

2026 HAMBLETONIAN
Road to the Hambletonian Top 10 – Week 5
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, post 11 second tier draw for 3YO debut in NJSS June 5
2	Spencer Hanover (Chapter Seven)	Jason Bartlett, Marcus Melander, Jeffrey Synder, Arthur Pronti	Breeders Crown champion dominated Oak Grove Derby elim in 1:53.4 in 3YO debut, equalled 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, aiming for the EBC June 12
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 equalling 1:51.3 in Oak Grove Derby elim in 3YO debut, then a gallant second in final, drew the rail in PASS division June 6
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, wire-to-wire in 1:53.2 Big M qualifier May 29, McCarthy: "He felt super and is nice and tight for next week." Makes 3YO debut from rail in NJSS June 5
5	Big Ranger (In Range)	Anette Lorentzon, 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, set Scioto Downs track record 1:51.2 in OHSS May 25, then underwent a barn change, not in to go

6	American Power (Walner)	Mattias Melander, Marcus Melander, M Biasuzzi Stable Inc	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, post three in NJSS June 5
7	AI (Chapter Seven)	Yannick Gingras, Ron Burke, Burke Racing Stable, Hatfield Stables, Knox Services Inc, Weaver Bruscemi 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 two weeks, post two in NYSS @ Tioga Downs June 5 (Race 6)
8	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, won his first Big M qualifier in 1:55.1 May 15, rallied for third behind American Power in 3YO debut May 23, post nine in NJSS June 5
9	Magic Punk (Wishing Stone)	Yannick Gingras, 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, fourth (1:54.1) in Big M qualifier May 29, post seven in first Goodtimes elim June 5 as 9-5 ML favorite with Yannick Gingras
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, did not race last week, 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	WHOS EYES BLUES	1:53.1
May 4	Oak Grove Elim	OG	SPENCER HANOVER	Jason Bartlett	Marcus Melander	Geologic	IMPOSSIB LE 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	ENDURAN CE	Andrew McCarthy	Christopher Beaver	AI	NIX NAKEN	1:51.3
May 8	PASS 1 st Leg	Mea	Captain Vodka	Ridge Warren	Robert Baggitt, Jr.	GREENARRO W 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 Svanstedt	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	PRACTICA L 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	WHOS EYES BLUES	Highway Six	1:54
May 25	NYSS 1 st Leg	Ver	SPENCER HANOVER	Jason Bartlett	Marcus Melander	Titan's 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						
June 12	EBC Division	Ver						
June 12	EBC Division	Ver						
June 13	Goodtimes Final	MO						
June 19	Yonkers Trot Elim	Y						
June 24	NYSS 3 rd leg	Buf						

June Yonkers Y
26 Trot Final

June Currier & Mea
26 Ives

July Reynolds M
4

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4

July Stanley M
11 Dancer

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11 Dancer

July Zweig V
19 Memorial

July NYSS Y
23 4th Leg

July Tompkins M
25 -Geers

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Aug. Hambo M
1 Elim

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1 Elim