

Talent Soup

Brown Colt 3, by American Ideal – Tessa Hanover– Somebeachsomewhere



OWNERS: Charles & Julie Nash, Lexington, KY
BREEDER: Steve Stewart, Charles & Julie Nash, KY
SALE: \$65,000 Lexington Selected Sale
TRAINER: Bruce Saunders **DRIVER:** Eric Abbatiello

YEAR	STARTS	1ST	2ND	3RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2017	10	2	2	1	\$32,382	1:48.4M
2016	5	1	3	0	\$14,625	1:54.2F
LIFETIME	15	3	5	1	\$47,007	1:48.4M

- Talent Soup prepped for the Pace elimination with a 1:48.4 career best blowout at the Big M on July 1. He finished fifth from post two in the elimination and drew post ten, which is four for 40 [10%] in Pace Finals.
- Eric Abbitello knows Huntsville is the horse to beat but believes he can work out a trip and have a good final.
- Bruce Saunders was slightly disappointed in Talent Soup's elimination, "It wasn't the trip that I had hoped to get but was fearful that was going to happen. I don't think there is any 3 year old that can come 1st up and beat Huntsville when he is fresh. For the final there will be a couple other quality horses in there and hoping they will mix it up just a bit. The three year old pacing group is pretty simple, there are 3 outstanding horses and then there a bunch of really nice horses. I'm sure DownByTheSeaside and Huntsville are the horses to beat, for my horse and the other horses it's about the trip."
- He rebounded off a break in a Hempt elimination on June 24 with that impressive 1:48.4 mile at the Big M.
- Talent Soup began his sophomore season in the Weiss Series at Pocono Downs, won his second start of 2017 in 1:51.1 and finished fourth in that final.
- As a freshman in 2016, Talent Soup didn't qualify until September 13, and his lone win in five starts came at Pocono Downs in 1:54.2.
- Talent Soup was limited to a handful of races last year at age two because of sickness, but trainer Bruce Saunders saw enough of the colt to believe there was ability beyond the horse's name. Good looking, well gaited, quick and professional, Talent Soup checked all the boxes. "He's a beautiful horse," said Saunders. "He's very athletic looking and he's got a brilliant head. That's a good start. That's part of the reason we have him in the barn. He's very efficient with his gait. He usually does not get tired. He has a great capacity to take air and continue to go forward. He's got a will to win. He's a high energy colt, and

very, very athletic. He likes his job a lot and that makes our job easier. He's happy to be on the racetrack."

- Talent Soup, who was hampered by a bruised foot earlier this season, is eligible to a number of stakes including the Breeders Crown, Little Brown Jug and Matron. "I think he got enough experience last year," said Saunders. "He didn't go as fast as the good two-year-olds, but he got enough starts for us to evaluate his talent level. He went some nice miles. That impressed us enough to make some stakes payments for this year."
- Saunders has enjoyed a long, successful career, and he struck gold with his best horse to date, 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven, who finished second in the Meadowlands Pace, and went on to win the Little Brown Jug and Breeders Crown. The Rocknroll Hanover colt won 16 of 21 starts and \$2,156,192 in his award-winning season, and took a mark of 1:47.3 in a Meadowlands Pace elimination. The pacer propelled Saunders to a personal best \$4,118,950 campaign. Saunders has won more than 1,200 races and \$29 million and his stable earned more than \$1 million for 14 straight seasons from 2000 to 2013.
- Saunders, 73, ranks among the Big M's all-time leading trainers. Saunders did not follow the typical path to a career training horses. Raised in Farmingdale, New Jersey, Saunders spent two years in the army, including a year in Vietnam (1969). He became a stockbroker and from 1972 to 1976 was the Director of Economics for the State of Delaware. For one day, he was even the acting Governor of the State. Saunders earned a masters degree in finance from Temple University in 1980.
- Saunders has sent out two Pace finalists. He was second with the favorite and eventual Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven in 2010. He also finished third in 2007 with Artriverderci. His other top horses include Sweet Justice, Misfit, Casimir Camotion, Mandretti, Indiana Sam, Master Barney, Die Lute, Armbrro View, On The Way Again.
- New Jersey native Eric Abbatiello, 48, makes his Pace debut. His Hall of Fame father Carmine Abbatiello has an 0 for five record in the Pace. Eric has been a perennial leader at Freehold Raceway where he won his sixth driving title in 2016, and he has made his strongest inroads ever at the Big M this season. He has won over 2,100 races and \$14 million in purses.
- While he has strong parental roots in the sport via standardbred driving legend Carmine Abbatiello, Eric didn't go into the racing business right away. "My parents wanted me to get a college education, and I'm glad I did," Abbatiello said. After graduating, Abbatiello worked for an insurance company and eventually became a stock broker. "One day our company announced that they were starting a new service where you could pay \$9.99 a month and make unlimited trades. I looked around at my co-workers and said, 'What are they going to need us for?'" It was an amateur driving championship win in 1999 that vaulted Abbatiello into the "family" business. "I grew up around horses and I love being in the barns and working with horses," said Abbatiello. "I think that being the son of Carmine, some people thought that I'd have it easy. But it wasn't. I bought a couple of low level claiming horses and worked hard."
- Talent Soup's sire American Ideal finished fourth from post ten in the 2005 Meadowlands Pace. He sent out the 2014 Pace champion He's Watching, who set a record of 1:46.4. His

family includes stakes winners Took Hanover and Triple V Hanover, plus mare Trim Hanover, who is the dam of millionaires American Jewel and Luck Be Withyou. His fourth dam is multiple Dan Patch Award winner Three Diamonds, who is the dam of millionaire Life Sign.

- Charles and Julie Nash, and Steve Stewart, were the breeders of 2010 Horse of the Year Rock N Roll Heaven, who was trained by Saunders for owner Frank Belino.