

**2026 HAMBLETONIAN**  
**Road to the Hambletonian Top 10 – Week 3**  
**The 101st 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, trained @ Big M May 8, post 5 in qualifier 2 @ Big M May 22
<b>2</b>	<b>Spencer Hanover</b>  (Chapter Seven)	Jason Bartlett, Marcus Melander, Jeffrey Synder, Arthur Pronti	Won Big Apple Trot Final, also Breeders Crown elimination & final, second in Valley Victory, earned \$649,889, dominated Oak Grove Derby elim in 1:53.4 in 3YO debut, rallied past roughed up favourite Endurance to equal 1:51.3 track record in final, Bartlett: "He loves to track horses down. I was trying to get the right one to follow and today it worked out for sure." Not in to go
<b>3</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, track record equalling 1:51.3 in Oak Grove Derby elim in 3YO debut, then a gallant first over second in final, not in to go
<b>4</b>	<b>Diabolic Hill</b>  (Muscle Hill)	Todd McCarthy, Annie Stoebe, Mario Mazza, AC Crawford Racing Stable	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, makes 3YO debut from rail in Race 14 NJSS division May 23
<b>5</b>	<b>Al</b>  (Chapter Seven)	Yannick Gingras, Ron Burke, Burke Racing	Won NYSS Final, second in Kindergarten Final, banked \$395,073, in 3YO debut second

Stable, Hatfield  
Stables, Knox  
Services Inc, Weaver  
Bruscemi LLC

(1:51.4) in Oak Grove Derby elim, fourth  
(1:52.1) from post three in Final, not in to go

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<b>6</b>	<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, faded to fourth in Oak Grove Derby elim, then wire-to-wire in Silver consolation in career best 1:52.3, not in to go
<b>7</b>	<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 in Bluegrass division, third in Valley Victory, earned \$187,186, third (1:52) in 3YO debut, broke/finished eighth in Oak Grove Derby Final, post four in Race 7 NJSS division May 23
<b>8</b>	<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, rallied to 1:53.1 stakes record Dexter Cup in 3YO debut, not in to go
<b>9</b>	<b>American Power</b> (Walner)	Dexter Dunn, Marcus Melander, M Biasuzzi Stable Inc	Won an INSS division in 1:53.1 & earned \$68,860 at two, beat Spencer Hanover in 1:55.3 qualifier May 16, rallied in :26.3 again to win a Garden State division May 16, post three in Race 14 NJSS division May 23, gives Melander four in our Top 10
<b>10</b>	<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, won his first Big M qualifier in 1:55.1 May 15, makes 3YO debut in Race 14 NJSS division May 23

**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	Captain Vodka	Ridge Warren	Robert Baggitt, Jr.	GREENARROW HANOVER	HAMLET HALL	1:54.3
May 8	PASS 1 <sup>st</sup> Leg	Mea	Fineline Hanover	Ridge Warren	Ron Coyne, Jr.	Dilly Hanover	R TOMMY COLLINS	1:53.2
May 16	Battle of Bunker Hill	PR	NEBBIOLO	Sarah Svanstedt	Ake Svantedt	MIDWIND CHIMP	Water Slide	1:54.2
May 16	Oak Grove Derby	OG	SPENCER HANOVER	Jason Bartlett	Marcus Melander	ENDURANCE	REQUIEM	1:51.3
May 18	PA Allstars	Poc	MR PENNER	Ake Svanstedt	Ake Svanstedt	MINOAN	Captain Vodka	1:52
May 18	PA Allstars	Poc	HIGHLAND DESTINY	Scott Zeron	Nancy Takter	JIM BEAM	DOLLAR DRAFT	1:52.2
May 18	PA Allstars	Poc	Fineline Hanover	Todd McCarthy	Ron Coyne, Jr.	NEIGHVER PUNT	Confident Volo	1:52.2
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 Goodtimes MO  
5 Elim

June Goodtimes MO  
5 Elim

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

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25 Geers

Aug. Hambo Elim M  
1

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1