



### **Hot As Hill (Muscle Hill-Smartypants-Kadabra)**

Hot As Hill rallied from third-over in the stretch of the second Hambletonian Oaks elimination and finished third, a length and a quarter behind winner Awesome Trix. She was timed in 1:53 flat.

As a freshman, Hot As Hill won a New Jersey Sire Stakes leg and two preliminary rounds of the Kindergarten Classic Series, all at the Meadowlands. So far in 2021, she has taken the Lady Suffolk Prep race at Freehold and another New Jersey Sire Stakes tilt at the Meadowlands (in a life's best 1:53). In total, she has five wins, two seconds, and six thirds from 23 starts and has pocketed \$154,599.

### **Quote**

**Co-owner Larry Karr:** "I was happy with the way "Hill" raced last night. She closed well, and the two fillies that beat her had better trips than she did. While she may not have quite as much high speed as some of the others, she is good-gaited and always tries hard. The final looks pretty wide open and with some luck, I hope "Hill" will make her presence felt.

"Our ownership group will be in attendance next week rooting her on!"

### **Breeding Notes**

2009 Hambletonian champion Muscle Hill has sired the last five Hambletonian Oaks winners, but Hot As Hill is his only chance to make it six. Hot As Hill's dam, Smartypants, was a ten-time winner and earned \$464,706 during her racing career, and Hot As Hill is her third foal.

Bred by Stan Klemencic, Hot As Hill went for \$100,000 as HIP 213 at the 2019 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. Hot As Hill would be the first Hambletonian Oaks winner for Klemencic, who passed away in June of this year at the age of 94.

Sorella for trainer Nancy Takter. His previous five victories came for Takter's father, Jimmy, in consecutive years, 2014 through 2018.

Gingras has finished second in the Hambletonian on three occasions. He was runner-up with Ready For Moni in 2020, Southwind Frank in 2016, and filly Mission Brief in 2015.

A third-generation horseman from Quebec, Gingras arrived in the U.S. in 2001 and established himself as a top driver at Yonkers Raceway. In 2003, he received the Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association and in 2004 he moved his base to the Meadowlands. He has led the Big M in wins six times, most recently in 2020.

Gingras, who has won more than 7,800 races lifetime, ranks sixth in career driving purses with nearly \$196 million. He led the sport in earnings four consecutive years, 2014-17.

He has sat behind three Dan Patch Award Horse of the Year winners: Tall Dark Stranger in 2020, Hannelore Hanover in 2017, and JK She'salady in 2014.

Among his many other accomplishments, Gingras is known for his association with pacer Foiled Again, who retired in 2018 as the richest horse in harness racing history with \$7.63 million in lifetime earnings.

## **Trainer Bio**

### **RON BURKE**

**Born: 10/16/1969 – Birthplace: Washington, PA – Resides: Canonsburg, PA**

**Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2018, 2013, 2011.**

Ron Burke, who is on this summer's ballot for the Hall of Fame, has twice finished second in the Hambletonian. Southwind Frank was beaten by a nose by Marion Marauder in 2016 and filly Mission Brief was runner-up in 2015. Four years ago, What The Hill crossed the finish line first but was disqualified for interference in the stretch.

Burke took over the family's training stable from his father Mickey, the 2006 Trainer of the Year, in late 2008 and pushed the operation's success to record-setting heights. He has led the sport in wins and purses each of the past 12 years and is on top in both categories again in 2021.

His \$260 million in career purses is a record, as is his more than 11,800 wins. He has won no fewer than 762 races a year since 2009 and topped 1,000 victories three times. He has topped \$20 million in purses seven times, including a record \$28.4 million in 2014. He is the only trainer in history to reach \$20 million in a season.

Burke trained 2017 Horse of the Year winner Hannelore Hanover. His other stars included 2014 Pacer of the Year Sweet Lou and 2011 Pacer of the Year Foiled Again, who retired following the

2018 season as the richest harness racing horse in history with \$7.63 million in lifetime earnings.

Sweet Lou was inducted into the Hall of Fame in July. Foiled Again was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019.

In addition to Burke's success as a trainer, Burke Racing was named Owner of the Year (with partners Mark Weaver and Mike Brusceci) in 2018 and 2013.

### **Owner Bio**

**Burke Racing Stable LLC., Fredericktown, PA; Lawrence R. Karr, Randolph, NJ; Knox Services Inc, Mt Vernon, OH, J&T Silva- Purnel & Libby, Delray Beach, FL**

Hot As Hill would be the first Hambletonian Oaks champion for any of her owners, but Jerry Silva (the J of J&T Silva), is tied for the most Hambletonian victories as an owner with four. He was a member of the partnerships of Muscle Hill (2009), Deweycheatumnhowe (2008), Self Possessed (1999), and Continentalvictory (1996).

Burke Racing Stable LLC. is the Burke family's operation, headed by Sylvia, Knox Services Inc. is the nom de course of Carolyn Brechler, and J&T Silva- Purnel & Libby is Jerry Silva, Therea Silva, Purnel Jones, and Elizabeth Jones.