

ROAD TO THE HAMBLETONIAN

Week One – Issued Thursday, June 1

The 2023 Hambletonian will take place Saturday, August 5

| RANK | HORSE | DRIVER, TRAINER, OWNER | KEN WARKENTIN'S COMMENTS |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1 | VOLUME EIGHT (CHAPTER SEVEN) | Andrew McCarthy, Noel Daley, Sjoblom Racing, Joe Sbrocco, LA Express & JAF Racing, Mario Mazza | Dan Patch Award winner, fastest 2YO male trotter of 2022 [1:52], finished his campaign with five in a row, including the Valley Victory & Kindergarten Classic Final, has not qualified as of June 1 |
| 2 | SPECIAL WAY (WALNER) | Ake Svanstedt, Brittany Farms, Marvin Katz, Al Libfeld | Dan Patch Award winner, richest 2YO female trotter of 2022 with \$697,475, won seven of nine starts, capped by a Canadian record 1:52 in the Breeders Crown, two-for-two this season, has the rail in NJSS Final on June 2 |
| 3 | KILMISTER (CHAPTER SEVEN) | Brian Sears, Marcus Melander, Courant, Inc. | Peter Haughton Memorial winner in 1:53.3, third in the KY Championship Final, Breeders Crown & Valley Victory, took a mark of 1:52.3 & banked \$414,121, third placed second (1:53.2) to Kierkegaard K in NYSS season debut on May 29 |
| 4 | WALNER PAYTON (WALNER) | Dexter Dunn, Chris Ryder, Kenneth Jacobs | Dominated NJSS Final, mark of 1:52.2 in ISS division @ The Red Mile, second in KY Championship Final, Bluegrass & Breeders Crown, banked \$674,900, won 3YO debut in 1:51.4, then second to Special Way, post five in NJSS Final on June 2 |
| 5 | OH WELL (MUSCLE HILL) | Tim Tetrick, Marcus Melander, S R F Stable | Peter Haughton Memorial runner up won NJSS Final in 1:53.1, Mohawk Million & NJ Classic A Final & banked \$748,380, second (1:52.2) in 3YO debut, then just missed in 1:52, post seven in NJSS Final on June 2 |
| 6 | BOND (SOUTHWIND FRANK) | Ake Svanstedt, Little E, L. Berg Inc. | Prolific filly closed out 2022 with six straight wins, including PASS Championship, Kindergarten Classic & Goldsmith Maid, took a mark of 1:52.3 & banked \$587,264, romped in Big M qualifier in 1:54 (:26), post eight in PA Allstars division @ Pocono on June 4 |
| 7 | TACTICAL APPROACH (TACTICAL LANDING) | Scott Zeron, Nancy Takter, Robert Leblanc, John Fielding, Joe Sbrocco, JAF Racing | Prominent in KY Commonwealth Series at two, won his two qualifiers & first two starts as a 3YO, including a 1:52.1 NJSS division, third with a :25.4 in the slop on May 20, post two in NJSS Final on June 2 |
| 8 | AIR POWER (MUSCLE HILL) | Andrew McCarthy, Marcus Melander, Amg Stable Inc., Rick Wahlstedt, Kenneth Kjellgren, Heights Stable | Made only three starts at two, won his 3YO debut in 1:52.1, came right back to upset Ari Ferrari J in a 1:51 NJSS division on May 13, post six in NJSS Final on June 2 |
| 9 | UP YOUR DEO (WALNER) | Ake Svanstedt, Suleyman Yuksel Stables, Deo Volente Farms, Van Camp Trotting Corp. | Second placed ninth in last year's NJSS Final, broke his maiden in his 3YO debut from post 11 in 1:52 in the slop on May 20, upsetting Oh Well, post five in NJSS Final on June 2 |
| 10 | CELEBRITY BAMBINO (MUSCLE HILL) | Yannick Gingras, Ron Burke, Burke Racing Stable, J & T Silva Stables, Knox Services, Phil Collura | Breeders Crown elimination winner in 1:53.2, second in that final & in a NJ Classic A Final, also won Garden State Stake in 1:55.1 (in slop) & Valley Victory elimination in 1:53.4, banked \$311,719, second (1:52.2) in 3YO debut, then fourth (1:52.3), post two in NJSS Final on June 2 |

KEY PREP RACES

Hambletonian Eligibles in Caps

| Date | Stakes | Site | Winner | Driver | Trainer | 2nd Horse | 3rd Horse | Time |
|--------|--------------------------|------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------|
| May 6 | Dexter Cup | Fhld | Khaosan Road | Scott Zeron | Ake Svanstedt | ESPRESSO | Candy Bomber | 1:57.4 |
| May 13 | NJSS 1 st Leg | M | WALNER PAYTON | Dexter Dunn | Chris Ryder | BLONDE BOMBSHELL | SECRET VOLO | 1:51.4 |
| May 13 | NJSS 1 st Leg | M | AIR POWER | Tim Tetrick | Marcus Melander | Ari Ferrari J | Dire Straits | 1:51 |
| May 13 | NJSS 1 st Leg | M | SPECIAL WAY | Ake Svanstedt | Ake Svanstedt | MAMBACITA | CHECK HER OUT | 1:53.1 |
| May 13 | NJSS 1 st Leg | M | TACTICAL APPROACH | Scott Zeron | Nancy Takter | OH WELL | CELEBRITY BAMBINO | 1:52.1 |
| May 20 | NJSS 2 nd Leg | M | SECRET VOLO | Brian Sears | Marcus Melander | MAMBACITA | Tactical Mounds | 1:53.2 |
| May 20 | NJSS 2 nd Leg | M | SPECIAL WAY | Ake Svanstedt | Ake Svanstedt | WALNER PAYTON | BLONDE BOMBSHELL | 1:53.4 |
| May 20 | NJSS 2 nd Leg | M | UP YOUR DEO | Ake Svanstedt | Ake Svanstedt | OH WELL | TACTICAL | 1:52 |
| | | | | | | | APPROACH | |
| May 29 | NYSS 1 st Leg | V | Cecil Hanover | Mark MacDonald | Ake Svanstedt | THE GRUFFALO | CROWN | 1:52.3 |
| May 29 | NYSS 1 st Leg | V | KIERKEGAARD K | Mark MacDonald | Ake Svanstedt | KILMISTER | TILLIO'S ACTION | 1:53 |
| June 2 | NJSS Final | M | | | | | | |
| June 2 | NJSS Final | M | | | | | | |
| June 3 | PASS 1 st Leg | Mea | | | | | | |
| June 3 | PASS 1 st Leg | Mea | | | | | | |

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-----|
| June 9 | NYSS 2 nd Leg | TD |
| June 9 | NYSS 2 nd Leg | TD |
| June 9 | Goodtimes Elims | Moh |
| June 9 | Goodtimes Elims | Moh |
| June 17 | Goodtimes Final | Moh |
| June 17 | Currier & Ives | Mea |
| June 17 | Currier & Ives | Mea |
| June 16 | EBC | V |
| June 16 | EBC | V |
| June 18 | Goodtimes Final | Moh |
| June 23 | Yonkers Trot Elims | Y |
| June 23 | Yonkers Trot Elims | Y |
| June 30 | Yonkers Trot | Y |
| July 1 | Reynolds | M |
| July 1 | Reynolds | M |
| July 2 | PASS | Phi |
| July 2 | PASS | Phi |
| July 8 | Zweig Memorial | V |
| July 8 | Zweig Memorial | V |
| July 15 | Stanley Dancer | M |
| July 15 | Stanley Dancer | M |
| July 15 | Del Miller | M |
| July 15 | Del Miller | M |
| July 19 | NYSS 3 rd Leg | Buf |
| July 19 | NYSS 3 rd Leg | Buf |
| July 22 | Tompkins-Geers | M |
| July 22 | Tompkins-Geers | M |
| July 29 | Hambo Elimination | M |
| July 29 | Hambo Elimination | M |