

PP 1 Tip Top Cat (Always B Miki-Western Top Cat-Western Hanover)

He pulled a 31-1 stunner to upset **STOCKADE SEELSTER** in his Metro Pace elimination on Sept. 17 but found traffic trouble in the \$666,000 final, finishing sixth. His only other victory came in a maiden event at Woodbine Mohawk Park on Aug. 11.

Purchased prior to his Breeders Crown elimination and moved into the barn of trainer Ron Burke, who also sends **ACT FAST** and **ERVIN HANOVER**. Tip Top Cat finished fifth in his Breeders Crown elimination (to **HANDLELIKEAPORSCHKE**).

Trainer Ron Burke tries for his third win to tie event-leader Bob McIntosh after winning in 2011 with Sweet Lou and in the only dead-heat win in Breeders Crown history with Summa Cum Laude in 2020.

Driver Yannick Gingras tries for his third victory in the event, having driven Rockin Amadeus to victory in 2012 and moving to first via disqualification in 2019 with Tall Dark Stranger.

Owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC, Weaver Brusceci LLC, Frank Canzone and Lawrence Karr – Burke Racing has 13 trophies, Weaver Brusceci has 12 while Frank Canzone makes his first appearance as an owner and Lawrence Karr will try to add a second win in this event, having been co-owner on Sweet Lou (2011).

Bred by Steve Stewart and John Carver – neither have won in the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace.

PP 2 Handlelikeaporsche (Lazarus N-The Signature-American Ideal)

From the first crop of international sensation Lazarus N and his first Breeders Crown starter. He has not finished worse than second from seven starts with wins in a \$109,000 Bluegrass division, a \$99,700 International Stallion Stakes division and in his Breeders Crown elimination, which he won by a length in 1:51.4.

Trainer Chris Ryder tries for his first win in the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace to add to his five Breeders Crown trophies. He has only made six appearances in the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace final, with his most recent being a sixth-place finish by This Is The Plan in 2017 (which was 12 years after he last raced in the final with the pair of Palone Ranger and Sea Dragon).

Driver Dexter Dunn tries for his first win in the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace while already owning eight trophies in the near four years he's raced in North America. Dunn finished fourth in this event last year with Hammering Hank and missed the board in his other two finals appearances.

Owned by Chris Ryder, William Ezzo, Robert Mondillo and Barry Spak. All four owners have yet to win a Breeders Crown trophy.

Bred by M. K. Weed and Kathryn Weed, who have their first Breeders Crown starter with this colt.

Trainer Chris Ryder:

I thought (his elimination) was terrific, honestly. Not just because he is my horse. He looked a little average out of the gate, he got a hole, and then came first over against good horses. He had the plugs in, and Dexter said he wasn't tired.

He's an easy keeper, has got good speed and his racing manners are pretty good. He always gets himself in the race. There is nothing not to like about him.

PP 3 Confederate (Sweet Lou-Geothermal-A Rocknroll Dance)

Only TWO horses in the history of the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace have won this event and were sired by a winner of this event – Artiscape, who won in 1997 and was sired by 1990 winner Artsplace; and Tall Dark Stranger, who won by disqualification in 2019 and was sired by 2000 winner Bettors Delight. Confederate will attempt to be the third while putting a five-race win streak on the line. He moved up from the Kentucky Commonwealth Series to win two preliminaries and then the \$400,000 final of the Kentucky Championship Series before going on Lasix and winning his Breeders Crown elimination by 2-1/4 lengths in 1:50.2.

Trainer Brian Brown tries for his first win in this event to add to his two trophies from 16 starts.

Driver Tim Tetrick will look to add a third win in this event and is the only driver to win this event in back-to-back years (Boston Red Rocks in 2015 & Hunstville in 2016) aside from Ron Pierce, who did it twice (2003-2004 & 2008-2009).

Owned by Diamond Creek Racing and Crossover Racing – Diamond Creek Racing has three Breeders Crown trophies, one coming with Creatine (2015 Open Trot) and two with Pure Country (2015 2YO Filly Pace & 2017 Open Mare Pace). Diamond Creek Racing also starts **CHRISTCHURCH** and **COMBUSTION**. This is the first starter for Crossover Racing.

Bred by Diamond Creek Farm, which has four Breeders Crown trophies but none in this event.

Trainer Brian Brown: I'm very pleased. He was coming from about a four-week layoff. He bled a little that (previous) start, so we mulled it over and decided we better put him on Lasix. We didn't want to take any chances. He trained good coming into (the elimination). He's just a good little horse. He's gone above anything we could have asked. We brought him along slowly; we didn't push him. We got him qualified early, decided to wait for Lexington and took a little break again. From then on, he's just been really, really good.

We thought he was a good horse. We thought he would do well. But until you make that step (from the sire stakes to Grand Circuit), sure, you think about it. That was the first time he was on the front, too. He's done everything you could ask a horse to do. We're very happy with him.

Driver Tim Tetrick: (On the elim) I think my horse is way better at following, but that's the way it shook out. I just went ahead and took control, and if one of the better horses would have come, I would have followed them. But for my horse, this was a good tightener. He hadn't raced since the sire stakes final in Lexington and Brian had him ready. He was really sharp. He's ready to go. That should really tighten him up. I think he's a hot horse right now

PP 3 Christchurch (Always B Miki-Darlinonthebeach-Somebeachsomewhere)

Out of the mare Darlinonthebeach, who made three Breeders Crown appearances in her career: sixth in the 2015 2-Year-Old Filly Pace, third in the 2016 3-Year-Old Filly Pace and fourth in the 2017 Open Mare Pace. Christchurch, her first foal, has just two wins from six starts, both of which came in overnight events. His only other stakes appearance was a sixth-place finish in a \$109,000 Bluegrass division. He finished fourth at odds of 38-1 in his Breeders Crown elimination (to **CONFEDERATE**).

Trainer Nancy Takter will try to tie Bob McIntosh for most wins in this event with a third victory while being the only trainer to win the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace in back-to-back years. Driver Andrew McCarthy tries for his first win in this event and finished ninth in this race last year with I Did It Myway.

Andy McCarthy has five Breeders Crown trophies.

Owned by Diamond Creek Racing and Farhi Standardbreds Corp. Diamond Creek Racing also starts **CONFEDERATE** and **COMBUSTION**. This is the first starter for Farhi Standardbreds Corp.

Bred by White Birch Farm, which has seven Breeders Crown trophies but none in this event.

PP 5 Huntinthelastdolar (Huntsville-Eighthundolarbill-Bettors Delight)

His only wins have come over half-mile tracks in New York Sires Stakes prelims, winning at Batavia Downs on debut on Aug. 3 and at Monticello Raceway on Aug. 22. He has also finished second in the \$200,000 New York Sires Stakes Final, fourth in a \$128,650 Nassagaweya division and fifth in the \$666,000 Metro Pace final (to **STOCKADE SEELSTER**). He launched home with a :26.3 final quarter to finish second in his Breeders Crown elimination (to **HANDLELIKEAPORSCHÉ**).

Trainer Gregg McNair tries for his first win in this event in his sixth attempt, with his most recent start in 2019 – a fourth-place effort by Mayhem Hanover.

Driver Doug McNair tries for his second victory in this event, in which he scored his only Breeders Crown win when Stay Hungry won in 2017.

Owned by Steve Heimbecker and Gregg McNair – McNair is yet to own a Breeders Crown winner from three finalists while Heimbecker has his first finalist.

Bred by Crawford Farms LLC, which has not had a winner in this event but has one Crown victory. This is the first 2-Year-Old Colt Pace finalist for Crawford Farms.

Trainer Gregg McNair:

He raced good. He hadn't raced for quite a while. We brought him in Tuesday morning (Oct. 18) and trained him up decent and decided to put him in (the Breeders Crown). He's real good on the small tracks. He's got big gate speed. He can get off the gate no matter what size the track he's on.

Pp 6 Combustion (Captaintreacherous-Acquavella-Western Ideal)

A winner in five of his seven starts, three of which came in Kentucky Commonwealth Series prelims and one in a \$99,700 International Stallion Stake division. He also finished third in the \$100,000 Kentucky Commonwealth Series final. Came from off the pace to finish fourth in his Breeders Crown elimination (to **HANDLELIKEAPORSCHÉ**).

Trained by Brett Pelling, who won this race in 2003 with I Am A Fool. Pelling also trained Papi Rob Hanover, who was disqualified from first in the 2019 edition and placed behind winner Tall Dark Stranger.

Driven by Todd McCarthy, who finished third in his debut in this event last year with Pebble Beach.

Owned by Diamond Creek Racing, Thomas and Scott Dillon and Cooper Silva Stables.

Bred by Diamond Creek Farm, which has four Breeders Crown trophies but none in this event.

Trainer Brett Pelling:

He's pretty nice. He's a bit different. I don't think he's the sharpest tool in the shed, but he's working it out. That's just sort of his nature. He's learning to race better. When he lost in Kentucky, he was in front. He just didn't really know what was going on, with a horse coming off his back. It's just sort of the way he is. But he's a very, very strong horse. I think as he goes along, he'll develop more speed, and he's probably fast enough anyway. He's a good horse, and he's a well-bred horse.

PP 7 Stockade Seelster (State Treasurer-Soiree Seelster-Big Jim)

Only four horses since the race's inception in 1988 have won the Metro Pace and Breeders Crown in the same year – Artsplace (1990), Jeremes Jet (2005), Tall Dark Stranger (2019) and Monte Miki (2021). Stockade Seelster will attempt to become the fifth while having a near-perfect record from 10 starts with eight wins. He swept the Ontario Sires Stakes Gold series with a 1:50.1 performance in the \$225,000 Super Final on Oct. 15. His only two losses have come in eliminations – the elimination for the Metro Pace (to **TIP TOP CAT**) and in his Breeders Crown elimination (to **HANDLELIKEAPORSCHKE**), the latter of which he had to overcome post 10.

Trainer Dr. Ian Moore has yet to win in this event and has only won one trophy from eight Breeders Crown finalists – the 2020 Open Pace with Century Farroh. Doc Moore's only appearance in the 2-Year-Old Colt Pace came with a fifth-place finish by Malicious in 2009.

Driver Jody Jamieson has one win in this race, which came in 2007 with Santanna Blue Chip. This is Jamieson's first Breeders Crown final since the event last came to Woodbine Mohawk Park in 2019.

Owned by Sally and Paul MacDonald, who shared ownership of 2015 Open Pace finalist State Treasurer.

Bred by Seelster Farms, which looks for its first win in this event and its second trophy since winning the 2-Year-Old Colt Trot with Eager Seelster in 1994.

Trainer Ian Moore:

He might be getting a little tired. That's nine starts now, and not easy ones, either. The slowest one of those starts was (1):52. He's come a couple of :28 quarters his last two starts, which is not him. It's hard. We'll see what we can do. We'll get one more in him and then head south and probably give him three months off.

He's a really nice colt. He got too aggressive there, but he's been on the front a lot because he's a little better than some of the Ontario horses. He got fairly aggressive on me. But he always was very smart in the springtime training down. We opened him up and he's come back around again. He's a lot more manageable now to race.

We're hoping for a bit of luck. Most of the colts in the top three (in the elims) have only had four or five or six starts, so they're all fresh. It will be interesting to see, for sure, but he'll give his best. I'm sure he will. There's nothing to complain about, he's been a great horse.

PP 8 Act Fast (Downbytheseaside-Act Like A Diva-Roll With Joe)

Winner of the \$150,000 Next Generation Stake at Scioto Downs on July 4. His only other win from eight starts came in an Ohio Sires Stakes prelim at Scioto on Sept. 10. He finished seventh-placed sixth in the \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship but just qualified for the Breeders Crown final with a fifth-place finish (to **CONFEDERATE**).

One of three entrants for trainer Ron Burke, who also starts **TIP TOP CAT** and **ERVIN HANOVER**.

Trainer Ron Burke tries for his third win to tie event-leader Bob McIntosh after winning in 2011 with Sweet Lou and in the only dead-heat win in Breeders Crown history with Summa Cum Laude in 2020.

Driver Chris Page makes his 12th Breeders Crown appearance and his first in this event as he tries for his first trophy.

Owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC, Knox Services Inc., Rich Lombardo Racing LLC and Beasty LLC. Bred by Fred Hertrich, who has four Breeders Crown trophies but none in this event.

PP 9 Ammo (Sweet Lou-Beach Gal-Somebeachsomewhere)

The fourth foal from Beach Gal, who finished third in the 2014 3-Year-Old Filly Pace to Sayitall BB. Also a half-brother to Always A Miki, who finished sixth in the 2020 2-Year-Old Colt Pace. Ammo had just three starts coming into his Breeders Crown elimination with his only win coming in a conditioned race at The Red Mile on Sept. 19. He finished fifth in a \$109,000 Bluegrass division and second in a \$99,700 International Stallion Stake division (to **COMBUSTION**).

Trainer Joe Holloway will try to beat trainer Bob McIntosh's record in this event with his fourth victory in this race. He won this event in 1994 with Jennas Beach Boy, in 1998 with Badlands Hanover and in 2020 via dead-heat with Perfect Sting.

Driver David Miller tries for his second win in this event, winning his first with Perfect Sting in 2020.

Owned by Val D'or Farms and Ted Gewertz – Val D'Or Farms co-owned 2020 winner Perfect Sting while Ted Gewertz co-owned 2016 winner Huntsville.
Bred by Sergent Stables LLC, which makes its second Breeders Crown start after having sent Always A Miki in the 2020 2-Year-Old Colt Pace.

PP 10 Ervin Hanover (Captaintreacherous-Eloquent Grace-Well Said)

A winner of two Pennsylvania Sires Stakes prelims and the \$110,000 Elevation Pace at Harrah's Hoosier Park on Sept. 23. He also finished third in a \$109,000 Bluegrass division and fourth in a \$99,700 International Stallion Stake. He rode a pocket trip to finish second at 50-1 in his Breeders Crown elimination (to **CONFEDERATE**). One of three entrants for trainer Ron Burke, who also starts **TIP TOP CAT** and **ACT FAST**.

Trainer Ron Burke tries for his third win to tie event-leader Bob McIntosh after winning in 2011 with Sweet Lou and in the only dead-heat win in Breeders Crown history with Summa Cum Laude in 2020.

Driver Joe Bongiorno tries for his first win in this race and his second Breeders Crown trophy, with his first coming in the 2019 Open Pace with American History.

Owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC, J&T Silva Stables LLC, James Simpson and Weaver Brusceci LLC.

Bred by Hanover Shoe Farms Inc., which leads breeders all-time in Breeders Crown earnings.

Driver Joe Bongiorno:

He was super. As a longer shot in the race, he looped the car easy. He can leave so fast, which is so important to get him in the right spot. He got a little crooked on me in the last turn, I kind of lost a little ground, but he came pacing again in the stretch. I think if Ronnie (Burke) has him straight as a string next week that he can go with all of them. I think they'll work on a few things on him, and he'll be really good next week.