

The Meadowlands • August 3, 2019 • Purse \$1,000,000

Canada's Forbidden Trade upsets large Swedish contingent in 94th Hambletonian

Hambletonian Day was to be a day to unfurl Swedish flags at The Meadowlands.

Why not? Rising star Marcus Melander started the day with a powerhouse four-horse contingent locked and loaded, taking dead aim at the 3-year-old trotting classic.

But when the dust settled, it was our friendly neighbors to the north celebrating, as Forbidden Trade pulled a 15-1 upset.

Canada's champion 2-year-old showed the heart of a warrior to hold off 3-10 favorite Greenshoe by neck in a dramatic fight to the finish.

And it was the first Hambletonian victory for the Canadian trio of owner Serge Godin's Determination Stable, trainer Luc Blais and driver Bob McClure.

Coming in, McClure said "the sky was the limit" for his colt. Forbidden Trade backed up that confidence with the race of his life.

Forbidden Trade, third in his Hambletonian elimination, was always in contention throughout the mile. McClure and his colt tracked Green Manalishi S, an elimination winner and a member of the Melander brigade, into the stretch. Forbidden Trade took charge, but danger was looming with Greenshoe uncorking a menacing rally.

For an instant, it appeared Greenshoe would blow on by. McClure admitted he was headed, but Forbidden Trade was not done. After all, this was the day of the Maple Leaf.

"It was two incredible colts fighting it out," McClure said. "I don't think there was a loser in that, but we're really happy to get out on top."

It's also been a remarkable comeback for McClure, 28, who suffered a broken pelvis in a qualifier accident in April. He was back in action by May 23, using a hyperbaric chamber to hasten the recovery.

"I was really lucky to have a good physical trainer," McClure said. "I probably rushed it back a little faster than I should have. I'm sure most drivers in this business have done this a time or two."

Melander didn't get the victory, but his trio of qualifiers for the final raced well. Gimpanzee rallied from far back to get third and Green Manalishi S held on for the fifth and final purse check.

Greenshoe never looked comfortable behind the starting gate for the final as driver Brian Sears held him together to prevent a break. That put him further back than expected, a loss of ground that proved costly.

The time was 1:51 on a warm sunny afternoon as the threatened showers never materialized to spoil the day. Forbidden Trade paid \$33.80 to win.

It was the 12th win in 18 starts for the son of Kadabra. He was a \$110,000 purchase at the Harrisburg sale.

Earlier in the day, a determined Green Manalishi S pulled a 9-1 upset in the first Hambo elimination. He left strongly from post eight, briefly dropped into fourth before

ranging up first-over to wear down Osterc in a lifetime best 1:50.3.

Melander and Courant Inc. also won the second elimination. In a favorite's delight, it was with Greenshoe, the 1-5 favorite, in 1:50.2.

Green Manalishi S (\$20.60) outlasted a first-over grind to collar Osterc in 1:50.3 in the first \$70,000 Hambletonian elimination on Saturday (Aug. 3) at The Meadowlands, while fourth-place finisher Gimpanzee suffered defeat for the first time after winning the first 12 races of his career.

Now an eight-time winner, the son of Muscle Hill commenced his uncovered bid out of fourth just beyond a :54.4 half mile, advancing steadily on the far turn in line to Tim Tetrick to engage 30-1 long shot Osterc (Yannick Gingras) at the midpoint of the far turn. The pair dueled the length of the stretch, with Green Manalishi S just reaching in the final strides. Osterc was a game runner-up, while Soul Strong (Dexter Dunn) launched a belated rally down the grandstand side to finish third.

Gimpanzee (Brian Sears), sent off the 2-5 favorite, gapped third-over cover but finished evenly to save fourth, and Cantab Fashion (Scott Zeron) finished fifth.

Greenshoe (\$2.60) looked every bit the part of an odds-on favorite in the second Hambletonian elimination on Saturday (Aug. 3) at The Meadowlands, seizing command from Marseille with three-eighths to go and coasting to a handy 1:50.2 victory.

Greenshoe threw his head briefly at the start, but Brian Sears held him together before floating him into third behind Marseille (Ake Svanstedt) and Forbidden Trade (Bob McClure) on the first turn. After clearing from post eight in a :27.3 first quarter, Marseille rebuffed a pocket bid from Forbidden Trade en route to a :56 half before facing the first-over onslaught of Greenshoe on approach to the far turn.

With three-eighths to go, the son of Father Patrick surged to the fore and edged away willingly in the home straight to a wrapped-up two-length score, the seventh of his career.

Don't Let'em (Yannick Gingras) chased well after losing cover to protect second from Forbidden Trade, who switched three-wide from the pocket and accelerated in mid-stretch. Marseille finished fourth, and Pilot Discretion (Andy McCarthy) finished fifth to secure the final berth to the 94th Hambletonian, carded as race 12.

Marcus Melander, whose Green Manalishi S took the first Hambletonian elimination, trains Greenshoe for Courant Inc., Hans Backe, Lars Granqvist and Morten Langli.

Forbidden Trade

FORBIDDEN TRADE, brown colt, 3, by Kadabra-Pure Ivory by Striking Sahbra
 Driver: Bob McClure
 Trainer: Luc Blais
 Owners: Determination [Serge Godin]
 Breeder: Steve H Stewart

TIME BY QUARTERS	¼	½	¾	MILE
1ST ELIMINATION	:26.3	:54.4	1:23.0	1:50.3
2ND ELIMINATION	:27.3	:56.0	1:23.3	1:50.2
FINAL	:26.1	:55.0	1:23.2	1:51.0

GREENSHOE, bay colt 3, by Father Patrick-Designed To Be by Donato Hanover
 Driver: Brian Sears
 Trainer: Marcus Melander
 Owners: Courant Inc, Hans R Backe, Lars I Granqvist, Morten Langli
 Breeder: AL J Libfeld & Marvin Katz

FIRST ELIMINATION			SECOND ELIMINATION		
GREEN MANALISHI	22.60	10.00	5.60	GREENSHOE	2.60 2.10 2.10
OSTERC	22.20	9.40	4.00	DON'T LET'EM	2.80 2.60
SOUL STRONG				FORBIDDEN TRADE	3.80

GIMPANZEE, bay colt, 3, by Chapter Seven-Steamy Windows by Muscle Massive
 Driver: David Miller
 Trainer: Marcus Melander
 Owners: Courant Inc, SRF Stable
 Breeder: Order By Stable

Final Payouts

FORBIDDEN TRADE	17.00	6.40	5.40
GREENSHOE		3.00	2.40
GIMPANZEE			4.00



- Luc Blais, 57, started Jake in the 2017 Hambletonian; the horse finished sixth in his elimination and failed to advance to the final. Also in 2017, Blais' filly Dream Together finished third in the Hambletonian Oaks final.
- In 2018, Blais trained two O'Brien Award winners: 2-year-old male trotter Forbidden Trade and older female trotter Emoticon Hanover. Past stars included O'Brien Award winner Intimidate.
- Bob McClure, 28, won his Hambletonian debut but also the 2018 John R. Steele Memorial for female trotters with Dream Together, trained by Luc Blais, a year ago on Hambletonian Day.
- McClure likened his victory to the Toronto Raptors' recent NBA Championship victory, led by Kawhi Leonard. "I absolutely love the Raptors," said McClure. "The entire nation was so proud and I think even a lot of Americans were cheering for them, probably because we were the underdog and everybody loves an underdog." Six weeks later, as a rank outsider, McClure himself got the opportunity to embrace and capitalize on the underdog role.
- Determination, QC is Canadian Serge Godin, who founded CGI in 1976, when he was only 26 years old. Under his leadership, CGI has grown into a full-service IT and business process consulting company, employing more than 74,000 people worldwide. After having led CGI since its inception, Mr. Godin is now the Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- Godin has owned horses for many years and likely spent millions chasing this Holy Grail, but he wanted to heap praise on the rest of his carefully-crafted harness racing team led by trainer and fellow Quebecer Luc Blais and driver Bob McClure. "We selected the best horses and conformation and everything, then we have assembled a very strong team, the A team. We are very lucky," said Godin, a man not afraid to pay handsomely for yearling stock he truly covets. "The trainer is a fantastic guy and Bob McClure is really, really good so I'm really privileged to be surrounded by some really strong people."
- Greenshoe was also voted Dan Patch sophomore colt trotter of the year, though Forbidden Trade won the Canadian counterpart of divisional honors, his second straight O'Brien trophy.
- The Hambletonian Future wager proved to be an extreme value play for those following and cashing in on the race winner Forbidden Trade. The son of Kadabra captured the \$1 million event at The Meadowslands in dramatic style returning \$33.80 to win for those placing wagers close to post time.
- Adam's Bagel Café and Deli in River Vale debuted a Hambletonian Sandwich. No ham, but turkey and pastrami.
- Jimmy Takter's record of six straight Oaks victories (and driver Yannick Gingras' five straight wins piloting them) was snapped by the Allard brothers and a phenomenal filly named When Dovescry. The daughter of Muscle Hill – Cedar Dove was an easy two-length winner over Millies Possession in 1:50 2/5. Asiago finished third. When Dovescry paid \$6.60 to win and the victory launched her to Dan Patch divisional honors as well.
- The Peter Haughton "jinx" continues: In 2018, Don't Let'em and Green Manalishi S were 1-2 in the Peter Haughton. In the Hambletonian final, Don't Let'em made a break and finished last and Green Manalishi S was fifth. Only two horses have won both the Peter Haughton and the Hambletonian in 38 years: Donato Hanover 2006-2007 and Muscle Hill 2008-2009.
- Trainer Marcus Melander may not have won the Hambletonian, but he won the most money on the day with \$839,947.50 in purses. He scored in the Jim Doherty, both Hambletonian elims, was second, third and fifth in the Hambletonian final, fourth in the Hambletonian Oaks, fifth in the Cashman, fourth in a Hambletonian elim, and 2-3-4 in the Peter Haughton.
- Attendance on the day was 19,901 with more than \$7.3 million wagered, an increase of nearly 15 percent and consistently the most by any harness track in North America.
- Forbidden Trade was voted Horse of the Year in Canada at the O'Brien Awards, adding a second trophy to his shelf having won the O'Brien two-year-old title in 2018.

