

## Marion Marauder Measures It

With files by Gordon Waterstone & Kathy Parker of the Horseman and Fair World.

As Jean Wellwood stood in the new Meadowlands winner's circle on a hot and sultry Saturday afternoon, basking in the glory of Marion Marauder's victory in the \$1 million Hambletonian final, she said she had immediate flashbacks to 1977 in Du Quoin, Ill., and the family's first Hambletonian starter, Sugarbowl Hanover.

Sugarbowl Hanover was driven by her late husband, William Wellwood, who died in 2003, two years after being inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. She also remembered William trying in vain three more times to win the trotting classic until his passing, including driving Day Care in the first-ever Hambletonian at the Meadowlands in 1981. The Wellwood family had five other starters through the years, most recently nine years ago in 2007 when Laddie gave them a third-place finish.

As the family's eighth starter, Marion Marauder, who is owned by Jean and her 19-year-old grandson, Devin Keeling, was able to fulfill three generations of Wellwood family dreams when he won this year's 91st renewal of the Hambletonian.

Marion Marauder captured his elimination for driver Scott Zeron in stunning come-from-behind fashion in 1:51.3 and then won the final by a nose over Southwind Frank and a neck over a late-closing Sutton in 1:51.4.

The three-way photo finish was the closest in the Hambletonian final since 2012 when Market Share edged Guccio and My MVP by a neck. Not including the historic 1989 dead heat between Park Avenue Joe and Probe, it was the eighth Hambletonian final decided by a nose and the first since Bonefish in 1975.

Marion Marauder is trained by Wellwood's daughter, Paula, and Paula's husband, Mike Keeling.

"When he won the Goodtimes and then the Stanley Dancer, neither race I was at because of some bad health," Jean Wellwood said in the winner's circle, wearing sunglasses not only to avoid the bright sunlight but also to hide eyes likely red from her tears of joy. "But I knew I had to be ready and have my health back for this. I think he would be pretty proud today," she added when asked what her late husband would say.

Paula Wellwood echoed her mother's sentiments about the significance of Marion Marauder's victory.

"It means the world, especially when you train trotters," she answered when asked about having the Wellwood name etched on the Hambletonian trophy. "I'm sure (my father) was rooting on for that last push."

Despite having a resume that included the Goodtimes and Dancer, Marion Marauder came into the Hambletonian playing second fiddle to Southwind Frank, the reigning divisional champ who had five wins in six starts this year, including a Dancer division and the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial. The two trotters met five times last year, with Southwind Frank coming out on top every time.

Marion Marauder and Southwind Frank drew into separate Dancer divisions last month and both came out victorious. That set the stage for a first-time-in-2016 showdown in the Hambletonian, which came in the second of two eliminations to whittle the 18 starters down to a final field of 10.

Bar Hopping, driven by Tim Tetrick for trainer Jimmy Takter, won the first Hambo elim on Saturday in 1:51.4, taking the lead past the opening quarter and cruising to a 5 ¼-length decision. While Southwind Frank was gunned to the early lead in the second elim by driver Yannick Gingras, he was unable to fend off the late rally by Marion Marauder, who overcame a six-length gap in the final turn to rush by and score by a half-length.

"The trip was way more adventurous than you would think," Zeron said. "It looks like I pulled past the half but I pulled at the quarter pole. I knew I would get Andy to come (with Sutton) but I didn't expect Timmy to come (with Jimmy William). So I hit another roadblock and ended

up third-over, and it wasn't great flowing either. When I moved at the quarter I was slowed up, and when I moved in the last turn I was slowed up. Frank got the jump on me and he was gone. I moved over three wide and when my horse moved with enough momentum, I thought that maybe there was a chance I could catch him. If Frank stayed at his high speed I wouldn't have had the opportunity to catch him. But as I got closer and closer down the lane I was ready to pull the plugs and take a run at him."

While Devin was in the grandstand with some friends, Paula, Mike and Jean watched the elim from the paddock. Paula said her attempt was nearly all in vain.

"The first one, I didn't hardly know where he was," she said. "The TV (in the paddock) went off as they were going behind the gate so I went to watch it on the tarmac. But I still couldn't see him. So I ran back in and saw Mike (Keeling) standing at the TV and I said, 'Where is he? What's happening?'"

The two elimination winners drew for posts one through five, and Bar Hopping drew the three and Marion Marauder the five. In the open draw among the others, Southwind Frank drew post one, and that gave Zeron reason to pause.

"I just rolled my eyes as it didn't matter that I won the elimination as Frank got the rail," Zeron said with a laugh.

In the final, Zeron got away fifth with Marion Marauder as some early give and take led to Southwind Frank and then Bar Hopping securing the lead. Zeron tipped Marion Marauder first-over past the half and charged toward the front, coming up alongside Bar Hopping turning for home.

"I didn't know if my horse was going to be as strong the second heat as he was in the first, but it turned out he was stronger, said Zeron. "When I was coming first-up he was grabbing on, and he rarely grabs on. He wanted to mow them down. It was only a matter of when I was going to turn my horse loose."

When Southwind Frank got rough gaited in the pocket, it appeared Marion Marauder was home free. But when Gingras was able to gather Southwind Frank and then find room along the inside, there was a frantic rush to the wire.

"I knew Frank got rough in the last turn but I didn't think he was done," said Zeron, who at age 27 is the second youngest driver to win the trotting classic.

"All the way down the lane I thought that this was my race to lose. I thought I had the race and I felt like I had the lead the whole way down the lane. "I was a little farther out and (Marion Marauder) could barely see Frank, but he could see him enough that he put his nose out there. I knew Frank got rough in the last turn but I didn't think he was done," said Zeron.

"When we crossed the wire, Yannick looked over and said congratulations," Zeron remembered. "At the same time, we were on CBS and I didn't want to start going nuts and we lose the race. It was great to hear the roar when the photo came up."

With his two victories and his \$535,000 take on the day, Marion Marauder increased his 2016 earnings to \$729,905 and became a new millionaire with a career total of \$1,011,891.

While Gingras gave credit to Marion Marauder, he stated the obvious that Southwind Frank didn't appear to be at top form, especially since he showed signs of making a break. In fact, Southwind Frank went on a gallop just a couple strides past the wire in the final.

Gingras said he recommended and trainer Ron Burke went along with a change from an open bridle to blind bridle minus blinkers for the elimination. Burke then went back to an open bridle for the final.

"In the first heat he was a little too keyed up and in retrospect -- maybe the bridle change," offered Gingras. "I suggested it, but maybe it wasn't the right call. The second heat he wasn't really right. He's never been bad gaited in his life and he was really bad gaited."

Sutton rallied for third, beaten just a neck, and driver Andy Miller

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was thrilled. "I just ran out of time," said Miller. "If he shakes loose a little quicker he might have got there, but I was tickled to death with a good check. But getting that close, I would rather have won it all."

Waitlifter K, trained by Andrew Harris and driven by Matt Kakaley was third in his elim at 70-1 and picked up the fourth place check worth \$80,400 for his efforts. Bar Hopping, the race favorite at ten cents on the dollar finished fifth for Jimmy Takter and driver Tim Tetrick.

Zeron, who won his first Hambletonian in his first-ever drive, perhaps summed up Marion Marauder's victory best by saying, "Everything felt like the stars were aligning. The way they picked this horse. The way he started developing all year this year coming into this race. During the Hambo draw, I felt that this was my time. I just felt that this was right and I was going to get the job done."

Though the Hambletonian victory was the apex, Zeron had a day for the ages, upsetting the heralded trio of Always B Miki, Wiggle It Jiggle It and Freaky Feet Pete in the U.S. Pacing Championship with Shamballa, a pacer trained and co-owned by his trainer-driver dad, Rick. He then swept his elim and the Hambletonian final on his first-ever try, a victory many more seasoned drivers still cannot claim, and as a finale Zeron wrapped up the leading drivers title at the Meadowlands. He is the youngest driver ever to top the Meadowlands leaderboard, scoring 82 wins, a dozen more than runner-up Tim Tetrick.

In the distaff division of the Hambletonian, the Oaks, it was déjà vu all over again as a filly trained by Jimmy Takter and driven by Yannick Gingras picked up the E. T. Gerry Sr. Memorial Oaks trophy for the third straight year.

Gingras rallied in the stretch with All The Time in 1:52.1 to win by 3/4 lengths over Caprice Hill to capture the 91st edition of the \$500,000 companion race for 3-year-old fillies. Gingras won his third straight Oaks, as did Takter, who now has six victories overall in the Hambletonian's sister event. It's a record he shares with Jan Johnson of Continental Farms.

"I was hoping to follow Brian Sears (with Windowshopper), I thought his filly was one of the fillies to beat, and they had a little bobble on the backstretch," said Gingras. "She felt so strong and she was able to catch the gap really quickly. I was just hoping not to be first up around the last turn. I figured John (Campbell) would come (with Celebrity Eventsy) and when he did it, it made my job really easy."

The 2-year-old Breeders Crown champion from last year paid \$9.20, 4.40 and 3.00. Caprice Hill, the 5-2 favorite with Tim Tetrick aboard, finished second, paying \$4.40 and 3.00, and Celebrity Eventsy, driven by John Campbell and the fifth choice at 5-1, rounded out the top three, paying \$3.60 for show.

"She was really sharp today. She had a good week and the timing had to be perfect. I know I had a ticket that was very strong with a couple of good fillies. We pulled the front shoes on her, which I think might have kicked her up a little bit. It was the first time she ever did that," said Takter. "There were three horses in the race that I had tremendous respect for. We were the lucky ones."

Tetrick had Caprice Hill on the lead at the top of the stretch, but Gingras had another gear and was able to cruise to the finish line as All The Time improved to 11-for-19 on the year-time, snapping a two-race losing streak.

All The Time lost most of her mid-season to a life threatening bout of colic that occurred just the day after the Oaks. Given just a 50% chance at survival, instead the daughter of Muscle Hill – Cantab It All recovered, rallied and returned to the races in the fall, ending her racing career with just shy of \$1 million earned over two years. The illness did cost her a Dan Patch championship, as Broadway Donna won the Breeders Crown and Kentucky Filly Futurity to gain the edge in year-end voting.

Bred and owned by Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld, All The Time's precocious full sister Ariana G turned heads on Hambletonian day, winning the \$306,500 Jim Doherty Memorial for freshman filly trotters.

She would go on to be the dominant filly in the class of 2017 to date.

For the second straight year, The Meadowlands hosted the first leg of both Triple Crowns: the Hambletonian which leads the Trotting trifecta and is followed by the Yonkers Trot and the Kentucky Futurity, and the initial Pacing Triple Crown event, the Cane Pace, which is followed by the Messenger and the Little Brown Jug. They are also the only track to host two Triple Crown events on the same day.

The Hambletonian was featured on a 90 minute live broadcast on CBS Sports Network. Attendance on the day was 20,122, and total handle was \$6,975,124.

**MARION MARAUDER**, bay colt, 3, by Muscle Hill-Spellbound Hanover by Donerail  
Driver: Scott Zeron  
Trainer: Paula Wellwood  
Owners: Marion Jean Wellwood, Devin Keeling  
Breeder: William Mulligan

**SOUTHWIND FRANK**, bay colt 3, by Muscle Hill-Flawless Lindy by Cantab Hall  
Driver: Yannick Gingras  
Trainer: Ron Burke  
Owners: Southwind Frank Partners, Burke Racing Stable [Ron & Sylvia Burke], Mark Weaver, Mike Brusceci, Sylvia Burke, Diamond Creek Racing [Adam Bowden, Chris Bowden], Jerry & Theresa Silva, Our Horse Cents Stables [Marcia Gingold, Gene Kurzrok, Scott Kurzrok, Stephen Springer, Richard Taylor]  
Breeder: Southwind Farm

**SUTTON**, bay colt, 3, by Donato Hanover-I Wanted Wings by Muscles Yankee  
Driver: Andy Miller  
Trainer: Julie Miller  
Owners: Andy Miller Stable, Jason & Douglas Allen  
Breeder: Let It Ride Stables, J&T Silva Stables

TIME BY QUARTERS	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1ST ELIMINATION	:27.2	:55.4	1:24.0	1:51.4
2ND ELIMINATION	:26.4	:55.1	1:23.2	1:51.3
FINAL	:28.2	:56.0	1:24.2	1:51.4

FIRST ELIMINATION	PAYOFFS			SECOND ELIMINATION			
BAR HOPPING	5.60	3.40	2.80	MARION MARAUDER	3.60	3.40	2.10
MILLIGAN'S SCHOOL	5.40	3.60		SOUTHWIND FRANK	38.60	11.20	
LAGERFELD		9.00		WAITLIFTER K		3.00	

FINAL PAYOFFS			
MARION MARAUDER	7.00	3.40	3.00
SOUTHWIND FRANK		3.80	3.00
SUTTON			6.60



## Marion Marauder



- Marion Marauder, bay colt, 3, by Muscle Hill – Spellbound Hanover by Donerail. Owned by Marion Jean Wellwood and Devin Keeling, of Stratford and Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. Bred by William Mulligan of New Hope, Pennsylvania.
- Hambletonian Day marked both the fastest and richest wins for 27-year-old driver Scott Zeron. He drove Marion Marauder to victory in the \$1 million Hambletonian the same day he piloted his father's pacer, Shamballa to a 1:47.1 upset in the U.S. Pacing Championship.
- Zeron is the eighth first-time driver to win the Hambletonian since it moved to the Meadowlands in 1981. The others are: Ray Remmen (1981), Ulf Thoresen (1986), Bill Fahy (1989), Jack Moiseyev (1991), Trevor Ritchie (2000), Stefan Melander (2001) and Eric Ledford (2002).
- 2009 Hambletonian winner Muscle Hill picked up his second Hambletonian sire credit (Marion Marauder - 2016, Trixton - 2014) joining Speedy Count, Speedster, Mr. McElwyn, and Ayres, as a Hambo winner who also sired a pair of Hambo winners.
- Muscle Hill sons won both Hambletonian elims, the Peter Haughton, the Jim Doherty, the Hambletonian Oaks, the John Cashman, went 1-2 in the Hambletonian final. The last time a stallion had this kind of day at The Meadowlands was in 2007 when Andover Hall's first crop was 1-2 in the Hambletonian (won by Donato Hanover with Adrian Chip second) and his daughter, Danae, won the Hambletonian Oaks.
- Hambo runner-up Southwind Frank won last year's Peter Haughton Memorial. He just missed joining only Donato Hanover (2007) and Muscle Hill (2009) as Peter Haughton winners to also win the Hambletonian. Southwind Frank was also the 2015 Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old male trotter.
- Marion Marauder was bred by William Mulligan, who owns his dam Spellbound Hanover and won the Merrie Annabelle (now the Jim Doherty Memorial) with her 16 years earlier over the same racetrack. "It's unbelievable," said Mulligan, 86. "I went to my first Hambletonian when I was six or seven years old at the kite track in Goshen with my father. I always wanted to have a horse in the Hambletonian, and to have this happen at this time, I'm just thrilled. I certainly would have liked to be there. I didn't miss any of Spellbound's races."
- Paula Wellwood and her husband, Mike Keeling, bought Marion Marauder, then named Marion Monopoly, for \$37,000 at the Lexington Select Yearling Sale in Kentucky.
- Paula's mother, Marion Jean, noticed the colt's name, pedigree, and the fact that he was born the same day as her grandson Devin. "I looked at the name, and he was born on Devin's birthday, and I loved the family because we had (his sister) Sooner Hanover."
- Devin Keeling he plays linebacker for the McMaster University Marauders, one of the top-ranked college football teams in Canada. Hence the name change.
- Marion Marauder was Spellbound Hanover's 11th foal and fifth colt. As she was a small filly, most of Spellbound's offspring have also been small and perhaps brought less than her bloodline might suggest.
- Spellbound Hanover won 11 of 15 starts as a 2 year old and finished her racing career after her 3-year-old season with earnings of \$962,395 and a mark of 1:54.3.
- In 1965, Mulligan bought his first farm, a 65-acre spread, in Danville, Pa., and named it after his late mother, Marion. Twenty years ago, at the end of his career of traveling the world as an executive with Ingersoll Rand, Mulligan bought his present farm in New Hope, Pa., where he lives with his wife, Eileen.
- Spellbound Hanover was sold this spring to Crawford Farms of New York, who also own her daughter, Marion Mardi Gras, by Cantab Hall, and a subsequent pair of colts by Muscle Hill.
- Though Southwind Frank got his revenge on Marion Marauder in their next match-up, the \$500,000 Colonial at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, winning by a half-length in 1:52.4, Marion Marauder would go on to win the two most important races of his life.
- First he swept the elimination and \$500,000 final of the Yonkers Trot, annexing the second leg of the Trotting Triple Crown. Though he won his elimination of the Canadian Trotting Classic, he was second in this final – this time to Bar Hopping. But the next race on the stakes calendar was one Marion Marauder was not eligible to: the third and final leg of the Trotting Triple Crown, the Kentucky Futurity.
- Though Team Wellwood claimed they had purposely not put the Futurity on their schedule, destiny definitely planned a trip to Lexington's famed Red Mile. After paying a supplemental fee of \$50,000. Marion Marauder marched into the history books with a heart-stopping head victory over arch-nemesis Southwind Frank, with Bar Hopping third to become just the ninth trotter in the history of harness racing to win the Triple Crown. He joined Windsong's Legacy (2004) and Glidemaster (2006) as the only trotters to do so since Super Bowl in 1972.
- Paula Wellwood became the very first female to train a Triple Crown winner of any gait. She followed her best friend Linda Toscano into the Hambletonian winner circle as the second women trainer of that classic event.
- After Lexington, Marion Marauder had only the Breeders Crown at the Meadowlands in October to contest. Another head loss in the elimination race to Sutton did not concern his connections, but Marion Marauder's finished a disturbing tenth in the Crown final, and veterinary attention revealed a respiratory sickness that put a stop to his racing career. Marion Marauder banked \$1.48 million toward a career total of \$1,766,518
- Soon after a stallion deal for Marion Marauder to stand in Ontario was announced, but with an overwhelmingly healthy racehorse on their hands and an anemic breeding market, the Wellwoods decided to return Marion Marauder to the races in 2017. He would become the first Hambletonian winner to also win the next year's Hambletonian Maturity for four-year-olds.
- Marion Marauder was voted Dan Patch Trotter of the Year and 3-year-old male Trotter of the Year; won the O'Brien award as Canada's top 3-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year; and was the Secretary of Agriculture's trophy winner as New Jersey Standardbred of the Year.