

1993

The Meadowlands • August 7, 1993 • Purse \$1,200,000

American Winner Trots Off on His Own

The often bulky Hambletonian field shrinks in a hurry when a dominant horse emerges in the three-year-old ranks. The 1993 Hambletonian produced just that scenario. American Winner, a homebred of Robert Key of Leechburg, Pennsylvania and Dr. John Glesmann of Bridgewater, New Jersey had reigned supreme throughout virtually every three-year-old stake race of 1993. American Winner, victorious in the Yonkers Trot, looked to be a serious contender for the trotting Triple Crown if he could win the Hambletonian and then the Kentucky Futurity at Lexington's Red Mile in October.

The colt, sired by the 1972 trotting Triple Crown winner, Super Bowl, had reeled off seven straight stakes wins prior to the final of the \$414,500 Budweiser Beacon Course, the Meadowlands' prep race just one week prior to the Hambletonian. In the final of the Budweiser Beacon Course, American Winner tussled with an emerging power, a bargain-priced (\$17,000 as a yearling) colt named Pine Chip.

The luck of the draw put Pine Chip and American Winner in the same elimination of the 14 horse Hambletonian field. American Winner, trained by

retired Navy Chief Milton Smith and driven by Ron Pierce, trotted out to grab the lead by the half mile mark. Pine Chip, with John Campbell aboard, had a tougher time of it, moving from sixth to tuck in behind American Winner at the three-quarters. Pierce and "Winner" trotted away from the field to win the first elimination by three and 3/4 lengths. Pine Chip moved along the outside to get into second position, a head behind "Winner" at the three-quarters. But Pine Chip lacked the brush to get by American Winner, was overtaken by Toss Out, and finished third.

Pine Chip would have another shot at American Winner, though. In the final, American Winner gained the lead without challenge by the quarter mile mark, with Pine Chip going three wide from sixth to get behind that rival at the three quarters. But when it came time to trot for the lead, American Winner was the stronger of the two, as he trotted off by himself, winning by a comfortable two and three quarter lengths.



- Bob Key became the first owner to win both elimination heats (with Hi Noon Star and American Winner) as well as the final.
- Milton Smith became the first African-American trainer to win the Hambletonian.
- Milton Smith was the second trainer to win both elimination heats as well as the final. Bill Haughton had previously accomplished that feat with Burgomeister and Final Score in 1980 at DuQuoin.

- The Medio maternal family produced a record ninth Hambletonian winner.
- American Winner also won the Yonkers Trot, the second leg of the trotting Triple Crown, but was beaten by Pine Chip in the Kentucky Futurity.
- Anna-Lena Ljunggren, a 33-year-old native of Sweden, became the first woman to train a horse in the Hambletonian. She started Baltic Baby for fashion designer Oleg Cassini.

AMERICAN WINNER, b c,

by Super Bowl — BJ's Pleasure, by Speedy Somolli
 Driver: Ron Pierce Trainer: Milton Smith
 Owner & Breeder: Robert Key, PA and John Glesmann, NJ . . . x 1 1
 Groom: Mike Plasters

PINE CHIP, b c, by Arndon — Pine Speed, by Speedy Somolli
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Charles Sylvester
 Owner: Charles Sylvester, Neal Goldman and Gerry Donahue . . . x 3 2

HI NOON STAR, b c,
 by BJ's Super Star — Tanimara Hi Noon, by ABC Freight
 Driver: Ron Waples Trainer: Milton Smith
 Owner: Robert Key . . . 1 x 3

TOSS OUT, b c by Supergill — Foreign Waters, by Homesick
 Driver: Heinz Wewering Trainer: Buck Sprinkle
 Owner: Heinz Wewering . . . x 2 4

GIANT CHILL, b c, by Speedy Crown — Chili Bowl, by Super Bowl
 Driver: John Patterson, Jr. Trainer: Per Eriksson
 Owner: Robins Racing Stable and Jacqueline and Ted Gewertz . . . x 4 5

Also competed: Capital Star, x-5-6; King Lavec, 2-x-7, Dry Wine, 3-x-8; Turbo Thrust, 4-x-9; Dylan Lobell, 5-x-10, Baltic Baby, 6-x-ro; Collier St. Joey, 7-x-ro; Promising Catch, x-6-ro; Golden Goal, x-7-ro.

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:28 ⁴	:57 ³	1:27	1:55 ²
2nd Elimination	:28 ³	:56 ³	1:24 ⁴	1:53 ¹
Final	:28 ³	:56 ⁴	1:25 ⁴	1:53 ²



PAYOFFS

FIRST ELIMINATION

Hi Noon Star	8.40	3.80	2.80
King Lavec		3.40	2.40
Dry Wine			2.20
EXACTA			32.80
TRIFECTA			65.00

SECOND ELIMINATION

American Winner	3.60	2.80	2.10
Toss Out		4.20	2.10
Pine Chip			2.10
EXACTA			18.00

FINAL

American Winner	3.20	2.10	2.20
Pine Chip		2.20	2.60
Hi Noon Star			2.20
EXACTA			6.20

1992

The Meadowlands • August 1, 1992 • Purse \$1,104,000

Alf Palema Emerges from Crowd

A record 27 trotters dropped in the box for the 1992 Hambletonian, but the race was without a clear standout. Per Eriksson, who won the jewel the previous year with Giant Victory, had four sophomores entered. Of those four, King Conch had the most credentials.

The eliminations went in three fields of nine. In the first, Valley Boss Bi won in 1:56³, the filly Armbro Keepsake was second, and Ships Watch third. Favorite Magic Lobell went on a break in the stretch while on the lead, and didn't make the cut. The second division went to King Conch in 1:56⁴, with Herschel Walker and Rising Light next in line. The third contest was captured by Baltic Sonata, with Alf Palema second and Sirocco Spur third.

The nine lined up again for the final, with the winner of that dash capturing the coveted crown. King Conch turned back a challenge from Baltic Sonata, and then held off Armbro Keepsake at the head of the lane. Valley Boss Bi went on a break, and Herschel Walker was making a move.

The one moving fastest of all, however, was Alf Palema, as driver Mickey McNichol found a slim opening on the rail. Eriksson had pulled the colt's shoes after the first heat, and the barefoot boy got up to score over his stablemate by a head in 1:56³. King Conch held on for second, with Herschel Walker third.



- Alf Palema is named for a leading salesman in co-owner Bender's roofing company.
- Alf Palema was the last horse bred by George Alexander, whose Chestnut Farm raised and bred only trotters. It was the first Hambletonian winner bred by Alexander, who was a director of the Hambletonian Society and a member of its Executive Committee. The mare, Highland Bridget, was sold privately in foal with Alf Palema in the dispersal of Alexander's horses at the time of his death in 1988.
- Alf Palema was voted Trotter of the Year.
- Largest number of starters (27) in the Hambletonian which necessitated three elimination divisions for the first time.
- Alf Palema became the first starter to win the Hambletonian by winning only one heat – the final.
- Alf Palema was actually the lesser member of the Swedam Stable (Per Eriksson) entry. King Conch, the 1991 Breeders Crown and divisional 2-year-old champion, was the pre-race favorite. He cut the mile and was just beaten as his stablemate slipped up the rail. Trainer and co-owner Eriksson admitted that no one was more surprised than he at the result of the photo.
- Alf Palema may be the only horse ever to win the Hambletonian racing barefoot – without horse shoes.

ALF PALEMA, b c, Speedy Somolli—Highland Bridget, by Super Bowl
 Driver: Mickey McNichol Trainer: Per Eriksson
 Owner: Karl-Erik Bender, Imlaystown, NJ and Per Eriksson, Parkland, FL
 Breeder: George M. Alexander (Chestnut Farm), IL
 Groom: Jenny Göstavsson
 Sale History: Highland Bridget was sold privately while in foal. . . x x 2 1

KING CONCH, Speedy Crown — Conch, by Bonefish
 Driver: John Patterson, Jr. Trainer: Per Eriksson
 Owner: The King Conch Stable . . . x 1 x 2

HERSCHEL WALKER, Super Bowl — Double Coverage, by Speedy Crown
 Driver: Berndt Lindstedt Trainer: Jan Johnson
 Owner: KGB Stables and Kapp-Ahl USA . . . x 2 x 3

ARMBRO KEEPSAKE, Super Bowl — Armbro Fern, by Speedy Crown
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
 Owner: Armstrong Bros . . . 2 x x 4

BALTIC SONATA, Baltic Speed — O B's Sonata, by Songcan
 Driver: Jack Moiseyev Trainer: Ray Vaughan-Thomas
 Owner: Irving Levit . . . x x 1 5

Also competed: Rising Light x-3-x-6, Valley Boss Bi 1-x-x 7, Ships Watch 3-x-x-8, Prince Keith x-x-4-9, Sirocco Spur x-x-3-10, Pleasure Prince 7-x-x-ro, Magic Lobell 9-x-x-ro, Dedicated Yankee 6-x-x-ro, Program Speed 5-x-x-ro, Dungeness 4-x-x-ro, Super Cobra 8-x-x-rox, Guardian Angel x-4-x-ro, Swagger Hanover x-5-x-ro, Super Clever x-7-x-ro, Baltic Striker x-6-x-ro, Jack x-9-x-ro, Craxi x-8-x-ro, Giant Force x-x-7-ro, McCluckey x-x-6-ro, Keystone Ludwig x-x-9-ro, Tarport Mark x-x-5-x, Dutch Lobell x-x-8-ro.



TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:28 ³	:58 ¹	1:29	1:56 ³
2nd Elimination	:27 ²	:57 ¹	1:28 ¹	1:56 ⁴
3rd Elimination	:27	:56 ¹	1:27 ²	1:56 ²
Final	:27 ⁴	:57 ²	1:28 ¹	1:56 ³

PAYOFFS

FIRST ELIMINATION				SECOND ELIMINATION				THIRD ELIMINATION			
Valley Boss Bi	38.60	10.20	7.00	King Conch	5.00	3.00	2.40	Baltic Sonata	11.00	6.60	3.40
Armbro Keepsake		3.80	3.00	Herschel Walker		4.20	3.60	Alf Palema		14.00	5.80
Ships Watch			9.20	Rising Light			9.00	Sirocco Spur			2.80
EXACTA			142.80	EXACTA			22.40	EXACTA			106.00
FINAL				FINAL							
				Alf Palema	8.40	8.40	6.40				
				King Conch		—	—				
				Herschel Walker			4.60				
				EXACTA			30.40				

1991

The Meadowlands • August 3, 1991 • Purse \$1,238,000

Giant Victory for All

The 1991 Hambletonian was story book material.

Fresh from a stunning triumph in the Meadowlands Pace with Precious Bunny, Jack Moiseyev, harness racing's newest superstar of the sulky, won his second \$1 million purse event in 22 days with Giant Victory's win in the 66th Hambletonian.

Eleven months earlier, the 31-year-old native of Neptune, New Jersey, had completed a six-month suspension for driving infractions. Yet, for Moiseyev, his first Hambletonian was the ultimate catch-drive. Shortly after the draw for the race, he looked down at the overnight sheet and saw his name next to the eventual winner.

Per Eriksson, Giant Victory's trainer, had explained, "We put Jack on because Sonny (John Patterson, Jr.) had MB Felty and he (Jack) has been hot lately."

And it just figured that the red-hot Giant Victory, a colt by Super Bowl, would come through with trotting's biggest prize in the shadow of Giants Stadium, home of the 1990 Super Bowl Champions.

Co-owners Jacqueline and Theodore Gewertz of Oradell, New Jersey, both long-time Giants fans, had put through a name change for their colt (formerly Healthy Glow) following the Giants' 1987 Super Bowl victory.

Together with partners Stan and Steve Robins of Yorktown Heights, NY, the Gewertzes saw their prize trotter post back-to-back, come-from-behind decisions in 1:54* (fastest of the day) and 1:55.

Giant Victory enjoyed a perfect trip in the second elimination and responded with a three-length score over Big Brown and Crysta's Best. The favored entry of MB Felty and UConn Don finished one-two in front of Super Pleasure in the first \$119,000 elimination. The Ron Gurfein-trained winner, another son of Super Bowl, was timed in 1:55 for the HVH Trotting Stable, M. Larsson, the MB Felty Stable and Lindy Farms (Antonacci family). The Antonaccis and trainer Osvaldo Formia (UConn Don) were both going for their fourth Hambletonian and a record three in a row. It was not to be.

Their charges were second and third, respectively, behind Giant Victory in the \$1 million final.

Moiseyev stalked the pace from fifth position and masterfully wheeled his stretch kicker three-quarters of a length past his arch rivals. Giant Victory improved his 1991 record to 12-7-2-1.

The Gewertzes, trotting horse owners for the past ten years, and Per Eriksson, were high on Giant Victory right from the first time they saw him. Jacquie Gewertz remembers well when the colt first came into the sales ring as a yearling.

"My husband and Per looked at each other and said 'This colt's got Hambo written all over him. Let's buy him regardless of his price.' We did, and we got a hot Hambo horse for the first time for only \$25,000."

With the 1991 Hambletonian under his belt, Giant Victory's bankroll swelled to \$805,116, making him a giant bargain.



- Renamed Giant Victory (for the NFL football team's 1987 Super Bowl win) by owners and Giant fans Jacqueline & Ted Gewertz and the Robbins.
- The requirement for the race winner to win two heats was dropped in the Hambletonian conditions.
- From 1927 to 1954, six monies were paid in the Hambletonian under the placing system. From 1955 to 1962 only the first four horses in the placing were awarded money. Some years the winner took home anywhere from 55% to 70% of the total purse. There were also breeders awards of 2%. From 1963 to 1990 five monies were paid out under the placing system. As of 1991, the placing system was dropped and the standard five monies are paid in each heat or dash.

- Field was limited to 10 with no trailers, before splitting into eliminations. If less than 10 are entered there will be one dash for the trophy and the \$1,200,000 total purse.
- Giant Victory was voted Trotter of the Year.
- Jack Moiseyev won his first Hambletonian with his first drive, annexing his second \$1 million purse in 22 days. He won the Meadowlands Pace with Precious Bunny earlier in the meet.

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination	:28 ⁴	:57 ²	1:26	1:55
2nd Elimination	:28 ¹	:56 ²	1:24 ⁴	1:54 ⁴
Final	:28 ¹	:56 ¹	1:25 ²	1:55

GIANT VICTORY, b c, Super Bowl—Pink Cheeks, by Speedy Crown
 Driver: Jack Moiseyev Trainer: Per Eriksson
 Owner: Jacqueline & Theodore Gewertz, NJ; Robins Racing Stable. NY
 Breeder: Stoner Creek Stud (Norman Woolworth), KY
 Groom: Gry Normanssen
 Sale History: \$25,000 yearling named Healthy Glow at Tattersalls Sale . . . x 1 1

MB FELTY, Prakas—Olivia Stone, by Steve Lobell
 Driver: John Patterson, Jr. Trainer: Ron Gurfein
 Owner: HVH Trotting Stable, M. Larsson, MB Felty Stable, Lindy Racing Stable
 . . . 1 x 2

UConn Don, Super Bowl—Double Coverage, by Speedy Crown
 Driver: Mike Lachance Trainer: Osvaldo Formia
 Owner: Lindy Racing Stable, S. Garafolo, P. Nigito . . . 2 x 3

SOMATIC, Super Bowl—Sonoma, by Speedy Crown
 Driver: William O'Donnell Trainer: Tom Haughton
 Owner: Ragnar Hagen . . . x 4 4

CRYSTA'S BEST, Crysta's Crown—Super Laure, by Super Bowl
 Driver: Dick Richardson, Jr. Trainer: Dick Richardson, Jr.
 Owner: J. Huber, T. Biddle, K. Montgomery, H. Breidenbach . . . x 3 5

Also competed: Super Pleasure 3-x-7, Anders Crown 4-x-6, Can't Be Jimmie 5-x-9, Big Brown x-2-8, Grundy's Mint x-5-10, NY Lobell 6-x-ro, Honkin Hanover 7-x-ro, Wall Street Banker 8-x-ro, Speedy Frazer 9-x-ro, Fiddler Hanover 10-x-ro, Aerostar One x-6-ro, Harlan Lobell x-7-ro, Spring Affair x-8-ro, Charlie Ten Hitch x-9-ro.



PAYOFFS											
FIRST ELIMINATION			SECOND ELIMINATION			FINAL					
MB Felty	3.40	4.00	3.00	Giant Victory	12.80	7.20	3.60	Giant Victory	5.60	3.00	3.00
UConn Don		—	—	Big Brown		6.60	2.20	MB Felty		2.60	2.80
Super Pleasure			5.60	Crysta's Best			2.60	UConn Don			—
EXACTA:			26.20	EXACTA:			76.00	EXACTA:			9.20

Harmonious Vindication for the Antonacci Clan

It was the same situation as in 1989. A horse owned by a Lou Guida-headed group and a horse owned by Frank Antonacci and partners were squaring off in the second jewel in trotting's Triple Crown. The year before, the same confrontation ended in a dead-heat and a legal tangle.

This time, however, there was a clear cut, if slightly unlikely, winner of the 65th Hambletonian.

The pre-race favorite was Royal Troubador, 1989's Two-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year who had already captured the Yonkers Trot. Others that merited respect included King Of The Sea, Armbro Iliad, The Devil, Crown Bones and Beacon Course victor Embassy Lobell, who was owned by a Lou Guida-managed group.

Embassy Lobell captured his division of the first heat in 1:56.1 with Mike Lachance at the lines. Trapped on the rail for three-quarters of a mile, Embassy Lobell made up ground when he shook loose and trotted by Armbro Iliad in the deep stretch.

In the second division, lightly-raced Harmonious, co-owned by Antonacci, didn't figure against veteran Royal Troubador. But someone forgot to tell Harmonious. John Campbell sent the strapping son of Crowning Point after Royal Troubador at the half, and blew on by to win in 1:55.

Harmonious almost didn't make it to the Hambletonian, much less the second heat. Only a few days before the big day, trainer Osvaldo Formia had found the colt cut and scraped in his paddock, after hurting himself suffering from colic. The cuts weren't severe, however, and Formia treated Harmonious' colic with the human medicine Maalox.

In the final heat, Embassy Lobell drew the rail and Harmonious the two-hole. Campbell elected to drop in behind Lachance and Embassy Lobell, while Royal Troubador and King of the Sea battled on the front end. Lachance made his move on Royal Troubador after that colt posted a :56² half, and Campbell sat in third.

Royal Troubador held the lead until the three-quarter mark in 1:25, and Campbell took Harmonious around that rival and Embassy Lobell as well. Harmonious coasted under the wire a length and a half in front in 1:54¹, with Embassy Lobell second and Royal Troubador hanging on for third.

It was a glorious day in the winner's circle for Lindy Farms' Frank Antonacci, his family, and trainer Formia. After the frustration of the outcome the year before, the victory was all the sweeter.

And the hero of the day was the lightly-raced, slightly banged and battered Harmonious — and a dose of Maalox.



- Richest Hambletonian purse to date.
- The Hambletonian was Harmonious' first win in a stake; although he had won four of five starts as a 3-year-old coming up to the Hambletonian. Prepped for the classic primarily in overnight races, breaking his maiden the first week of June at the Pocono Downs in a \$1,500 condition event. In his next start, he made a break, finishing ninth in the American-National Stake at Sportsman's Park in Chicago. Returning to the east coast he won a qualifier and then three straight overnight races at the Meadowlands during the month of July, the fastest in 1:57 1/5.

- It marked the second consecutive Hambletonian winner trained by Argentina native Osvaldo Formia, who also was the caretaker for two Hambletonian winners: Speedy Somolli (1978) and Lindy's Pride (1969).
- Harmonious was voted Trotter of the Year.
- Harmonious was from the first crop of Crowning Point, one of only six Hambletonian winners produced in their sire's initial foaling crop. The five others: Hoot Mon (Helicopter, 1953); Speedster (Speedy Scot, 1963); Ayres (Timothy T, 1970); Green Speed (Duenna, 1983); Mystic Park (Mack Lobell, 1987) and Valley Victory (Victory Dream, 1995).

HARMONIOUS, b c, Crowning Point—Rhapsody in Blue, by Super Bowl.

Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Osvaldo Formia
 Owner: Lindy Racing Stable, CT & Sal Garofalo, FL
 Breeder: Kentuckiana Farm (Tom Crouch), KY
 Groom: Alfredo Zamora
 Sale History: \$25,000 yearling purchase,
 Kentucky Standardbred Sale . . . x 1 1

Also competed: Crown Bones 3-8, The Devil 4-6, Peddler Yorktowne 4-6, Antwerp Hanover 5-9, Meadowbranch Eddy 5-10, Jeanne's Somolli 6-9, Cheyenne Spur 6-ro, Backstreet Guy 7-ro, Star Mystic 7-ro, Roughin It 8-ro, Meadowbranch Elmer 8-ro, Remus Hanover 9-ro, Grundy's Rambo 9-ro, I'm Impeccable 10-ro, Kosar 10-ro.

EMBASSY LOBELL, Speedy Crown—Elmsford, by Lindy's Pride

Driver: Mike Lachance Trainer: Jerry Riordan
 Owner: LPG Standardbred Associates . . . 1 x 2

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Heat	:28 ¹	:56 ⁴	1:26 ³	1:56 ¹
1st Heat, 2nd Division	:28 ²	:56 ⁴	1:26 ¹	1:55
Final	:28 ¹	:56 ²	1:25	1:54 ¹

KING OF THE SEA, Bonefish—Pompanette, by Florican

Driver: Stanley Dancer Trainer: Stanley Dancer
 Owner: Clearview Stable . . . x 2 4

ARMBRO ILIAD, Speedy Crown—Armbro Trudy, by Armbro Jet

Driver: Ron Waples Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
 Owner: Peter and Gail McCann . . . 2 x 5

ROYAL TROUBADOR, Super Bowl—Mae Jean's Crown, by Speedy Crown

Driver: Carl Allen Trainer: Carl Allen
 Owner: Carl & Rod Allen Stable . . . x 3 3



PAYOFFS

FIRST HEAT, FIRST ELIMINATION				FIRST HEAT, SECOND ELIMINATION				FINAL HEAT			
Embassy Lobell	3.00	2.80	2.00	Harmonious	5.40	3.00	2.00	Harmonious	4.40	2.80	2.40
Armbro Iliad		10.60	6.00	King Of The Sea		12.40	5.00	Embassy Lobell		2.60	2.20
Crown Bones			4.40	Royal Troubador			2.80	Royal Troubador			2.80
EXACTA:			31.40	EXACTA:			85.60	EXACTA:			8.00

The Meadowlands • August 5, 1989 • Purse \$1,131,000

Park Avenue Joe & Probe: Dead Heat Excitement

The 64th Hambletonian looked to be one of the most exciting, eagerly anticipated battles in many years — pitting two-year-old champion colt Valley Victory against two-year-old filly champ Peace Corps.

The Hambo did indeed live up to its hype but neither Valley Victory nor Peace Corps played a part in it.

Valley Victory, suffering from a virus, never entered the race, leaving Peace Corps the overwhelming favorite. The filly carried a 17-race winning streak into the Hambo, and the hopes were high among her trainer Tom Haughton, driver John Campbell, and owner Bjorn Pettersson of Sweden.

Her main competitors appeared to be Bon Vivant and Demilo Hanover. But logic disappeared once the first heat began.

Peace Corps had the lead when the field turned for home. But the gallant filly who hadn't raced in five weeks tired and faded, finishing fifth. The surprise winner was lightly-raced Probe, who was fifth at the half-mile. He went three wide at the head of the stretch to take command and win in 1:54³, edging another lightly-raced colt, Park Avenue Joe, by a head.

In the second heat, driver Ron Waples let Park Avenue Joe trot on the outside in fifth, while Classic Aire grabbed the early lead. Probe, with Bill Fahy at the lines, followed Park Avenue Joe's cover.

Classic Air still had the lead at the three-quarters in 1:27¹, as Park Avenue Joe was steadily closing in, but Probe was squeezed between horses and went on a break.

Park Avenue Joe took command in mid-stretch, and Peace Corps came on strongly to finish second.

The resulting race-off between Park Avenue Joe and Probe was the first such contest since 1984, when Historic Freight beat Gentle Stroke.

Park Avenue Joe's trainer Chuck Sylvester made a daring change between the first two heats to a modified harness. The logic was that the elastic girth would help free the colt's breathing, something he'd had surgery for earlier.

Only one more heat separated two horses and two drivers from the Hambletonian trophy. Not the original cast, the two that were expected to be there, but two drivers who'd never won a Hambletonian and two colts that few people had ever heard of.

Park Avenue Joe drew the rail for the race-off and Waples sent him to the lead early, setting soft fractions. Probe and Fahy patiently stalked him. Joe trotted to the quarter in :29⁴, the half in 1:01³, and the three-quarters in 1:33⁴.

Fahy then moved Probe up to challenge. When the pair hit the head of the stretch, they were moving as a team, one the other one's shadow. First one, then the other, appeared to have the lead as they neared the wire. The two drivers worked frantically on their mounts, urging with lines, with whips, with voices.

Park Avenue Joe and Probe hit the wire together, amidst roars from the crowd that shook the Meadowlands. It took the judges five minutes and two photo finish prints to declare a dead heat for win, the first in the race's history.

Within days after the historic finish, a legal battle ensued with the connections of Probe challenging the judge's decision to place their horse second in money earnings.

More than two years after the race, the decision of an administrative law judge to declare Probe and Park Avenue Joe co-winners, but to distribute the winner's share of the purse to Park Avenue Joe, was agreed to by Lindy Farms.



- The anticipated showdown between 1988 2-year-old divisional champions Valley Victory and Peace Corps failed to materialize when Valley Victory was not entered because of illness. The Meadowlands had to hold onto thousands of "I like the colt" buttons. They still gave away the "I like the filly" buttons. Peace Corps (on a 17-race winning streak, though she had not raced in five weeks) finished a tired fifth in the first heat and second in the next heat, failing to qualify for the third heat race-off.
- The two-horse race-off resulted in the only dead heat in the Hambletonian history.
- Both horses paid \$2.10 to win, producing the only minus win pool in the Hambletonian.
- The last quarter of the race-off was :26², the fastest quarter ever in the Hambletonian. The mile was in 2:02².
- Bill Fahy won in his first drive in the Hambletonian.
- Park Avenue Joe was the second Hambletonian winner for caretaker Randy Beeckman, who also groomed Mack Lobell (1987).
- Park Avenue Joe was the second of only three black trotters to win.
- Park Avenue Joe was foaled at Pin Oak Lane Farm in Pennsylvania, in the same barn in which 1992 Kentucky Derby winner Lil E. Tee was born.
- More than two years after the race, the decision of an administrative law judge upheld the opinion of the Hambletonian Society that both horses be declared co-winners of the Hambletonian, although Park Avenue Joe garnered first money as best in summary (2-1-1dh versus 1-9-1dh for Probe).

Park Avenue Joe & Probe

PARK AVENUE JOE, b c, Speedy Somolli — Delmonica Hanover, by Speedy Count
 Driver: Ron Waples Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
 Owner: Park Avenue Stable
 Breeder: Boardwalk Associates (Sy Bonem, et al, NY)
 Groom: Randy Beeckman
 Sale History: \$92,000 yearling from the Meadowbranch Farm (Hans Enggren) consignment at Standardbred Horse Sale. . 2 1 1

PROBE, Super Bowl — AC's Wonder, by Speedy Crown
 Driver: Bill Fahy Trainer: Osvaldo Formia
 Owner & Breeder: Lindy Farms
 Groom: Maria Sopp. . . 1 9 1

PEACE CORPS, Baltic Speed — Worth Beein', by Super Bowl
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Tom Haughton
 Owner: A. Gnagget . . . 5 2 ro

SHOGUN LOBELL, Super Bowl — Speedy Toe, by Speedy Scot
 Driver: Howard Beissinger Trainer: Howard Beissinger
 Owner: Beissinger, Duringer, Arden Homestead & Crown Stable . . . 4 3 ro

EGYPTIAN GENTLEMAN, Lindy's Crown — Egyptian Jody, by Noble Victory
 Driver: W. O'Donnell Trainer: Osvaldo Formia
 Owner: Lindy Farms & Lomangino Associates . . . 3 5 ro

Also competed: Bon Vivant 9-ro, Demilo Hanover 8-ro, Speedy GB 6-ro, Classic Aire 7-ro, Scott S. Hanover 10-ro, Fortunate One 11-ro.

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Heat	:27 ³	:56	1:26 ¹	1:54 ³
2nd Heat	:28	:56 ⁴	1:27 ¹	1:55 ³
Race Off	:29 ⁴	1:01 ³	1:33 ⁴	2:00 ²

PAYOFFS									
FIRST HEAT				SECOND HEAT				RACE OFF (DEAD HEAT)	
Probe	26.00	9.00	11.00	Park Avenue Joe	6.80	3.40	3.60	Park Avenue Joe	2.10
Park Avenue Joe		7.00	7.40	Peace Corps		3.60	3.60	Probe	2.10
Egyptian Gentleman			—	Shogun Lobell			4.60		
EXACTA:			194.60	EXACTA:			34.00		



Armbro Goal: Swede Dreams

Despite their reputation and skill with trotters, Swedes had never won America's premier trotting event. Not until Armbro Goal, trained by Jan Johnson and owned by Tomas Bertmark, both from Sweden, won the 63rd edition of the Hambletonian.

Driver John Campbell captured his second consecutive Hambo, the first time a driver accomplished that feat since the late Bill Haughton won back-to-back in 1976 and 1977.

Campbell employed the same strategy with Armbro Goal he used with Mack Lobell in 1987: get the lead early in both heats. He won the first heat in 1:54³ by three lengths over maiden Rule The Wind, then posted a four and a quarter length victory in 1:55¹ over Firm Tribute to take the crown in straight heats.

Bertmark purchased Armbro Goal just one week before the Hambletonian for \$2.5 million from James Plate, Paul Ryan and Michael Caggiano of New York and New Jersey. The horse was to race under his former owners' names the rest of the year, with Bertmark splitting earnings and expenses.

Armbro Goal earned \$578,400 with his Hambletonian victory. Firm Tribute took home second money of \$289,200 on the basis of his third place finish in the first heat and his second place spot in the second heat. Firm Tribute had to start from post number 13 (third from the rail in the second tier) in the first heat, and earned post position three for the second heat.

Since at least 15 trotters have to be entered before the race is split into divisions, the Hambletonian was contested in one division this year. That was the first time the race went in one division since Legend Hanover won in 1979.



- Swedish owner/breeder Tomas Bertmark and partners bought Armbro Goal the week before the Hambletonian for \$2.5 million, but the winner raced under the prior owners' name because he had already been entered in the event under that ownership.
- With just 12 trotters entered, the Hambletonian raced only one division for the first time since 1979. Armbro Goal won in straight heats, with a second heat victory of more than four lengths.
- Continental Farms (Jan Johnson & Berndt Lindstedt) became the only stable to win both the Hambletonian and the Hambletonian Oaks (Nan's Catch) in the same year.

- Armbro Goal was voted the 3-year-old Trotting Colt of the Year.
- Armbro Goal was a grandson of 1953 winner Helicopter; his dam Armbro Flight was second (beaten a neck) in the fourth heat raceoff in 1965. Armbro Flight was 23 when Armbro Goal, her 13th foal, was born. She is the oldest mare ever to produce a Hambletonian winner. Armbro Flight was also the dam of 1976 heat winner Armbro Regina (third to Steve Lobell in 1976).

ARMBRO GOAL, b c, Speedy Crown — Armbro Flight, by Star's Pride

Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Jan Johnson
 Owner: James R. Plate, NJ; Paul H. Ryan, NY; Michael V. Caggiano, NJ
 Breeder: Armstrong Brothers, Ontario
 Groom: Suzanne Lexung
 Sale History: \$135,000 yearling at Kentucky Standard Sale; Private sale at two; \$2.5 million private purchase before the Hambletonian. . . 1 1

FIRM TRIBUTE, Bonefish—Escapade, by Speedy Count

Driver: Mark O'Mara Trainer: Mark O'Mara
 Owner: Karl Goestasson . . . 3 2

RULE THE WIND, Speedy Crown—Ah So, by Speedy Count

Driver: Richard Silverman Trainer: Jerry Silverman
 Owner: Val D'Or Farms . . . 2 7

BOLLA, Bonefish—Amity Hill, by B. F. Coaltown

Driver: Bill O'Donnell Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
 Owner: L. P. G. Standardbred Associates, Inc. & H. E. Thomas . . . 4 3

SUPERGILL, Super Bowl—Winky's Gill, by Bonefish

Driver: Berndt Lindstedt Trainer: Jan Johnson
 Owner: J. Gaines, Castleton Farm, North Woodland Stable . . . 6 4

Also competed: Huggie Hanover 5-1-, Somollison 7-7, Petri Kosmos 8-8, Rising Chief 9-9, Defraut Cane, 10-scr, Grundy's Cohnnection 11-scr, Sharpa Kosmos, 12-scr, Jermyn Street 13-scr.

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
Heat	:27 ²	:55 ¹	1:25 ³	1:54 ³
Final	:28	:56 ²	1:25 ²	1:55 ¹



PAYOFFS							
FIRST HEAT				FINAL HEAT			
Armbro Goal	3.20	2.60	2.20	Armbro Goal	2.60	2.20	2.10
Rule The Wind		6.00	3.60	Firm Tribute	2.60	2.10	
Firm Tribute			3.00	Bolla		2.10	
EXACTA:			31.00	EXACTA:		4.80	

1987

The Meadowlands • August 8, 1987 • Purse \$1,046,300

Mack Lobell: A Mack Attack

Mack Lobell came into the 62nd Hambletonian with numerous records to his credit. He held a world record for two-year-old trotters of 1:55³, track record of 1:54 at the Meadowlands in the Beacon Course Trot and was four-for-four on the year, including the Yonkers Trot, the first leg of the Trotting Triple Crown.

Mack's sire, Mystic Park, had been the favorite for the 1982 Hambletonian, but had broken stride in the first heat and didn't qualify for the final. He was found to be suffering from a staph infection. After he was retired from racing just one start later, he was stricken with Potomac Fever. The stallion then foundered, a condition that is usually fatal. But Mystic Park battled back and survived to stand at stud.

Heavily favored at the windows in the first heat, Mack didn't disappoint his backers, trotting to a five-and three-quarter length victory in 1:54. But Mack did have a problem. He broke stride after the finish and it was determined that his feet were stinging him.

Trainer Chuck Sylvester called on Robert "Beans" McWhinney, who reshod the colt between heats, adding a leather pad for cushion.

Mack came back with a bounce in his step to win the second heat in 1:53³ by better than six lengths, setting a track and world record of 3:47³ for two heats.

Both heats developed in much the same manner. John Campbell moved Mack to the front before the quarter, turned back mid-race challengers and drew off handily in the stretch.



- First Hambletonian timed better than 1:54 (1:53³).
- John Campbell wins his first of six Hambletonians.
- Mack Lobell's six and a quarter length victory in the final set a new record for the largest winning margin in the final heat. The previous record was held by Peter Astra (1939) and Nevele Pride (1968).
- The only drama of the day occurred when Mack Lobell made a break in the turn after the finish line in the first heat. Trainer Chuck Sylvester, after consulting with Campbell, thought the track was stinging the horse's feet and had him reshod with full leather pads in between heats. Mack Lobell won the next and final heat, but seemed to measure the finish line and broke into a gallop as soon as he was safely across the finish line.

- Mack Lobell also won the Yonkers Trot, but his Triple Crown of Trotting was denied by Napoletano in one of the most memorable Kentucky Futurities ever.
- Mack Lobell was voted Trotter of the Year, an honor he earned again in 1988 as a 4-year-old.
- Mack Lobell was from the first crop by Mystic Park. As a 4-year-old at the time of the mating, Mystic Park became the youngest stallion ever to sire a Hambletonian winner. Mystic Park was the beaten favorite in the 1982 classic.

MACK LOBELL, br c, by Mystic Park—Matina Hanover, by Speedy Count
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
 Owner: One More Time Stable (L. Guida, et al.) & Fair Winds Farm (E. Mullen)
 Breeder: Lana Lobell Farms of NJ
 Groom: Randy Beeckman
 Sale History: \$17,000 yearling at the North American Sale . . . 1 x 1

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Heat	:27 ⁴	:56 ¹	1:26	1:54
1st Heat, 2nd Div.	:28 ²	:57 ⁴	1:28 ¹	1:56 ²
Final	:27 ⁴	:55 ³	1:25 ³	1:53 ³

NAPOLETANO, by Super Bowl—Noble Sarah, by Noble Victory
 Driver: Bill O'Donnell Trainer: Tom Haughton
 Owner: Belfan, Inc. . . . x 1 2

GO GET LOST, by Speedy Somolli — Chitchat by Nevele Pride
 Driver: John Hogan Trainer: Art Wirsching
 Owner: Wayne M. Lynch . . . x 4 4

SPOTLITE LOBELL, by Speedy Somolli—Spotlite Hill, by B. F. Coaltown
 Driver: Mario Baillargeon Trainer: Soren Nordin
 Owner: Seymour and Clifford Grundy and Sidney Cohn . . . 2 x 3

COTTON HANOVER, by Super Bowl—Clarice Hanover, by Noble Gesture
 Driver: Dick Richardson, Jr. Trainer: Dick Richardson, Jr.
 Owner: Limited IV . . . x 2 5

BESEIGED, by Speedy Somolli—Jade Lobell, by Nevele Pride
 Driver: Ulf Thoresen Trainer: Per Henriksen
 Owner: Leon and Lorraine Machiz . . . 3 x 6

Also competed: Go Get Lost x-3-10, Skywatch Lobell 4-x-7, Action Factor 5-x-8, C. Lewis Lauxmont x-5-9; Waikki Beach, x-3-10; Classic Jazz, x-6-ro; Sir Taurus, 6-x-ro; Crowns Best, 7-x-ro; Buck Finder, x-7-ro.



PAYOFFS

FIRST HEAT, FIRST ELIMINATION

Mack Lobell	2.20	2.20	2.10
Spotlite Lobell		4.80	2.10
Beseiged			2.10
EXACTA:			14.20

FIRST HEAT, SECOND ELIMINATION

Napoletano	5.00	3.80	2.60
Cotton Hanover		28.40	5.60
Waikiki Beach			3.40
EXACTA:			185.20

FINAL HEAT

Mack Lobell	2.20	2.10	2.10
Napoletano		2.40	2.10
Spotlite Lobell			2.10
EXACTA:			4.60

1986

The Meadowlands • August 2, 1986 • Purse \$1,172,082

Nuclear Kosmos: Imported Driver Guides Hambo Winner

Trainer Per Henriksen was taking no chances with Nuclear Kosmos in the 61st Hambletonian. He wanted one of the best to handle his colt, so he sent all the way to Norway for four-time world champion Ulf Thoresen.

Henriksen, who was Kosmos' regular driver and also a native of Norway, had been friends with Thoresen for 25 years. Thoresen had never before driven in, or even seen, a Hambletonian.

Enough three-year-olds were entered to warrant two divisions of the first heat. In the first division, Royal Prestige scored by two lengths over the filly Britelite Lobell and Nevele Typhoon. In the second, Thoresen sent Nuclear Kosmos for the lead from the nine hole, dropped back to third at the top of

the stretch, then wore down the leaders to win by a length over Buck Newton in 1:55⁴. Express Ride, the prerace favorite, tired badly in the stretch.

In the second heat, Kosmos again was sent to the lead and had to turn back longshot Speedy Tomali early. Britelite Lobell took up the challenge at the top of the stretch and Royal Prestige, the 4-5 favorite, shook loose a sixteenth out. He was closing on Nuclear Kosmos at the finish, but Kosmos gamely held on, Britelite Lobell was third.

The 40-year-old Thoresen, who had won major races all over Europe, called the Hambo victory the biggest thrill of his life.



- First Hambletonian won by a European-based driver. Though trainer Per Henriksen usually drove Nuclear Kosmos, he asked a fellow Norwegian, his long-time friend Ulf Thoresen to come drive for him. Thoresen, a four-time World Driving Champion, never had been in, or even seen a Hambletonian before. Thoresen's smart drive got him a Hambletonian victory, which he called the biggest thrill of his life.
- Royal Prestige was the favorite in the first heat elimination (with his stablemate Farm King), and the sole favorite in the final. Nuclear Kosmos had the second highest mutual odds of any horse winning the final of the Hambletonian (7-2 or \$3.50 on the dollar); he was \$5.50 on the dollar in winning his first elimination heat (the entry of Express Ride and Everglade Hanover was the public's choice.) Only The Intruder at about 9-2 or \$4.45 dollar odds in 1956 final was higher.

- Nuclear Kosmos had a fourth generation Hambletonian winner pedigree. He was the first horse to be sired by a Hambletonian winner (Speedy Somolli) that was the son and grandson of Hambletonian winners (Speedy Crown and Speedy Scot). Before being exported Speedy Somolli also produced Park Avenue Joe (1989 deadheat) and Alf Palema (1992), who were both also exported.
- Bred by Gestion Belvedere (the estate of Jean Claude Caron et al) of Quebec, Nuclear Kosmos was the first winner credited to a Canadian breeder.

NUCLEAR KOSMOS, b c, by Speedy Somolli—Nevele Swizzle, by Nevele Pride
Driver: Ulf Thoresen Trainer: Per Henriksen
Owner: Lilla Henriksen, NJ; Geo. & Gary Hoffman, NJ; Stephen Sullivan, CT
Breeder: Gestion Belvedere (Estate of Jean Claude Caron et al), Que.
Groom: Marit Haugen
Sale History: \$24,000 yearling at the Kentucky Standardbred Sale. . . x 1 1

ROYAL PRESTIGE, Speedy Crown—Rosemary, by Nevele Pride
Driver: Berndt Lindstedt Trainer: Hakan Wallner
Owner: Workaholics Too Stable . . . 1 x 2

BRITELITE LOBELL, Speedy Crown—Barb Hanover, by Hickory Smoke
Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
Owner: Irving Liverman and James W. Masterson . . . 2 x 3

BUCK NEWTON, Florida Pro—Dame Cassin, by Super Bowl
Driver: Norton Shoemaker Trainer: James Simpson
Owner: Charlotte N. Sheppard . . . x 2 10

DANCE MARATHON, Speedy Crown—Crystana Hanover, by Star's Pride
Driver: Jan Nordin Trainer: Soren Nordin
Owner: Gina Biasuzzi Stable, Inc. . . . x 3 4

Also competed: Express Ride x-5-5, Everglade Hanover x-4-6, Nevele Typhoon 3-x-7, Shack 5-x-8, Speedy Tomali 4-x-9; Mr Novak, 6-x-ro; Straight Stud, x-6-ro; Traveling Salesman, 7-x-ro; Green Dragon, x-7-ro; Gunslinger Spur, 8-x-ro; Elgin Almahurst, x-8-ro; Gandhi Lobell, x-9-ro; Armbr Eldorado, x-9-ro; Barbeque, x-10-ro; Long Legend, 10-x-ro; On The Take, x-11-ro; Pamelas Pride, 11-x-ro; Shane Scottseth, x-12-ro; Farm King, 12-x-ro; Shannon Bright, x-13-ro.S

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Heat	:28 ²	:56 ²	1:25 ³	1:55 ²
1st Heat, 2nd. Div.	:28 ²	:56 ⁴	1:25 ⁴	1:55 ⁴
Final	:28 ²	:56 ¹	1:26 ⁴	1:56 ¹



PAYOFFS

FIRST HEAT, FIRST ELIMINATION

Royal Prestige	5.00	3.20	2.80
Britelite Lobell		5.00	3.60
Nevele Typhoon			3.60
EXACTA:			35.00

FIRST HEAT, SECOND ELIMINATION

Nuclear Kosmos	13.00	8.80	6.00
Buck Newton		17.00	10.80
Dance Marathon			14.60
EXACTA:			125.00

FINAL HEAT

Nuclear Kosmos	9.00	3.60	3.20
Royal Prestige		3.00	2.60
Britelite Lobell			3.20
EXACTA:			22.00