

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 dis-

appoint 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				FIRST HEAT, SECOND ELIMINATION				FINAL HEAT			
Mack Lobell	2.20	2.20	2.10	Napoletano	5.00	3.80	2.60	Mack Lobell	2.20	2.10	2.10
Spotlite Lobell		4.80	2.10	Cotton Hanover		28.40	5.60	Napoletano		2.40	2.10
Beseiged			2.10	Waikiki Beach			3.40	Spotlite Lobell			2.10
EXACTA:			14.20	EXACTA:			185.20	EXACTA:			4.60