

ROAD TO THE HAMBLETONIAN
Week Eight – Issued July 17, 2024

The 2024 Hambletonian is Saturday, August 3

Rank	Horse	Driver, Trainer, Owner	Ken Warkentin's Comments
1	Karl (Tactical landing)	Yannick Gingras, Nancy Takter, Christina & Nancy Takter, Black Horse Racing, Crawford Farms Racing, Bender Sweden Inc.	Dan Patch Award winner, \$1M freshman kicked off his 3YO season with a three-ply NJSS series sweep, despite 29 days off cruised to equal his lifetime mark of 1:51 in W.N. Reynolds, parked to the half from post eight & finished third (1:50.2) in a Dancer division
2	T C I (Cantab Hall)	Dave Miller, Ron Burke, Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services Inc., Weaver Brusceci	O'Brien Award winner won a 1:52.2 PASS division @ The Meadows, a PASS division in 1:53.3 @ Pocono Downs, romped to an easy 1:53.1 win over a "good" track in W.N. Reynolds division, broke/recovered to finish fourth in Zweig Memorial, finished a close third (1:51.2) in a Dancer division
3	Sig Sauer (Muscle Hill)	Andrew McCarthy, Noel Daley, Patricia Stable, Joe Sbrocco, Jaf Racing, Allister Stables, Caviart Farms	In just his second start of the season the NJSS & NJ Classic champion uncorked a 1:50 career best shocker @ 65-1 in a Dancer division, both McCarthy & Daley have won the Hambo
4	Situationship (Chapter Seven)	Ake Svanstedt, Knutsson Trotting Inc, Little E, Tomas Anderson	Won divisions of NYSS & EBC, both in a career best 1:52.1 @ Vernon Downs, a gallant second in Yonkers Trot Final, took charge past the half & held on for a new mark of 1:51.1 in a Dancer division
5	Highland Kismet (Father Patrick)	Bob McClure, Mark Etsell, Highland Thoroughbred Farm	Unraced at two, won five of six @ Mohawk, cruised to a Goodtimes stakes record equaling 1:51.3 for 2019 Hambo winning driver Bob McClure, easily made it four in a row in 1:53.4 (:27) in a Mohawk overnight on June 28, off the gate a few lengths in his Big M debut & finished sixth (1:51.4) in a Dancer division
6	Bright Star (Muscle Hill)	Scott, Zeron, Tony Alagna, Brittany Farms, Pryde Stables Inc, Caviart Farms, Plouffe & Riverview	Romped in NJSS division in 1:52.1, fourth in NJSS Final, took a new mark of 1:52.1 in Big M overnight on June 14, solid runner up to Karl from post eight in Reynolds division, rallied to win Big M qualifier in 1:54 on July 12, post three in a Tompkins-Geers division
7	Dame Good Time (Chapter Seven)	Scott Zeron, Travis Alexander, John R. Cummins	Initially turned some heads with back-to-back wins in 1:52.1 @ Pocono, then 1:51.1 in NYSS @ Vernon, broke second-placed third in the EBC, rebounded to win the Zweig in 1:52.3 from post nine, finished fourth (1:50.3) in a Dancer division
8	Daiquiri Hanover (Bar Hopping)	Ake Svanstedt, Stable Why Not, Tomas Anderson	Second to T C I in his 3YO debut, won a Big M overnight on June 21 in a career best 1:53.1, final quarter in :27, set the pace & finished third in Zweig Memorial, did not race last week
9	Caballero (Tactical Landing)	Tim Tetrick, Trond Smedshammer, Buckstone Land Livestock, Wiesman Farms	Just one start as a 2YO, lone win this season a 1:54.1 upset in NJSS division, rounding into form with three straight on-the-board finishes, sharp :26.3 to finish second (1:51.1) in Dancer division, both Tetrick & Smedshammer have been to the mountaintop
10	Amazing Catch (Walner)	Dexter Dunn, Ake Svanstedt, Al Libfeld, Marvin & Lynn Katz, Sam Goldband	Won his 3YO debut in 1:53.4 in an overnight @ Pocono, a close second to stablemate Daiquiri Hanover, then a gutsy runner up in the Zweig, finished seventh (1:51.1) in a Dancer division

KEY PREP RACES

Hambletonian Eligibles in Caps

Date	Stakes	Site	Winner	Driver	Trainer	2nd Horse	3rd Horse	Time
May 11	NJSS 1 st Leg	M	CABALLERO	Trond Smedshammer	Trond Smedshammer	WATERFALL	<i>Bella's Muscle Hill</i>	1:54.1
May 11	NJSS 1 st Leg	M	KARL	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	SOUTHWIND METRIC	<i>PICK POCKET</i>	1:53.2
May 11	NJSS 1 st Leg	M	BENNY J	Andrew McCarthy	Tony Alagna	MARS HILL	<i>DUKE OF WALNER</i>	1:53
May 18	NJSS 2 nd Leg	M	BRIGHT STAR	Scott Zeron	Tony Alagna	MARS HILL	<i>SOUTHWIND METRIC</i>	1:52.1
May 18	NJSS 2 nd Leg	M	KARL	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	Tony Adams S	<i>DUKE WALNER</i>	1:52.2

May 18	NJSS 2 nd Leg	M	PANTORAN DH	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt		<i>BENNY J</i>	1:52
May 18	NJSS 2 nd Leg	M	WATERFALL DH	Todd McCarthy	Tony Alagna		<i>BENNY J</i>	1:52
May 19	PA Allstars	Poc	SECURITY PROTECTED	Tim Tetric	Marcus Melander	WHITE SHOE HANOVER	<i>Ordained</i>	1:53
May 19	PA Allstars	Poc	Blackhawk Zette	Matt Kakaley	Robert Baggitt, Jr.	SKYDIVER	<i>LONGFELLOW S</i>	1:53.3
May 19	PA Allstars	Poc	Usain Hanover	Tyler Buter	Nifty Norman	Luke The Spook	<i>FOR JULY</i>	1:53.3
May 27	NYSS 1 st Leg	Vern	SITUATIONSHIP	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	It Wasnt Me	<i>THINKER MONKEY</i>	1:52.1
May 27	NYSS 1 st Leg	Vern	WILD TICKET	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander	NOTTINGHAM	<i>VICTOR LASZLO</i>	1:55.4
May 27	NYSS 1 st Leg	Vern	DAME GOOD TIME	Scott Zeron	Travis Alexander	Sir Pinocchio	<i>Devastate</i>	1:51.1
May 31	NJSS Final	M	KARL	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	BENNY J	<i>Tony Adams S</i>	1:51
May 31	PASS 1 st Leg	Mea	SECURITY PROTECTED	Dave Palone	Marcus Melander	Blackhawk Zette	<i>Luke The Spook</i>	1:53.3
May 31	PASS 1 st Leg	Mea	T C I	Dave Miller	Ron Burke	Ordained	<i>COORS HANOVER</i>	1:52.2
June 3	NYSS 2 nd Leg	Mont	KEEP ASKING	Tyler Buter	George Ducharme	Super Duper Cooper	<i>NOTTINGHAM</i>	1:56
June 3	NYSS 2 nd leg	Mont	Sir Pinocchio	Jason Bartlett	Ed Hart	FLY BY	<i>Crazy Brother Jim</i>	1:56.3
June 7	Goodtimes Elim	Moh	Top Mast	Sylvain Filion	Dustin Jones	PICK POCKET	<i>Shermont</i>	1:53.4
June 7	Goodtimes Elim	Moh	HIGHLAND KISMET	Bob McClure	Mark Etsell	PRIVATE ACCESS	<i>WINTER SOLDIER</i>	1:54
June 8	PASS 2 nd Leg	Poc	SECURITY PROTECTED	Braxton Boyd	Marcus Melander	Blackhawk Zette	<i>COORS HANOVER</i>	1:54.2
June 8	PASS 2 nd Leg	Poc	T C I	Dave Miller	Ron Burke	DAIQUIRI HANOVER	<i>Ordained</i>	1:53.3
June 14	EBC	Vern	SITUATIONSHIP	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	Sir Pinocchio	<i>THINKER MONKEY</i>	1:52.1
June 14	EBC	Vern	WILD TICKET	Dexter Dunn	Marcus Melander	FLY BY	<i>DAME GOOD TIME</i>	1:53.3
June 15	Goodtimes Final	Moh	HIGHLAND KISMET	Bob McClure	Mark Estell	PRIVATE ACCESS	<i>Top Mast</i>	1:51.3
June 15	Currier & Ives	Mea	Splendid	Chris Lems	Todd Rooney	Father Mike	<i>I'm Out</i>	1:53.4
June 15	Currier & Ives	Mea	SPAAANZANO	Aaron Merriman	Chris Beaver	Memorynimagination	<i>Bird And Grenade</i>	1:53.3
June 21	Yonkers Trot Elim	Y	BARGAIN	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	FLY BY	<i>I'm Out</i>	1:54.3
June 28	Yonkers Trot	Y	Sir Pinocchio	Jason Bartlett	Ed Hart	SITUATIONSHIP	<i>BARGAIN</i>	1:54.4
June 29	Reynolds	M	KARL	Yannick Gingras	Nancy Takter	BRIGHT STAR	<i>French Kronos</i>	1:51
June 29	Reynolds	M	T C I	Dave Miller	Ron Burke	Tony Adams S	<i>CABALLERO</i>	1:53.1
July 4	Zweig Memorial	Vern	DAME GOOD TIME	Scott Zeron	Travis Alexander	AMAZING CATCH	<i>DAIQUIRI HANOVER</i>	1:52.3
July 13	Stanley Dancer Mem.	M	SIG SAUER	Andrew McCarthy	Noel Daley	Tony Adams S	<i>KARL</i>	1:50
July 13	Stanley Dancer Mem.	M	SITUATIONSHIP	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	CABALLERO	<i>T C I</i>	1:51.1
July 19	PASS 3 rd Leg	Phi						
July 20	Tompkins-Geers	M						
July 27	Hambletonian Elim	M						