

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.
- 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.

- 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.

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

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

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



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