m., the sun had broken through the clouds.

In the single-heat, 11-horse Hambletonian, Nuncio, with six-time Hambletonian winner John Campbell driving, left fastest from post five and secured the lead with no trouble. Takter floated out of the gate from post seven and looked for position, which he found on the outside behind Royal Ice and driver Ron Pierce, who were caught first-over when no hole opened up on the inside.

When Royal Ice began to tire in the final turn, Takter moved Trixton wide and charged toward Nuncio. In deep stretch Trixton edged clear for the victory.

While Takter has won two Hambletonians—Malabar Man and Muscle Massive—they both came as trainer. This was his first win as a driver, although he came close in 2012 when he steered Guccio to a second-place finish, just a neck behind Market Share.

"This is my moment," Takter said when he returned to the jubilant winner's circle. "I don't drive that much and normally when I have a top contender I put the best possible driver on to have a shot. I thought that this was my shot and if I was going to do it, I'd do it today, otherwise it wouldn't happen."

Takter said he came into the race confident in his three horses, but understood the pressure on Yannick Gingras with overwhelming favorite Father Patrick.

"Horses win and lose, and hey, I know how it is," said Takter. "Yannick had a lot of pressure on him and that's the way it is. Me, what kind of pressure on me? I have the three best horses in the field. If I finished third, everybody is happy. If I win, it's great."

For the first time ever, the Hambletonian was raced without heats or eliminations. Without eliminations and the conditions that provide the winners pick their posts for the final, all 11 entries went into an open draw. While the prohibitive favorite was going to be Father Patrick, who was five-for-five this year and riding a 15-race win streak dating back to last year, he drew the outside post 10.

Father Patrick became the shortest-priced horse to not capture the trotting classic when he went offstride for the first time in his 17-start career. Gingras said comments he made immediately afterward that gave the impression he hit Father Patrick with the whip to rev him up were misinterpreted.

"People took it the wrong way and that I was blasting him to a :24 quarter, and that's not what I was trying to do," Gingras said two days afterward, with disappointment still in his voice. "I literally just laid the whip on his tail. I didn't hit him, I just laid the tip on his tail. The gate had just opened and I had a good hold on him. It scared him and it was an unfortunate mistake at the worst time ever. I was in shock."

Although Father Patrick's break at the start led to a loud gasp heard through the Meadowlands grandstand, Takter said he was unaware of what transpired.

"I started looking behind me at the half and I didn't see him, so I knew something must have happened," said Takter. "I thought Patrick would have come up behind me and been right there."

Takter won with Trixton despite being parked every step of the mile. He said he was fortunate he found live cover in Royal Ice and Ron Pierce.

"I said I had to follow Ronnie, because I know Ronnie would try to get something really hard," Takter said of Pierce, who has won three Hambletonians, including Muscle Massive. "When I saw Ronnie had left and I got behind him, I was very fortunate Ronnie didn't get in as he really tried to get in the hole behind Nuncio. That would have changed things."

"I thought in the middle of the last turn my horse felt really strong. I knew Ronnie would come back to me. I figured Nuncio had to be a little bit taken by the pace and I thought I might have a shot at it."

While Takter was poised to make history if his trio of horses would have finished one-two-three in the Hambletonian, he had to settle for a share of the record books with his one-two finish, duplicating his effort in 1997 when he finished first and second respectively with Malabar Man (driven by Mal Burroughs) and Take Chances (Wally Hennessey).

Takter said he would have been happy no matter the finish order of his horses.

"If Nuncio had won, I didn't care," he said. "But of course I wanted to win it. I'm 53 years old and you see how the sport is today, with all these great drivers. "Nuncio is not the easiest horse. He raced his heart out. He raced a heck of a race and he was tough to get by. John (Campbell) wanted this race so bad. He congratulated me after the race but I saw (the disappointment)."

Takter said he wasn't bothered by not sweeping the trifecta.

"I finished first and second in the Hambletonian, how sweet is that?" said Takter, who was inducted into the sport's Hall of Fame in 2012. "I know that if Patrick had stayed flat he would have come up behind me and he would have blown by both of us in the stretch. And we would have been first, second and third. But things don't always work out the way you hope for. Don't take me wrong, I'm on cloud nine right now."

Jimmy Takter said he believes nothing should be read into Father Patrick's miscue. "It's not like this was his last race. It's horse racing," he said.

Gingras agreed. "I was very happy for Jimmy as I knew how much it meant to him to win," said Gingras. "But I still think Patrick is the best horse and he'll prove it the rest of the year."



2014

Trixton

TRIXTON, bay colt, 3, by Muscle Hill-Emilie Cas EI, by Garland Lobell
Driver: Jimmy Takter
Trainer: Jimmy Takter
Owners: Brixton Medical aB [Bengt Agerup] & Christina Takter

NUNCIO, bay colt, 3, by Andover Hall-Nicole Isabel, by Lindy Lane
Driver: John Campbell
Trainer: Jimmy Takter
Owners: Stall TZ Inc [Stefan Melander]
Breeder: Russell Williams

HARPER BLUE CHIP, bay colt, 3, by Majestic Son-Winning Jonlin, by Muscles Yankee
Driver: Brian Sears
Trainer: Mark Steacy
Owners: Landmark 6 Racing Stb [Howard Pearce], David K Reid, David MacDonald & George Judson
Breeder: Blue Chip Bloodstock [Thomas Grossman, Michael Kimelman & Ryamond Schnittker]

TIME BY QUARTERS FINAL

1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
26.3	:54.0	1:23.0	1:50.3

FINAL PAYOFFS

TRIXTON	10.60	5.00	7.60
NUNCIO		4.20	7.20
HARPER BLUE CHIP			37.60



- Trixton is owned by Christina Takter and Bengt Agerup. Agerup also shared ownership in Hambletonian winner Muscle Massive in 2010. His 2014 appearance with the distinctive Revere bowl was an entirely different journey for the native Swede who now resides in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Agerup was one of a four part ownership group on Muscle Massive, who trainer Jimmy Takter and his yearling consultant, Perry Soderberg, had selected and purchased as a yearling. With Trixton, Agerup liked the horse's pedigree. Takter and Soderberg saw the colt (at the time named Monarch Kemp) a few weeks before the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Since the colt had a slightly boggy hock at the time, he didn't make the cut for their "A" list of yearlings.
- "If it wouldn't have been for me, we would not have bought this horse," said Agerup.
- Agerup has a large racing and breeding operation in Sweden and his young trainer there, Daniel Reden, also was key in selecting Monarch Kemp.
- Trixton was a \$360,000 yearling purchase from the Hunteerton Farms consignment at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.
- Agerup, a scientist who discovered uses for non-animal stabilized hyaluronic acid and later sold his company to the dermatology giant Galderma SA, funded a university study to see if there is a gene that determines if a horse will trot. The study found that the gene is in 100 percent of American trotting bloodlines but not in French trotting bloodlines. So it's no surprise that Agerup keenly studies a trotter's gait. He believed he saw improvement in Trixton's gait with each race until the Reynolds Memorial Trot, when Takter tried racing the colt without shoes.
- Takter became only the second trainer to win the Hambletonian and the Oaks in one year, joining Jan Johnson who sweep both in 1988. In both instances, Takter won with his "other" horse. Father Patrick, the 2-5 favorite, had won 15 straight for Takter, and looked like a lock heading into the Hambletonian. That blew up early when Father Patrick a break. Fortunately for Takter, he still had two solid chances, and finished one-two with Trixton and Nuncio. .

- Takter took the companion event for 3-year-old trotting fillies, the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks with Lifetime Pursuit, but his Del Miller Memorial winner Shake It Cerry was the favorite in the event. Instead, Lifetime Pursuit that delivered a 10-1 upset, beating Designed To Be by 2 1-2 lengths in a world record 1:50 4/5 performance. She had a little help from a friend. Shake It Cerry, starting in the second tier, worked her way to front to give Lifetime Pursuit an ideal pocket trip.
- Lifetime Pursuit is owned and bred by Brittany Farms. She is their third Oaks-owned champion and the fourth produced by the Lexington, Ky, nursery.
- Trixton earned \$503,062.50 for owners Brixton Medical A B and Christina Takter.
- Trixton trotted the mile in 1:50 3/5, paying \$10.60 to win.
- The attendance was 20,764 for the first Hambletonian raced before the new, streamlined grandstand on an overcast afternoon following a rainy morning. They were treated to an extraordinary afternoon of racing that saw the meet leaders enjoy huge days.
- Yannick Gingras drove five winners, including four major stakes. He would be voted Driver of the Year.
- Father Patrick earned Dan Patch year-end honors for his division for the second year-He ended the year with a slate of 17-12-3-0 and \$1,693,081 in purse money, trotting in 1:50.2f for a season's mark. Father Patrick's connections planned on racing and breeding him in 2015.
- Shake It Cerry's year-end totals of 17- 15-0-1 and \$1,230,411 not only got her voted divisional Dan Patch honors but also Trotter of the Year honors in a very close vote over stablemate Father Patrick and older trotter Sebastian K.
- Eventual Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year Ron Burke sent out four winners, including three top stakes winners.
- Handle for the 15-race program include on-track, North American export, French export and Swedish export stands at \$8.7 million, third highest in history, eclipsed only by \$9 Million in 2005 and \$8.8 Million in 2002.

The Meadowlands • August 2, 2014

The Day the Hipsters Came to the Hambletonian

by Dave Briggs

The young hipsters dressed to the nines sipping cocktails while lounging on rooftop patio furniture was the first indication this was not your granddaddy's Hambletonian. That it was a surprisingly pleasant overcast August afternoon, and not a sauna, was another.

In the end, the track belonged to imported Swedes — Jimmy Takter and Ake Svanstedt, especially — along with Ron Burke, of course.

But the day? That belonged to the gleaming new \$88 million grandstand that thrummed with youthful energy and passed its first big test with aplomb.

Track owner Jeff Gural was pleased and, naturally, couldn't resist an "I told you so" dig at his critics.

"I think if you go back to the weekend we opened, I think if you look at some of the blogs, they were all critical, 'Gural's an idiot. The place is much too small. What's he going to do for the Meadowlands Pace and Hambletonian?' We saw the place is just perfect. It was designed exactly right," he said of a building about a third the size of the behemoth across the pond.

Give the man his due. On this Hambletonian, he wasn't wrong. The crowd, estimated at 20,700, was thick — particularly in the new version of Paddock Pack now called The Backyard — but not impenetrable. The queues — for pari-mutuel or more ordinary refreshment — moved with impressive speed given the volume.

The on-track wagering wasn't as strong as the Nouveau Big M folks would have liked to have seen, mind you, but then the young kids don't bet like their granddaddies, either. It's the cost of trying to introduce the business to a generation to which harness racing is as foreign as rumble seats.

But out there in our hyper-connected world, from Hackensack to Helsinki to Sydney the bets poured in. With a few countries still to be heard from, the expectation is that the haul will be about \$1 million higher than last year. The total handle of more than \$8.7 million is already the third best Hambletonian Day in history and foreign wagering could still push this year's number to the top spot, exceeding some \$9 million bet in 2005.

"That's impressive in this day and age," Gural said. "That's a tribute to the card. We had full fields, a couple of big fields, almost all the major stars were there with the exception of the three-year-old (pacing) colts. But on the trotting side, we got a little lucky with Father Patrick drawing the 10-hole. It wasn't a walkover, as it turned out."

The über trotter, bet down to 2-5 despite starting from parking lot, was part of Takter's Terrific Trio instrumental in scaring off challengers in the main event and leaving the Hambletonian heatless just one year after returning to its old format. That Father Patrick made a jump at the gate immediately made for some interesting drama whether you watched on the huge high-definition infield screen from one of the outdoor grandstand seats or in the hinterland via the spectacular show on the CBS Sports Network that employed 13 cameras to great effect, including a wide-angle mounted on the starting gate.

Takter's intact duo of Trixton and Nuncio got the job done, of course, with a neck-and-neck stretch battle to boot. When the stone dust finally settled, Takter celebrated his first Hambletonian victory in the bike (and third lifetime), nipping John Campbell for what would have been his seventh triumph in harness racing's premier race.

You needed a cab ride to reach the rest of the field scattered by three breakers, which was particularly disheartening to driver Yannick Gingras and the rest of Father Patrick's connections.

That it was likely Gingras' greatest day at the track was little consolation for the Quebec native who won four stakes — including the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks with Lifetime Pursuit — and just shy of \$600,000 in purses in all, but was crestfallen about losing the big one.

"It's probably the best day I've had racing horses but it's also the most disappointing day. I scored (Father Patrick) down pretty hard because I've never left with him before, and I wanted him to pay attention and be ready for it. The gate opened, I just touched him on his tail with the whip and he took off

running. It's so unfortunate. Knock on wood, I'll have another chance, but you never know," Gingras told the ubiquitous Bob Heyden, one of the few things about the new place that thankfully was not traded in for a newer model on Hambletonian Day.

That Kevin Jonas of Jonas Brothers fame was tabbed to present harness racing's Stanley Cup to Takter and Co. speaks to that youth movement again — unless you're referring to that glorious silver bowl that now has 90 of the sport's greatest trotters inscribed in silver discs on its wedding cake base. Dear Lord, let's hope no one ever entertains trading that in for a newer model, because newer isn't always better. Progress isn't always positive.

Sorely missed in the new digs is the old front paddock that radiated with equine and human stars and served as the annual meeting place for the sport's far-flung powerbrokers on Hambletonian Day. The signs that once hung above the stalls on the façade of the old place honouring each of the Hambletonian winners since the race moved to New Jersey in 1981 seem out of place now lining the infield.

Try as they might, even the Copacabana rum girls sporting huge feather headdresses and little else other than smiles, didn't make up for the loss. Though, they were a nice touch along with the fathead driver cutouts seen throughout the day, the appearance by Captain Bill Wichrowski from the Discovery Channel's show *Deadliest Catch* and old style pennants each bearing the name of a Hambletonian finalist.

The bridge from old to new was the free Hambletonian hats, The Nerds bashing out loud, enthusiastic covers in the park and the track itself, of course, which yielded three more world record performances.

"I've been coming to the Hambletonian since 1960's when it was staged in DuQuoin [IL], and appreciated its growth and renewed pageantry when it moved to New Jersey in the old grandstand setting. We're working to build on that great tradition," said Tom Charters president and CEO of the Hambletonian Society. "In a way it was similar to the first Hambletonian here in 1981 — a new experience entirely. This is a new venue and a wonderful new facility, a new era. We will work with the Meadowlands to establish some new traditions that underscore the Hambletonian's place as America's trotting classic and the most important harness race in the world."

Classic Martine got things started in the first race, equaling the world mark for trotting mares with a 1:51.1 score in the \$52,000 Ima Lulu Final. Five races later, Mission Brief equaled the global mark for two-year-old trotting fillies with a 1:52.2 score in the \$352,050 Merrie Annabelle. Barefoot speedster Sebastian K capped the record-setting parade in race 11 when he equaled the 1:50 record for older trotters while winning the \$300,650 John Cashman Jr. Memorial the same day Cashman's 14-year-old granddaughter, Grace Cashman, sang the national anthem.

None of which — even the Hambletonian winner — topped spectacular sightlines from multiple decks, a Hollywood-style sign on the roof that spells out Meadowlands in huge letters and a massive sports bar that transforms into a dance club at night — all designed to lure the next generation critical for the sport's survival.

"Everybody loved it. Everybody thought it was spectacular," said Gural, who is fond of wandering his plant to make himself available to his patrons. "The biggest compliments were from the people that had never been there. If you've never been there, you're really shocked when you pull up to the door."

As the start of a new era for harness racing greatest day drew to a close, even the sky brightened and the Manhattan skyline materialized like a mirage out of the haze. The hipsters on the roof barely noticed, what with their iPhones, friends and cocktails to attend to, but the rest of us noticed them all right.

They were completely foreign to the old place and a most welcome addition to the club.

All Hail: “Royalty” Wins The Hambletonian

The big news advance about the 2013 Hambletonian was the return to heat racing after a 16-year absence. So much had changed in the racing world and the world of information dissemination in that time that the Hambletonian Society and Jeff Gural, the new owner of the Meadowlands, felt the return of heat racing could be appealing to fans and bettors alike and the obstacles to getting a racing program page out to people quickly could be easily overcome.

The 88th Hambletonian would also be bittersweet as it was the last trotting classic raced in front of the “old” Meadowlands Grandstand. After 37 years of racing and 32 Hambletonians, the sparkling steel structure of a new state of the art building was rising rapidly directly across the infield, to open in November of that fall.

After a three-year run of dominating trotters in the division: Donato Hanover in 2007; Deweycheatumnhowe in 2008 and Muscle Hill in 2009, the next three years were wide-open in advance of the Hambletonian, and Muscle Massive (2010), Broad Bahn (2011) and Market Share (2012) emerged triumphant on the first Saturday in August. Perhaps that had something to do with 23 trotters entering the 2013 edition, necessitating three \$70,000 heats before a field of 10 could reconvene for the \$1 million final.

Each elim had a standout.

The winner of the first elimination heat in 1:52 was the favorite, Royalty For Life. After a stand-out freshman year that saw him win seven of 14 starts and more than \$300,000, the homebred son of RC Royalty proved to be fast but frustrating for trainer George Ducharme. A slow start to the season was followed by a break in the Earl Beal Memorial final, but Royalty For Life regained favored status after winning the Stanley Dancer at The Meadowlands in 1:52 by a head over rival Spider Blue Chip, then jogging in 1:53 at his home track of Vernon.

Driver Brian Sears sent him straight for the lead in his elimination, and he was a safe length and three-quarter winner over early season sensation Smilin Eli.

Creatine was the well-rated winner of the second elimination heat in 1:52.4 for driver Mike Lachance, trainer Bob Stewart and owners Diamond Creek Racing. Finishing second as the favorite was Wheeling N Dealin, who parlayed a perfect 9-9 record, a Breeders Crown championship and nearly \$700,000 in purse money into a 2012 Dan Patch and O'Brien divisional titles. His 2013 start on the year was sporadic, though, while Creatine was coming on strong.

Third in that elim was 2012 Peter Haughton winner Aperfectyankee, with Dontyouforgetit, the richest fourth-place finisher, also advancing to the final.

Speed held once again in the final heat as Spider Blue Chip took the third elimination in 1:53.4. Ron Pierce drove for trainer Chuck Sylvester and owners David Mc Duffee and Melvin Hartman.

Starting from the rail in the final, Royalty For Life fired away strongly, forcing Smilin Eli to drop in second.

Spider Blue Chip ranged up to challenge but Sears was sitting confidently.

“My intention was just to get him out on his best foot and get everybody seated,” Sears said. “That’s the way it worked out.”

Sears maintained a comfortable lead, and had a three-length buffer on the field at the wire in 1:52.1, rewarding the bettors who had confidence in the fastest elim winner.

Royalty For Life beat Smilin Eli by 3 1-4 lengths in the final with Corky third.

It was the Hambo debut for trainer George Ducharme, and a victory that was considered a miraculous turn of events for him and owners Al Ross, Ray “Chip” Campbell and Paul Fontaine.

A rough start to the season for Royalty For Life led to a smooth finish in the sport’s richest race.

Royalty For Life was stuck in quarantine for several weeks in May at Vernon Down when that track was hit with an outbreak of an equine virus.

When he got to the races, Royalty For Life couldn’t stay on gait, making breaks in his first three starts.

While concerned about the miscues, Ducharme believed a steady diet of racing was cure for what ailed the Massachusetts-foaled colt.

Turns out Ducharme was right.

“I wasn’t sure we’d get this far,” Ducharme said. “It took a few starts to get going but now he’s back to the horse I thought he’d be.”

Royalty For Life got his first win of the campaign in the Meadowlands’ Stanley Dancer Memorial. From there, the colt was better, stronger and more confident with each subsequent race.

It culminated with a pair of powerful wins on Hambletonian Day.

Royalty For Life improved to 11 for 21 for the New England-based ownership team of Alfred Ross, Raymond Campbell, Jr. and Paul Fontaine.



- “Chip” Campbell operates a Standardbred breeding farm in Belchertown, Massachusetts and owns a horse trailer manufacturing company. A homebred, Royalty For Life was a result of foal-sharing partnership between Ross’ mare Bourbon N Grits, a \$45,000 yearling purchase for Ross in 2004, and the New York based stallion RC Royalty, who Campbell also bred and owns. RC Royalty was born at Ross’ farm in Belchertown and won \$665,681 and took a mark of 1:55.1 as a three-year-old. He started in the 2006 Hambletonian, but finished seventh in his elimination and did not advance to the final. RC Royalty now stands at Morrisville College near Syracuse, New York. Fontaine joined the partnership shortly before the colt’s first start as a two-year-old.
- Paul Fontaine is a domestic relations attorney from Woonsocket, RI. He’s owned horses for 45 years, though the first 30 of those years he owned only pacers, one of whom was the first Woodrow Wilson winner at the Meadowlands, No No Yankee in 1977.
- Alfred Ross is a co-owner/investor in Plainridge Racecourse in Plainville, Massachusetts. He has also owned Thoroughbred and Greyhound tracks in the past, including Lincoln Downs, in Rhode Island.
- George Ducharme trains a small group of trotters pointed towards the New York Sire Stakes program each year. He says that Royalty For Life was somewhat of a handful early in his training, but he started to show some maturity and promise at the time stakes payments were due, around March of his 2-year-old year. “He’s definitely the best horse I’ve ever trained,” said Ducharme.
- Driver Brian Sears had a banner day, winning both the Hambletonian and the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks for trotting fillies with Bee A Magician. He also pulled off the same double in 2009, winning the Hambo with Muscle Hill and the Oaks with Broadway Schooner. “I thought I had an opportunity to have a really good day,” Sears said. “It could also be a bad day, if you don’t have any luck.”
- Sears came to the Meadowlands in 2003 having amassed about \$25 million in his driving career. 10 years later he’s banked well over \$100 Million. He has steered both Trotting (Muscle Hill & Bee A Magician) and Pacing Horse of the Year (Rocknroll Hanover) and in 2009 became the first driver to ever win both the Hambletonian and the Hambletonian Oaks in the same year. His \$1.667 million day in 2009 remains the high water mark for the industry for any driver any day in history.

Royalty For Life

ROYALTY FOR LIFE, bay colt, 3, by Rc Royalty-Bourbon 'n Grits, by Donerail
 Driver: Brian Sears
 Trainer: George Ducharme
 Owners: Al Ross, South Dartmouth, MA; Chip Campbell Jr, Belchertown, MA; Paul Fountaine, Woonsocket, RI
 Breeder: Alfred Ross, MA... 1-X-X-1

SMILIN ELI, bay colt, 3, by Muscles Glide-Gerri's Joy, by Enjoy Lavec
 Driver: Tim Tetrick
 Trainer: David M Smith
 Owners: Nicholas F Cimino, Pompano Beach, FL
 Breeder: Nicholas F Cimino, Pompano Beach, FL... 2-X-X-2

CORKY, bay colt, 3, by Muscles Yankee-Clarice Marie, by Balanced Image
 Driver: David Miller
 Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owners: Christina Takter, East Windsor, NJ; John D & Jim H Fielding, Toronto, ON, CA
 Breeder: Lynn M Baker... X-X-2-3

APERFECTYANKEE, brown colt, 3, by Yankee Glide-Asixpakfromperfect by Windowsong's Legacy
 Driver: Jim Oscarsson
 Trainer: Jim Oscarsson
 Owners: Jim Oscarsson, Vero Beach, FL
 Breeder: Robert S Detweiler, KY... X-3-X-4

Spider Blue Chip, brown gelding, 3, by Andover Hall-Southwind Catlin, by Muscles Yankee
 Driver: Ron Pierce
 Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
 Owners: David H McDuffee, Delray Beach, FL; Melvin Hartman, Ottawa, ON, CA
 Breeder: Mclain L Ward, NY... X-X-1-5

TIME BY QUARTERS	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1ST ELIMINATION	:26.4	:54.3	1:23.1	1:52.0
2ND ELIMINATION	:27.0	:55.0	1:23.4	1:52.4
3RD ELIMINATION	:27.1	:56.2	1:25.2	1:53.4
FINAL	26.2	:55.0	1:22.3	1:52.1

PAYOFFS															
FIRST ELIMINATION				SECOND ELIMINATION				THIRD ELIMINATION				FINAL			
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	3.40	2.40	2.40	CREATINE	13.80	5.80	4.00	SPIDER BLUE CHIP	3.80	2.20	2.20	ROYALTYFORLIFE	360	340	260
SMILIN ELI		2.80	2.40	WHEELING N DEALIN	3.40	2.40		CORKY		2.60	2.40	SMILIN ELI		7.60	4.80
HIGH BRIDGE			3.80	APERFECTYANKEE		3.60		LAUDERDALE			5.40	CORKY			4.40

- Though Royalty For Life would go on to win the Zweig, Canadian Trotting Classic and a heat of the Kentucky Futurity, he did not fare well in the Colonial or Futurity final, was fourth in his Breeders Crown elim and ended up scratched from the final with an injury that delayed his return to the races until July of 2014, when in a rare occurrence both the Hambletonian and the Oaks winner Bee A Magician faced off in the Hambletonian Maturity for 4-year-olds. (She was 2nd and he was interfered with and finished eighth.
- Nonetheless his record of 14-7-2-0 with earnings of \$1,620,166 were enough to earn him Dan Patch title for 3-year-olds.
- The brightest star to emerge from Hambletonian Day was Oaks winner Bee A Magician, who devastated the competition in her elim and the \$500,000 Oaks final, the middle mark of an undefeated season that was capped with horse of the Year honors.
- Trained by Richard "Nifty" Norman and driven by Brian Sears for owners Mel Hartman, Herb Liverman, and David McDuffee, this was Mel Hartman's and Nifty Norman's second consecutive Oaks win, as they took the 2012 version with Personal Style.
- Bee A Magician was unbeaten in 17 races last season at age 3 and earned a divisional record \$1.54 million, bested pacers Foiled Again and Captaintreacherous for the honor.
- At year's end, Bee A Magician became the first 3-year-old filly trotter to receive the Horse of the Year Award since Continentalvictory in 1996. She got 94 votes, followed by Foiled Again with 19 and Captaintreacherous with 16. In addition, Bee A Magician was named Trotter of the Year by a 120-vote margin over both Market Share and Royalty For Life, who received three votes apiece. She was a unanimous pick for her divisional title as her wins included

the Breeders Crown for 3-year-old filly trotters, Hambletonian Oaks, Elegantimage Stakes, and Delvin Miller Memorial.

- Her \$1.54 million in purses were the most ever for a 3-year-old filly trotter, breaking the record of \$1.17 million set by Continentalvictory in 1996, and her winning time of 1:51 in the Miller Memorial at Meadowlands Racetrack is the fastest mile ever by a 3-year-old filly trotter.
- Bee A Magician joined Muscle Hill and Syrinx Hanover as the only trotters to go unbeaten at age 3 and receive divisional honors dating back to 1975.
- She posted the fastest sophomore time on the year of 1:51, a world record.
- Owner Dave McDuffee and co-owner Mel Hartmann, who also have Spider Blue Chip, had the fastest male and female sophs of 2013.



Tetrick & Toscano “Share” The Spotlight

In her second try in as many years, Linda Toscano became the first female trainer to harness a Hambletonian champion, winning the 87th renewal of the \$1.5 million trotting classic with Market Share on a steaming hot 90-degree day. The victory was also the first for leading driver Tim Tetrick, who a race earlier saw Hambletonian Oaks favorite Check Me Out break while on the lead.

With 25 entered, the race split into three elims, raced over a track labeled “good” because of earlier rain. Uncle Peter (Ron Pierce) won the first elim which featured multiple lead changes before the colt drew off by a length and quarter to win in 1:53.3. Money On My Mind (Andy Miller) was a fast-closing second and Prestidigitator third.

Knows Nothing, who was unraced last year because of a bone chip, won his elimination over another Taktar entrant, Guccio, with My MVP third. Stormin Norman was fourth and procured a Hambo spot by virtue of being the highest money earner of the three fourth-placed finishers. Jeff Gillis trains Knows Nothing for Ontario-based owners Al Libfeld, Marvin Katz, Mac Nichol and Stay. Libfeld and Katz were co-owners of 2010 Hambletonian winner Muscle Massive.

Market Share recorded the fastest elimination, pulling the pocket and trotting by Archangel to win in 2-1/4 lengths. Archangel held for second and Gym Tan Laundry was third.

After a draw by lot, the connections of Hambletonian elimination race winners earned the right to pick their post position. Trainer Jeff Gillis selected first and chose post three for Knows Nothing, followed by driver Tim Tetrick taking post two for Market Share, which Taktar had wanted for Uncle Peter. Instead Jimmy Taktar chose post No. 1, and Uncle Peter was then installed the 5-2 morning line favorite for the Hambletonian final. Broad Bahn won last year’s Hambletonian from post one, as did Muscle Hill in 2009 and Deweycheaturnhowe in 2008. Market Share, of course, won from that fortuitous post choice of two.

Taktar was a two-time Hambletonian winner, with Muscle Massive in 2010 and Malabar Man in 1997, and was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame on July 1. He was bidding to become the first trainer to win the Hambletonian in the same year as his induction and was favored at 8-5 when the race went to the gate.

Ron Pierce and Uncle Peter left strongly from the rail but yielded to 65-1 outsider Gym Tan Laundry on the first turn. Before Pierce had a chance to regain, Archangel and Jim Morrill Jr. were already in the midst of a second move and gained control past the quarter pole reached in a spirited :27 2/5.

Once the dust settled, Pierce sent Uncle Peter sharply for the front with the colt securing the lead well before the :54 3/5 opening half. While the pacesetters were decisive in their movements, Jody Jamieson was sitting in fifth with 7-2 second choice Knows Nothing and waiting for action to develop. Eventually Tim Tetrick elected to pull Market Share off the rail to go on an uncovered jaunt. They quickly engaged Uncle Peter as the tandem clicked off the third quarter in 1:22 3/5.

Once in the homestretch Tetrick gave the son of Revenue his marching orders and Market Share kicked into high gear opening ground on his rival instantly and gaining separation from the other contenders. Knows Nothing couldn’t keep up with the leader and Archangel lacked a solid burst. That left it to 21-1 shot My MVP between horses and 11-1 Guccio on the far outside to rally. That pair trotted in tandem on the outside and Tetrick worked his magic to keep his horse trotting through the wire.

The mile of 1:52 1/5 was a fifth faster than Market Share went in his elimination victory. It was the closest finish since Chip Chip Hooray won by the same margin in 2002.

Market Share paid \$10.80 for a \$2 win ticket as the third choice in the field of 10.

Undeclared as a two-year-old in 2011, Market Share won for the fifth time in 11 starts in 2012 and pushed his career bank account to \$972,505.

Yonkers Trot winner Archangel finished fourth with Knows Nothing earning the final check. Race favorite Uncle Peter went to pacing instead of trotting

after being passed by the winner and was placed eighth after finishing seventh for the infraction.

A crowd of 24,521 turned out to watch Toscano make history in the Hambletonian.

This is beyond special; there are no words to describe what this feels like,” Toscano said. “You dream of it, but you don’t let your brain go there. You just don’t think it can happen.”

Going into the Hambletonian, Toscano tried to downplay the “first female” tag placed on her and after the win she remained steadfast in her thinking although she understands the significance.

“I have always felt that I’ve been part of the furniture so long and blended in,” said Toscano, also a breast cancer survivor. “I understand I’m carving a little niche in history and that’s really neat. If I can inspire another girl that it can be done, it’s awesome. That part I’m on board for.”

Owner Richard Gutnick, who earlier saw his and trainer Linda Toscano’s Chapter Seven set a world mark of 1:50 1/5 in the \$250,000 Nat Ray, was jubilant after the race. “Two months ago he was a 100-1 shot to even be in this race,” said Gutnick.

“It’s a dream come true,” continued the owner, who sold a 25 percent interest in Market Share after his elim win to Tom and Lou Pontone’s TLP Stable and Bill Augustine, a former trainer-driver who competed on the East Coast until retiring 20 years ago to concentrate fully on his nationally-branded blueberry company. Augustine’s last start on the racetrack came in 1995. His biggest win came in 1992 when John Campbell drove his 4-year-old mare Wannas Fame to a victory in the Comforter II final at the Meadowlands.

“I guess it was insurance,” said Gutnick. “I’m happy owning 75 percent.” With the purchase agreement done over the telephone, Gutnick didn’t even meet his new partners until they got together in the paddock prior to Saturday’s race.

Less than 72 hours after making the purchase, the Pontones were back in the Hambo winner’s circle a second time, following 2009 winner Muscle Hill. Tom Pontone said while he made the purchase on the eve of the Hambo, he wasn’t expecting quick dividends.

“I didn’t buy the horse for the Hambletonian,” said Pontone of Market Share, who increased his career earnings to \$972,505 with his 10th career victory. “The dream is to win the Hambletonian but I was just hoping that he’d race well and for the rest of the year we’d have a good horse.”

Brittany Farms and Melvin Hartman’s Personal Style with David Miller in the bike, took advantage of two enormous miscues by the favorites to win the Hambletonian Oaks in 1:53.1.

Going off at 57-1 and paying the second highest mutuel ever in the Oaks of \$116.40 to win (the record is \$122.80 for backers of Working Gal in the 1990 Oaks), Personal Style, trained by R. “Nifty” Norman, saw a clear path when super-favorite Check Me Out made an uncommon break in stride while leading into three-quarters and took second-choice Maven with her.

At the line, Personal Style stuck her nose in front to pull off the second biggest upset in Hambletonian Oaks history. Check Me Out returned to stride and finished third but was the subject of an inquiry with Maven. Judges replaced Check Me Out to eighth and Maven to seventh, moving Sassy Syrinx placed third and Holier Than Thou placed fourth.

“Around the last turn,” Tetrick said about Check Me Out’s break, “she took a bad step that turned her knee boot around. Maybe she stepped in a hole or something ... It just wasn’t our day.” The time was a personal best for the filly, who earned her largest purse in her third win from 10 starts this season.

Market Share

MARKET SHARE, bay colt, 3, by Revenue S-Classical Flirt, by Yankee Glide
 Driver: Tim Tetrick
 Trainer: Linda Toscano
 Owners: Richard S. Gutnick, Blue Bell, PA; T L P Stable, Kearny, NJ; William J. Augustine, Hammonton, NJ
 Breeder: Hayley A. Moore, KY
 Caretaker: Shelly Grieco
 Sale History: Purchased for \$16,000 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale, Lexington, KY... X-X-1-1

GUCCIO, bay colt, 3, by Yankee Glide-Southern Senorita, by Yankee Paco
 Driver: Jimmy Takter
 Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owners: Christina Takter, East Windsor, NJ; John D. & Jim H. Fielding, ON; Falkbolagen Ab, Allentown, NJ
 Breeder: Tony R. Holmes & Walter W. Zent, KY... X-2-X-2

MY MVP, bay colt, 3, by Cantab Hall-Exceed Expectation, by Kadabra
 Driver: Mike Lachance
 Trainer: Tony Alagna
 Owners: Brittany Farms, Versailles, KY; J Sbrocco, Brecksville, OH; Modern Family Partners, Versailles, KY
 Breeder: Dunrover Stud, KY... X-3-X-3

ARCHANGEL, black colt, 3, by Credit Winner-Michelle's Angel, by Andover Hall
 Driver: Jim Morrill Jr.
 Trainer: Peter Arrigenna
 Owners: Alan C. Hainsworth, Mt. Morris, NY; Clare M. Semer, S Pal Beach, FL; Peter J. Arrigenna, Piffard, NY
 Breeder: Diamond Creek Farm LLC, KY... X-X-2-4

KNOWS NOTHING, bay colt, 3, by Kadabra-Savvy Yankee, by Balanced Image
 Driver: Jody Jamieson
 Trainer: Jeffrey Gillis
 Owners: Al J. Libfeld, ON; Marvin Katz, ON; Mac T. Nichol, ON; J Gillis, G Stay, ON
 Breeder: Herb A Liverman, FL... X-1-X-5

TIME BY QUARTERS	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1ST ELIMINATION	:27.2	:55.3	1:24.4	1:53.3
2ND ELIMINATION	:27.0	:56.2	1:25.3	1:53.1
3RD ELIMINATION	:27.0	:55.4	1:25.0	1:52.2
FINAL	:27.2	:54.3	1:22.3	1:52.1

PAYOFFS															
FIRST ELIMINATION				SECOND ELIMINATION				THIRD ELIMINATION				FINAL			
UNCLE PETER	3.20	2.60	2.60	KNOWS NOTHING	6.00	4.00	2.80	MARKET SHARE	8.20	4.00	3.40	MARKET SHARE	10.80	6.00	5.00
MONEY ON MY MIND	7.80	4.60		GUCCIO		5.80	4.60	ARCHANGEL		3.80	3.20	GUCCIO		9.80	6.80
PRESTIDIGITATOR		5.80		MY MVP			6.80	GYM TAN LAUNDRY			6.20	MY MVP			9.00

- Toscano was first introduced to horse racing by her late father, who enjoyed both Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds. She began working with harness horses and was mentored over the years by Buddy Regan, John Campbell and Buddy Gilmour.
- Toscano has also trained the likes of 1995's Mare Trotter of the Year Giant Mermaid, Breeders Crown champions Molly Can Do It, world champion Jet Laag N, and standouts Kenneth J and Share The Delight, as well as eventual 2012 Horse of the Year Chapter Seven.
- Toscano's triumph with Market Share was just her second chance at winning the Hambo. Last year she finished fourth in the final with Chapter Seven, a colt who was making just his third start of the year after a bout with pneumonia delayed his sophomore season. Last year Toscano knew she faced an uphill battle for Chapter Seven to even make the trotting classic, let alone be considered a contender.
- On the advice of longtime associate Pat Waldo, Gutnick purchased Market Share at the 2010 Lexington Selected Sale for \$16,000 from Kentucky breeder Dr. Hayley Moore. The colt was then sent to Toscano, who laid eyes on the son of Revenue for the first time only when he arrived at her barn. Market Share won all five of his freshman starts, with all five coming in New Jersey-restricted races at Freehold.
- Sire Revenue S picked up his first Hambo credit though his son Whiskey Tax was runnerup in the 2011 Hambletonian. A son of French sire Reve d'Udon, Revenue S won the Nat Ray in 2004 in rein to Lufti Kolgini. He stood at Perretti Farms in NJ but was sold in 2011 to Hanne Lynne, a prominent Norwegian breeder who stands him at Holtan Farm. After his sale he not only had a son win the Hambletonian but also added millionaire Hot Shot Blue Chip and Breeders Crown winner Break The Bank K to his roster.
- The 2012 Hambletonian featured three live broadcasts: French TV Equidia; TVG and CBS Sports Network, as well as the award winning live Meadowlands simulcast show. The day was shared internationally and across North America.
- The Hambletonian winning team continued their success throughout the year and were rewarded at the year-end ballot box.
- Richard Gutnick was voted Norman Woolworth Owner of the Year as his divisional winners Chapter Seven and Market Share finishing an astonishing one-two in the voting for Horse of the Year honors.
- Linda Toscano was voted Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year for her exceptional work with her trotters, and divisional and Breeders Crown winner Heston Blue Chip.
- At 31, Tim Tetrick had a career year in a career that just seems to top itself annually. He drove a remarkable seven of the 12 Dan Patch divisional champions, including Pacer, Trotter and Horse of the Year, and earned Driver of the Year honors for the third time. He was harness racing's leading money-winner for the sixth consecutive year, with \$18.52 million in purses. It is the second-highest total in history, behind his own total of \$19.73 million in 2008.



Broad Bahn Wins In Big Day For Brennan

The 2011 Hambletonian had as many storylines and as much drama as an afternoon soap opera. After 18 colts dropped in the box and were split into two eliminations the field was established for the \$1.5 million final. In the first elimination, the favorite's role was played by the Linda Toscano-trained Chapter Seven, who had prevailed by a determined head in his Stanley Dancer division prep race, his first start of the year and entrymate Blue Porsche, fresh off a win in the Goodtimes Trot in Canada.

George Brennan nailed leading driver honors at the Meadowlands in 2010, and was hot on the trail of a second title. He drove Broad Bahn, a big son of Broadway Hall sharply out of the eight hole and was able to steal the race in rated fashion, tripping the timer in 1:53, nearly a length ahead of Chapter Seven. Fawkes, Whit and Luckycharm Hanover completed the first five finishers to advance. Entrymate Blue Porsche was dull, and had a tough time regaining his freshman form for the rest of the year. Orlando and Big Sky Storm both made early miscues and were counted out of the final.

In the second elimination, the favorite, Manofmanymissions, performed as expected. After a six-length blowout in his Dancer division, the colt trained by Erv Miller and driven by his brother Andy seemed primed for a big effort. Never in doubt about his speed, Miller instead worried that a nagging foot problem might lead to the occasional break in stride Manofmanymissions had displayed on the rare occasion. So Andy Miller cautiously floated out of the gate, settled briefly in fourth, then attacked first over to win by a length in 1:52.4. George Brennan, driving Magnum Kosmos was second while defending Dan Patch champion Pastor Stephen was third. The last two finalists were Opening Night and Whiskey Tax to complete a field of 10.

The connections of elimination winners Manofmanymissions and Broad Bahn picked their post positions prior to the draw to set the remainder of the 10-horse field. Broad Bahn's name was picked first out the hat, so trainer, Noel Daley chose post position number one. "He's got [gate] speed and he has the 'Minister of Speed,'" Brennan said, referring his own nickname around the track. That prompted Erv Miller to select the two slot.

"We're going to take the two hole, right beside (Broad Bahn)," Miller said. We don't want to be out too far and don't want to get other horses in between us." Manofmanymissions also earned the favorites role by virtue of his faster elim time, going off at 8-5.

The post positions for the other eight 3-year-old trotters were determined in an open draw.

On a hot and bright Saturday afternoon the field gathered behind the starting gate for the 86th Hambletonian, the 31st time the classic event would race over the host track of the Meadowlands.

The race was over before it started for Magnum Kosmos and Brian Sears with an ill-timed break behind the gate. Longshots Whiskey Tax (Randy Waples) and Luckycharm Hanover (David Miller) both made attempts at leaving, but the Minister of Speed used Broad Bahn's pole position and quick early foot to stuff them in behind him. Brennan unfurled a :27.1 first quarter, brisk but not excessive, then let Broad Bahn relax through a :56 half.

This is where the battle should have been joined, as Manofmanymissions began his slow but steady march up the outside to try to wear down Broad Bahn. But Brennan was ready for the attack and asked his colt for another notch, which Broad Bahn easily gave.

After a quickening third quarter of 1:23.4 the two colts seemed set for an epic stretch duel. In deep stretch Manofmanymissions began to falter then jumped it off, leaving Brennan and Broad Bahn clear sailing to the wire in 1:53, a time identical to his elimination win. The pocket-sitting Whiskey Tax was three and a quarter lengths back and the opportunistic Opening Night finished third for brothers John and Jim Campbell.

Second favorite Chapter Seven closed for fourth, a good effort after he appeared to gap behind cover on the backstretch. Pastor Stephen followed along to earn the final fifth place money.

Sent off as the 6-1 third choice in the field, Broad Bahn returned \$14.60, \$7.00 and \$5.60 across the board. Whiskey Tax, a 39-1 shot, returned \$26.00 and \$11.60 for place and show. Opening Night paid \$6.40 to show.

The exacta pairing Broad Bahn and Whiskey Tax paid \$462.40 for a \$2 ticket, eclipsing the \$292.20 record set in 2003. The trifecta with Opening Night returned \$3,700.40, also topping the 2003 previous record of \$2,630.80.

The winners circle was a whirlwind of "firsts". It was the first Hambletonian champion bred by the Mullen family's Fair Winds Farm of Cream Ridge, NJ, though the farm had shared ownership on 1987 champion Mack Lobell and bred 2010 Oaks winner Bar Slide. The win was also the first Hambletonian victory for Danish owner Leif Alber's Fam Alber Horse Racing LLC., and for trainer Noel Daley and driver George Brennan. It was the first Hambletonian credit for stallion Broadway Hall, an undefeated two-year-old of 2002 who was the Hambletonian winter book favorite but never made the race after a career-ending injury in the spring of 2003.



- Broad Bahn won for the fourth time in eight starts and oddly he would add only one other victory to his slate by year's end: the Zweig at Tioga, though his Hambo win and \$750,000 payday would secure him Dan Patch year-end honors.
- George Brennan became just the second driver to sweep both the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks in the same afternoon. Brian Sears accomplished the feat in 2009 with Muscle Hill and Broadway Schooner.
- Broad Bahn was \$20,000 yearling purchase at the Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, PA. He was a massive yearling, said Alber's agent Ole Bach, who selected the son of Madonarail, a mare whose five previous foals from five different stallions ranged in price from \$6,000 to \$80,000 without a distinguished performer. Yet Madonarail's dam Worldly Woman won the 1992 Hambletonian Oaks, so the pedigree was there for those willing to roll the dice. Even breeder Fair Winds farm had enough with Madonarail and sold her to Sweden after Broad Bahn was weaned.
- Trainer Noel Daley was not happy with how big a yearling Broad Bahn was when he arrived in his barn. His displeasure disappeared when Broad Bahn turned out to be a willing pupil who progressed rapidly on the trot.
- By the fall of 2010, Broad Bahn earned a name for himself on the PA Sire Stake trail, and lost by a neck to Pastor Stephen in the Wellwood final. He won his Breeders Crown elimination at Pocono Downs but then disaster struck in the form of fractured hind coffin bone, so minor that it did not show on regular x-rays. Broad Bahn was retired for the year to heal.
- Ironically, when Broad Bahn was scratched from the 2010 Crown final, Manofmanymissions drew into the race and won it. To have the top three colts in year-end balloting return to the races and meet again in the Hambletonian was a bit of a rarity.
- Owner Leif Alber, his wife and three children elected to forgo conventional means traveling from their native Denmark to the metropolitan New York area for the sport's biggest race. Instead, Alber and company hopped a plane from Copenhagen to Los Angeles where they rented an auto and embarked on a cross-country journey, through places like Las Vegas and Memphis (two homes of Elvis Presley). Then they turned north hitting the nation's capital before making it to the winner's circle at the Meadowlands on July 30.
- It was Alber's second shot at Hambletonian honors as he won elimination in 2008 with 22-1 shot Atomic Hall, only to finish ninth in the final.
- Trainer Noel Daley, 49, grew up in Mt. Isa, Australia and worked for Qantas Airlines before coming to the United States to pursue a career in racing. He first settled in California, racing at Los Alamitos, and then shipped East in 1990 to work for Brett Pelling. Daley helped propel the Pelling stable to six training titles at the Meadowlands before the two trainers parted ways in 1998. He quickly filled a stable with the help of his primary owner Adam Victor and won his first Meadowlands training title in 2003.
- Daley's top trainee Mr. Muscleman retired with \$3.5 million in career earnings. His only other Hambletonian starter was Explosive Matter, who finished second in Muscle Hill's record-setting 2009 Hambletonian. Daley's Oaks contender Cedar Dove, just missed making the final with a sixth place finish in her Oaks elimination, but won divisional honors after annexing wins in the Kentucky Futurity and Breeders Crown.
- Driver George Brennan made his fifth start in the Hambletonian final a winning one. He finished third in 2006 with Blue Mac Lad and again in 2010 with Wishing Stone. His stats of 754 wins and \$14.5 million in earnings got him voted Driver of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers for the second straight year and won the HTA Driving title as well.
- Broad Bahn pushed his seasonal earnings to \$1.3 million, the most of any square-gaiter for the year, and 14th on the all-time single season list. He was retired to stud at Winbak Farms of New York.

Broad Bahn

BROAD BAHN, bay colt, 3, by Broadway Hall-Madonrail, by Donerail
 Driver: George Brennan
 Trainer: Noel Daley
 Owners: Fam Alber Horse Racing LLC [Leif Alber, Copenhagen, Denmark], East Windsor, NJ
 Breeder: Fair Winds Farm Inc, Cream Ridge, NJ
 Caretaker: Risa Tanaka
 Sale History: Purchased for \$20,000 Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, PA...1-x-1

WHISKEY TAX, bay gelding 3, by Revenue S-Bourbon Belle, by Muscles Yankee
 Driver: Randy Waples
 Trainer: Thomas Durand
 Owners: June & Thomas R. Durand, Puslinch, ON; Allan J. C. Smith, Oakville, ON
 Breeder: Little E LLC [Jeff Gural], New York, NY . . . X-5-2

OPENING NIGHT, brown colt, 3 by Broadway Hall-Rare Elegance, by Self Possessed
 Driver: John Campbell
 Trainer: Jim Campbell
 Owner: Runthetable Stables [Scott Farber], Montvale, NJ
 Breeder: Robert A. Tucker, Glen Gardner, NJ; Lauren B Tucker, Glen Gardner, NJ . . . X-4-3

CHAPTER SEVEN, bay colt, 3 by Windsong's Legacy-La Riviera Lindy, by Dream Vacation
 Driver: Mike Lachance
 Trainer: Linda Toscano
 Owners: Richard S. Gutnick, Blue Bell, PA; Gary J. Cocco, Newtown Square, PA; Southwind Farm, Pennington, NJ; Jerry Silva, Long Beach, NY
 Breeder: Richard T. Banca, Franklin Lakes, NJ. . . 2-X-4

PASTOR STEPHEN, bay colt, 3, by Cantab Hall-Gala Dream, by Enjoy Lavec
 Driver: Ron Pierce
 Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owner: Christina Takter, East Windsor, NY; John D. Fielding, Toronto, ON; Brittany Farms, Versailles, KY
 Breeder: Brittany Farms, Versailles, KY. . . X-3-5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	¼	½	¾	MILE
1st elimination	:27.3	:56.1	1:24.2	1:53.0
2nd elimination	:27.4	:56.1	1:24.0	1:52.4
Final	:27.1	:56.3	1:23.4	1:53.0

PAYOFFS											
FIRST ELIMINATION			SECOND ELIMINATION				FINAL				
BROAD BAHN	9.80	3.80	3.60	MANOFMANYMISSIONS	2.80	2.60	2.40	BROAD BAHN	14.60	7.00	5.60
CHAPTER SEVEN		2.20	2.10	MAGNUM KOSMOS		13.40	7.20	WHISKEY TAX		26.00	11.60
FAWKES			13.40	PASTOR STEPHEN			3.80	OPENING NIGHT			6.40

- John Campbell, who has the most Hambletonian titles with six, kept his consecutive driving streak alive, making his 29th appearance in the classic race. Less than two months prior, the Hambletonian was the last thing on his mind, as he suffered a broken right shoulder and right knee in a racing accident at Harrah's Chester at the end of May. Still on crutches the week before the Hambo elims, Campbell drove his own trotter Live Jazz in the eliminations but was interfered with and finished eighth. Since Live Jazz did not qualify, Campbell's brother Jim gave him the mount on Opening Night, who was qualified by Brian Sears.
- Mauro Castano, from Carlo's Bake Shop in New Jersey and star of the TLC series "Cake Boss," unveiled two cakes at the 86th edition of the race. The cakes recreated the Meadowlands Racetrack along with the Hambo trophy in honor of the 30th edition of the Hambletonian taking place at the Meadowlands. The racetrack cake featured full details of the grandstand, each horse with its driver's colors, spectators, a working digital picture frame in place of the tote board that showed images of the past winners, and all the competing horses' names.
- Caretaker Risa Tanaka was born deaf. Her parents moved from her native Japan to New Zealand when she was two to give her more opportunity and to be treated like "everyone else." Tanaka first competed in show jumping and dressage before taking a job in harness racing. She worked for several trainers in New Zealand before making the move to Canada in 2007, and eventually joined Noel Daley's barn, where she cared for 2009 Breeders Crown champion Allspeed Hanover.
- Defending Dan Patch champion Pastor Stephen finished fifth in the Hambletonian but earned much more with a "Racing for Africa" promotion. Named in honor of the Rev. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson of Allentown Presbyterian Church in NJ, Pastor Stephen ownership group pledged a portion of the colts 2011 earnings to Villages in Partnership, for clean wells, schools and livestock in the impoverished country of Malawi.
- 1998 Hambletonian winner Muscles Yankee sired the last three winners of this race. He had no starts in this year's eliminations.
- The family name Houghton appeared for the 8th consecutive decade in a Hambletonian. Billy first made his appearance in 1949 and son Tommy starts Luckycharm Hanover as trainer.
- No unraced freshmen this year in the Hambo eliminations as all entered started at two, even maiden Orlando.
- The \$750,000 Hambletonian Oaks was won by Bold And Fresh, a daughter of SJ's Caviar. She was second in her elim to Iron Lady, but a perfect trip by George Brennan gave her the opportunity to sprint by odds-on favorite Crys Dream and second choice Jezy to win in 1:53.1.
- Lady Rainbow raced well off the early pace but angled wide and charged home

- powerfully for the place spot. Crys Dream barely edged Jezy in the battle for the third spot.
- With four wins in eight starts heading into the Hambo Oaks, Bold And Fresh had stamped herself a contender with a solid placing in her elimination heat. But when her catch-driver Mike Lachance opted for elim winner Iron Lady that left the door opened for the opportunistic Brennan.
- A 24-1 outsider in the wagering, Bold And Fresh returned \$51.40, 21.80 and 6.60 across the board. Lady Rainbow returned \$11.80 and 4.40 with Crys Dream returning \$2.10 for show as the beaten 2-5 favorite.
- Owner Don Bartling, who had been part of the SJs Caviar ownership, was ecstatic over his win. SJ's Caviar was the divisional champion of 2001, but was ineligible for the Hambletonian.
- Trainer Doug Miller was a second trainer for the legendary Bill Houghton stable, and a well-respected horseman. He saw his first Hambletonian in 1968- the great Nevele Pride - and decided then and there on his life's calling.
- Miller picked out Bold And Fresh, a daughter of the Garland Lobell mare Odre Coucou, bred by Claudean T. Cone in Kentucky for Bartling. He purchased the filly for \$40,000 under the name Coucoularue at the Standardbred Horse Sale. Miller also trained Bold And Fresh's half-sister Coulatine.
- Bold And Fresh jumped her career earnings over the half million mark in one swoop.



“Massive” Muscles His Way to Victory

The 2010 Hambletonian went to post a wide-open affair, with three different elim winners vying for the role of favorite. At the wire, Muscle Massive, beaten a half-length in his \$70,000 Hambletonian elim by Pilgrims Taj, turned that same half length measure to his favor, prevailing over Lucky Chucky in the second fastest clocking in Hambo history.

Trainer Jimmy Takter scored his second Hambletonian victory with the blue-blooded colt sired by 1998 Hambletonian winner Muscles Yankee. “This is a race everyone dreams of winning,” said a jubilant Takter post-race. “I always had faith he could win it.”

Drive Ron Pierce shared that same faith, turning in a sharp steer as he guided Muscle Massive through a perfect tour of the one mile Meadowlands oval. “I knew when he warmed up nobody could beat him,” said Pierce. “He was so good scoring down I knew it was up to me to get the job done driving.”

Pierce got the job done in textbook fashion, zipping out of the gate at the start to drop in the two hole, then letting the race unfold as elim winner Cassis and Tim Tetrick cut fractions of :27.1 and 54.3. When race favorite Lucky Chucky and John Campbell went on the attack approaching the last turn, Pierce had Muscle Massive perfectly poised to pursue them. Lucky Chucky seized the lead from Cassis with three-quarter pole time unwinding in 1:22.2 and Pierce slipped out from behind the fading Cassis, drafting behind Lucky Chucky as Campbell geared him up to sprint away in the stretch. It was at that point that Pierce made his move, counting on Muscle Massive to run down Lucky Chucky in the straightaway. Pierce took dead aim on Lucky Chucky’s two length lead

and let his colt roll, wearing down Lucky Chucky till Muscle Massive surged to the front a mere 50 feet from the wire. Wishing Stone closed well for third with George Brennan in the bike.

A Hambletonian victory is a stand-alone triumph in a career, let alone on the day. For Jimmy Takter it was the crown jewel in a day where he started nine horses, won three races and took home \$1.1 million in purses. For driver Ron Pierce it was Hambletonian win No. 3, following a 1993 win with American Winner and Donato Hanover’s 2007 victory.

The Muscle Massive ownership group was comprised of four Canadians and two Swedes, all standing in Hambletonian victory lane for the first time – most on their first try! Marvin Katz, Al Libfeld and Sam Goldband, (brothers-in-law and business partners respectively) have long shared ownership on race horses and one of the finest trotting broodmare bands in the sport. They won the 2008 Hambletonian Oaks with Creamy Mimi, and were third in the 2002 edition with Duke Of York.

“Muscle Massive was a joy to be involved with,” Libfeld said. “From purchasing him for the highest price two years ago, to his successful three-year-old season, capped off with the thrilling Hambo win.” Louis Camara teamed up with Takter in 2006 on the top pacing filly Armbr Dancer but experienced his first Hambletonian winner with Muscle Massive (he also shared ownership on On The Tab, who was ninth). Stefan Balaczi (Order By Stable) and Anders Agerup [Brixton Medical AB], both Swedish natives, were making their first start in a race that is sought after by trotting enthusiasts around the globe.



- The time of 1:51, 4/5ths of a second off the 1:50 stake and world record set by Muscle Hill in 2009. Muscle Massive was fourth choice in the field of ten at odds of 7-1. The race favorite was Lucky Chucky. Muscle Massive became just the fourth horse to win the final who did not win his elim since eliminations were moved to the week before the race in 1997. The other three were Glidemaster (2006-2nd in elim), Windsong’s Legacy (2004- 3rd in elim) and Amigo Hall (2003-3rd in elim) Since Muscle Massive did not win an elim, he was put in the open draw and drew post six. Both Vivid Photo (2005) and Amigo Hall (2006) started from post six. Five and six are the winningest post positions at the Meadowlands. The half-length margin of victory was the shortest since 2002, when Chip Chip Hooryay got a neck in front of Like A Prayer. Ironically, trainer Chuck Sylvester was on the winning end of that neck margin.
- Jimmy Takter conditioned two other horses in this race, besides the winner. Hard Livin finished seventh and On The Tab was ninth. On The Tab went on to win the second leg of the Trotting Triple Crown, the Yonkers Trot. Muscle Massive did not enter that leg, but was 2nd in the first heat and 4th in the final heat of the Kentucky Futurity, the third leg. It marked the second time Takter won two jewels in the Trotting Triple Crown with two different horses. It has happened only one other time since 1991.
- Muscle Massive was the highest priced yearling of 2008, commanding \$425,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, Pa. Muscle Massive entered the Hambletonian having hit the board in six of his seven starts, with wins in a leg of the NJ Sire Stakes and a division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial, the final prep for the Hambo.
- Much of the divisional attention centered around Lucky Chucky, defending Dan Patch divisional champ, and 2009 Peter Haughton winner Holiday Road. Ray Schnittker, who won the 2008 Hambletonian with Deweycheatumnhowe, also had a top contender in Cassis and won the fastest Hambletonian elim.
- Cassis was the 39th Hambletonian starter raced by the Gery family’s Arden Homestead Stable of Goshen, N.Y., beginning with a two-horse entry in the Hambletonian Stake No. 1 in 1926. Their winners include Deweycheatumnhowe (08), Flirth (1973) and Titan Hanover (1945).
- What a difference a year makes. Trainer Greg Peck made his first appearance in the Hambletonian a winning one with Muscle Hill in 2009. His contender, Holiday Road, won his elim but was 10th in the final.
- Though Muscle Massive was perfect on Hambletonian day, he only won one more race, the \$122,829 Simcoe in Ontario, before ending his campaign in October. The divisional lead continued to change hands, as Muscle Massive finished third behind Lucky Chucky and Break The Bank K in the \$1 million Canadian Trotting Classic. Next came the Breeders Crown at Pocono Downs, which featured the first four finishers in the Hambletonian, but that race was won

by Break The Bank K. Wishing Stone won the last few races of the season – the Kentucky Futurity and the Matron.

- Muscle Massive was retired to stud after finishing second and fourth in the Futurity, with earnings of \$1,239,138) and his Hambletonian record of 1.51. He was syndicated by Hanover Shoe Farm of Pennsylvania to stand for a fee of \$10,000.
- Lucky Chucky was named Dan Patch divisional champion among his peers. He received 108 votes, Muscle Massive garnered 16 votes, Kentucky Futurity winner Wishing Stone got five votes and Breeders Crown winner Break The Bank K received two votes.
- Takter was recognized as the sport’s top trainer with the Glen Garnsey Award from the U.S. Harness Writers’ Association. It was a record third title for him, having won in the honor in 2000 (co-winner with Mark Ford) and 1996. Takter also trained 1997 Hambletonian winner and Horse of the Year Malabar Man. Takter set personal records in 2010 of 119 wins, and earnings of \$7.8 million. This ranked him second in the standings, behind Ron Burke’s mammoth operation, which started 3,700 horses compared to Takter’s 540 starts
- For Takter, Hambletonian day was the apex of an extraordinary year. The green and black colors of the Takter stable were constantly seen on the track as his nine starters in harness racing’s richest day warmed up, post paraded and went to the gate. Three of those starters made a trip to the winners circle - and unbelievably a fourth also won but was disqualified.
- The 85th outcome of the trotting classic was truly a family affair – both human and equine. Trainer Jimmy Takter and his wife Christina, barely out of their teens, emigrated to the U.S. from Sweden for good in 1982, with year-old daughter Nancy. 28 years later the trio met in the Hambo winners circle, with a few additions: Nancy’s siblings Jenny, Tiffany, and Jimmy Jr., her husband Marcus Johansson and their children Ella and Anthony.
- Graceful Touch was named Trotting Broodmare of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers for her stellar production record in 2010. Perretti Farms, who bred both the winner, Muscle Massive and the runner-up, Lucky Chucky, was voted NJ Breeder of the Year by the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey. The farm, owned by William Perretti (who passed away in 2014) and his son Anthony is located in Cream Ridge, NJ. In 2010, Perretti Farms ranks third nationally with 245 winners and \$13.3 million in earnings, standing top trotting stallion Muscles Yankee and top pacing stallion Rock N Roll Hanover. They also bred older Dan Patch trot winner Enough Talk.
- The \$750,000 Hambletonian Oaks was won by Bar Slide, a daughter of Yankee Glide- Marla Bar, by Malabar Man, owned by Fredericka Caldwell and Bluestone Farm. Caldwell is the daughter of Frances Dodge Van Lennep, founder of Castleton Farms, one of the most storied racing and breeding concerns in the

2010

Muscle Massive

MUSCLE MASSIVE, bay colt, 3, by Muscles Yankee-Graceful Touch, by Pine Chip
 Driver: Ron Pierce
 Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owners: Brixton Medical Ab [Bengt Agerup], Order By Stable [Stefan Balazsi], Louie Camara, Marvin Katz, Al Libfeld & Sam Goldband
 Breeder: Perretti Farms
 Caretaker: Nancy Johansson
 Sale History: Purchased for \$425,000 Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, Pa 2-X-X-1

LUCKY CHUCKY, bay colt 3, by Windsong's Legacy-Aerobics, by Muscles Yankee
 Driver: John Campbell
 Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
 Owners: SGS Partners [Chuck Sylvester, Neal Goldman, Amy Stoltzfus], Perretti Racing Stable [William J. Perretti], & Lindy Racing Stable [Frank Antonacci & Gerald Antonacci]
 Breeder: Perretti Farms . . . X-1-X-2

WISHING STONE, brown colt, 3 by Conway Hall – Meadowbranch Magic, by Valley Victory
 Driver: George Brennan
 Trainer: Dewayne Minor
 Owner: Cowboyland Aalborg [Dewayne Minor]
 Breeder: Brittany Farms . . . X-X-3-3

PILGRIMS TAJ, bay colt, 3 by Broadway Hall –BWT Maija, by Tagliabue
 Driver: Mike Lachance
 Trainer: Trond Smedshammer
 Owners: Robert Bongiorno, Pilgrim's Taj Stable [R. Peter Heffering, Carol Beneke, William R Kent], Bix Di Meo & Val D'Or Farms [Marty Granoff].
 Breeder: Arlene L. and Jules J. Siegel, New Hope, Pa. . . . 1-X-X-4

TEMPLE OF DOOM, brown colt, 3, by Yankee Glide – Armbro Temple, by Garland Lobell
 Driver: David Miller
 Breeder: L & L Devisser
 Owner: Robert Rosenheim Stables
 Trainer: Jonas Czernyson . . . X-X-2-5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st elimination	:27.4	:57.0	1:25.1	1:53.3
2nd elimination	:27.3	:56.3	1:25.4	1:53.1
3rd elimination	:28.0	:56.1	1:25.0	1:52.4
Final	:27.1	:54.3	1:22.2	1:51.0

PAYOFFS											
FIRST ELIMINATION				SECOND ELIMINATION				THIRD ELIMINATION			
Pilgrim's Taj	19.80	4.80	3.20	Lucky Chucky	5.60	6.20	2.20	Cassis	\$4.80	\$3.00	\$2.20
Muscle Massive		2.20	2.10	Mystery Photo		11.80	3.60	Temple Of Doom		\$3.80	\$3.00
Hard Livin			2.60	Holiday Road			2.10	Wishing Stone			\$5.60
				FINAL							
				Muscle Massive	15.00	5.80	5.00				
				Lucky Chucky		3.40	2.80				
				Wishing Stone			5.80				

sport. Castleton bred the very first Hambletonian Oaks winner Gay Blossom in 1971, and Caldwell was in attendance. They are the only mother-daughter combo to have won the Hambletonian Oaks. Caldwell bred and owned 1988 winner Nan's Catch and her daughter 1996 winner Moni Maker.

- Both the Hambletonian (Perretti Farms) and the Oaks winner (Fair Winds Farms) were bred and sired in New Jersey.
- Bar Slide was trained by Joe Holloway, making his first appearance in the Oaks winner circle. Tim Tetrick has now won two of the last four Oaks. Bar Slide's dam, Marla Bar, was eighth in the 2002 version of the Oaks.
- Bar Slide, by with the strength of an Oaks win and a consistent seasonal score of 14-5-2-1, 1:52.4 (\$568,529) got Dan Patch divisional honors with 69 of 131 votes with the rest split among several other fillies.
- The Hambletonian is the only event in harness racing to carry a \$1 million purse for 28 straight years.
- Record European wagering helped produce the third highest harness handle in history. Total all-source wagering on the 15-race card was \$8,391,600, trailing only the \$8.8 million wagered in 2002 and \$9 million wagered in 2005.
- A crowd of 26,712 turned out to watch Muscle Massive edge Lucky Chucky in the \$1.5 million Hambletonian. The attendance was an increase of nearly 4 percent over the previous year and the highest since 2006.
- Muscle Massive was the highest priced yearling of 2008, commanding \$425,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, Pa. That's the fifth highest sale price ever offered for a yearling trotting colt, with the highest the \$650,000 given for Experience Victory in 1999. The high price given for Muscle Massive in a year that saw the national economy go in the tank was easily justified by his gaudy pedigree. Muscles Massive was bedecked with trotting bluebloods on both his paternal and maternal side.
- Muscles Yankee, the sire of Muscle Massive, stood at Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, N.J. for a fee of \$20,000. He claimed three consecutive Hambo winners in Muscle Massive (2010), Muscle Hill (2009) and Deweycheatumnhowe (2008). No other sire has done so in the 85-year history of the race, though Star's Pride has sired the most winners of the classic race with eight.
- Muscle Massive's maternal family has produced in excess of 10 \$100,000 yearlings and five \$250,000 yearlings including Muscle Mass (\$100,000) and Touchdown Town (\$320,000). The next foal out of Graceful Touch after Muscle

Massive was a filly named Thatsnotmyname, by 2004 Hambletonian winner Windsong's Legacy. She was also purchased by Takter (for Order By Stable) at a price of \$250,000. Thatsnotmyname won the \$437,000 Merrie Annabelle stakes on Hambletonian Day, boosting Graceful Touch's progeny earnings by nearly \$1 million in a single day.

- Graceful Touch (Pine Chip) is one of only two foals and the only daughter of \$400,000+ winner Act Of Grace, who was driven by John Campbell in the 1996 Hambletonian for trainer Stanley Dancer. Though she finished second in the first heat behind superstar filly Continentalvictory, Act Of Grace made a break behind the gate in the final heat and finished ninth.



Muscle Hill is King of the Hill

Trainer Greg Peck's Operation: Hambletonian was complete as Muscle Hill etched his name in the record books with a stunning 1:50.1 victory. Starting from rail position, Muscle Hill and driver Brian Sears coasted untested through splits of :27.1, :55 and 1:23 and drew off to a six-length victory.

The colt equaled the all-age record on a mile track and eclipsed the stakes record by one full second. Sears, who also steered Broadway Schooner to a narrow win in the Hambletonian Oaks, became the first driver in history to capture both the Hambletonian and its companion event in the same year. Sears and Peck also captured the Peter Haughton Memorial for 2-year-old trotting colts with Holiday Road that afternoon.

"It's very humbling to win such prestigious races on a day like today," Sears said. "I knew I had the horse this year to get it done and I never had any doubts."

"Midway around the last turn, I could see Ronny [Pierce] tapping Explosive Matter and I knew what that meant," Peck said. "I know what Muscle Hill is like and when Brian [Sears] steps on the gas he's like a sports car that just goes

into overdrive and does it easily."

Muscle Hill became the third freshman Dan Patch champion in as many years to win the Hambletonian, following Donato Hanover [2007] and Deweycheatumnhowe [2008] into the spotlight. He would go on to be named Horse of the Year for a flawless, 12-race campaign and single-season earnings record of \$2.45 million.

The eyes of the world were focused on harness racing at the Meadowlands on Hambletonian Day as total wagering surpassed \$8.3 million. The \$8,343,405 total was the third highest handle in harness racing history, trailing only the \$8.8 million wagered on the 2002 Hambletonian and \$9 million wagered in 2005. European wagering was up 72 percent over the previous year, with a record total of \$1,968,994 bet on races simulcast to Scandinavia and France. For the first time, the Hambletonian Day card featured the top 2-year-old trotting stakes, the Merrie Annabelle and Peter Haughton, in addition to the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks for 3-year-olds.



- Muscle Hill's time of 1:50.1 was the fastest Hambletonian ever, lowering Glidemaster's standard of 1:51.1 set in 2006. The time equaled the all-age trotting record.
- The six-length winning margin was the largest since Mack Lobell's 1987 record of six and one-quarter length victory. It matched that of Peter Astra in 1939.
- The total purse of \$1,730,333 [three \$70,000 eliminations] and the final purse of \$1,520,333 were the richest purses ever offered for trotters in North America.
- Trainer Greg Peck made his first appearance in the Hambletonian a winning one. A native of Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia, and a third-generation horseman, Peck is not just a successful trainer, but also the president of a media training company, Fine Line Inc.
- Peck purchased Muscle Hill in the fall of 2007 at the Standardbred Horse Sale yearling venue in Harrisburg, PA. The son of 1998 Hambletonian winner Muscles Yankee had an appealing video presentation, and Peck dog-eared the catalog page for potential owners TLP Stable. TLP, the father-son team of Lou and Tom Pontone, knocked Hip No. 199, Muscle Hill down for \$55,000 from the Winbak Farm consignment. Shortly after they sold an interest in the colt to Jerry Silva, a co-owner on 2008 Hambo winner Deweycheatumnhowe.
- Muscle Hill's sterling freshman year ended with a Breeders Crown and divisional championship, and resulted in Allen and Connie Skolnick's NJ breeding operation, Southwind Farm, offering \$3 million for a 50% interest and stallion syndication rights. The multiple syndicate partners then made up the Muscle Hill Racing LLC.
- Muscle Hill Racing LLC included many of the sport's top breeders and owners: Flintlock Farm Inc; Ross Stables LLC; Patricia Bolte; Margaret Dey; Curtis Larrimore; William Mulligan; Michael Dean Robinson; Jerry Silva; Robert Stewart; Steve Stewart; William Weaver III; Brittany Farms; Celebrity Farms; D'Elegance Stable IX; Joie De Vie Farm LLC; Little E LLC; Odds On Nourrir and Spring Haven Farm.
- Jerry Silva added a record-tying fourth Hambletonian trophy to his collection. He was also part of the ownership group on prior Hambletonian winners Continentalvictory (1996), Self Possessed (1999), Deweycheatumnhowe (2008). He joins Lindy Racing, Frank, Gerald and Guy Antonacci as four-time ownership winners.
- Muscle Hill lost his debut race as a two-year-old by a neck to Homer Jay on July 3, 2008 at The Meadowlands. It would be the only defeat of his racing career. He went on to win 20 races in a row and \$3.2 million in purses. He was always the odds-on favorite and never really threatened in his racing career by the proximity of another horse.
- The total margin of victory for Muscle Hill in his 20 wins was 79 1/4 lengths – an average of 4 lengths per triumph. No horse has been nearer than a length at the finish of any of his wins.
- Victories at three included the \$200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final, \$180,000 division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial, \$1.7 million Hambletonian, \$1 million Canadian Trotting Classic, \$540,000 World Trotting Derby, \$200,000 American-National Stakes, \$600,000 Kentucky Futurity, and \$600,000 Breeders Crown.
- The connections of Muscle Hill briefly entertained racing the stupendous colt against older trotters in the Breeders Crown at the Meadowlands, two weeks after the Hambletonian. Ultimately they opted for the far easier task of the American-National, for 3-year-olds.
- There was no attempt at the Triple Crown as Muscle Hill skipped the second leg, the Yonkers Trot, which was won by Judge Joe. He did take the third leg, the Kentucky Futurity making him one of 18 horses to win two legs of the Trotting Triple Crown.
- Muscle Hill's \$2.45 million in earnings in 2009 set the seasonal record for a harness horse of any age, any gait.
- He was one of only three sophomore colt trotters to successfully win the Breeders Crown at age two and three. The others were Hambletonian winners Mack Lobell [1986-87] and Malabar Man [1996-97]
- Muscle Hill was also a Dan Patch Award winner in 2008 as harness racing's top 2-year-old.
- He received all 173 votes from the US Harness Writers in the Dan Patch year end championship voting for his division, 166 votes to sweep Trotter of the Year and 164 votes for Horse of the Year over older trotter Lucky Jim and 3-year-old pacer Well Said. Never in the history of harness racing's Horse of the Year voting, which began in 1947, has a trotter won the honor with an undefeated season.
- Muscle Hill was an easy choice as New Jersey's Standardbred Horse of the Year and dominated voting as the O'Brien sophomore trot colt winner in Canada.
- Peck was recognized as the sport's top trainer with the Glen Garnsey Award from the U.S. Harness Writers' Association. He also trained one of the winter book favorites for the 2010 Hambletonian, Holiday Road.
- Brian Sears was voted USHWA Driver of the Year.
- Muscle Hill's dam, Yankee Blondie, was named Trotting Broodmare of the Year
- Winbak Farm was harness racing's 2009 Breeder of the Year.
- Oaks winner Broadway Schooner took the Dan Patch 3-year-old filly award.
- Oaks winning owners Arlene and Jules Siegel were voted Owners of the Year.
- The Hambletonian victory also swept voting in the inaugural Railbird Recognition Awards sponsored by the US Harness Writers as Racing Moment of the Year.
- No driver in Meadowlands history has soared as high, as quickly as Brian Sears. Though Sears has placed among the top 20 dash-winning drivers in North America every year since 1994, he first joined the Meadowlands colony in 2003. Two years later, Sears became the first driver in harness history to top \$15 million in a single season. The Secaucus, NJ resident won five straight January-August driving titles [2005-2009].
- This success did not immediately follow Sears in his Hambletonian appearances. Though he drove in the classic event each year since 2003, his best finish was a 4placed3 with Strong Yankee in 2005. That drought ended in a big way in 2009 when Sears became the first driver to win both the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks [Broadway Schooner] on the same card. In addition he won the Peter Haughton Memorial [Holiday Road] and two other races on the star-studded card, bringing home a total of \$1,520,333 in purses. As drivers earn 5% of the purse, it was a red-letter \$77,783 day for the "White Knight."
- In addition, Sears joined a select group – John Campbell, Ron Pierce, Mike Lachance, Bill O'Donnell, and Stanley Dancer – to be the regular driver of both a trotter and a pacer to earn Horse of the Year.
- The father-son team of Doug and D. R. Ackerman finished second in their elim and seventh in the final with their homebred Judge Joe. It marked the Ackerman stable's sixth starter in the race since 1974, a notable 35-year span. Their best finish was second in 2006 with Chocolatier

2009

Muscle Hill

MUSCLE HILL, bay colt, 3, by Muscles Yankee-Yankee Blondie, by American Winner

Driver: Brian Sears

Trainer: Greg Peck

Owners: TLP Stables [Tom and Lou Pontone], Jerry Silva, Southwind Farm, [Alan and Connie Skolnick]; Muscle Hill Racing LLC [Flintlock Farm Inc; Ross Stables LLC; Patricia Bolte; Margaret Dey; Curtis Larrimore; William Mulligan; Michael Dean Robinson; Jerry Silva; Robert Stewart; Steve Stewart; William Weaver III; Brittany Farms; Celebrity Farms; D'Elegance Stable IX; Joie De Vie Farm LLC; Little E LLC; Odds On Nourrir and Spring Haven Farm].

Breeder: Winbak Farm [Joe and Joann Thomson], Chesapeake City, Md.

Caretaker: Sylvia Hovde

Sale History: \$55,000 Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, Pa. . . . x 1 1

EXPLOSIVE MATTER, bay colt, 3, by Cantab Hall-Fireworks Hanover, by Muscles Yankee

Driver: Ron Pierce

Trainer: Noel Daley

Owner/Breeder[s]: Adam Victor & Son Stable . . . 1 x 2

CALCHIP'S BRUTE, bay colt, 3 by Credit Winner-Petite Serenade-Sierra Kosmos

Driver: John Campbell

Trainer: Trond Smedshammer

Owner/Breeder: Diane Giuliano . . . 3 x 3

THE CHANCELLOR, bay colt, 3 by Yankee Glide-Prime Mistress-Super Bowl

Driver: Andy Miller

Trainer: Julie Miller

Owners: Andy Miller Stable and Arden Homestead Stable

Breeder: Brittany Farms . . . x 3 4

SYMPHONIC HANOVER, bay colt, 3 by Cantab Hall-Sounds Swell-Super Bowl

Driver: David Miller

Trainer: Jonas Czernyson

Owners: Symphonic Hanover Stable Inc. [Karl-Erik Bender, Jonas Czernyson, Per Eriksson, Per Rodert & Rune Schonborg]

Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms . . . 1 x 5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:27 ³	:56	1:24 ¹	1:52 ³
2nd Elimination	:28 ¹	:56 ²	1:25 ³	1:54 ¹
3rd Elimination	:27 ²	:55 ¹	1:23 ⁴	1:52 ³
Final	:27 ¹	:55	1:23	1:50 ¹

PAYOFFS

FIRST ELIMINATION

Explosive Matter	2.60	2.20	2.10
Hot Shot Blue Chip		7.80	4.80
Reinsman Hanover			2.80

SECOND ELIMINATION

Symphonic Hanover	33.40	13.40	22.60
Judge Joe		7.60	15.20
Calchips Brute			31.60

THIRD ELIMINATION (no show wagering)

Muscle Hill	2.20	2.10	-
Triumphant Caviar		9.60	-
The Chancellor			-

FINAL

Muscle Hill	2.60	2.10	2.10
Explosive Matter		3.20	2.40
Calchips Brute			6.60

- Joe and Joann Thompson' Winbak Farm of Maryland bred their second Hambletonian champion in five years [Vivid Photo 2005] and their Horse of the Year along with Rainbow Blue [2004] and No Pan Intended [2003] in seven years.
- Winbak Farm produced more winners than any other breeding farm in 2009 and Winbak-breeds earned over \$22 million.
- The dam of Muscle Hill, Yankee Blondie, had a top-notch pedigree but needed nearly a decade of faith in her bloodlines before producing what many call the best trotter the sport has ever seen in Muscle Hill. She was a daughter of 1993 Hambletonian winner American Winner and the important Yankeeland foundation mare Yankee Bambi. That made her a half-sister to TV Yankee, 2:1:56 (\$571,224), who was fourth in summary in the 1983 Hambletonian. Yankee Bambi's foals commanded close to half a million dollars at auction and earned more than \$1.3 million at the races.
- Yankee Blondie was \$36,000 purchase as two-year-old for Winbak in 1998, but her racing career earnings of \$8,434 hastened her entrance to the breeding shed. Her first foal, Met's Rival, never raced, was retained by Winbak, and has produced two \$100,000 winners. Next came the Muscles Yankee colt Diesel Don [\$247,117] who was dubbed a Hambletonian contender by Hall of Famer Chuck Sylvester, and exported to Finland when the Hambo hopes evaporated.
- Yankee Blondie's third and fourth foals Uptown Yankee 3, 1:56.2 (\$40,528) and Manfrommantucket 3, 1:57.3s (\$85,779) and their minor confirmation flaws put her at risk to be culled from the Winbak broodmare band. Thomson insisted she had yet to fulfill her maternal potential, and he was proved right with her fifth foal, Muscle Hill, born in 2006.
- The sire of Muscle Hill, Muscles Yankee, stands at Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, N.J. for a fee of \$20,000. He claimed back-to-back winners in Deweycheatumnhowe and Muscle Hill. Only five other stallions have done so: Guy Axworthy [1926-27] Mr. McElwyn [1937-38], Volomite [1943-44], Star's Pride [1958-59, 1968-69]
- Muscle Hill will begin his breeding career in 2010 at Southwind Farm in Pennington, N.J.
- Broadway Schooner won the \$923,042 Hambletonian Oaks, the richest to date. There were four eliminations worth \$35,000 and a final purse of \$783,042.
- There were 32 fillies entered – the most since the race began in 1971.
- It was the closest Oaks finish in memory, with a photo print needed to separate Broadway Schooner and Raising Rachel. The print showed Broadway Schooner by a nostril.
- Trainer Jim Campbell and owners Arlene and Jules Siegel's Fashion Farm now have a matched pair of trophies as they won the 1995 Hambletonian with Tagliabue.
- The Siegel's bred three Hambletonian Oaks entrants: Broadway Schooner, Timelesswinnertoo, and Broadway Paige, who did not advance to the final.
- Young Diana Murtaugh, whose great-grandfather, A.C. Peterson, bred and owned the 1962 Hambletonian winner A.C.'s Viking, was among the crowd who stopped to admire the gleaming Hambletonian trophy.
- 1991 Hambletonian winner Giant Victory led the Hambletonian on-track parade and was greeted in the winner circle by his former trainer Per Eriksson, a three-time Hambletonian winner and one of his former owners, Ted Gewertz. The 21-year-old has been retired to Hanover Shoe Farm in Pennsylvania after a successful stud career, fathering the winners of \$9.9 million.



Dewey Beat 'Em and How!

An orphaned colt named for a comedy act turned the tables on the harness world and instead developed into a deadly serious contender on the racetrack, dominating all competition for two straight years. Deweycheatumnhowe, named for a skit about an unscrupulous law firm, defined his career by trotting decisively into the history books as the first ever undefeated horse to win the Hambletonian.

"Dewey" was foaled at breeder Steve Jones' Cameo Farm in Montgomery, New York. Six weeks after his birth, his dam died from intestinal problems and Dewey was left to fend for himself. He remained with the broodmare band and their foals, and grabbed meals wherever there was an opportunity. Dewey met the first adversity of his life head on, and grew to be more than 16 hands, or about 65 inches at the shoulder. His size, even as a 2-year-old, may have worked against him in the auction ring, but trainer/driver Ray Schnittker felt the colt looked good enough to warrant an \$80,000 final bid. Schnittker retained an ownership share in the strapping son of Muscles Yankee, and regular partners Frank Baldassare and Charlie Iannazzo, as well as Ted Gewertz (an attorney with a sense of humor) went in on the colt as well. Gewertz had actually owned the dam of Deweycheatumnhowe, Trolley Square, but sold her in 1998.

"In his first baby race, I could tell that he might be something special," Schnittker reflected on his youngster's progress at 2. "He finished second, yet he made up 15 or 20 lengths, and he was really motoring down the lane. It was his stride. I always thought he'd be at least a decent horse, and maybe better later on in his career because he was so big, but he's also so athletic."

Dewey proved Schnittker right, and racked up 10 straight wins – including victories in the Harriman Cup, New Jersey Sire Stakes final, International Stallion and Bluegrass Stakes, Valley Victory and Breeders Crown – as he marched through his freshman campaign to divisional honors. By August of his freshman year he added more owners, in the form of Jerry Silva, who also owned the top 2-year-old filly contender, Snow White, as well Alan and Meg Leavitt's Walnut Hall Ltd. of Kentucky.

In October 2008 it was announced that Dewey would stand at Walnut Hall Ltd. for the 2009 breeding season at a fee of \$25,000, with a limited book of 140 mares. Shares in his breeding future sold furiously and many of the sport's top breeders and owners across the globe had a new rooting interest.

Schnittker and Dewey set a single-season earnings record of \$936,191 for a 2-year-old trotting colt and were quite properly voted Dan Patch and Nova awards as the best of his group. Dewey assumed the mantle of Hambletonian winter-book favorite.

During the off-season Schnittker rode, swam and jogged his charge, to keep him fresh and sound. The regimen worked so well that Schnittker incorporated the unorthodox exercise into his racing schedule, often swimming the big horse at a pond on his farm. Deweycheatumnhowe may be the only Hambletonian prospect ever ridden under Western saddle.

By June, Dewey was ready to launch his Hambletonian assault, and after a pair of ridiculously easy qualifiers, made his debut in winning the Dickerson Cup. Schnittker had purposefully planned a road to the Hambo that did not involve leaving the Meadowlands, and with the Stanley Dancer Memorial elim and final ahead, the route looked clear. Dewey lowered his lifetime mark to 1:52.2 in his Dancer elimination, and his best competition, Clerk Magistrate, could not get within four lengths of him. Once again Dewey proved his versatility, causing Schnittker to marvel at the ease with which his big horse could switch gears on the track.

One week later Dewey removed any doubt that he would be the overwhelming Hambletonian favorite, cruising to his 13th straight win in the Stanley Dancer Memorial final by a comfortable margin. With two weeks off, Ray and his veterinarian wife, Dr. Janet Durso, entertained a constant stream of visitors and well-wishers who wanted to see the amiable Dewey go for a swim or a trail ride in lieu of traditional training preps. NBC racing analyst Donna Brothers traveled to Middletown, N.Y. to do a feature on Ray and Dewey and the former jockey ended up reporting from atop Dewey's back!

Despite Dewey's dominance, 22 other sophomore trotters dropped in the Hambletonian box against him. Win No. 14 came in the Hambletonian elimination, and one of the perks of winning was choosing a post position for the following week's \$1.5 million Hambletonian final. The other elim winners were Crazed and Atomic Hall. Schnittker was second to pick his post and took the rail, the same spot from which he won the \$350,000 Stanley Dancer Memorial.

Ironically, Schnittker's other Hambletonian qualifier, Make It Happen, was placed in the open draw and drew post 10, so Schnittker interests bookended the field. Deweycheatumnhowe was installed the prohibitive 2-5 favorite for the biggest race of his life.

Hambletonian Day featured a thunderstorm of biblical proportions, but it passed as quickly as it gathered. The track was fast and the air thick with tension as the 10 colts lined up behind the starting car.

In his trademark fashion, Schnittker sent Deweycheatumnhowe sailing to the front in a snappy opening quarter of 26.4 seconds. Schnittker gave his colt a breather down the backstretch, reaching the half in :55, and began to pick up steam again as they put away the challenge of Velocity Hall on the final turn. At the head of the lane, Tim Tetrick popped Crazed out of the pocket, prompting Schnittker to call upon his colt again. Deweycheatumnhowe responded, gamely digging in for a half-length victory over Crazed in 1:52. Schnittker's other Hambletonian entrant, Make It Happen, rallied from eighth at the head of the lane to finish third.

The win was Dewey's 15th straight, making him the first horse to ever carry an undefeated streak both into and out of the Hambletonian. American swimmer Jenny Thompson, one of the most decorated Olympians in history, presented the silver Hambletonian trophy to the delighted owners, even placing a mock Olympic medal around Dewey's neck.

Dewey may have been named for comedic value, but his extraordinary talent and ability gave him the last laugh on Hambletonian Day.

If there was an unfortunate spin to the nearly perfect career of Deweycheatumnhowe, it was that he was foaled the same year as pacer Somebeachsomewhere, hailed as one of the greatest pacers to look though a bridle. The "Beach" lost just one race in his career, beaten a neck in the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace – and he and Deweycheatumnhowe were very close in the polls for Horse of the Year prior to the Breeders Crown in late November.

Dewey, who had never put a foot wrong in two years, finally suffered a setback in mid-November. A swelling in his throat clearly affected him in the Breeders Crown final, and he finished an uncharacteristic third in the year-end championship series. Somebeachsomewhere won his Crown division in devastating fashion. The die was cast. In February, Somebeachsomewhere was voted Horse of the Year over Deweycheatumnhowe. Dewey, however, is one of only 84 Hambletonian winners, and the only undefeated horse to win it.



- Deweycheatumnhowe was voted Trotter of the Year with 133 votes. Two-year-olds Muscle Hill received two and Honorable Daughter had one. "Dewey" also received Dan Patch honors as the best 3-year-old colt trotter.
- Deweycheatumnhowe became only the second trotter to reach \$2 million in a single year, earning \$2.2 million in 2008, and was the first trotter in history to reach \$3 million in lifetime purses at the age of 3.
- Ray Schnittker was voted W.R. Houghton Good Guy and Glen Garnsey Trainer of the Year by the Harness Writers in the year-end honors.
- Co-owner Jerry Silva was voted Owner of the Year.
- The colt's victories after the Hambletonian included the \$930,000 Canadian Trotting Classic, \$565,000 World Trotting Derby and a three-heat triumph in the Kentucky Futurity. His eligibility to the Yonkers Trot was discontinued after his 2-year-old season, therefore there was no attempt at becoming a Triple Crown winner. He finished 2008 with 12 wins in 15 races and closed his career with 22 victories in 25 starts and \$3.1 million.

- Schnittker, a rarity among the catch-driver dominated scene at the Meadowlands, had been down the road to the \$1.5 million Hambletonian several times before. He finished third twice with a pair of 40-1 longshots, Armbro Plato [1997] and Armbro Trick [2000], the closest he had come to the Hambletonian trophy until "Dewey."
- Runner-up Crazed represented a third generation Hambletonian legacy. His 24-year-old trainer Frank Antonacci Jr., followed in the footsteps of his father, Frank J., uncle, Gerry, and grandfather, Sonny. The Antonaccis and/or Lindy Racing were involved with numerous Hambletonian winners, including Lindy's Pride (1969), Speedy Crown (1971), Probe (1989), Harmonious (1990), Victory Dream (1994), and Continental Victory (1996).
- None of the other foals of Trolley Square, a Speedy Somolli mare who made only \$3,100 on the track, achieved the success of Dewey. Breeder Steve Jones purchased Trolley Square in foal to Giant Victory for \$37,000 as part of a 1998 dispersal sale of horses owned by Ted Gewertz. The

Deweycheatumnhowe

DEWEYCHEATUMNHOWE, b c, by Muscles Yankee – Trolley Square, by Speedy Somolli
 Driver/Trainer Ray Schnittker
 Owners: Schnittker, Iannazzo, Gewertz, Baldassare & Deweycheatumnhowe Stb [Silva, Leavitt, et. al]
 Breeder: Steve Jones, Montgomery, NY
 Groom: Paul Doherty
 Sale History: \$80,000 Lexington Select Sale, Lexington, Ky. . . x 1 x 1

CRAZED, br c, by Credit Winner-Mary Lou Hall, by Mr. Lavec
 Driver: Tim Tetrick Trainer: Frank M. Antonacci
 Owners: Lindy Racing [Frank & Gerald Antonacci] Hoffman & Rudolph
 Breeder: Thomas Hicks, Pompano Beach, FL . . . x x 1 2

MAKE IT HAPPEN, b c, by Conway Hall-Meadowbranch Magic, by Valley Victory
 Driver: Dan Dube Trainer: Ray Schnittker
 Owners: East My Dust Stb. [Frank Baldassare], Daisy Acres [Bill Hayes], Howard Taylor & Jack Adkins
 Breeders: Brittain Farms, Lexington, Ky & Daisy Acres, Astoria, NY . . . 4 x x 3

CELEBRITY SECRET, b c, by Yankee Glide-Aimee's Promise, by American Winner
 Driver: Brian Sears Trainer: Staffan Lind
 Owners: Celebrity Farms [Sam Stathis] & Celebrity Secret Stable [Ken Jackson]
 Breeder: Kentuckiana Farms General Partnership, Lexington, Ky . . . 3 x x 4

CLERK MAGISTRATE, b c, by Andover Hall-Weather Bird, by Lindy Lane
 Driver: Jody Jamieson Trainer: Per Henriksen
 Owners: ASA Farm [Per Henriksen & Ann Karin Larsen], Team Garberg [Eric Moprtton & Per Garberg], Stall Sixpence [Jan Klein],
 Breeder: Russell C. Williams, Hanover, Pa . . . x x 3 5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:28 ²	:56 ³	1:24 ³	1:54
2nd Elimination	:27 ²	:55 ³	1:23 ³	1:52 ³
3rd Elimination	:28	:55 ²	1:24	1:52 ²
Final	:26 ⁴	:55	1:23 ²	1:52

PAYOFFS											
FIRST ELIMINATION				SECOND ELIMINATION				THIRD ELIMINATION			
Atomic Hall	46.80	10.20	4.40	Deweycheatumnhowe	2.40	2.10	-	Crazed	5.40	3.00	2.80
Celebrity Secret		2.40	2.20	Pine After Pine		6.60	-	Clerk Magistrate		2.80	2.20
Velocity Hall			3.80	Big Apple Deli			-	Kajan Kooker			4.80
				FINAL							
				Deweycheatumnhowe	2.80	2.20	2.10				
				Crazed		3.40	2.60				
				Make It Happen			8.00				

six Trolley Square foals sold by Jones yielded \$384,000 at sale. Dewey was Trolley Square's last offspring as she died on June 1, six weeks after he was foaled on April 12, 2005.

- Cameo Farms is located in Orange County, N.Y., the birthplace of Hambletonian 10, the great father of all Standardbreds racing today, in whose honor the Hambletonian race was created.
- Jones came up with the name Dewey, Cheatum & Howe, a fictional law firm cited in multiple comedy routines over the years by figures as divergent as Johnny Carson, the Three Stooges, Daffy Duck and Groucho Marx, thinking it might attract bidding from Ted Gewertz and his wife, Claire Chappell, who are both attorneys and previously owned Trolley Square.
- Deweycheatumnhowe was sold at the 2006 Lexington Selected Sale for \$80,000 to Schnittker, Charles Iannazzo, Frank Baldassare and Ted Gewertz. In August of 2007, breeders Alan and Meg Leavitt of Walnut Hall Limited bought a 50 percent interest in the precocious colt as the Deweycheatumnhowe Stable. Schnittker retained 15 percent for himself, Gewertz and Iannazzo each kept 12.5 percent and Baldassare retained 10 percent.
- Deweycheatumnhowe was driven in all his starts by Schnittker. Despite the overwhelming prevalence of catch-drivers in the sport, Schnittker joined a growing group of trainer/drivers who have triumphed in the Hambletonian in the past decade. They include Vivid Photo [Roger Hammer – 2005], Windsong's Legacy [Trond Smedshammer – 2004] and Scarlet Knight [Stefan Melander – 2001].
- Schnittker also developed and sold Here Comes Herbie (2006) and Strong Yankee (2005), who reached the Hambletonian final in their 3-year-old campaigns for trainer Trond Smedshammer.
- Ted Gewertz now has three Hambletonian trophies to his credit, with two previous wins coming from Giant Victory (1991) and Windsong's Legacy (2004).
- Jerry Silva also added a third Hambletonian trophy to his collection. He was part of the ownerships of prior Hambletonian winners Continentalvictory (1996) and Self Possessed (1999).
- Charles Iannazzo and Frank Baldassare, longtime patrons of the Schnittker stable, celebrated their first Hambletonian win.

- Walnut Hall Limited produced 2003 Hambletonian winner Amigo Hall. Walnut Hall Limited is owned by Meg Nichols Leavitt, 63, of Lexington, KY, and Alan Leavitt, 72, of Lexington, KY. Meg is the great-granddaughter of Lamont Harkness, who founded Walnut Hall Farm more than a century ago. Walnut Hall Farm produced eight Hambletonian winners from 1932 to 1956.
- Dewey never lost a stakes final until the Breeders Crown, the last race of his career. His only prior losses came in an elimination race for the Canadian Trotting Classic (snapping his 17-race win streak) and a heat of the Kentucky Futurity.
- Deweycheatumnhowe is a son of 1998 Hambletonian winner Muscles Yankee.
- Trainer Trond Smedshammer was relieved to finally hoist the Oaks trophy after near misses in 2004, 2005 and 2006.
- Creamy Mimi was a \$165,000 yearling purchase by owners Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld of Ontario.
- A crowd of 25,006 turned out to watch the 83rd Hambletonian. A total of \$1,524,115 was wagered on the eighth race Hambletonian.



Donato Hanover's Victory Leads to Horse of the Year Honors

The dynasty that Hanover Shoe Farms visionary Lawrence Baker Sheppard seeded in 1922 remains the pinnacle of standardbred breeding and racing some 85 years later. Though the Hanover surname dominates harness racing record books, perhaps no stat is as impressive as the legendary "Shoe" Farms' record as the breeder of 10 Hambletonian winners.

Never was there more at stake for the world-renowned farm and its syndication partners than when Donato Hanover went to the gate in the 82nd edition of the Hambletonian at The Meadowlands. The decision to syndicate the precocious two-year-old in 2006 was the first time in the history of Hanover Shoe Farm that the farm management was directly involved with a Hambletonian champion prior to the horse actually contesting the race.

The 120 shares in the \$6 million syndication agreement, sold out quickly to 22 of the sports most prominent individuals and breeding farms as Donato Hanover ended his two-year-old campaign with a Breeders Crown victory and year-end honors.

"Syndicating a two-year-old is a very dangerous business decision," Hanover Shoe Farm President Jim Simpson said. "He had to have been a very special horse for us and the others to invest. Time will only tell if this was a solid investment. But he held up his end of the bargain as a true champion."

The syndicate leased Donato Hanover back to the original owners, David Scharf, Paul Bordogna and Steve Arnold, with the agreement that Donato Hanover would return to the Pennsylvania nursery for stallion duties at a fee of \$20,000 at the conclusion of his sophomore campaign.

The dominant Donato was trained by Steve Elliott, and drew unavoidable comparisons to another Elliott trainee, Valley Victory. The great Valley Victory recorded a career remarkably parallel to that of Donato Hanover — until the week of the 1989 Hambletonian when the heralded trotter nearly died from an illness that prevented him from racing in the Hambletonian or ever again.

Eighteen years later Elliott was back on the Hambletonian trail. He kept Donato Hanover on familiar ground in the lead-up to the \$1.7 million Hambletonian, easily annexing the Historic Dickerson Cup and the Stanley Dancer Memorial elimination and final.

Another eerie coincidence to the 1989 Hambletonian emerged. That year's event was billed as a battle of the sexes — Valley Victory vs. the great filly Peace Corps. When Valley Victory wasn't entered and Peace Corps [who carried a 17-race win streak into the race] failed to fire and finished fifth and second in the preliminary heats, the result was an epic stretch battle between Park Avenue Joe and Probe that ended in the one and only dead-heat in Hambletonian history.

A battle of the sexes circa 2007 evolved after Bob and David Anderson entered their brilliant filly Pampered Princess against the boys instead of in the \$850,000 Hambletonian Oaks. Both Donato and she played their parts to perfection, each winning their respective Hambletonian eliminations. The stage was set for a classic confrontation between the two defending divisional champions, with the element of foreign intrigue added from the third elimination winner, Swedish import Adrian Chip.

Connections of the three contenders chose their post positions by lot. a

privilege awarded elimination winners. They lined up with Donato Hanover as post two, Adrian post three and Pampered Princess post four, prompting the morning line odds-maker to deem Donato Hanover an even money favorite.

Under sunny skies on a breezy afternoon that kept the crowd comfortable despite the 88-degree temperature, Donato Hanover got a drive worthy of a champion from Hall of Fame pilot Ron Pierce.

Pierce let others bid for the early lead and kept the eventual winner along the rail in third on the way to a 28.2 first quarter. He moved Donato Hanover off the rail just before the quarter pole and quickly stepped to the lead, but slowed the tempo and sealed the outcome of the race as Donato Hanover led to the half-mile in a soft 58.2.

The second choice, Pampered Princess and driver Tim Tetrick, joined the chase on the backstretch, and trotting fans around the globe got the contest they wanted as the pair raced side-by-side for an eighth of a mile.

At the start of the turn the filly actually had a brief lead, but Donato Hanover surged up on the inside, was able to reclaim the advantage and trotted off to win by an unthreatened 1-1/4 lengths. Adrian Chip, who raced in the pocket, trailing the dueling favorites by about three lengths on the final turn, gave his best effort to catch Donato Hanover in the stretch but finished second.

The 82nd Hambletonian, trotted in 1:53.2, was now a career defining victory and furthered Donato Hanover's status among the greatest trotters of this era.

Pampered Princess faded to seventh, before being placed up to sixth, when fifth place finisher Too Salty was disqualified and placed back to seventh for violation of the breaking rule.

"I honestly believed Pampered Princess had the ability to win the Hambletonian," trainer Jimmy Takter said. "If Donato had been forced to take the trip my filly had to go in that race, I honestly believe the roles might very well have been reversed."

Donato Hanover's convincing victory, the lucky 13th in a row in his career gave the sophomore son of Andover Hall — D Train an insurmountable lead on Horse of the Year honors.

Following the win, trainer Elliott, who would be named the winner of the Glen Garnsey Award as Trainer of the Year for the second time in his career, echoed the thoughts of his rival and friend Takter.

"It makes you feel good to see them walk to the half and it's your race to win or lose," Elliott said. "If we would have been on the outside and had to come after the filly we might have been standing here and watching her in the winner's circle."

Though Donato Hanover faltered in the Breeders Crown, finishing third to Arch Madness, he cleaned up in the year-end honors, garnering 189 votes from the members of the United States Harness Writers Association while no other horse was received more than four ballots.

At the end of the season, Donato Hanover went back home to his birthplace, Hanover Shoe Farm, with the single season's earnings record of \$2,336,190, completing a career that included 19 wins, a second and two third place finishes in 22 starts and life earnings just short of \$3 million.



- In his Hambletonian elimination, Donato Hanover moved for the lead off the gate and dominated throughout the mile to capture his 12th straight victory by a length in a career best time of 1:53.1.
- At two, Donato Hanover won the \$55,875 Harriman Cup and \$456,000 Peter Haughton Final at the Meadowlands, a \$82,800 division of the Bluegrass, and \$79,500 division of the International Stallion Stakes at the Red Mile and his elimination and \$600,000 Breeders Crown Final at Woodbine. He was voted the Dan Patch Award as the 2006 Two-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year.
- Steve Elliott is a Detroit native and veteran of New Jersey racing. He got his start with cousin Dave Elliott, and was stable assistant when Dave set a training record of 100 wins at the Meadowlands in 1983. Steve gained his own recognition when he won the 1987 Woodrow Wilson with Even Odds and then became one of very few trainers to campaign three divisional champions in the same year in 1988. He was voted Trainer of the Year for that accomplishment.
- It was the first Hambletonian win for Elliott, at age 54. The Elliott stable was well decorated at years-end. Besides Donato Hanover who took Three-Year-Old Trotting Colt, Trotter of the Year and Horse of the Year honors, Elliot also conditioned sophomore pacing filly Dan Patch winner Southwind Tempo and was himself voted Trainer of the Year and the W.R. Haughton Good Guy award by the Harness Writers.
- The Elliott stable hit an all-time high benchmark of \$4.8 million with Donato Hanover, Breeders Crown winner Artistic Fella [\$674,640] and Southwind Tempo [\$849,554].
- Elliott became one of an elite group of trainers who won both the Meadowlands Pace and the Hambletonian in their careers. The others are Blair Burgess and W. R. Haughton [who've won each event twice], Ray Remmen and Chuck Sylvester.
- It was the second Hambletonian victory for David Scharf of New York. He was part of the partnership that owned 1999 Hambletonian winner, Self Possessed.

Donato Hanover

DONATO HANOVER, br c, by Andover Hall-D Train, by Donerail
 Driver: Ron Pierce Trainer: Steve Elliot
 Owners: (Lessees) Steve Arnold, David Scharf & Golden Touch Stables[Paul Bordogna] , NY, NJ
 Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. of Hanover, Pennsylvania
 Groom: Ann Christin Johnsen
 Sale History: \$95,000 Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, PA . . . x 1 x 1

ADRIAN CHIP, b c, by Andover Hall-My Favorite Chip, by Pine Chip
 Driver: Robert Bergh Trainer: Robert Bergh
 Owners: Stall Tre Puckar [Three Pucks Stable], Balsta, Sweden. (Peter & Kent Forsberg; Ulla & Lennart Gustavsson and Lars Sellstromis)
 Breeder: Junior Yutzky, Western Union, OH . . . x x 1 2

LADDIE, b c, by Angus Hall-Victory Dreamer, by Valley Victory
 Driver: Paul MacDonell Trainer: Paula Wellwood
 Owners: Wellwood Stables Inc., Cambridge, ON
 Breeder: Valley High Stable (William Weaver III), Freehold, NJ . . . 4 x x 3

PLEASE POPPY, b c, by Self Possessed-Meme's Sugar, by Donerail
 Driver: Brian Sears Trainer: Per Henriksen
 Owners: Bjorn Liverod Skabo & Ragnar Hagen, Norway
 Breeder: Kentuckiana Farms, Lexington, KY . . . 3 x x 4

GREAT SUCCESS, b c, by Self Possessed-Victory Please, by Mr Vic
 Driver: Mike Lachance Trainer: Ron Gurfein
 Owners: Ron Gurfein & Rosalie & Jerry Silva, FL, NY
 Breeder: Brittany Farms, Versailles, KY . . . x 3 x 5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:27	:55 ²	1:24 ²	1:53
2nd Elimination	:27 ⁴	:55 ³	1:24 ³	1:53 ¹
3rd Elimination	:28 ⁴	:57 ³	1:26 ¹	1:54 ²
Final	:28 ²	:58 ²	1:26	1:53 ²

PAYOFFS											
FIRST ELIMINATION			SECOND ELIMINATION				THIRD ELIMINATION				
Pampered Princess	3.40	2.40	2.10	Donato Hanover	2.40	2.10	2.10	Adrian Chip	3.40	3.00	2.40
Xactly Hanover		4.00	2.40	Flirtin Man		2.10	2.10	Too Salty		4.00	3.80
Please Poppy			2.80	Great Success			2.10	Don't Blink Twice			5.80
FINAL											
				Donato Hanover	4.00	3.00	3.00				
				Adrian Chip			5.00	4.40			
				Laddie				8.80			

- It was the Hambletonian debut for owner Paul Bordogna's Golden Touch Stable.
- It was also the first Hambletonian appearance for owner Steve Arnold. His father-in-law, Morton Finder, was part of the syndicate that owned 1980 Meadowlands Pace winner Niatross. Arnold's cousin is Triple Crown winning trainer Jerry Silverman.
- It was the second Hambletonian driving victory for Ron Pierce in his 10th appearance. He won the 1993 Hambletonian with American Winner, and finished second with Like a Prayer in 2002 and Classic Photo in 2005 .
- Pierce was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2005. Pierce was the Driver of the Year in 2004 when he won a career-high 395 races and led North America with \$12.3 million in purses.
- Donato Hanover retired the fastest 3-year-old trotter ever (1:50.1) and tied seven-year-old trotting mare Giant Diablo for the fastest trotter ever regardless of age.
- No horse had come closer than one length to Donato Hanover at the finish of his 2007 races until his Crown elim. Than Arch Madness was only able to get a neck up on him.
- Donato Hanover broke a 26-year jinx in winning both the Peter Haughton for 2-year-olds and the Hambletonian for 3-year-olds.
- Donato Hanover was the second foal from the Donerail mare D Train, who Scharf also owned. Her first foal was the world champion and multiple stakes winner Here Comes Herbie [by Credit Winner], sold for \$47,000 and earned \$365,541, finishing sixth in the 2006 Hambletonian. Donato Hanover was hammered down for \$95,000 by David Scharf at the Harrisburg Standardbred Yearling Sale.
- Her foal of 2005, a filly named Decimal Hanover [by SJ's Caviar], was a \$260,000 yearling purchase last year. Her 2006 daughter D Liteful Hanover [by Revenue S] sold for \$325,000 to Scharf and Steve Jones and she delivered a Windsong's Legacy colt last year.
- Great Success, a \$7,000 purchase, was the least expensive in the field. He finished sixth but was placed fifth, earning \$75,000. Don't Blink twice at \$100,000 was the most expensive yearling.
- All three elimination winners [Adrian Chip, Donato Hanover and Pampered Princess] and Danae, the Hambletonian Oaks winner were offspring of first-crop sire Andover Hall. The star-crossed Andover Hall broke stride as the favorite in the first turn of the 2002 Hambletonian but his sons and daughters have rewritten that legacy for him, earning more than \$13 million in two crops.
- Yankee Glide [Glidemaster and Passionate Glide, 2006], Speedy Somolli [Alf Palema and Worldly Woman, 1992] and Super Bowl [Giant Victory and Jean Bi, 1991] are the other sires to score a Hambletonian-Oaks double on the day.
- 2007 marked the 27th edition of the Hambletonian at the Meadowlands, now the longest host to the classic event.



Glidemaster Weathers Storm, Then Sails to Hambletonian Glory

Glidemaster's Hambletonian victory sparked a sweep of trotting's Triple Crown, a single season earnings record of \$1.9 million and the title Horse of the Year.

But it was not all smooth sailing for Glidemaster in the Hambletonian. Just days before the eliminations, the colt injured the soft tissue of his foot when he stepped on a nail. Trainer Blair Burgess and his wife, Karin Olsson-Burgess, the colt's caretaker and co-owner, feared their Hambletonian hopes had been crushed by a tiny piece of wayward metal. All they could do was patiently wait for the injury to heal.

By the morning of the eliminations, Blair saw enough of an improvement in Glidemaster's foot to send him onto the racetrack. In his elimination, John Campbell sent Glidemaster first up and he took control of the lead around the final turn, but was out trotted in the stretch by the undefeated Mr Pine Chip.

"He didn't have the kind of week you want to have going into the eliminations for the Hambletonian, but that's horse racing and things don't always go one-two-three-four," Blair said after the elim. "We took it as it came and we were sad about it."

Minutes after his second-place finish, Glidemaster stood in the Meadowlands paddock, his foot resting in a bucket full of water as Karin and Blair tended to him. They had leaped over the first hurdle.

Recognizing the tough week the colt had, Campbell was pleased with his effort, but acknowledged that the colt was not 100 percent and that his trainer was going to be under pressure to have him better for the final. Trainer Blair Burgess was in familiar territory as the underdog in the Hambletonian. He won his Hambletonian debut in 2003 with 27-1 shot Amigo Hall, the longest priced winner in the race's history. Glidemaster's foot continued to heal during the

week and by race day, Blair knew he was sending out a horse on the top of his game.

Campbell worked out a third-over trip in the final, following 4-5 favorite Mr Pine Chip into the final turn. He tipped Glidemaster three-wide for the stretch drive and the colt soared to a 1:51.1 stakes record, supplanting the mark of 1:51.3 set by Self Possessed in 1999.

"I was third over," Campbell said after the race. "Ideally, you'd like to be second over, but he was close enough and when they bunched up around the last turn, he was full of trot and I knew he was going to pass somebody when I asked him because he was really full of himself at the head of the stretch. When I saw the half at 54.3, I thought that that was a good enough clip that if my horse delivered what I thought he could do, that he'd be tough to beat.

"It's just amazing what he went through," he added. "They weren't sure if he was going to be able to race last week. They had him at the top of his game. That's really difficult to do. Besides the soreness and the stress factor, to get a horse back at this level and set a track record, all the credit goes to Karin and Blair."

Hall of Famer Campbell picked up an unprecedented sixth victory in the Hambletonian. No other driver had won more than four. Ironically, Campbell had qualified Amigo Hall for the 2003 Hambletonian for Burgess, but opted to drive the favorite, Power To Charm instead.

One champion recognized another when boxing legend George Foreman presented the trophy for the Hambletonian.

"John's a Hall of Famer; everybody is talking about him," Foreman said. "His future is certain as far as being one of those guys you're going to talk about after his racing days over. I told him before the race, 'Go do it, Hall of Famer!'"



- Just days before the Hambletonian eliminations, Glidemaster pulled a horseshoe loose in the stall, then stepped on a nail which punctured the outer rim of his hoof. Round-the-clock care administered by his caretaker and co-owner Karin Olsson-Burgess delivered a horse sound enough to race in the eliminations. Glidemaster finished second to Mr. Pine Chip in their elim, and was even stronger by the final.
- Trainer Blair Burgess deserves enormous credit for bringing a mannered and manageable trotter back to the races at three, a real challenge after the colt, as a two-year-old had shown aggressive tendencies, even running away with his driver at one point in a stakes race in Lexington after a gate mishap. The Burgess family operation spent a lot of time channeling the colt's energy in the right direction and he returned a real contender at three.
- The Glidemaster ownership is similar to a cell phone calling plan in that it is a friends-and-family network. Blair Burgess bought Glidemaster as a yearling for \$10,000 on the opening night of the 2004 Tattersalls sale, and raced him as a two-year-old for an ownership that included his father, Bob, his wife Karin, and friend Marsha Cohen, who had gone partners with the Burgesses for several years on assorted horses. In September of 2005 after Glidemaster had won three of four freshman starts, an interest in the horse was sold to his breeder, George Segal's Brittany Farms
- It was Marsha Cohen's first start and first win in the Hambletonian. Brittany Farms picked up their second owners trophy as Segal was part of the Self Possessed Stable in 1999. Karin and her father-in-law Bob, were co-owners on their only other Hambletonian entrant 2004 winner Amigo Hall, in partnership with Walnut Hall Ltd.
- Glidemaster was only the fifth Canadian-owned horse to win the Hambletonian in 83 years, and the Burgess's account for two of the last three since 1998, with Yankee Paco being the third
- Glidemaster gave Brittany Farms a third breeders credit. The Versailles, Kentucky, nursery also turned out 1996 winner Continentalvictory (1:52.1) and 1999 victor Self Possessed (1:51.3). Brittany-breeds have owned the stake record in the Hambletonian for a decade. Glidemaster lowered the standard to 1:51.1. It would remain the fastest mile of his racing career.
- Brittany Farms became the first breeder to produce a Hambletonian (Glidemaster) and Oaks (Passionate Glide) winner in the same year; George Segal also owned both trotters. Segal had a phenomenal year by any yardstick, with big wins on both the trotting and pacing side. Horses he owned in whole or in part racked up more than \$5 million in purses for the year.
- The 2006 Hambletonian was Blair Burgess's fourth \$1 million victory. He was favored in none of the events he won previously: the 1987 Meadowlands Pace (Frugal Gourmet); 2001 Meadowlands Pace (Real Desire); 2003 Hambletonian (Amigo Hall).
- Burgess is one of five trainers (Chuck Sylvester, Steve Elliott, Ray Remmen and W. R. Haughton) to win both the Hambletonian and the Meadowlands Pace in their career. Both Burgess and Haughton have won the classic races twice each.
- Glidemaster was trainer Blair Burgess' second entrant in the Hambletonian. His first, Amigo Hall, was the longest-priced winner in history, going off at 27-1. Burgess has twice played spoiler to trainer Trond Smedshammer's Hambletonian hopes. In 2003 it was Smedshammer's heavily favored Power To Charm who fell to the Burgess-trained Amigo Hall. Though Smedshammer won in 2004 with Windsong's Legacy, his three horse uncoupled entry in the Hambo, with Mr. Pine Chip the overwhelming favorite, finished third, sixth and tenth respectively. The same trio had finished 1-2-3 in the Stanley Dancer Memorial, the final prep to the Hambo.
- John Campbell, at the age of 51, won his sixth Hambletonian trophy, the most of any driver in the history of the event. It was his 22nd victory in a million-dollar race. No other driver comes close to that number. His record setting fifth Hambletonian was in 1998 with Muscles Yankee. On Hambo day, more than \$3.8 million was distributed. John Campbell accounted for nearly one-quarter of all the purse money offered that day.
- Campbell suffered a near career-ending injury in 2003 and was not back in the sulky full time till 2005. His numbers that year were not inspiring, but in 2006 he silenced all questions about his driving abilities. Ironically, another driving accident in October would sideline him for several months.
- Year-end awards were showered on this group by the US Harness Writers.

Glidemaster

GLIDEMASTER, br c, by Yankee Glide-Cressida Hanover, by Mr. Lavec
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Blair Burgess
 Owners: Robert Burgess, Karin-Olsson Burgess, Marsha Cohen and Brittany Farms
 Breeder: Brittany Farms of Ky
 Groom: Karin Olsson-Burgess
 Sale History: \$10,000 at Tattersalls (Brittany Farms bought back into the colt in September of 2005) . . . 2 x 1

CHOCOLATIER, br c, by Credit Winner-Maple Frosting, by Valley Victory
 Driver: Doug R. Ackerman Trainer: Doug Ackerman
 Owners: Doug Ackerman Stables, Southwind Farm & Lindy Farms of CT
 Breeder: Valley High Stable . . . x 2 2

BLUE MAC LAD, b c, by Muscles Yankee-Vernon Blue Chip, by Sir Taurus
 Driver: George Brennan Trainer: Trond Smedshammer
 Owner: Einari Karl Vidgren
 Breeder: Perretti Farms of NJ . . . 3 x 3

GLOBAL GLIDE, b c, by Yankee Glide-Wishes Fulfilled, by Super Bowl
 Driver: Ron Pierce Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owners: Christina Takter and John Fielding
 Breeder: Brittany Farms of Ky . . . 4 x 4

ALGIERS HALL, b c, by Conway Hall-American Wish, by American Winner
 Driver: John Stark Jr. Trainer: John Stark Jr.
 Owners: Ed & David Smith, John Stark, Jr. and Tom McTygue
 Breeder: Walnut Hall Limited . . . 5 x 5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:28 ³	:57	1:25 ⁴	1:53 ⁴
2nd Elimination	:27 ¹	:55	1:23 ³	1:52
Final	:26 ⁴	:54 ³	1:23 ³	1:51 ¹

PAYOFFS											
FIRST ELIMINATION				SECOND ELIMINATION				FINAL			
Mr. Pine Chip	2.80	2.20	2.10	Here Comes Herbie	6.000	2.40	2.20	Glidemaster	14.00	6.40	3.20
Glidemaster		2.60	2.10	Chocolatier		2.60	2.20	Chocolatier		6.40	4.20
Blue Mac Lad			2.10	Berto Primo			3.20	Blue Mac Lad			4.80

Glidemaster was voted HTA Nova three-year-old trotter of the year, Dan Patch 3-year-old trotter, Trotter of the Year and Horse of the Year. John Campbell was voted Driver of the Year, and George Segal was voted Norman Woolworth Owner of the Year. Dam Cressida Hanover won Trotting Broodmare of the Year.

- Glidemaster's sire, Yankee Glide, picked up his first Hambletonian credit. The son of Valley Victory won one of three Hambletonian eliminations in 1997 but broke stride in the final and finished tenth in the event won by Malabar Man.
- Yankee Glide also sired the Oaks winner, Passionate Glide. All told Yankee Glide offspring earned \$1,365,000 on the day. Only three other times has the same sire claimed the winners of both races: Andover Hall in 2007 with Donato Hanover and Danae, Speedy Somolli in 1992 with Alf Palema and Worldly Woman; and Super Bowl in 1991 with Giant Victory and Jean Bi.
- The Meadowlands has been home to the Hambletonian for 26 straight years, matching Goshen's record of the longest any track has hosted the classic race. Prior to 1981, the Hambletonian was held at DuQuoin for 24 years.
- The attendance of 29,531 was a meet-high record. The world-wide handle on the day was more than \$8 million for the 15-race program, third highest all-time.
- The 2005 Dan Patch champion, Chocolatier, finished second, from post 10.
- Cressida Hanover, the dam of Glidemaster was a \$13,000 purchase by Ron Gurfein for George Segal, but the daughter of Mr. Lavec-Cristi Hanover raced just nine times in her life for a pedestrian \$936 in earnings. In fact, the first four dams on his maternal side earned a grand total of \$1,048! Glidemaster was her first foal. Despite her ignominious beginnings, Cressida Hanover was voted Trotting Broodmare of the Year by the US Harness Writers.
- Campbell drove Glidemaster to victory in his Breeders Crown elimination and then suffered a broken leg in an horrific accident four races later. Glidemaster, driven by George Brennan, lost the Breeders Crown to Majestic Son.
- Glidemaster would get his Crown a month later at Yonkers when

Glidemaster became just the eighth trotter in history to capture Trotting's Triple Crown of the Hambletonian, Kentucky Futurity and Yonkers Trot.

- He was the first trotter since 1972 to win the Triple Crown over the traditional format of two mile tracks and a half mile oval of Yonkers. Windsong's Legacy's Triple Crown included the replacement of Hawthorne, IL, mile track while Yonkers was closed for renovations.
- Glidemaster surpassed Windsong's Legacy's 2004 single season money-earnings mark of \$1,713,806, ending his year with \$1,918,701, the largest amount ever won by a trotter in a single North American campaign. He was never worse than second, winning eight of 15 starts and placing second behind the only trotter to consistently beat him Majestic Son, who took top honors in Canada as O'Brien Horse of the Year.
- He was retired at the close of his sophomore campaign to stand at Walnridge Farm of Pennsylvania.



Vivid Photo: From State Fairs to Hambletonian Glory

"From the Pennsylvania fairgrounds to the Hambletonian winner's circle"...so cried announcer Ken Warkentin as Roger Hammer swept under the wire with whip waving triumphantly. It was indeed a "photo" finish though the margin was three lengths. Vivid Photo and race time favorite Classic Photo finished one-two in the Hambletonian, stamping their sire, SJ's Photo as a force, and Vivid Photo as a horse to be reckoned with for the rest of the year, though he had barely been spoken about in the months leading up to the Hambletonian.

The name many expected announcer Ken Warkentin to be calling was, ironically, his own. The focus among the sophomore colt trotting group was rightfully directed on 2004 divisional Dan Patch champion the eponymous colt Ken Warkentin, who was the winter book and media favorite for the division's richest race. Yet the path for the Jimmy Takter-trained youngster contained several forks in the road. His 2005 debut was a successful one, but an ill-timed bout of sickness caused him to be scratched from the key prep race for the Hambletonian, the Stanley Dancer Trot. Instead, Classic Photo added the Dancer to his list of wins and stamped himself as the one to beat going into the Hambletonian.

Meanwhile, eventual Hambletonian winner Vivid Photo and trainer-driver Roger Hammer were on a much-less traveled path to the eliminations.

Hammer, known as the "King of the County Fairs" for his domination of the Pennsylvania fair circuit, and his long-time friend and fellow horseman Todd Schadel bought Vivid Photo as a yearling for \$30,000. Hammer figured they could earn at least the purchase price back on Vivid Photo since he was eligible to both Pennsylvania and Maryland sire stakes.

Hammer thought Vivid Photo was a very talented two-year-old, though he had just six starts at the county fair level and ended the year with a minor stress fracture. The colt's rambunctious attitude in the stall, which Hammer was sure caused the leg injury, made the decision to geld him a proper one. Hammer also did something he rarely does and made three-year-old stake payments on a trotter.

A sophomore campaign that started with a March qualifier, followed by two scratches and a seventh-place finish in a non-winners of two conditioned event did not seem likely to launch horse and driver to the Hambletonian winner's circle. When Vivid Photo arrived at the Meadowlands for the Hambletonian eliminations he had a 1:54.4 world record for geldings at Pocono Downs and won six other races, ranging from a \$3,100 event to a \$22,000 division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes. He drew post three in the Hambletonian elimination that also featured Ken Warkentin as the heavy favorite.

It was no surprise that Vivid Photo and Hammer left hard at the start, as their past performances indicated. The surprise came when Ken Warkentin made his move at the three-quarter pole and instead of engaging Vivid Photo in the stretch, broke into a gallop with an eighth of a mile to go. Vivid Photo went on to win by a neck in 1:53.2, while Classic Photo was flawless in the other elim, coasting to a three-length victory in 1:53.3 and declaring himself the one to beat.

Classic Photo and Hall of Famer Ron Pierce drew post five in the final and were accorded the favorite's role at 6-5. Vivid Photo drew post six and would have to leave hard to get around Classic Photo to the lead, where he was most comfortable. In fact, Vivid Photo had been on top at the half-mile pole in 10 of his 11 races that year, but Hammer had other plans for the Hambletonian.

Hammer instead eased Vivid Photo off the gate, while Strong Yankee bulled his way to the top up the backstretch and led the field into the stretch. Northern Ensign elected to battle him first up, which set up perfect cover for Classic Photo to follow in a second-over trip. Tight on Classic Photo's tail lurked Vivid Photo, drafting all the way. When the trotters turned for home, Hammer floated out and easily overhauled the favorite in the stretch in a lifetime best of 1:52.3. Though their county fair origins may have been considered humble, Hammer outdrove the best the Meadowlands had to offer.



- Vivid Photo won the first Hambletonian to go for \$1.5 million under the terms of a new contract with the Meadowlands. Prior to the Hambletonian elimination, Vivid Photo never raced for more than \$22,077.
- The \$750,000 winners share of the Hambletonian purse gave Hammer and Schadel some supplemental money to flesh out their gelding's skimpy stakes schedule. They paid the \$25,000 supplement to race in the World Trotting Derby and the Kentucky Futurity and a \$62,500 fee to supplement to the Breeders Crown.
- Vivid Photo closed out the year as the richest trotter of 2005 with \$1,376,829 and divisional honors.
- Vivid Photo was the fourth winner in the last five years to make his Meadowlands debut in the Hambo elims. Others to follow the same course were Yankee Paco in 2000, Scarlet Knight in 2001 and Amigo Hall in 2003.
- Vivid Photo is just the fourth gelding to win. The others were Greyhound in 1935, Flirth in 1973, and Shiaway St. Pat in 1981.
- Sire SJ's Photo, who stands at Lindwood Farm in Greensburg, PA, was ineligible to the 1993 Hambletonian. Trained and driven by David Wade, he did earn more than \$1.3 million racing through his five-year-old year before retiring to a prolific international stud career.
- SJ's Photo produced 46 trotting colts in 2003; nine were kept eligible to the Hambletonian and three made the final. His sons Vivid Photo and Classic Photo finished 1-2 in the Hambletonian.
- Both SJ's Photo and 1998 Hambletonian winner Muscles Yankee were represented by three offspring in the final. Muscles Yankee sired the most expensive yearling, Muscle Bound (\$175,000), and the least expensive, Muscle Memory (\$17,000).
- Hammer's last appearance at the Meadowlands prior to the 2005 Hambletonian elims was 11 years prior, when he finished fifth in the Hambletonian Oaks with Keystone Colorful.
- Vivid Photo gave Hammer his biggest career win at age 59. Prior to 2005, his best year was 1994, when he tallied \$1.3 million topped by multiple stakes winner pacing colt Keystone Luther.
- Hammer was voted the 2005 W. R. Houghton Memorial Good Guy Award by members of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. Hammer exemplified that role to the hilt in 2005, parading Vivid Photo before the crowd at the Little Brown Jug, and many other venues.
- First-time Hambletonian winning breeder credits go to Joe and Joanne Thomson's Winbak Farm of Pennsylvania. They bred, raised and sold the 2003 and 2004 Horse of the Year honorees, No Pan Intended and Rainbow Blue, in addition to divisional and Hambletonian champion Vivid Photo.
- The dam of Vivid Photo is Miss Garland 5, 2:00f (\$91,356). She had produced a hard-knocking daughter by Giant Hit that annexed \$154,000 as her blackest type until Vivid Photo came along. His accomplishments won her Dan Patch honors as Trotting Broodmare of the Year. The 2001 breeding to SJ's Photo awakened a blue-blooded pedigree that lay dormant for 50 years – in Vivid Photo's sixth dam, Selka Song, a sister to the dam of Triple Crown winner Speedy Scot.
- The crowd of 31,245 at the Meadowlands was the highest since 1990 and marked the fifth straight year that the attendance increased on Hambletonian Day. On-track handle was \$3,398,009, the best since 1994. The total Hambletonian Day handle of \$9,015,019 was the highest ever at the Meadowlands and set a North American harness racing record.

Vivid Photo

VIVID PHOTO, br g, by SJ's Photo-Miss Garland, by Garland Lobell

Driver: Roger Hammer Trainer: Roger Hammer

Owner: Roger Hammer & Todd Schadel

Groom: Vicki Fair

Sale History: \$30,000 yearling, Harrisburg Sale, Harrisburg, PA... 1 x 1

CLASSIC PHOTO, b c, by SJ's Photo-Classic Winner, by American Winner

Driver: Ron Pierce Trainer: Erv Miller

Owner: H. Wright, Mystical Marker Farms, J. & P. Hood... x 1 2

MUSCLE MEMORY, b c, by Muscles Yankee-Peace Be With You, by Pine Chip

Driver: Cat Manzi Trainer: Jimmy Takter

Owner: Ed & Diane Smith, Christina Takter, Paul Nojaim... x 4 3

STRONG YANKEE, b c, by Muscles Yankee-So So Chic, by Sir Taurus

Driver: Brian Sears Trainer: Trond Smedshammer

Owner: Strong Yankee Stable... 4p13 x 4

SELF PROFESSED, br g, by Self Possessed-Scent of A Woman, by Worthy Bowl

Driver: Eric Ledford Trainer: Don Swick

Owner: Royal Wire Products Inc... 3p12 x 5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:28	:55 ²	1:23 ³	1:53 ²
2nd Elimination	:27 ¹	:55 ¹	1:24 ³	1:53 ³
Final	:27	:55	1:24	1:52 ³

PAYOFFS

FIRST ELIMINATION

Vivid Photo	19.80	7.60	7.00
Self Professed		19.60	11.60
Strong Yankee			6.00

SECOND ELIMINATION

Classic Photo	3.60	2.60	2.60
Northern Ensign		11.00	6.00
Muscle Bound			5.80

FINAL

Vivid Photo	16.40	4.00	3.40
Classic Photo		2.40	2.20
Muscle Memory			4.60



Smedshammer Establishes Legacy of His Own with Triple Crown Winner

For trainer-driver Trond Smedshammer, his victory in the 2004 Hambletonian with Windsong's Legacy was gratifying on many levels. Not only had the Norwegian-born horseman realized the culmination of years of hard work and avenged his loss with the race favorite the previous year, but Smedshammer raised \$25,000 for the American Cancer Society in memory of his father, Lars, and owner Patricia Spinelli's husband, Ron, each of whom lost his battle with lung cancer.

After Windsong's Legacy advanced from the eliminations, Smedshammer and the ownership of the colt pledged five percent of his earnings in the Hambletonian Final to the American Cancer Society. Smedshammer had lost his father, Lars, a year earlier, while Ron Spinelli had succumbed to cancer only the week before the race.

Just the year before, Smedshammer looked to be in perfect position to take home his first Hambletonian trophy with the race favorite Power To Charm, but that prospect dimmed quickly as Power To Charm faded on the lead past the half and finished fifth. This time, Smedshammer would be the fourth choice in the race, despite his colt's victory in the Stanley Dancer two weeks prior. In fact, the odds of Windsong's Legacy reaching the Hambletonian were not in his favor from the beginning. The modestly priced yearling was orphaned at two months old when his dam, Yankee Windsong, died from complications of colic.

Angels may have been smiling on horse and driver as the wings of the starting gate folded. Smedshammer elected to follow Cash Hall and ended up with a perfect second-over trip as Cash Hall was left to race uncovered while challenging the favorite, Tom Ridge, through soft opening fractions. Despite the leisurely pace, Tom Ridge was unable to sustain his drive and just as Cash Hall finally pushed past Tom Ridge at the three-quarter marker, Smedshammer tipped Windsong's Legacy three-wide and swept past the field for a length victory in 1:54.1.

Windsong's Legacy would go on to win the Yonkers Trot and Kentucky Futurity, completing the Triple Crown, the first horse to do so since Super Bowl in 1972. Smedshammer would be named the United States Harness Writers Association's Trainer of the Year for his achievements with Windsong's Legacy, named the Three-Year-Old Trotter of the Year and Trotter of the Year, and his other divisional trotting champions, three-year-old trotting filly Housethatrubuilt and older trotting mare Stroke Play.

Windsong's Legacy, who raced in the name of Ann Brannvoll of Suedsmo, Norway; Ted Gewertz of New York City and Patricia Spinelli of Oyster Bay Cover, New York, was retired to stud duty at Perretti Farms in Cream Ridge, New Jersey. Sadly, Windsong's Legacy died suddenly in 2008, leaving just three crops behind to carry on his on his "Legacy."



- The last Triple Crown winner was Super Bowl in 1972, and ironically, who when bred to Yankee Windsong, the dam of Windsong's Legacy, produced Moonlight G, a hard-knocking trotter that the Spears family kept and still race at age seven. Windsong's Legacy was her fourth foal, and Yankee Windsong died of colic complications when her colt was eight weeks old. He was named in her honor and cared for by Hanover Shoe Farms top yearling man, Dennis King.
- The late Yankee Windsong was voted 2004 trotting Broodmare of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association as her three racing sons gave her an annual earnings total of \$1,727,100.
- His sire, Conway Hall was fourth in the 1998 Hambletonian won by Muscles Yankee. Windsong's Legacy gives Conway Hall a first-crop Hambletonian credit. He stands at the State University of New York's Morrisville College, which features a hands-on standardbred equine racing and breeding program. His stud fee, originally \$5,000, has increased to \$20,000 as of 2005; the highest in New York State in 20 years.
- Windsong's Legacy was sold at the 2002 Harrisburg Sale for \$27,000. Second and third-place finishers Cantab Hall and Cash Hall sold for \$310,000 and \$300,000 respectively.
- Windsong's Legacy joins 2003 winner Amigo Hall as the only two Hambletonian champions since 1997 (when eliminations were moved to the week prior) not to win their elims.
- Windsong's Legacy set a single seasons earning record in 2004 of \$1.7 million displacing two other Hambletonian winners: Malabar Man (\$1,679,862 - with foreign earnings) and Prakas (\$1,610,608 - all domestic).
- Smedshammer and co-owner Patricia Spinelli encouraged the owners to donate five percent of the horse's winnings of \$500,000 to the American Cancer Society; Smedshammer lost his father, Lars, to lung cancer and Spinelli's husband, Ron, an original partner in Windsong's Legacy died a week prior to the Hambletonian, also of lung cancer. They presented a check for \$25,000 to the American Cancer Society.
- Windsong's Legacy eventually won all six finals in which he was entered

- in 2004, adding the Goodtimes, Stanley Dancer Trot and Canadian Trotting Classic to his Triple Crown triumphs.
- The win was the first in the Hambletonian for Ann Brannvoll and Patricia Spinelli. Ted Gewertz had previously won in 1991 with Giant Victory in partnership with Stan and Steve Robins. He has never failed to earn a check in the big race as his Giant Hit was third in 1993, while both Giant Chill (1995) and Power To Charm (2003) were fifth.
- Windsong's Legacy was voted divisional champion and Trotter of the Year. Horse of the Year went to sophomore pacing filly Rainbow Blue. Windsong's Legacy never finished worse than third in 2004 with a summary of 12 starts, 9 wins, 2 seconds, and one third for \$1,713,806 in purse money, and a mark of 1:53. In 17 lifetime starts, the only time he finished off the board was a fourth place finish as a two-year-old in Lexington.
- Walnut Hall could not claim a winner's credit as they did in 2003 with Amigo Hall (both bred and owned) but nonetheless the "Hall" moniker was sprinkled liberally throughout the 2004 Hambletonian proceedings. The winner Windsong's Legacy was sired by Conway Hall, a Walnut Hall Ltd. stallion. The place and show horses, Cantab Hall and Cash Hall, were bred, raised, and sold by Walnut Hall Ltd. (Walnut Hall also bought back an owner interest in Cash Hall). And the fifth-place finisher was Justice Hall, another Walnut Hall Ltd. product. He is owned in part by Mary Katz of Lexington, wife of Steve Katz, an executive with Walnut Hall Ltd.
- Trond Smedshammer became the first driver-trainer to win since Stefan Melander and Scarlet Knight in 2001.
- Smedshammer made his first appearance in the Hambletonian winner circle in 1989 as an assistant for Lindy Farms Stable, with Probe, who famously deadheaded with Park Avenue Joe in the race final. The Norwegian-born horseman embarked on his own in 1992 and five years later he won an elimination of the Hambletonian with Bowlin For Dollars, who finished fourth in the final. In 2003, Trond was sitting pretty with 1-2 favorite Power To Charm (driven by John Campbell), who disappointed with a fifth-place finish.

Windsong's Legacy

WINDSONG'S LEGACY, b c, by Conway Hall-Yankee Windsong, by Prakas
 Driver: Trond Smedshammer Trainer: Trond Smedshammer
 Owner: Ann Brannvoll, Ted Gewertz, Patricia Spinelli
 Groom: Emma Johansson
 Sale History: \$27,000 yearling, Harrisburg Sale, Harrisburg, PA... 3 x 1

CANTAB HALL, b c, by Self Possessed-Canland Hall, by Garland Lobell
 Driver: Mike Lachance Trainer: Ron Gurfein
 Owner: Brittany Farms, Lindy Racing, Jerry Silva, Sampson St. Stb... x 3 2

CASH HALL, b c, by Self Possessed-Chatty Hanover, by Super Bowl
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Robert McIntosh
 Owner: Robert McIntosh, CSX Stables, Mark Kohler, Cash Hall Stb... 2 x 3

COVENTRY, b c, by Mr Lavec-Lady Leesun, by Crowning Point
 Driver: Doug R. Ackerman Trainer: Doug Ackerman
 Owner: Douglas and Ada Jean Ackerman... x 4 4

JUSTICE HALL, b c, by Garland Lobell-Just Having Fun, by Royal Prestige
 Driver: Jim Morrill Jr. Trainer: C. Kevin Thomas
 Owner: Mary Katz, C. Kevin Thomas, Berto Stable, Nathan Fink... 4 x 5

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:27 ⁴	:56 ²	1:24 ¹	1:52 ³
2nd Elimination	:28 ²	:56 ²	1:25 ²	1:54 ²
Final	:28 ²	:57 ²	1:26 ³	1:54 ¹

PAYOFFS

FIRST ELIMINATION

Tom Ridge	8.40	3.80	2.10
Cash Hall		2.80	2.10
Windsong's Legacy			2.10

SECOND ELIMINATION

Eilean Donon	4.40	3.20	2.60
Lantern's Law		15.80	5.20
Cantab Hall			2.60

FINAL

Windsong's Legacy	11.00	5.60	4.00
Cantab Hall		4.60	3.40
Cash Hall			3.00

