

Glidemaster Weathers Storm, Then Sails to Hambletonian Glory

Glidemaster's Hambletonian victory sparked a sweep of trotting's Triple Crown, a single season earnings record of \$1.9 million and the title Horse of the Year.

But it was not all smooth sailing for Glidemaster in the Hambletonian. Just days before the eliminations, the colt injured the soft tissue of his foot when he stepped on a nail. Trainer Blair Burgess and his wife, Karin Olsson-Burgess, the colt's caretaker and co-owner, feared their Hambletonian hopes had been crushed by a tiny piece of wayward metal. All they could do was patiently wait for the injury to heal.

By the morning of the eliminations, Blair saw enough of an improvement in Glidemaster's foot to send him onto the racetrack. In his elimination, John Campbell sent Glidemaster first up and he took control of the lead around the final turn, but was out trotted in the stretch by the undefeated Mr Pine Chip.

"He didn't have the kind of week you want to have going into the eliminations for the Hambletonian, but that's horse racing and things don't always go one-two-three-four," Blair said after the elim. "We took it as it came and we were sad about it."

Minutes after his second-place finish, Glidemaster stood in the Meadowlands paddock, his foot resting in a bucket full of water as Karin and Blair tended to him. They had leaped over the first hurdle.

Recognizing the tough week the colt had, Campbell was pleased with his effort, but acknowledged that the colt was not 100 percent and that his trainer was going to be under pressure to have him better for the final. Trainer Blair Burgess was in familiar territory as the underdog in the Hambletonian. He won his Hambletonian debut in 2003 with 27-1 shot Amigo Hall, the longest priced winner in the race's history. Glidemaster's foot continued to heal during the week and by race day, Blair knew he was sending out a horse on the top of his game.

Campbell worked out a third-over trip in the final, following 4-5

favorite Mr Pine Chip into the final turn. He tipped Glidemaster three-wide for the stretch drive and the colt soared to a 1:51.1 stakes record, supplanting the mark of 1:51.3 set by Self Possessed in 1999.

"I was third over," Campbell said after the race. "Ideally, you'd like to be second over, but he was close enough and when they bunched up around the last turn, he was full of trot and I knew he was going to pass somebody when I asked him because he was really full of himself at the head of the stretch. When I saw the half at 54.3, I thought that that was a good enough clip that if my horse delivered what I thought he could do, that he'd be tough to beat.

"It's just amazing what he went through," he added. "They weren't sure if he was going to be able to race last week. They had him at the top of his game. That's really difficult to do. Besides the soreness and the stress factor, to get a horse back at this level and set a track record, all the credit goes to Karin and Blair."

Hall of Famer Campbell picked up an unprecedented sixth victory in the Hambletonian. No other driver had won more than four. Ironically, Campbell had qualified Amigo Hall for the 2003 Hambletonian for Burgess, but opted to drive the favorite, Power To Charm instead.

One champion recognized another when boxing legend George Foreman presented the trophy for the Hambletonian.

"John's a Hall of Famer; everybody is talking about him," Foreman said. "His future is certain as far as being one of those guys you're going to talk about after his racing days over. I told him before the race, 'Go do it, Hall of Famer!'"



- Just days before the Hambletonian eliminations, Glidemaster pulled a horseshoe loose in the stall, then stepped on a nail which punctured the outer rim of his hoof. Round-the-clock care administered by his caretaker and co-owner Karin Olsson-Burgess delivered a horse sound enough to race in the eliminations. Glidemaster finished second to Mr. Pine Chip in their elim, and was even stronger by the final.
- Trainer Blair Burgess deserves enormous credit for bringing a mannered and manageable trotter back to the races at three, a real challenge after the colt, as a two-year-old had shown aggressive tendencies, even running away with his driver at one point in a stakes race in Lexington after a gate mishap. The Burgess family operation spent a lot of time channeling the colt's energy in the right direction and he returned a real contender at three.
- The Glidemaster ownership is similar to a cell phone calling plan in that it is a friends-and-family network. Blair Burgess bought Glidemaster as a yearling for \$10,000 on the opening night of the 2004 Tattersalls sale, and raced him as a two-year-old for an ownership that included his father, Bob, his wife Karin, and friend Marsha Cohen, who had gone partners with the Burgesses for several years on assorted horses. In September of 2005 after Glidemaster had won three of four freshman starts, an interest in the horse was sold to his breeder, George Segal's Brittany Farms for several years on assorted horses.
- It was Marsha Cohen's first start and first win in the Hambletonian. Brittany Farms picked up their second owners trophy as Segal was part of the Self Possessed Stable in 1999. Karin and her father-in-law Bob, were co-owners on their only other Hambletonian entrant 2004 winner Amigo Hall, in partnership with Walnut Hall Ltd.
- Glidemaster was only the fifth Canadian-owned horse to win the Hambletonian in 83 years, and the Burgess's account for two of the last three since 1998, with Yankee Paco being the third.
- Glidemaster gave Brittany Farms a third breeders credit. The Versailles, Kentucky, nursery also turned out 1996 winner Continental Victory (1:52.1) and 1999 victor Self Possessed (1:51.3). Brittany-breds have owned the stake record in the Hambletonian for a decade. Glidemaster lowered the standard to 1:51.1. It would remain the fastest mile of his racing career.
- Brittany Farms became the first breeder to produce a Hambletonian (Glidemaster) and Oaks (Passionate Glide) winner in the same year; George Segal also owned both trotters. Segal had a phenomenal year by any yardstick, with big wins on both the trotting and pacing side. Horses he owned in whole or in part racked up more than \$5 million in purses for the year.
- The 2006 Hambletonian was Blair Burgess's fourth \$1 million victory. He was favored in none of the events he won previously: the 1987 Meadowlands Pace (Frugal Gourmet); 2001 Meadowlands Pace (Real Desire); 2003 Hambletonian (Amigo Hall).
- Burgess is one of five trainers (Chuck Sylvester, Steve Elliott, Ray Remmen and W. R. Haughton) to win both the Hambletonian and the Meadowlands Pace in their career. Both Burgess and Haughton have won the classic races twice each.
- Glidemaster was trainer Blair Burgess' second entrant in the Hambletonian. His first, Amigo Hall, was the longest-priced winner in history, going off at 27-1. Burgess has twice played spoiler to trainer Trond Smedshammer's Hambletonian hopes. In 2003 it was Smedshammer's heavily favored Power To Charm who fell to the

Glidemaster

GLIDEMASTER, br c, by Yankee Glide-Cressida Hanover, by Mr. Lavec
 Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Blair Burgess
 Owners: Robert Burgess, Karin-Olsson Burgess, Marsha Cohen and Brittany Farms
 Breeder: Brittany Farms of Ky
 Groom: Karin Olsson-Burgess
 Sale History: \$10,000 at Tattersalls (Brittany Farms bought back into the colt in September of 2005) . . . 2 x 1

Driver: George Brennan Trainer: Trond Smedshammer
 Owner: Einari Karl Vidgren
 Breeder: Perretti Farms of NJ . . . 3 x 3

GLOBAL GLIDE, b c, by Yankee Glide-Wishes Fulfilled, by Super Bowl
 Driver: Ron Pierce Trainer: Jimmy Takter
 Owners: Christina Takter and John Fielding
 Breeder: Brittany Farms of Ky . . . 4 x 4

CHOCOLATIER, br c, by Credit Winner-Maple Frosting, by Valley Victory
 Driver: Doug R. Ackerman Trainer: Doug Ackerman
 Owners: Doug Ackerman Stables, Southwind Farm & Lindy Farms of CT
 Breeder: Valley High Stable . . . x 2 2

ALGIERS HALL, b c, by Conway Hall-American Wish, by American Winner
 Driver: John Stark Jr. Trainer: John Stark Jr.
 Owners: Ed & David Smith, John Stark, Jr. and Tom McTygue
 Breeder: Walnut Hall Limited . . . 5 x 5

BLUE MAC LAD, b c, by Muscles Yankee-Vernon Blue Chip, by Sir Taurus

| TIME BY QUARTERS: | 1/4 | 1/2 | 3/4 | MILE | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1st Elimination | | :28 ³ | :57 | 1:25 ⁴ | 1:53 ⁴ |
| 2nd Elimination | | :27 ¹ | :55 | 1:23 ³ | 1:52 |
| Final | | :26 ⁴ | :54 ³ | 1:23 ³ | 1:51 ¹ |

| PAYOFFS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|--------------------|-------|------|------|--------------|-------|------|------|
| FIRST ELIMINATION | | | | SECOND ELIMINATION | | | | FINAL | | | |
| Mr. Pine Chip | 2.80 | 2.20 | 2.10 | Here Comes Herbie | 6.000 | 2.40 | 2.20 | Glidemaster | 14.00 | 6.40 | 3.20 |
| Glidemaster | | 2.60 | 2.10 | Chocolatier | | 2.60 | 2.20 | Chocolatier | | 6.40 | 4.20 |
| Blue Mac Lad | | | 2.10 | Berto Primo | | | 3.20 | Blue Mac Lad | | | 4.80 |

Burgess-trained Amigo Hall. Though Smedshammer won in 2004 with Windsong's Legacy, his three horse uncoupled entry in the Hambo, with Mr. Pine Chip the overwhelming favorite, finished third, sixth and tenth respectively. The same trio had finished 1-2-3 in the Stanley Dancer Memorial, the final prep to the Hambo.

- John Campbell, at the age of 51, won his sixth Hambletonian trophy, the most of any driver in the history of the event. It was his 22nd victory in a million-dollar race. No other driver comes close to that number. His record setting fifth Hambletonian was in 1998 with Muscles Yankee. On Hambo day, more than \$3.8 million was distributed. John Campbell accounted for nearly one-quarter of all the purse money offered that day.
- Campbell suffered a near career-ending injury in 2003 and was not back in the sulky full time till 2005. His numbers that year were not inspiring, but in 2006 he silenced all questions about his driving abilities. Ironically, another driving accident in October would sideline him for several months.
- Year-end awards were showered on this group by the US Harness Writers. Glidemaster was voted HTA Nova three-year-old trotter of the year, Dan Patch 3-year-old trotter, Trotter of the Year and Horse of the Year. John Campbell was voted Driver of the Year, and George Segal was voted Norman Woolworth Owner of the Year. Dam Cressida Hanover won Trotting Broodmare of the Year.
- Glidemaster's sire, Yankee Glide, picked up his first Hambletonian credit. The son of Valley Victory won one of three Hambletonian eliminations in 1997 but broke stride in the final and finished tenth in the event won by Malabar Man.
- Yankee Glide also sired the Oaks winner, Passionate Glide. All told Yankee Glide offspring earned \$1,365,000 on the day. Only three other times has the same sire claimed the winners of both races: Andover Hall in 2007 with Donato Hanover and Danae, Speedy Somolli in 1992 with Alf Palema and Worldly Woman; and Super Bowl in 1991 with Giant Victory and Jean Bi.
- The Meadowlands has been home to the Hambletonian for 26 straight years, matching Goshen's record of the longest any track has hosted the classic race. Prior to 1981, the Hambletonian was held at DuQuoin for 24 years.

- The attendance of 29,531 was a meet-high record. The world-wide handle on the day was more than \$8 million for the 15-race program, third highest all-time.
- The 2005 Dan Patch champion, Chocolatier, finished second, from post 10.
- Cressida Hanover, the dam of Glidemaster was a \$13,000 purchase by Ron Gurfein for George Segal, but the daughter of Mr. Lavec -Cristi Hanover raced just nine times in her life for a pedestrian \$936 in earnings. In fact, the first four dams on his maternal side earned a grand total of \$1,048! Glidemaster was her first foal. Despite her ignominious beginnings, Cressida Hanover was voted Trotting Broodmare of the Year by the US Harness Writers.
- Campbell drove Glidemaster to victory in his Breeders Crown elimination and then suffered a broken leg in an horrific accident four races later. Glidemaster, driven by George Brennan, lost the Breeders Crown to Majestic Son.
- Glidemaster would get his Crown a month later at Yonkers when Glidemaster became just the eighth trotter in history to capture Trotting's Triple Crown of the Hambletonian, Kentucky Futurity and Yonkers Trot.
- He was the first trotter since 1972 to win the Triple Crown over the traditional format of two mile tracks and a half mile oval of Yonkers. Windsong's Legacy's Triple Crown included the replacement of Hawthorne, IL, mile track while Yonkers was closed for renovations.
- Glidemaster surpassed Windsong's Legacy's 2004 single season money-earnings mark of \$1,713,806, ending his year with \$1,918,701, the largest amount ever won by a trotter in a single North American campaign. He was never worse than second, winning eight of 15 starts and placing second behind the only trotter to consistently beat him Majestic Son, who took top honors in Canada as O'Brien Horse of the Year.
- He was retired at the close of his sophomore campaign to stand at Walnridge Farm of Pennsylvania.