The Meadowlands • August 3, 1985 • Purse $1,272,000

Prakas: O’Donnell Gets First Hambletonian Win

Hambletonian records were at the mercy of Prakas and Bill O’Donnell in 1985. They won the 60th edition of the race in straight heats at the Meadowlands, and stopped the clock in 1:54 1/2 in the second heat — snapping the record 1:55 for the fastest heat shared by Speedy Somolli and Florida Pro.

The first division was captured by Torway and Howard Beissinger in 1:55 2/5. Torway, a 37-1 shot, had only one win and raced mostly in New York Sire Stakes prior to the Hambletonian. The record crowd of 37,652 backed Mark Six, who had captured the Canadian Trotting Derby at Greenwood earlier in the year.

Prakas garnered the title of pre-race favorite by virtue of his six wins and three seconds in nine starts and his track records at Vernon Downs and the Meadowlands, both in 1:56.

When the gate left, Ben Webster and Flak Bait grabbed the lead with a :28.2 first quarter. O’Donnell then pulled Prakas from the two hole and carried the field through clockings of :57 2/5 and 1:26 4/5. In the stretch, O’Donnell waved his whip at the colt and Prakas opened up to win by three and a half lengths in 1:55 1/4.

In the final, Flak Bait was again the first to show, Piggvar dropped in second and Mark Six was parked to the quarter in :28 1/5. Prakas, after getting away fifth, challenged and took the lead past the half in :56 2/5 and the three-quarters in 1:25 2/5.

They turned for home and Prakas’ victory was sealed when Mark Six, the biggest threat, started to fade. A tired Prakas drifted out as he neared the wire, but had enough left in the tank to set the record in 1:54 1/4.

The purse of $1,272,000 was the richest ever for the Hambletonian, and Prakas took home $636,000 for owners Hans Enggren, Iain MacKenzie and Carl Vizzi. Enggren was the breeder of not only Prakas, but also Torway, whom he sold as a yearling for $32,000. Prakas was trained by Per Eriksson, who arrived from Sweden with the father-son team of Soren and Jan Nordin, but had recently struck out on his own.

- Co-owner Hans Enggren bred not only Prakas, but also Torway, the winner of the first elimination heat in 1:55 2/5, a track record for 3-year-olds.
- Prakas reclaimed the 3-year-old standard when he won his elim in 1:55 1/4, then set a new Hambletonian stake record of 1:54 1/4.
- 23-year-old Per Eriksson became the youngest trainer to win the Hambletonian.
- Prakas was voted the Trotter of the Year.
- The Hambletonian was simulcast for the first time.

PRAKAS, b c, by Speedy Crown—Prudy Hanover, by Star’s Pride
Driver: Bill O’Donnell Trainer: Per Eriksson
Owner: Hans G. Enggren, Iain L. Mackenzie, Carl J. Vizzi
Breeder: Hans G. Enggren, PA
Groom: Tina Eriksson
Sale History: Bid in at $47,000 as a yearling at the Kentucky Standardbred Sale in Lexington, KY., and then sold privately to partners. . . . 1 1

TORWAY, Speedy Crown-Tori Hanover, by Star’s Pride
Driver: Howard Beissinger Trainer: Howard Beissinger
Owner: R. Mumma, Arden Homestead Stable and A. Beissinger . . . 1 5

RON B. HANOVER, Super Bowl—Really Noble, by Noble Victory
Driver: Jan Nordin Trainer: Soren Nordin
Owner: Simon Bonnier and Bjorn Nordstrand . . . 3 2

FLAK BAIT, Speedy Somolli—Whims and Wishes, by Noble Victory
Driver: Ben Webster Trainer: Mark Webster
Owner: Barbara A. Ustin and Ben F. Webster . . . 4

MARK SIX, Speedy Scot—Franella Hanover, by Star’s Pride
Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Soren Nordin
Owner: Iain L. MacKenzie and Carl J. Vizzi (Lessees). . . . 8

Also competed: Piggvar x-5-3, Workaholic 3-x-7, Somolli Star x-4-6, Master Willie 4-x-10, Nearly Perfect 5-x-9, JRS Chip, 6-x-10; Megatrend, x-6-x-10; Hats of Waverly, 7-x-10; Angels Line, x-7-ro; Collectors Work, 8-x-ro; Another Miracle, x-8-ro; Bon Sport, 9-x-ro.

TIME BY QUARTERS: 1/4 1/2 3/4 MILE
1st Heat :28 1/2 :57 1/5 1:26 1 1:55 1/2
2nd Heat :28 1/2 :57 1/3 1:26 1 1:55 1/2
Final :28 1/2 :56 4/5 1:25 1 1:54 3/4

PAYOFFS
FIRST HEAT, FIRST ELIMINATION Torway 76.40 12.40 6.80 Mark Six 2.80 2.60 2.40 Workaholic 4.20 EXACTA: 232.60
FIRST HEAT, SECOND ELIMINATION Prakas 2.40 2.10 2.10 Flak Bait 3.20 2.10 Ron B Hanover 2.10 EXACTA: 17.60
FINAL HEAT Prakas 2.60 2.10 2.10 Ron B Hanover 4.80 2.10 Piggvar 2.10 EXACTA: 14.00