

Contents

Feature



Sarah and Åke Svanstedt with Nordic Catcher S after their Hambletonian win

60 Taking on the World

Nordic Catcher S gives Swedish Hall of Famer Åke Svanstedt his third Hambletonian triumph

by Ken Weingartner

About our cover: USTA photographer Mark Hall captured this image of Nordic Catcher S and trainer/driver Åke Svanstedt evading a host of late pursuers to reach the winning post first in the 100th edition of the Grade 1 Hambletonian Stakes, held Aug. 2 at the Meadowlands.

Contents

Departments

p. 22



Stories

- 22 Profile: Railee Something Mersky's Millionaire** Homebred Railee Something exceeded her owner's expectations *by James Platz*
- 28 Profile: Vivid Photo Fair and Square** Two decades later, Vivid Photo's Hambo triumph remains memorable *by Ed DeRosa*
- 38 Life After Racing The Long Haul** As the trail gets longer, Bellsandwhistles gets stronger *by Megan Rider*

- 44 Horse Care Gut Feeling** Horsepeople should always take colic seriously, no matter its cause *by Hope Ellis-Ashburn*
- 49 Betcha Didn't Know... A Day of Firsts** Revisiting Mike Lachance and B J Scoot's 1988 Jug triumph *by Kimberly A. Rinker*
- 54 Shoeing News The Lost View** Bad heel bulbs can lead to performance issues *by Steve Stanley*

Voices

- 10 Director's Chair**
by Joe Faraldo
Insidious Enemy
Decoupling's slow erosion of our sport demands our attention and action
- 34 Under Wraps**
by Tim Bojarski
Rolling Out the Red Carpet New York Night of Champions returns to Batavia Downs
- 56 Food for Thought**
by Tom LaMarra
The Big M's Big Bet
New Jersey's sole harness racing venue eyes getting casino referendum on 2026 ballot

In Every Issue

- 8** Through the Binoculars
14 Starting Lines
80 In Memoriam
83 Horsemen's Shop
83 Advertisers' Index
84 Photo Finish

p. 14

