

2026 HAMBLETONIAN
Road to the Hambletonian Top 10 – Week 2
The 101st Hambletonian will take place on Saturday, Aug. 8

Rank	Horse	Driver, Trainer, Owner	Ken Warkentin's Comments
1	Apex (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, trained @ Big M May 8, scheduled to qualify May 23
2	Endurance (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, track record 1:51.3 in Oak Grove Derby elim in 3YO debut, post six (5-2 second choice) in Final
3	Spencer Hanover (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, dominated Oak Grove Derby elim in 1:53.4, post one as 2-1 morning line favourite in Final
4	Diabolic Hill (Muscle Hill)	Todd McCarthy, Annie Stoebe, Mazza Racing Stables, Albert Crawford	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, won Big M qualifier in 1:53.3 on May 8, post five in first Big M qualifier on May 15
5	AI (Chapter Seven)	Yannick Gingras, Ron Burke, Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services Inc, Weaver Brusceci LLC	14 – 5-1-4 freshman record, won NYSS Final, second in Kindergarten Final, banked \$395,073, second (1:51.4) in Oak Grove Derby elim, post three (5-1 ML) in Final

6	Nix Nacken (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, third (1:52) in Oak Grove Derby elim, post two in Final
7	Big Ranger (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, faded to fourth in Oak Grove Derby elim, post 11 in Final
8	Magic Punk (Wishing Stone)	Ake Svanstedt, Magic Punk Inc.	Runner up in the Wellwood & Peter Haughton, third in Kindergarten Final, banked \$220,878, rallied to 1:53.1 stakes record Dexter Cup in 3YO debut, not in to go at press time
9	Mr Big Spender (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, in 3YO debut broke on lead (sixth) in PASS division @ The Meadows May 8, post two in PA Allstars division @ Pocono May 18
10	Ardonne (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, post two in first Big M qualifier May 15

KEY PREP RACES
Hambletonian Eligibles in Caps

Date	Stakes	Site	Winner	Driver	Trainer	2nd Horse	3rd Horse	Time
May 2	Dexter Cup	M	MAGIC PUNK	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	Southwind Alamo	WHO'S 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	AI	NIX NAKEN	1:51.3
May 8	PASS 1 st Leg	Mea	Captain Vodka	Ridge Warren	Robert Baggitt, Jr.	GREENARROW HANOVER	HAMLET HALL	1:54.3
May 8	PASS 1 st Leg	Mea	Fineline Hanover	Ridge Warren	Ron Coyne, Jr.	Dilly Hanover	R TOMMY COLLINS	1:53.2
May 16	Battle of Bunker Hill	PR						
May 16	Oak Grove Derby	OG						
May 18	PA Allstars	Poc						
May 23	NJSS 1 st Leg	M						
May 25	NYSS 1 st Leg	Ver						
June 5	NYSS 2 nd Leg	TD						
June 5	NJSS 2 nd Leg	M						
June 5	Goodtimes Elim	MO						

June Goodtimes MO
5 Elim

June PASS Poc
6 2nd Leg

June NJSS Final M
12

June EBC Ver
12 Division

June EBC Ver
12 Division

June Goodtimes MO
13 Final

June Yonkers Y
19 Trot Elim

June NYSS Buf
24 3rd leg

June Yonkers Y
26 Trot 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 Y
23 4th Leg

July Tompkins- M
25 Geers

July Tompkins- M
25 Geers

Aug. Hambo M
1 Elim

Aug. Hambo M
1 Elim