

### **Amazone Duharas (Muscle Hill-Cleopatre Duharas-Cantab Hall)**

Competing as a homebred Haras De L Estrie Inc., Amazone Duharas is out of Cleopatre Duharas, who competed in the 2011 Breeders Crown in the 3YO Filly Trot and was fifth. The 4-year-old daughter of Muscle Hill was eighth in last year's Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Filly Trot behind champion Bella Bellini.

Amazone Duharas made four starts as a 2-year-old, all in stakes – finishing third in the \$84,500 Pure Ivory Final and ninth in the \$335,000 Peaceful Way final.

The mare returned gradually as a sophomore racing in overnight company until stepping up to the Grand Circuit in a \$75,400 Casual Breeze division at Woodbine Mohawk Park, which she won in 1:53.4.

She followed that effort with a second in the \$160,260 Simcoe Stakes and a win via disqualification in a \$75,200 division of the Bluegrass Stake at Red Mile.

Amazone Duharas, trained by Denis Gueriel and steered by Loic Gueriel, has made every one of her ten 2022 starts at Woodbine Mohawk Park and has tallied three victories. Her connections got a prep race in Monday, Oct. 24 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, finishing sixth in a conditioned race, race-timed in 1:54.3.

A triumph in this event would be the first Crown title for the mare's connections.

## **Atlanta (Chapter Seven-Hemi Blue Chip-Cantab Hall)**

Atlanta etched her name in the record books as a sophomore when she became the first filly in 22 years to capture the \$1 million Hambletonian Stake over males. Only 15 fillies have accomplished this feat in 97 years. Her sophomore season saw her named Trotter of the Year.

Bred by the Order By Stable of Stefan Balazsi, the 7-year-old mare is the co-swiftest female trotter of all-time but has yet to capture a Crown.

Atlanta was purchased for \$60,000 under the name Django Unchained at the 2016 Standardbred Horse Sale. She currently owned by Crawford Farms Racing, Brad Grant, and Howard Taylor, who have 11 Crowns among them, two of Taylor's coming in this division with Buck I St Pat.

Atlanta has competed in the Breeders Crown each season she has raced. She was fourth behind Manchego as a 2-year-old and second behind Lily Stride as a sophomore. At four and five she raced in the Crown Open event against males. At four Atlanta was third behind Bold Eagle and Six Pack. At five she was third to Gimpanzee and Crystal Fashion. At six she was second to Felicityshagwell. This will be her final appearance in the Breeders Crown as she will retire at the end of the season.

Driver Yannick Gingras ranks sixth in Breeders Crown history with 24 trophies. He is third among active drivers, trailing Brian Sears (35) and David Miller (29). John Campbell holds the record with 48 victories in the series.

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. Foiled Again and Gingras won the 2013 Breeders Crown Open Pace in the mud at Pocono, beating Pet Rock by a nose after a memorable stretch drive.

### **Trainer Ron Burke:**

She trained great (Saturday). She's coming into the race super. Her and When Dovescry drawing outside of Bella Bellini puts them both up against it. I think the big track picks up Bella Bellini a lot, so they're both going to have to step up their games.

On if it's big to get a Breeders Crown for Atlanta: It's big anytime you're trying to win a Breeders Crown. But her career is complete to me no matter what she does. If you're going to try to hold that against her, you're really being picky. She is one of the greatest trotting mares ever.

### **Driver Yannick Gingras:**

She's one of the great ones, no doubt about it, but the Breeders Crown is one thing that's missing on her mantel. It would definitely mean a whole lot to win it for her.

Trainer Ron Burke has campaigned Atlanta at four, five, and six. Burke has 18 Crown championships and more than \$10 million in earnings for second in the all-time ranks behind Jimmy Takter.

He and Gingras were inducted into the Hall of Fame in July 2022. Burke leads all active trainers in Breeders Crown victories.

## **Bella Bellini (Bar Hopping-Bella Dolce-Kadabra)**

Winner of the 2021 Hambletonian Oaks, Bella Bellini is the 11th filly to win both the Oaks and the Breeders Crown final as she captured the 2021 3-Year-Old Filly Trot. This was last accomplished in 2017 by Ariana G.



An under-the-radar 2-year-old, she made one stakes appearance at The Red Mile – a seventh-place finish in an \$88,000 Bluegrass Stakes split. She debuted as a 3-year-old on April 20, 2021 to a 15-1/4-length romp in a preliminary for the Bobby Weiss Series at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono. She racked up wins in overnight races and a Pennsylvania Sires Stake preliminary before going to the Hambletonian Oaks, where she was second in her elimination before winning as the 1-2 favorite in the final. Her only other win after that came in the \$253,000 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes final prior to her swift-footed closing effort to win her Breeders Crown elimination.

This season the Dan Patch Award winner has defeated her elders When Doves Cry and Atlanta. She has also beat the boys in the Hambletonian Maturity in the Caesar's Trot.

Bella Bellini competes as a homebred for David McDuffee, who sits 10th among owners for all-time Breeders Crown earnings and has won eight trophies.

With horses he bred, McDuffee has finished third in four finals: two with Chestnut Hill (2019 2YO Colt Trot & 2020 3YO Colt Trot) and two with We Will See (2010 3YO Colt Pace & 2011 Open Pace).

Bella Bellini is trained by Richard "Nifty" Norman, who won in this event in 2013 with Bee A Magician and has seven trophies to his name.

Driver Dexter Dunn debuted in the Breeders Crown in 2019 and has won at least two trophies every year. He has eight trophies. In 2020, Dunn became the ninth driver in Crown history to win at least four finals in a year.

### **Trainer Nifty Norman:**

I think she will appreciate getting back on a big track. Going to Yonkers (for the Miecuna Invitational) was probably a bad idea on my part, but it was a \$250,000 race. We learned something, anyway. She doesn't like a half. Too many turns for her, especially at a mile-and-a-quarter. She likes two turns. She had trot, she just couldn't get her momentum, couldn't get any speed up. Lesson learned.

On her season: She's been fantastic. To me, she's the best mare in the country. You don't expect it from a 4-year-old. She's exceeded my expectations, for sure. She had a great year at 3 and hardly ever do they come back just as good or better at 4.

### **HP Mama B (Royalty For Life-Winter's Jewel-Self Possessed)**

HP Mama B makes her Breeders Crown debut as a 4-year-old. The mare has competed primarily on the Ontario Sire Stakes circuit and in Canada. She has earned \$405,340 and possesses a resume of 37-14-7-3.

Driver Sylvain Filion won his first Breeders Crown in 2001 with Goliath Bayama (Open Pace), a horse bred and trained by his father Yves. Yves, was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2016. His uncle, Herve, retired as the winningest driver in history and is in the Canadian and U.S. Halls of Fame.

Filion's second trophy came in 2012 with 2-year-old male trotter Wheeling N Dealin. He has won more than 9,700 races and C\$133 million in purses lifetime.

Filion is among the Top 20 North American drivers in history for purses and in the Top 25 for wins and led all Canadian drivers in purses for five consecutive years, 2012 through 2016.

It would be the first Breeders Crown victory for owner Claude Hamel.

#### **Driver Sylvain Filion:**

We got a good post, so we will try to take advantage of it. But it's a tough field. She will have to be on her 'A' game. I don't see why she wouldn't be, she's been racing pretty good. They were planning on racing her in the Breeders Crown, so they were kind of aiming at it. I'm pretty sure she will be well prepared.

She's got no faults. You can leave, you can race her from behind, and she's a big, strong mare. She's got a lot of good qualities. I can't say anything bad about her.

### **Next Level Stuff (Sebastian K S – Nantab-Cantab Hall)**

Bred and owned by Scott Farber's Runthetable Stables whose Cool Papa Bell scored the biggest upset in Hambletonian history at odds of 52-1, Next Level Stuff provided her owner with his first Breeders Crown trophy as a sophomore.

At two, Next Level Stuff was a five-time winner in Pennsylvania stakes action. She achieved career form at the end of her 3-year-old season, winning her Crown elimination and then the Crown final in 1:52, which set the stakes record.

At four and five, Next Level Stuff's biggest wins have come in legs of the Miss Versatility series. She was eighth in this event last year.

The mare is trained by Jim Campbell, a six-time Crown winning conditioner who stands seventh all-time as a trainer in Crown earnings with more than \$4 million.

Driver Tim Tetrick ranks fourth among active drivers in Breeders Crown finals wins with 22 and is No. 7 all time in the series. He won a trophy with 2-year-old male trotter Rebuff in 2021.

Tetrick captured a career-high four Breeders Crown finals in 2012 at Woodbine Racetrack, including the Open Trot with Chapter Seven. At the end of the season, Chapter Seven was voted Horse of the Year.

He has won multiple trophies in five other years, most recently in 2018.

#### **Trainer Jim Campbell:**

I trained her up pretty good last week at Magical Acres and she was really good. She was just a little too wound up at Lexington that day (Oct. 9 in the Allerage Farms Mare Trot); Timmy couldn't get her backed down the second quarter. But she's feeling good and acting good. She got a good draw, so hopefully she gets a good trip out of it. It's such a tough group of mares, if you don't get a good trip, you've got no shot at beating them.

On being keyed up in her last start: She could get like that when she was 2 and part of her 3-year-old year, but she's been pretty good the last couple years. I think it might have been a little bit because she hadn't raced in close to a month. She was just a little too fresh.

### **Refined (Uncle Peter – Reinvent-Malabar Man)**

Refined was bred by the Walnut Hall Stock Farm of Katherine and Dr. James Sautter and is owned by Larry Wills in partnership with previous Crown winner Joyce McClelland.

A top performer in the Open ranks on the Ohio circuit, Refined was ninth in this event last year after making an uncharacteristic break in stride. The 5-year-old has won 29 of her 84 career starts and earned \$634,400.

Refined is trained by Virgil Morgan Jr. who won the 2008 Open Pace with Mister Big. Mister Big received the second of his two divisional Dan Patch Award honors that year. Morgan is a member of the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

Morgan was introduced to the sport by his father, known as “Big Virg,” who was a truck driver and enjoyed spending time with “Little Virg” at the races. When he was 18, Morgan bought his first horse for \$800 and sold it three months later for a profit. When Morgan eventually opened his own stable, Big Virg was one of his owners.

Morgan is the second winningest trainer of all time behind Ron Burke.

### **Sorella (Muscle Hill – Kadealia - Kadabra)**

The 2020 Hambletonian Oaks and O'Brien Award winner makes her third appearance in the Crown. She was second in the 3-Year-Old Trot in 2020 and fifth last year behind Felicityshagwell.

The mare has a record of 53-11-9-4 and has banked more than \$1 million.

Sorella was bred by Elmer Fannin and purchased as a yearling by Fannin and multiple Crown winners Crawford Farms; later Brett Fannin was added to the ownership.

Driver Todd McCarthy is the younger brother of driver Andy McCarthy and made his Breeders Crown debut in 2021 with drives in eight finals. His top finish was third (twice).

McCarthy moved to the U.S. at the end of August 2020. He had contemplated leaving Australia to continue his career in North America for several years but watching Andy win four Crown trophies in 2019 helped convince him to do it.

Since arriving in the U.S., McCarthy has won nearly 700 races and \$16 million in purses.

McCarthy won two million-dollar races this year, the Hambletonian with Cool Papa Bell on Aug. 6 at the Meadowlands and the North America Cup with Pebble Beach on June 18 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

He joined brothers Andy and Luke as the winning driver of at least one \$1 million race, an unprecedented accomplishment for brothers. Andy won the 2020 Hambletonian with Ramona Hill. Luke has won multiple Miracle Mile trophies in Australia.

McCarthy is the driver of 2021 Dan Patch Award winner for best older male pacer Allywag Hanover.

Nancy Takter in 2020 became the fifth trainer in Breeders Crown history to win at least three finals in a year. She captured trophies with 3-year-old filly pacer Peaky Sneaky, Manchego in the Mare Trot, and Kissin In The Sand in the Mare Pace.

Manchego became the third female trotter in history with at least three trophies. She was the 2020 Dan Patch Award winner for best older female trotter. Takter was the 2020 Trainer of the Year.

Takter worked for her father, Jimmy, before starting her own stable in 2013. Jimmy Takter, who retired from training after the 2018 season, holds the record for Breeders Crown trophies with 34. Nancy Takter has seven.

### **When Dovescry (Muscle Hill-Cedar Dove-Andover Hall)**

When Dovescry was bred by William Weaver III; owner John Lengacher bought into the mare in 2020 and became outright owner in March of last year. It would be his first Crown win.

The 6-year-old mare is trained by Brett Pelling, who ranks fifth in championships (11) and seventh in money all-time in Crown history.

As a freshman, When Dovescry won her Crown elimination and was second in the final. At three, she was a Dan Patch divisional award winner; was second in the Crown final, She also won the Hambletonian Oaks, a division of the Bluegrass Stake and her second straight Matron Stake.

At four, When Dovescry was third in the Crown and at five, she won four legs and the final of the Miss Versatility, and the Armbro Flight.

When Dovescry has won more than \$300,000 in Crown events without a championship. She enters this race off a triumph in the MGM Robert Mercuna Invitational Trot as the favorite.

The mare is driven by Hall of Famer David Miller. Miller ranks No. 2 among active drivers in Breeders Crown wins with 29 and is fourth all time in the series. He trails John Campbell (48), Brian Sears (35), and Ron Pierce (30).

Miller set the record for most Breeders Crown victories in a single year with five in 2015. He accomplished the feat at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto. He has won multiple Breeders Crown finals in a year eight times in his career.

Miller collected two trophies in 2021, with 3-year-old filly pacer Test Of Faith for trainer Brett Pelling and 3-year-old male pacer Perfect Sting for trainer Joe Holloway.

Test Of Faith was the 2021 Dan Patch Award Horse of the Year and Perfect Sting was the Dan Patch Award winner for best 3-year-old male pacer.

Miller won his first Crown in 2000 with Magician in the Open Trot.

### **Trainer Brett Pelling**

She is in the form of her life right now. She is just super sharp. I think she really appreciates the cooler weather. She's a bit of an angry old girl, and I don't think she likes to sweat and do too much. But with cooler weather, she's definitely done better as we've gone into the fall. Some horses come to their form early in the summer, and other horses seem to get it done in the fall. We're always thinking long term, so hopefully this is the time of year where it really pays off.