

**2026 HAMBLETONIAN**  
**Road to the Hambletonian Top 10 – Week 1**  
**The 101<sup>st</sup> Hambletonian will take place on Saturday, Aug. 8**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Driver, Trainer, Owner</b>	<b>Ken Warkentin's Comments</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apex</b>  (Walner)	Dexter Dunn, Marcus Melander, Jeffrey Snyder, S R F Stable, Steve Stewart	Dan Patch Award winner, money leader (\$871,798), won NJSS & NJ Classic Finals, Peter Haughton Memorial & Mohawk Million in 1:51.4, Melander finished second four times, Dexter Dunn third in 2025 with Winterbook favorite & Melander trainee Maryland, scheduled to train @ Big M on May 8 & qualify May 23
<b>2</b>	<b>Endurance</b>  (Captain Corey)	Andrew McCarthy, Christopher Beaver, Super Endurance Stable, Bill Manes, Leo Fleming, Mark Moger	First crop of 2021 Hambo winner Captain Corey, won six of eight starts, including two KYSS Finals, second in Mohawk Million, mark of 1:52.3, earned \$557,450, won 1:53.4 qualifier on April 16 @ Spring Garden Ranch, track record 1:51.3 in Oak Grove Derby elim
<b>3</b>	<b>Spencer Hanover</b>  (Chapter Seven)	Jason Bartlett, Marcus Melander, Jeffrey Synder, Arthur Pronti	Won Big Apple Trot Final in 1:52.3, also Breeders Crown elimination & final, second by a head in Valley Victory, earned \$649,889, Melander sent out four in last year's Hambo (second & third), dominated Oak Grove Derby elim in 1:53.4
<b>4</b>	<b>Diabolic Hill</b>  (Muscle Hill)	Todd McCarthy, Annie Stoebe, Mazza Racing Stables,	Won Breeders Crown elimination in 1:53.1, close second in final, turned the tables on Spencer Hanover in the Valley Victory in 1:53.3, banked \$506,636, Todd McCarthy scored the biggest upset (52-1) in Hambo history in 2022 with Cool Papa Bell, entered to qualify @ Big M on May 8

5	<b>AI</b> (Chapter Seven)	Yannick Gingras, Ron Burke, Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services Inc, Weaver Brusceci LLC	14 – 5-1-4 record, won NYSS Final, second in Kindergarten Final, banked \$395,073, Yannick Gingras won his first Hambo in 2024 with Karl & second for the fourth time last year with Super Chapter, second (1:51.4) in Oak Grove Derby elim
6	<b>Nix Nacken</b> (Muscle Hill)	Dexter Dunn, Marcus Melander, Courant Inc.	Won NJ Classic Conso (1:55) & INSS division (1:52.2), second by a nose to Mr Big Spender in Bluegrass, third in Valley Victory, earned \$187,186, 2009 winner Muscle Hill looks for fourth siring credit, third (1:52) in Oak Grove Derby elim
7	<b>Big Ranger</b> (In Range)	Ronnie Gillespie, Madison Global	2025 Ohio Horse of the Year went seven-for-seven, track records @ Scioto Downs & Dayton, broke in 3YO debut April 23, rebounded with 1:53 qualifier ... “He’s a horse that has it all, he’s just a natural,” said trainer Gillespie, faded to fourth in Oak Grove Derby elim
8	<b>Magic Punk</b> (Wishing Stone)	Ake Svanstedt, Magic Punk Inc.	Runner up in the Wellwood & Peter Haughton, third in Kindergarten Final, banked \$220,878, Svanstedt won his third Hambo in 2025 with Nordic Catcher S in stakes record 1:50, rallied to 1:53.1 stakes record Dexter Cup in 3YO debut
9	<b>Mr Big Spender</b> (Captain Corey)	Mike Wilder, Norm Parker, Bart Brice, Todd Brice	Bluegrass winner in 1:51.2, third in the Peter Haughton Memorial & Breeders Crown Final, earned \$273,180, two qualifiers @ The Meadows, 1:57.2 win April 21, then broke on lead April 28, post six in PASS division May 8
10	<b>Ardonne</b> (Tactical Landing)	Scott Zeron, Megan Scran, Philip Steinberg	Won elimination in 1:54.4 & final William Wellwood Memorial in 1:52.4, second by a head to Apex in NJSS Final, banked \$289,150, Scott Zeron seeks his fourth Hambo

## KEY PREP RACES

### *Hambletonian Eligibles in Caps*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Stakes</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>2nd Horse</b>	<b>3rd Horse</b>	<b>Time</b>
May 2	Dexter Cup	M	MAGIC PUNK	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	Southwind Alamo	WHOS EYES BLUES	1:53.1
May 4	Oak Grove Elim	OG	SPENCER HANOVER	Jason Bartlett	Marcus Melander	Geologic	IMPOSSIBLE BI	1:53.4
May 4	Oak Grove Elim	OG	Silverstein	Dave Miller	Matthew Burkholder	REQUIEM	KINGMEN	1:52.3
May 4	Oak Grove Elim	OG	ENDURANCE	Andrew McCarthy	Christopher Beaver	Al	NIX NAKEN	1:51.3
May 8	PASS 1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Mea						
May 8	PASS 1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Mea						
May 16	Battle of Bunker Hill	PR						
May 16	Oak Grove Derby	OG						
May 18	PA Allstars	Poc						
May 23	NJSS 1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	M						
May 25	NYSS 1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Ver						
June 5	NYSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	TD						
June 5	NJSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Leg	M						
June 5	Goodtimes Elim	MO						
June 5	Goodtimes Elim	MO						

June PASS 2<sup>nd</sup> Leg Poc  
6

June NJSS Final M  
12

June EBC Division Ver  
12

June EBC Division Ver  
12

June Goodtimes MO  
13 Final

June Yonkers Trot Y  
19 Elim

June NYSS 3<sup>rd</sup> leg Buf  
24

June Yonkers Trot Y  
26 Final

June Currier & Mea  
26 Ives

July Reynolds M  
4

July Reynolds M  
4

July Stanley M  
11 Dancer

July Stanley M  
11 Dancer

July Zweig V  
19 Memorial

July NYSS 4<sup>th</sup> Leg Y  
23

July Tompkins- M  
25 Geers

July Tompkins- M  
25 Geers

Aug. Hambo Elim M  
1

Aug. Hambo Elim M  
1