



# NUMBER CRUNCHER

Bay Gelding 3, by Captain Crunch – CPA – Real Desire

**OWNERS:** Ervin Miller Stable, PA; Douglas S. Overhiser, FL; Greg Gillis, ON  
**BREEDER:** Willow Oak Ranch, TN  
**SALE:** Lexington-Selected \$72,000  
**TRAINER:** Erv Miller **DRIVER:** Jordan Stratton

YEAR	STARTS	1ST	2ND	3RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2024	8	2	0	1	\$22,022	1:50.3 Wbsb
2023	7	1	1	2	\$25,180	1:50.3 Lex
LIFETIME	15	3	1	3	\$47,202	1:50.3 Wbsb

- Drew the ten hole in the final and listed at 20-1 on the morning line.
- Trainer Miller, after the Pace elimination, “He raced good. He got in a little too much in the last turn; we thought he was actually going out in the qualifiers, so we changed his rigging a little bit. But he was going back in tonight going that fast. But he got home huge. We’ll see what happens.”
- Gelding finished fifth in his Pace elimination, race timed in 1:49.2, final quarter in :25.2.
- Came into the Meadowlands Pace off a fifth-place finish in his North America Cup elimination and a parked-out ninth place finish in the NA Cup consolation on June 15.
- Number Cruncher’s first win as a sophomore came at the Meadowlands in a three-year old open in 1:50.3 on May 10. His other win came at Woodbine Mohawk Park, also in 1:50.3 on June 1.
- His lone win as a two year old came at the Red Mile in a two-year-old non-winners race in 1:53. One of his third-place finishes was in an \$87,000 Bluegrass division, also at the Red Mile.
- This is Jordan Stratton’s fourth Pace starter. He finished eighth in 2023 with Voukefalas, fourth in 2020 with Manticore and fifth in 2016 with Thinkbig Dreambig.



- Stratton grew up in Ohio, where his family had a 30-acre farm. By the age of 14, Stratton was taking care of horses for his father on a full-time basis, including a future two-time Ohio Sire Stakes champion, pacer Noble Cam. “Me and my brother (Cory) have been jogging and training our whole lives,” Stratton said. “That was the only (career) track in life. As much as they say don’t follow in my footsteps, go to college, do something else, it’s hard when you get the harness racing bug early on.”
- In 2008, he became, at the age of 21, the youngest driver to win a driving title at Monticello. In 2009, still at the age of 21, he became the second driver in history to reach 1,000 wins prior to his 22nd birthday and received the Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.
- Stratton has won over 5,500 races and is closing in on \$100 million career earnings.
- Erv Miller, who is also co-owner, is looking for his first Meadowlands Pace win. In 2014, he sent out Jet Airway to a fifth place finish. Ideal Danny finished sixth in 2009, and Shark Gesture finished 5 in 2006.
- Erv Miller became just the third trainer in harness racing history to reach the \$100 million USD mark in career earnings when seven-year-old pacer Montana Chief won the \$18,000 Open 2 at Hoosier Park on Friday, November 11, 2023. Only two other trainers in the sport -- Ron Burke (\$293,971,241 USD) and Jimmy Takter (\$130,150,150 USD) -- have more earnings.
- In 2023, Miller celebrated another rare accomplishment surpassing 6,000 career wins -- a feat only achieved by three other trainers in the sport (Burke, Virgil Morgan Jr. and Richard Moreau). The Illinois native, who has campaigned the likes of Lis Mara, Loyal Opposition, Restive Hanover, Shark Gesture and Manofmanymissions, produced career-best numbers in 2007 when his stable earned more than \$7 million in purses and won 434 races.
- Erv on the gelding, “He’s just a big colt. As a 3-year-old, he’s getting better. At 2, he was so big and gangly, he couldn’t get it together. But this year, he’s starting to. He’s got a great attitude and does what he’s supposed to. He’s definitely not done developing. He’s a big, strong-gaited horse. Now we just have to draw right and have him as good as we can for next week.”
- Number Cruncher is from the first crop of Captain Crunch, who stands at Diamond Creek Farm in PA. Captain Crunch was a Dan Patch Award winner in 2018 after a two-year-old year that saw him victorious in both the Governor's Cup at The Meadowlands and



Breeders Crown at The Downs at Pocono. At 3, Captain Crunch won the Pepsi North American Cup and captured the Cane Pace at The Meadowlands. He also has Gem Quality in the Pace Final.

