

2026 HAMBLETONIAN
Road to the Hambletonian Top 10 – Week 4
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, rallied to win Big M qualifier in 1:53.3 (:26.1) May 22, Melander: "He qualified very well and we're aiming for the second leg of NJSS next Friday (June 5)." |
| 2 | Spencer Hanover (Chapter Seven) | Jason Bartlett, Marcus Melander, Jeffrey Snyder, 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 Endurance to equal 1:51.3 track record in final, easily made it three-for-three this season with a 1:53.3 romp (track good) in NYSS @ Vernon Downs May 25 |
| 3 | 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, track record equaling 1:51.3 in Oak Grove Derby elim in 3YO debut, then a gallant second in final, did not race last week, not in to go |
| 4 | Diabolic Hill (Muscle Hill) | Todd McCarthy, Annie Stoebe, Mario Mazza, AC Crawford Racing Stable | Breeders Crown elimination winner, close second in final, beat Spencer Hanover in Valley Victory in 1:53.3, banked \$506,636, won Big M qualifier in 1:53.3 on May 8, Judges scratch from 3YO debut May 23, post one in qualifier 2 @ Big M May 29 |
| 5 | 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, fourth in Oak Grove Derby elim, wire-to-wire in Silver consolation in 1:52.3, then set Scioto Downs track record 1:51.2 in OHSS May 25, Gillespie: "I did tell the owners, not this start, but the next start, if he can't trot in (1):51 comfortable, I wouldn't take him to the (Hambletonian). But he did it real comfortable |

tonight, so my goal is to see how well he can do it off the pace. He's going to have to come off the pace to race with those Grand Circuit horses.”

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| 6 | American Power (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 Garden State division May 16, then won NJSS Platinum Division in 1:54.3 over sloppy track May 23, not in to go |
| 7 | AI (Chapter Seven) | Yannick Gingras, Ron Burke, Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services Inc, Weaver Brusceci LLC | Won NYSS Final, second in Kindergarten Final, banked \$395,073, in 3YO debut second (1:51.4) in Oak Grove Derby elim, fourth (1:52.1) from post three in Final, did not race last week, not in to go |
| 8 | Ardone (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, rallied for third behind American Power in 3YO debut May 23, not in to go |
| 9 | Magic Punk (Wishing Stone) | Ake Svanstedt, Magic Punk Inc. | Second in Wellwood & Peter Haughton, third in Kindergarten Final, banked \$220,878, 1:53.1 stakes record Dexter Cup in 3YO debut, did not race last week, post eight in qualifier 2 @ Big M May 29 |
| 10 | Nebbiolo (Captain Corey) | Sarah Svanstedt, Ake Svanstedt, Knutsson Trotting Inc. | Rare Pinto from first crop of Captain Corey rattled off four in a row last Fall, dead heat fourth in Valley Victory, dominated 3YO debut in Bunker Hill Trot @ Plainridge in 1:54.2, fifth win in nine career starts, not in to go |

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 | 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 st Leg | M | GABES LUCK | Scott Zeron | Nancy Takter | MEGA SHARK | PRACTICAL MAN | 1:55.3 |
| May 23 | NJSS 1 st Leg | M | King Of The Wind | Joe Bongiorno | Joe Bongiorno | MAGA HILL | NEVER SAY DIE | 1:55.2 |
| May 23 | NJSS 1 st Leg | M | AMERICAN POWER | Dexter Dunn | Marcus Melander | KINGMEN | ARDONNE | 1:54.3 |
| May 23 | NJSS 1 st Leg | M | TRILLION TIMES | Jason Bartlett | Per Engblom | Ice Fall | Be Positive | 1:57.3 |
| May 25 | NYSS 1 st Leg | Ver | SEVENATO | Trond Smedshammer | Trond Smedshammer | WHO'S EYES BLUES | Highway Six | 1:54 |
| May 25 | NYSS 1 st Leg | Ver | SPENCER HANOVER | Jason Bartlett | Marcus Melander | Titans Mischief | SECURED | 1:53.4 |
| June 5 | NYSS 2 nd Leg | TD | | | | | | |
| June 5 | NJSS 2 nd Leg | M | | | | | | |
| June 5 | Goodtimes Elim | MO | | | | | | |
| June 5 | Goodtimes Elim | MO | | | | | | |
| June 6 | PASS 2 nd Leg | Poc | | | | | | |
| June 12 | NJSS Final | M | | | | | | |

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|------|--------------------------|-----|
| June | EBC | Ver |
| 12 | Division | |
| June | EBC | Ver |
| 12 | Division | |
| June | Goodtimes | MO |
| 13 | Final | |
| June | Yonkers | Y |
| 19 | Trot Elim | |
| June | NYSS 3 rd leg | Buf |
| 24 | | |
| 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 | 4 th Leg | |
| July | Tompkins- | M |
| 25 | Geers | |
| July | Tompkins- | M |
| 25 | Geers | |
| Aug. | Hambo | M |
| 1 | Elim | |
| Aug. | Hambo | M |
| 1 | Elim | |