

TONY ALAGNA**Born: 6/8/1972 – Birthplace: Champaign, IL – Resides: Howell, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies: 6.**

- * Won three Breeders Crown finals in 2019 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, joining Jimmy Takter, Ron Burke, and Bob McIntosh as the only trainers to win three or more trophies in a year. Nancy Takter and Ake Svanstedt have since joined the group.
- * Alagna's 2019 victories were with Ramona Hill in the 2-year-old filly trot, Reflect With Me in the 2-year-old filly pace, and American History in the Open Pace.
- * Prior triumphs were with 2-year-old male pacer Stay Hungry in 2017, 3-year-old male pacer Racing Hill in 2016, and 3-year-old male pacer Captaintreacherous in 2013.
- * Captaintreacherous was Pacer of the Year in 2012 and 2013.
- * Finished second with I Did It Myway in the 2022 Crown final for 3-year-old male pacers.
- * Stable set career high for purses in 2022 with \$9.28 million, second best among all trainers in North America, and equaled a career best for wins with 212.
- * Ranks No. 3 among all trainers in North America in purses in 2023 with more than \$6 million, trailing only perennial leader Ron Burke and Ake Svanstedt.
- * Got career win 2,000 on June 18 at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs. Has upped his total to more than 2,100 since then.
- * Has more than \$72 million in lifetime purses, ranking No. 5 among all trainers since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Top Grand Circuit win so far this year came with 3-year-old male trotter Ari Ferrari J in the Dr. Harry M. Zweig Memorial on July 8 at Vernon Downs. Won Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series finals with Ari Ferrari J and 2-year-old male pacer Better Is Nice, who also captured a New Jersey Sire Stakes championship.
- * Followed his mom, Donna Lee, into the sport. He had a pony at the age of 3, was reading up on pedigrees at 9, and solely responsible for his first horse at 10. Soon after graduating from high school, Alagna was assisting his mom with her stable.
- * Spent six years as the top assistant to trainer Erv Miller, where he worked with Breeders Crown champions Lis Mara and Shark Gesture.

LUC BLAIS**Born: 2/21/1962 – Birthplace: Quebec – Resides: Campbellville, Ontario****Breeders Crown trophies: 4.**

- * Got his first Breeders Crown in 2012 with 3-year-old male trotter Intimidate, a horse he co-owned.
- * Next two trophies came with older female trotter Emoticon Hanover, in 2017 and 2018.
- * Most recent title came in 2020 with 2-year-old male trotter On A Streak at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- * Intimidate, Emoticon Hanover, and On A Streak all were O'Brien Award winners.
- * In addition to her two trophies, Emoticon Hanover twice finished second in Breeders Crown finals. She appeared in five finals during her career.
- * Blais-trained Forbidden Trade won the 2019 Hambletonian and was named Canada's Horse of the Year.
- * Has won more than 1,100 races and \$21 million (U.S.) in his career.
- * Top win so far this year came with 2-year-old female trotter Drawn Impression in the Peaceful Way Stakes on Aug. 26 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- * Received the 2021 O'Brien Award of Horsemanship.
- * Got hooked on racing at an early age, watching his father, a salesman, race his own horses on the Quebec fair circuit.
- * Spent time in banking and construction before getting involved fulltime in racing.
- * Worked for several stables, including Canadian Hall of Famer Yves Filion's Bayama Farms, before going on his own. He now trains for information-technology mogul Serge Godin's Determination stable.

BRIAN BROWN**Born: 9/27/1964 – Birthplace: Upper Sandusky, OH – Resides: Ostrander, OH****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2017. - Breeders Crown trophies: 2.**

- * Won his first Breeders Crown with Color's A Virgin in the 2015 Mare Pace.
- * Got his second trophy with 3-year-old filly pacer Blazin Britches in 2017.
- * Has more than 1,900 wins and \$35 million in purses lifetime.
- * Stable has surpassed \$2 million in purses nine of the last 10 years, including 2023. He missed by less than \$6,000 in 2020.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Geocentric in the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final on Sept. 17 at Lexington's Red Mile and in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final on Sept. 2 at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs.
- * Spent his childhood summers watching his father Robert H. Brown and uncle William Brown campaign horses around Ohio.
- * Fulfilled his dream to become a driver in 1981 at the age of 16 and won nearly 250 races over the ensuing decade but turned his attention to training in the early 1990s.
- * Based at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in central Ohio, where he operates a stable with assistance from his wife Jennifer and other family members.

RON BURKE**Born: 10/16/1969 – Birthplace: Washington, PA – Resides: Canonsburg, PA****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2022.**Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2018, 2013, 2011.****Breeders Crown trophies: 18.**

- * Leads active trainers in Breeders Crown trophies with 18.
- * Ranks second overall behind Jimmy Takter's 34 wins in finals.
- * Most recent Crown came in 2020 with 2-year-old male pacer Summa Cum Laude, who won in a dead heat with Perfect Sting. It was the first dead heat for win in Crown history.
- * Has won multiple trophies in a year on five occasions, including three in both 2018 and 2017. Jimmy Takter is the only other trainer to win at least three trophies in multiple years, which he accomplished six times.
- * In 2009, Burke got his first trophies with Buck I St Pat in the Mare Trot and Won The West in the Open Pace. His next two Crowns came with the same horses the following year.
- * Among his other Breeders Crown champions were 2017 Horse of the Year Hannelore Hanover, who beat the boys in that season's Open Trot, and Foiled Again, the sport's all-time leading money-winner with \$7.63 million who won the 2013 Open Pace.
- * Took over the family's training stable from his father Mickey, the 2006 Trainer of the Year, in late 2008.
- * On his way to leading all North American trainers in both wins and purses for the 15th consecutive year.
- * Became the first person to reach \$300 million in North American purses in harness racing history on May 6, 2023. Has increased the total to \$318 million since then. Only two other trainers, Jimmy Takter (\$130 million) and Erv Miller (\$104 million) have reached \$100 million since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Got career win 14,000 on Aug. 5 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. Is now approaching 14,300. Virgil Morgan Jr. is No. 2 on the victory list, with a total approaching 7,400.
- * Has surpassed \$21 million in purses 10 of the last 11 years, including 2023.
- * Top wins so far this year include T C I in the Mohawk Million on Sept. 23 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, Hellabalou in the MGM Borgata Pacing Series final on April 24 at Yonkers Raceway, Celebrity Bambino in the Canadian Trotting Classic on Sept. 23 at Mohawk, and Hambletonian Maturity with M-M's Dream on July 15 at the Meadowlands.

JIM CAMPBELL**Born: 3/9/1962 – Birthplace: London, Ontario – Resides: Howell, NJ****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2024.**Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 2022.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 6.

- * Elected to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame on Sept. 13. Will be inducted on July 7, 2024, at the Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y., along with owner/breeder David McDuffee and trainer/driver Ed Lohmeyer.
- * Named 2022 Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. His season was highlighted by winning the Hambletonian with Cool Papa Bell and Hambletonian Oaks with Fashion Schooner to become only the third trainer in history to capture both trotting classics in the same year.
- * One of only four trainers to win both the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks twice in their careers, with Hall of Famers Billy Haughton, Joe O'Brien, and Jimmy Takter.
- * Won his first Breeders Crown in 1998 with 3-year-old female pacer Galleria.
- * Two-year-old male trotter Broadway Hall gave Campbell his second trophy in 2002 and 3-year-old female trotter Broadway Schooner followed in 2009. Broadway Donna, a daughter of Broadway Schooner, also won at age 3 in 2016.
- * Won two trophies in 2020 with 3-year-old female trotter Next Level Stuff and with 3-year-old male pacer Sandbetweenmytoes, who won at odds of nearly 204-1 in the biggest upset in Breeders Crown history. Sandbetweenmytoes' dam was Galleria.
- * Galleria, Broadway Hall, Broadway Schooner, and Broadway Donna all were Dan Patch Award winners.
- * Has won more than 1,400 races and \$54 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks No. 13 among all North American trainers in purses since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Followed his father, Jack, and grandfather, Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Famer Dunc Campbell, into harness racing.
- * His brother John became the president/CEO of the Hambletonian Society in 2017 following a Hall of Fame driving career. John holds the record for Breeders Crown trophies with 48.

JEFF CULLIPHER**Born: 9/30/1971 – Birthplace: Henderson, KY – Resides: Pendleton, IN**

- * Has appeared in four previous Breeders Crown finals.
- * Already set a career high for wins this year, with 256, fourth best in North America.
- * Has topped \$4 million in purses in 2023, his third consecutive year to reach that level.
- * Set a career high with \$4.53 million in 2022.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Southwind Cherry in the Moni Maker Stakes on Sept. 22 at Harrah's Hoosier Park and with Lovedbythemasses in the Vincennes on Hambletonian Day, Aug. 5, at the Meadowlands.
- * Has won more than 1,500 races and \$23 million in purses in his career.
- * Followed his father Roger, who has more than 2,600 wins as a driver and 1,000 as a trainer, into the sport.

NOEL DALEY**Born: 12/18/1961 – Birthplace: Mount Isa, Australia – Resides: Chesterfield, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies: 5.**

- * Captured a Breeders Crown in 2022 with 3-year-old colt pacer Pebble Beach, who went on to be a Dan Patch Award winner.
- * Won his first Breeders Crown with 3-year-old male trotter Mr Muscleman in 2003.
- * Mr Muscleman was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017.
- * Stable won three trophies with My Little Dragon (2005, 2006, and 2008) with Daley listed as the trainer in 2006.
- * My Little Dragon was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a broodmare in July.
- * Other Crowns for Daley came with 3-year-old filly trotters Impressive Kemp in 2010 and Cedar Dove in 2011.
- * Top wins this year came with Sig Sauer and Buy A Round in the New Jersey Sire Stakes championships and with Captain Albano in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship.
- * Daley's stable hosted Bulldog Hanover for trainer Jack Darling for his monthlong stay in New Jersey in July 2022, which included his world-record 1:45.4 victory in the William R. Haughton Memorial at the Meadowlands.
- * Has won more than 2,850 races and \$71 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks No. 6 among all trainers in purses and 18th in victories since official records began in 1992.
- * At the end of the 2018 season, Daley returned to Australia to train horses but decided the change of scenery wasn't for him and came back to the U.S. in the fall of 2019.
- * Worked for an airline before making his name in harness racing.

STEVE ELLIOTT**Born: 11/4/1953 – Birthplace: Detroit, MI – Resides: New Smyrna Beach, FL****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2007, 1988.****Breeders Crown trophies: 8.**

- * Got his first Breeders Crown in October 1988 with 3-year-old female pacer Sweet Reflection and a month later added his second with 2-year-old male trotter Valley Victory.
- * Most recent Crown came in 2015 with 2-year-old male pacer Boston Red Rocks.
- * Was named Trainer of the Year in 1988 when trainees Sweet Reflection, Valley Victory, and Totally Ruthless were all Dan Patch Award winners. He was Trainer of the Year again in 2007 when 3-year-old male trotter Donato Hanover was named Horse of the Year. Donato Hanover was a Breeders Crown champion at age 2.
- * Another Elliott star, stallion Well Said, was Pacer of the Year in 2009 and a Breeders Crown winner in 2008.
- * Has won more than 1,000 races and \$32 million in purses in his career.

JOE HOLLOWAY**Born: 9/17/1956 – Birthplace: Wilmington, DE – Resides: Freehold, NJ****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2019. - **Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 1995.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 10.

- * Ranks sixth for most Breeders Crown trophies in history.
- * Captured a 2022 Breeders Crown with 2-year-old male pacer Ammo at odds of 52-1 from post nine at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2021 with 3-year-old male pacer Perfect Sting.
- * Perfect Sting also won a Crown in 2020 at age 2 in a dead heat with Summa Cum Laude at Harrah's Hoosier Park. It was the first dead heat for win in Breeders Crown history.
- * First three Crown trophies came with Jenna's Beach Boy, who was victorious in 1994, 1995 and 1996. Jenna's Beach Boy is the only male pacer in history to win more than two Breeders Crown finals and the only pacer to win three in a row.
- * Jenna's Beach Boy was Pacer of the Year in 1995 and 1996.
- * Remaining Crown victories came with pacing mare She's A Great Lady in 1996, 2-year-old male pacer Badlands Hanover in 1998, 2-year-old filly pacer Lady MacBeach in 2000, and 3-year-old filly pacer Divine Caroline in 2015.
- * Has won more than 1,000 races and \$37 million in purses lifetime.
- * Top Grand Circuit wins so far this year came with 2-year-old female pacer Blue Pacific in the Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stakes and 2-year-old male pacer Newsroom in the Elevation, both at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- * Started in the sport as a caretaker when he was an altar boy, assisting a local priest who had taken up harness racing.
- * Graduated from the University of Delaware in 1978 with a degree in animal science. He turned his attention, though, to harness racing and began his career racing at Brandywine.
- * Prior to starting his own stable in 1988, he teamed with David Rovine for one of the top stables at the Meadowlands.

MARCUS MELANDER**Born: 7/1/1992 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: New Egypt, NJ****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 2019. - **Breeders Crown trophies:** 4.

- * Won the Breeders Crown 2-year-old filly trot in 2021 with Joviality S.
- * Captured three Breeders Crown trophies with male trotter Gimpanzee in 2018, 2019, and 2020. He joined Mack Lobell as the only male trotters to win finals at ages 2, 3, and 4.
- * Gimpanzee was the 2020 Trotter of the Year and runner-up to stablemate Greenshoe for Trotter of the Year in 2019. Was a Dan Patch Award divisional winner in 2018.
- * Melander was voted 2019 Trainer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. He is the youngest trainer to ever receive the award.
- * Received the 2018 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.
- * Has topped \$4 million in purses in 2023, his second consecutive year above \$4 million.
- * Set career high for purses in 2019, with \$5.36 million.
- * Has won more than 500 races and \$26 million lifetime.
- * Top victory so far this year came with 3-year-old female trotter Heaven Hanover in the Hambletonian Oaks on Aug. 5 at the Meadowlands. Also won a Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final with Date Night Hanover and New Jersey Sire Stakes championship with Air Power.
- * At age 19, Melander won Sweden's equivalent to the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Rising Star Award.
- * Younger brother Mattias assists with training and drives occasionally.
- * Nephew of Stefan Melander, who trained and drove Scarlet Knight to victory in the 2001 Hambletonian.
- * Worked in Sweden for his uncle. After moving to the U.S., he worked for Jimmy Takter, who is the winningest trainer in Breeders Crown history.

DAVID MENARY**Born: 4/17/1979 – Resides: Cambridge, ON**

- * Has appeared in 11 Breeders Crown finals and finished third on three occasions.
- * Stable has topped \$1 million in 2023 for the ninth time in his career.
- * Has won nearly 900 races and \$20 million (U.S.) lifetime.
- * Top wins this year came with 2-year-old filly pacer Its A Love Thing in the She's A Great Lady Stakes on Sept. 23 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, and in the Ontario Sire Stakes finals with 2-year-old filly pacer Pass Line and 3-year-old filly trotter Believe U Me.
- * Captured the 2014 Meadowlands Pace with He's Watching, in a world-record-equaling 1:46.4 performance.
- * His father was a truck operator and part-time trainer in the 1970s.
- * At the age of 13, dipped into his savings and bought a horse with his dad, which fueled his passion for harness racing.
- * Went to college for business and administration but turned to racing after a year.

IAN MOORE**Born: 1/14/1954 – Birthplace: England – Resides: Cambridge, Ontario****Breeders Crown trophies: 1**

- * Won his Breeders Crown with Century Farroh in the 2020 Open Pace.
- * Twice finished second in finals with male pacer Shadow Play, 2008 and 2009.
- * Shadow Play, winner of the 2008 Little Brown Jug, was elected to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2022.
- * Also finished second with Tattoo Artist in the 2022 Open Pace.
- * Has won more than 700 races and earned \$19 million (U.S.) in purses lifetime.
- * Already established a career high with more than \$2.7 million (Canadian) in purses this year. Ranks No. 3 among all trainers in Canada.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Tattoo Artist in the Canadian Pacing Derby, Jim Ewart Memorial, and Dayton Derby. Also won an Ohio Sire Stakes championship with Clever Cody and Ontario Sire Stakes final with Storm Shadow.
- * Received the O'Brien Award of Horsemanship in 2015.
- * Came to Canada from England at the age of 4.
- * Parents had no involvement in racing. Was introduced to the sport while in school on Prince Edward Island by a janitor who had a stable of horses.

VIRGIL MORGAN JR.**Born: 11/23/1965 – Birthplace: Columbus, OH – Resides: Grove City, OH****Breeders Crown trophies: 1.**

- * Won the 2008 Open Pace with Mister Big, who received the second of his two divisional Dan Patch Award honors that year.
- * Morgan was inducted into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2021.
- * Has won more than 7,300 races and \$70 million in purses in his career.
- * Ranks No. 2 in wins and No. 7 in purses since the start of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Led the sport in wins in 2000 and 2002 and finished second on five occasions.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Grace Hill in the Dayton Distaff, Roses Are Red, and Milton. Also won the Armbro Flight with Refined. Captured an Ohio Sire Stakes championship with Sugar Instead.
- * 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.
- * At age 18, Morgan bought his first horse for \$800 and sold it three months later for a profit. When he eventually opened his own stable, Big Virg was one of his owners.

CHRIS RYDER**Born: 10/2/1955 – Birthplace: Greymouth, New Zealand – Resides: Allentown, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies: 5.**

- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2021 with 2-year-old filly pacer Niki Hill.
- * Picked up his first two trophies with Mystical Sunshine, in the 2006 and 2007 Mare Trot.
- * Won with 3-year-old filly pacer Put On A Show in 2010 and 3-year-old filly pacer I Luv The Nitelife in 2013.
- * All four horses were Dan Patch Award divisional champions.
- * Has 10 runner-up finishes in Breeders Crown finals, tied for fourth most in history. Has finished first or second in nearly 36 percent of his 42 appearances in finals.
- * Set a career high with \$3.73 million in purses in 2022.
- * Top Grand Circuit win so far this year came with Twin B Joe Fresh in the James M. Lynch Memorial on Aug. 19 at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs. Also won the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final with Twin B Joe Fresh and New York Sire Stake final with Peace Talks.
- * Has won nearly 1,800 races and \$52 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks 17th in purses all time since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Grew up in New Zealand and began riding ponies at the age of 10.
- * Father was a dairy farmer who later worked at a stable and trained horses. Ryder worked for his father and older brother, who had a stable, before a stint in Montreal as a groom.
- * Came to the U.S. when his wife, Nicola, got a job in the New York area. Ryder worked several odd jobs before turning to training on a fulltime basis.

TROND SMEDSHAMMER**Born: 3/22/1967 – Birthplace: Norway – Resides: Allentown, NJ****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2004.****Breeders Crown trophies: 9.**

- * Tied for seventh for the most Breeders Crown trophies in history.
- * Most recent triumph came in 2019 with 3-year-old filly trotter Winndevie.
- * All nine of his wins have come with driver Brian Sears.
- * Got his first with 3-year-old filly trotter Stroke Play in 2003. His other Crown winners included trotter Arch Madness, a two-time O'Brien Award winner and the richest Canadian-sired Standardbred in history, with \$4.32 million.
- * Stroke Play was a Dan Patch Award winner as were Smedshammer's trophy winners Housethatruthbuilt, Blur, and Sand Vic. His remaining Crown champs were H P Paque, Strong Yankee, and Break The Bank K.
- * Arrived in the U.S. in 1987 after a mandatory year in the Norwegian Army. Worked for trainer Per Henriksen for six months before heading back home, where he continued to train horses. A year later, he returned to the States and worked at Lindy Farms.
- * Started his own stable in 1992.
- * Trained and drove 2004 Trotting Triple Crown winner Windsong's Legacy and was named Trainer of the Year.
- * Has won more than 1,300 races and \$52 million in purses as a trainer.
- * Ranks No. 18 in purses since the start of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Has won more than 750 races as a driver and nearly \$23 million in purses lifetime.
- * Top win so far this year came with Chaplind in the New York Sire Stakes championship on Sept. 9 at MGM Yonkers Raceway.

ANNIE STOEBE**Born: 9/27/1987 – Birthplace: Great Falls, MT – Resides: New Egypt, NJ**

- * Making her Breeders Crown debut in 2022 and finished fifth with Instagram Model in the final for 2-year-old filly trotters.
- * Started her own small stable in 2021. Has won 21 of 89 races and \$733,548 in 2022 and 2023 combined.
- * Top win this year came with Instagram Model in the New York Sire Stakes championship at MGM Yonkers Raceway on Sept. 9.
- * Got started in harness racing by working for trainer Brett Bittle, a Breeders Crown winner in 1994 with 2-year-old filly pacer Yankee Cashmere.
- * Grew up on a farm in Montana and was active as a barrel racer.
- * Got a rodeo scholarship to a college in Texas.
- * Active as an amateur driver when she began in harness racing and has eight driving wins.

AKE SVANSTEDT**Born: 11/18/1958 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: Columbus, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies: 5.**

- * Has won all five of his Breeders Crown trophies in the past two years.
- * In 2022, he captured three Crowns – becoming the sixth trainer in history with at least three in a year – winning with 2-year-old filly trotter Special Way, 3-year-old filly trotter Jiggy Jog S, and Ecurie D (DK) for the second consecutive year in the Open Trot.
- * Ecurie D became the first repeat Open Trot winner since Fool's Goal in 2002-2003.
- * Svanstedt drove Special Way; Dexter Dunn drove Jiggy Jog S and Ecurie D.
- * Special Way and Ecurie D were Dan Patch Award winners in 2022.
- * Got two Breeders Crown wins in 2021, with Felicityshagwell S in the Mare Trot and Ecurie D in the Open Trot.
- * Drove both trotters to victory, joining Ray Schnittker (Deweycheatumnhowe, 2007) and Verlin Yoder (Woodside Charm, 2018) to win as both trainer and driver in the past 15 years.
- * Set a career best with \$7.52 million in trainer purses in 2022 (third highest in North America) and entered this week at \$7.51 million (second highest in North America).
- * Has won more than 1,000 races and \$50 million in purses as a trainer since starting his U.S. stable in 2014.
- * Ranks in the Top 25 in purses among trainers since official records began in 1992.
- * Has won more than 600 races and \$30 million in purses as a driver in North America.
- * Already has set career highs for driving wins, with 87, and purses, with more than \$4.22 million, this year.
- * Top wins this year came with Alrajah One (IT) in the Maple Leaf Trot on Sept. 2 at Woodbine Mohawk Park and Up Your Deo in the MGM Yonkers Trot on June 30 at MGM Yonkers Raceway. Also won the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial with Up Your Deo and the Elegantimage with Bond.
- * Two-time winner of Hambletonian, with Captain Corey (2021) and Perfect Spirit (2017).
- * Was Sweden's Trainer of the Year five times and Driver of the Year on three occasions.
- * In 2017, he was inducted in Sweden's Hall of Fame.

NANCY TAKTER**Born: 6/23/1981 – Birthplace: Malmo, Sweden – Resides: Allentown, NJ****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2020. - Breeders Crown trophies: 8.**

- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2022 with 3-year-old filly pacer Treacherous Dragon.
- * Treacherous Dragon was a Dan Patch Award winner in 2022.
- * In 2020 became the fifth trainer in Breeders Crown history to win at least three finals in a year, capturing 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 Crowns.
- * Kissin In The Sand and Manchego were Dan Patch Award winners.
- * Won two trophies in 2019, with 2-year-old male pacer Tall Dark Stranger and Manchego. * Tall Dark Stranger was a Dan Patch Award winner.
- * Previous wins came with 2-year-old male pacer Captain Crunch in 2018 and 2-year-old filly pacer JK She'salady in 2014.
- * Captain Crunch was a Dan Patch Award winner and JK She'salady was Horse of the Year.
- * In 2020, Tall Dark Stranger became Takter's second Horse of the Year.
- * Has won nearly 700 races and \$34 million in purses lifetime. Stable has exceeded \$4 million for five consecutive years (including 2022).
- * Top wins this year came with 3-year-old male trotter Tactical Approach, in the Hambletonian on Aug. 5 at the Meadowlands, and Kentucky Futurity on Oct. 8 at the Red Mile. Also counts the Adios, with Cannibal, and Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final with 2-year-old male trotter Karl among this season's triumphs.
- * Worked for her father Jimmy, who won a record 34 Breeders Crown trophies in his Hall of Fame career, before starting her own stable in 2013.
- * Was the U.S. Harness Writers Association's 2014 Rising Star Award winner.

LINDA TOSCANO**Born: 6/26/1955 – Birthplace: Brooklyn, NY – Resides: Freehold, NJ****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2019.**Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 2012.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 8.

- * Added to her Breeders Crown collection in 2021 with Rocknificent in the Mare Pace.
- * Her first trophy came in 2002 with pacing mare Molly Can Do It.
- * Male trotter Chapter Seven was a two-time Breeders Crown champion (2011 and 2012) for Toscano and Horse of the Year in 2012. Also won in 2012 with 3-year-old male pacer Heston Blue Chip.
- * A year later, Market Share won the Open Trot. In 2016, Walner won the final for 2-year-old male trotters.
- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2020 with 2-year-old filly trotter Lady Chaos.
- * Heston Blue Chip, Market Share, and Walner also were Dan Patch Award winners. Market Share won the 2012 Hambletonian.
- * Has won more than 2,500 races and \$68 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks No. 10 in purses since the inception of official trainer records in 1992.
- * Stable has earned more than \$2 million for 17 consecutive years, including 2023.
- * Top wins so far this year came with It's My Show in the Little Brown Jug and North America Cup. Also won the Jugette with Ucandoit Blue Chip.
- * Joined Ron Burke and Brett Pelling as the only trainers to win the Little Brown Jug and Jugette in the same year in the past 25 years.
- * Briefly attended SUNY at Stony Brook before finding her calling and beginning her career on the track. Worked with veteran trainer Buddy Regan and Hall of Famers Buddy Gilmour and John Campbell prior to starting her own stable in 1985.

LUCAS WALLIN**Born: 12/28/1992 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: New Egypt, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies:** 1.

- * Won his Breeders Crown in 2021 with 2-year-old male trotter Rebuff at the Meadowlands.
- * Made his debut in 2020 and has appeared in a total of three finals, posting a win, a second, and a third.
- * Rebuff won the Kentucky Futurity, the third leg of the Trotting Triple Crown, in 2022.
- * Wallin received the 2022 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.
- * Earned a career-high \$1.69 million in purses in 2022 and entered this week at \$1.48 million for 2023.
- * Has won 200 races and \$6.2 million in purses in his career.
- * Top win so far this year came with Soiree Hanover in the Jim Doherty Memorial on Sept. 15 at Harrah's Hoosier Park. The victory gave Soiree Hanover an automatic berth in her Breeders Crown final.
- * Started driving ponies in Sweden at the age of 8. Several years later, he began helping at his uncle Joakim Wallin's stable.
- * In mid-2014, he was alerted to an opportunity to work for Ake Svanstedt's U.S.-based stable. He spent two years with Svanstedt before deciding to go on his own.

KATRICIA ADAMS**Born: 9/18/1969 – Birthplace: Clarion, PA – Resides: Kittanning, PA**

- * Has appeared in one previous Breeders Crown final, finishing seventh with Fiftydallarbill in the 2019 Open Trot.
- * Started her stable in 2016 and has more than 175 wins and \$2 million in purses lifetime.
- * Her family had heavy draft and riding horses.
- * Worked previously for Mickey Burke, the father of Ron Burke.
- * Graduated from Penn State with a teaching degree.

TONY ALAGNA**Born: 6/8/1972 – Birthplace: Champaign, IL – Resides: Howell, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies: 6.**

- * Won three Breeders Crown finals in 2019 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, joining Jimmy Takter, Ron Burke, and Bob McIntosh as the only trainers to win three or more trophies in a year. Nancy Takter and Ake Svanstedt have since joined the group.
- * Alagna's 2019 victories were with Ramona Hill in the 2-year-old filly trot, Reflect With Me in the 2-year-old filly pace, and American History in the Open Pace.
- * Prior triumphs were with 2-year-old male pacer Stay Hungry in 2017, 3-year-old male pacer Racing Hill in 2016, and 3-year-old male pacer Captaintreacherous in 2013.
- * Captaintreacherous was Pacer of the Year in 2012 and 2013.
- * Finished second with I Did It Myway in the 2022 Crown final for 3-year-old male pacers.
- * Stable set career high for purses in 2022 with \$9.28 million, second best among all trainers in North America, and equaled a career best for wins with 212.
- * Ranks No. 3 among all trainers in North America in purses in 2023 with more than \$6 million, trailing only perennial leader Ron Burke and Ake Svanstedt.
- * Got career win 2,000 on June 18 at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs. Has upped his total to more than 2,100 since then.
- * Has more than \$72 million in lifetime purses, ranking No. 5 among all trainers since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Top Grand Circuit win so far this year came with 3-year-old male trotter Ari Ferrari J in the Dr. Harry M. Zweig Memorial on July 8 at Vernon Downs. Won Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series finals with Ari Ferrari J and 2-year-old male pacer Better Is Nice, who also captured a New Jersey Sire Stakes championship.
- * Followed his mom, Donna Lee, into the sport. He had a pony at the age of 3, was reading up on pedigrees at 9, and solely responsible for his first horse at 10. Soon after graduating from high school, Alagna was assisting his mom with her stable.
- * Spent six years as the top assistant to trainer Erv Miller, where he worked with Breeders Crown champions Lis Mara and Shark Gesture.

BENOIT "BEN" BAILLARGEON**Born: 7/25/1958 – Birthplace: St. Hubert, Quebec – Resides: Guelph, Ontario**

- * Has appeared in 11 Breeders Crown finals, posting two seconds and three thirds.
- * Most recent final was in 2018, when he finished fourth with 3-year-old male trotter Run Director, who was an O'Brien Award winner.
- * Has been among the top money-winning trainers in Canada on an annual basis. In the previous 14 years, he has been in the top five on eight occasions and never been worse than 10th. He best finish during that time came in 2020 when he was second.
- * His horses have earned more than \$1 million (Canadian) in purses for 19 consecutive years and topped \$2 million seven times during that span.
- * Has won more than 2,665 races and \$41 million (U.S.) in purses in his career.
- * Top victory so far this year came with Ghostly Casper in the Ontario Sire Stakes championship on Oct. 14 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- * First full season on Ontario's Woodbine-Mohawk circuit came in 2001 and he finished fifth in the trainer standings. Within a decade, he twice finished second.
- * Prior to moving to Ontario, Baillargeon had a successful stable at Hippodrome de Montreal.
- * He was introduced to harness racing by his father Gaetan, who trained and drove. His older brother, Mario, is an accomplished driver, with more than 7,800 wins.

CHRIS BEAVER**Born: 3/4/1972 – Birthplace: Columbus, OH – Resides: Radnor, OH**

- * Finished second twice in Breeders Crown finals, with 3-year-old male trotter Triumphant Caviar in 2009 and with 2-year-old male trotter Moonshiner Hanover in 2016.
- * Has won nearly 1,500 races and \$31 million in purses in his career.
- * Is in his eighth consecutive year with more than \$2 million in purses.
- * Set career high for purses in 2021, with \$3.08 million.
- * Top Grand Circuit win this year came with Pizzelle in a division of the International Stallion Stakes on Oct. 7 at the Red Mile.
- * Was 23 when he bought the horse that changed his life. Her name was Raging Samantha and Beaver and his mother, Johanna, purchased the future stakes-winning trotter at a yearling auction in 1995 for \$9,500.
- * A graduate of Stetson University, Beaver had been thinking about heading to veterinary school, but he became immersed in racing thanks to Raging Samantha and her exploits.
- * Family has been involved in harness racing since the mid-1950s.
- * Beaver's grandfather, Henry, got the family started and his father, Charlie, enjoyed success as a trainer (and owned several horses with the late Academy Award-winning actor Don Ameche).

LUC BLAIS**Born: 2/21/1962 – Birthplace: Quebec – Resides: Campbellville, Ontario****Breeders Crown trophies: 4.**

- * Got his first Breeders Crown in 2012 with 3-year-old male trotter Intimidate, a horse he co-owned.
- * Next two trophies came with older female trotter Emoticon Hanover, in 2017 and 2018.
- * Most recent title came in 2020 with 2-year-old male trotter On A Streak at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- * Intimidate, Emoticon Hanover, and On A Streak all were O'Brien Award winners.
- * In addition to her two trophies, Emoticon Hanover twice finished second in Breeders Crown finals. She appeared in five finals during her career.
- * Blais-trained Forbidden Trade won the 2019 Hambletonian and was named Canada's Horse of the Year.
- * Has won more than 1,100 races and \$21 million (U.S.) in his career.
- * Top win so far this year came with 2-year-old female trotter Drawn Impression in the Peaceful Way Stakes on Aug. 26 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- * Received the 2021 O'Brien Award of Horsemanship.
- * Got hooked on racing at an early age, watching his father, a salesman, race his own horses on the Quebec fair circuit.
- * Spent time in banking and construction before getting involved fulltime in racing.
- * Worked for several stables, including Canadian Hall of Famer Yves Filion's Bayama Farms, before going on his own. He now trains for information-technology mogul Serge Godin's Determination stable.

JENNIFER BONGIORNO**Born: 2/27/1990 – Birthplace: Red Bank, NJ – Resides: Alpine, NJ**

- * Debuted in the Breeders Crown in 2021.
- * Has had three finalists, including Zanatta, who was sixth in last year's final for 2-year-old female pacers at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- * Stable set career highs with 271 wins and \$5.08 million in 2021.
- * Has won more than 1,200 races and \$22 million in purses in her career.
- * Top Grand Circuit win so far this year came with Zanatta in a dead-heat finish with Ucanidit Blue Chip in the Courageous Lady on Oct. 14 at Northfield Park.
- * Sister of driver Joe Bongiorno, who won a Breeders Crown in 2019.

BRIAN BROWN**Born: 9/27/1964 – Birthplace: Upper Sandusky, OH – Resides: Ostrander, OH****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2017.****Breeders Crown trophies: 2.**

- * Won his first Breeders Crown with Color's A Virgin in the 2015 Mare Pace.
- * Got his second trophy with 3-year-old filly pacer Blazin Britches in 2017.
- * Has more than 1,900 wins and \$35 million in purses lifetime.
- * Stable has surpassed \$2 million in purses nine of the last 10 years, including 2023. He missed by less than \$6,000 in 2020.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Geocentric in the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final on Sept. 17 at Lexington's Red Mile and in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes final on Sept. 2 at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs.
- * Spent his childhood summers watching his father Robert H. Brown and uncle William Brown campaign horses around Ohio.
- * Fulfilled his dream to become a driver in 1981 at the age of 16 and won nearly 250 races over the ensuing decade but turned his attention to training in the early 1990s.
- * Based at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in central Ohio, where he operates a stable with assistance from his wife Jennifer and other family members.

RON BURKE**Born: 10/16/1969 – Birthplace: Washington, PA – Resides: Canonsburg, PA****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2022.**Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 2018, 2013, 2011.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 18.

- * Leads active trainers in Breeders Crown trophies with 18.
- * Ranks second overall behind Jimmy Takter's 34 wins in finals.
- * Most recent Crown came in 2020 with 2-year-old male pacer Summa Cum Laude, who won in a dead heat with Perfect Sting. It was the first dead heat for win in Crown history.
- * Has won multiple trophies in a year on five occasions, including three in both 2018 and 2017. Jimmy Takter is the only other trainer to win at least three trophies in multiple years, which he accomplished six times.
- * In 2009, Burke got his first trophies with Buck I St Pat in the Mare Trot and Won The West in the Open Pace. His next two Crowns came with the same horses the following year.
- * Among his other Breeders Crown champions were 2017 Horse of the Year Hannelore Hanover, who beat the boys in that season's Open Trot, and Foiled Again, the sport's all-time leading money-winner with \$7.63 million who won the 2013 Open Pace.
- * Took over the family's training stable from his father Mickey, the 2006 Trainer of the Year, in late 2008.
- * On his way to leading all North American trainers in both wins and purses for the 15th consecutive year.
- * Became the first person to reach \$300 million in North American purses in harness racing history on May 6, 2023. Has increased the total to \$318 million since then. Only two other trainers, Jimmy Takter (\$130 million) and Erv Miller (\$104 million) have reached \$100 million since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Got career win 14,000 on Aug. 5 at Eldorado Scioto Downs. Is now approaching 14,300. Virgil Morgan Jr. is No. 2 on the victory list, with a total approaching 7,400.
- * Has surpassed \$21 million in purses 10 of the last 11 years, including 2023.
- * Top wins so far this year include T C I in the Mohawk Million on Sept. 23 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, Hellabalou in the MGM Borgata Pacing Series final on April 24 at Yonkers Raceway, Celebrity Bambino in the Canadian Trotting Classic on Sept. 23 at Mohawk, and Hambletonian Maturity with M-M's Dream on July 15 at the Meadowlands.

JIM CAMPBELL**Born: 3/9/1962 – Birthplace: London, Ontario – Resides: Howell, NJ****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2024. -- **Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 2022.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 6.

* Elected to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame on Sept. 13. Will be inducted on July 7, 2024, at the Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y., along with owner/breeder David McDuffee and trainer/driver Ed Lohmeyer.

* Named 2022 Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. His season was highlighted by winning the Hambletonian with Cool Papa Bell and Hambletonian Oaks with Fashion Schooner to become only the third trainer in history to capture both trotting classics in the same year.

* One of only four trainers to win both the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks twice in their careers, with Hall of Famers Billy Haughton, Joe O'Brien, and Jimmy Takter.

* Won his first Breeders Crown in 1998 with 3-year-old female pacer Galleria.

* Two-year-old male trotter Broadway Hall gave Campbell his second trophy in 2002 and 3-year-old female trotter Broadway Schooner followed in 2009. Broadway Donna, a daughter of Broadway Schooner, also won at age 3 in 2016.

* Won two trophies in 2020 with 3-year-old female trotter Next Level Stuff and with 3-year-old male pacer Sandbetweenmytoes, who won at odds of nearly 204-1 in the biggest upset in Breeders Crown history. Sandbetweenmytoes' dam was Galleria.

* Galleria, Broadway Hall, Broadway Schooner, and Broadway Donna all were Dan Patch Award winners.

* Has won more than 1,400 races and \$54 million in purses lifetime.

* Ranks No. 13 among all North American trainers in purses since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.

* Followed his father, Jack, and grandfather, Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Famer Dunc Campbell, into harness racing.

* His brother John became the president/CEO of the Hambletonian Society in 2017 following a Hall of Fame driving career. John holds the record for Breeders Crown trophies with 48.

STEVE CARTER**Born: 7/21/1966 – Birthplace: Chillicothe, OH – Resides: Londonderry, OH**

* Has appeared in one previous Breeders Crown, in 2021, when Charlie May won his elimination and finished second in the final for 3-year-old male pacers.

* Topped \$2 million in purses this year, his third consecutive season to exceed \$1 million and first ever to exceed \$2 million.

* Has won more than 2,100 races as a trainer and \$21 million in purses lifetime.

* Also has topped 2,100 wins as a driver (last drove in 2018).

* Top win so far this year came with Charlie May in the William R. Haughton Memorial on July 15 at the Meadowlands. Also won an Ohio Sire Stakes championship with 3-year-old male trotter Grand Revival.

DOMENICO CECERE**Born: 6/23/1981 – Birthplace: Locorotondo, Italy – Resides: Enfield, CT**

- * Debuted in the Breeders Crown in 2018.
- * Won eliminations in 2021 with 2-year-old filly trotter Raised By Lindy (second in the final) and 2-year-old male trotter Branded By Lindy (third in the final).
- * Raised By Lindy also finished second in the 2022 Breeders Crown final for 3-year-old female trotters.
- * Trainer for Lindy Farms and its various racing stables.
- * Set career highs in 2022 with 66 wins and \$2.28 million in purses.
- * Has won more than 320 races and \$7.7 million lifetime.
- * Top win so far this year came with Winner's Bet in a division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial on July 15 at the Meadowlands.
- * Was introduced to horses at an early age and got his first racehorse at the age of 14.
- * Moved from Italy to the U.S. in 2007.

JEFF CULLIPHER**Born: 9/30/1971 – Birthplace: Henderson, KY – Resides: Pendleton, IN**

- * Has appeared in four previous Breeders Crown finals.
- * Already set a career high for wins this year, with 256, fourth best in North America.
- * Has topped \$4 million in purses in 2023, his third consecutive year to reach that level.
- * Set a career high with \$4.53 million in 2022.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Southwind Cherry in the Moni Maker Stakes on Sept. 22 at Harrah's Hoosier Park and with Lovedbythemasses in the Vincennes on Hambletonian Day, Aug. 5, at the Meadowlands.
- * Has won more than 1,500 races and \$23 million in purses in his career.
- * Followed his father Roger, who has more than 2,600 wins as a driver and 1,000 as a trainer, into the sport.

JONAS CZERNYSON**Born: 4/18/1973 – Birthplace: Ystad, Sweden – Resides: Vero Beach, FL****Breeders Crown trophies: 2.**

- * Won Breeders Crown trophies in 2012 and 2013 with female trotter Maven, who was a champion at ages 3 and 4. She was a Dan Patch Award winner in 2013.
- * Most recent appearance in a Breeders Crown final came with 3-year-old female trotter Chablis in 2021. She finished sixth.
- * Among Czernyson's other top wins was the 2005 Hambletonian Oaks with Jalopy.
- * Has won nearly 600 races and \$21 million in purses in his career.
- * Breeders Crown finalist Bravo Angel S won the Kentucky Filly Futurity consolation division on Oct. 8 at Lexington's Red Mile.
- * Worked for trainer Don Swick, a three-time Breeders Crown winner, upon arriving in the U.S. and later worked for Hall of Fame trainer Per Eriksson, a nine-time Crown winner, before starting his own stable.

NOEL DALEY**Born: 12/18/1961 – Birthplace: Mount Isa, Australia – Resides: Chesterfield, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies: 5.**

- * Captured a Breeders Crown in 2022 with 3-year-old colt pacer Pebble Beach, who went on to be a Dan Patch Award winner.
- * Won his first Breeders Crown with 3-year-old male trotter Mr Muscleman in 2003.
- * Mr Muscleman was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017.
- * Stable won three trophies with My Little Dragon (2005, 2006, and 2008) with Daley listed as the trainer in 2006.
- * My Little Dragon was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a broodmare in July.
- * Other Crowns for Daley came with 3-year-old filly trotters Impressive Kemp in 2010 and Cedar Dove in 2011.
- * Top wins this year came with Sig Sauer and Buy A Round in the New Jersey Sire Stakes championships and with Captain Albano in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship.
- * Daley's stable hosted Bulldog Hanover for trainer Jack Darling for his monthlong stay in New Jersey in July 2022, which included his world-record 1:45.4 victory in the William R. Haughton Memorial at the Meadowlands.
- * Has won more than 2,850 races and \$71 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks No. 6 among all trainers in purses and 18th in victories since official records began in 1992.
- * At the end of the 2018 season, Daley returned to Australia to train horses but decided the change of scenery wasn't for him and came back to the U.S. in the fall of 2019.
- * Worked for an airline before making his name in harness racing.

NIK DRENNAN**Born: 10/9/1982 – Birthplace: Burlington, Ontario – Resides: Allentown, NJ**

- * Has appeared in five Breeders Crown finals with a best finish of fourth (twice). Finished sixth with Mikala in 2022.
- * Stable has won more than 390 races and nearly \$8 million purses lifetime.
- * Earned \$901,071 in purses last year, his second-best season behind his career-best \$1.07 million in 2011.
- * Top wins so far this year came Mikala in the Dorothy Haughton Memorial on July 15 at the Meadowlands and in the Clara Barton on July 23 at Plainridge Park.
- * Worked with his father John for five years after getting out of high school before moving to New Jersey.
- * John finished second to Earl with Royal Ballad in the 1993 Open Trot in his only Breeders Crown final appearance.

STEVE ELLIOTT**Born: 11/4/1953 – Birthplace: Detroit, MI – Resides: New Smyrna Beach, FL****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 2007, 1988.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 8.

- * Got his first Breeders Crown in October 1988 with 3-year-old female pacer Sweet Reflection and a month later added his second with 2-year-old male trotter Valley Victory.
- * Most recent Crown came in 2015 with 2-year-old male pacer Boston Red Rocks.
- * Was named Trainer of the Year in 1988 when trainees Sweet Reflection, Valley Victory, and Totally Ruthless were all Dan Patch Award winners. He was Trainer of the Year again in 2007 when 3-year-old male trotter Donato Hanover was named Horse of the Year. Donato Hanover was a Breeders Crown champion at age 2.
- * Another Elliott star, stallion Well Said, was Pacer of the Year in 2009 and a Breeders Crown winner in 2008.
- * Has won more than 1,000 races and \$32 million in purses in his career.

MELISSA ESSIG**Born: 4/15/1974 – Birthplace: Angola, IN – Resides: Alexandria, IN**

- * Making her Breeders Crown debut.
- * Won Breeders Crown eliminations with Kobe's Gigi in the Mare Pace and 3-year-old male trotter Helpfirstedition, who was supplemented to the event for \$72,000.
- * Has won more than 440 races and \$6 million in purses in her career.
- * Already set a career high for purses in 2023, with \$1.61 million.
- * It is her second consecutive million-dollar season.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Helpfirstedition in the Indiana Sire Stakes championship and Phil Langley Memorial.
- * Is fourth in wins and second in purses this year among trainers at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- * Her father, Russ Beeman, owned a logging business and kept a small stable of horses, which introduced Essig to the sport.
- * Assisted by her husband, Joe.

MARK ETSSELL**Born: 5/3/1956 – Birthplace: Collingwood, ON – Resides: Rockwood, ON**

- * Appearing in his second Breeders Crown final. Finished fourth with 3-year-old female trotter Blossom Seelster in 2004.
- * Has won nearly 900 races as a trainer and \$9 million (Canadian) in purses. Also has more than 1,200 driving victories.
- * Enjoyed his first \$1 million (Canadian) season in 2022 and is approaching that level again.
- * Adare Castle was a 2022 O'Brien Award winner. She was a winner on the Grand Circuit and finished second in the Eleganimage Stakes.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Willowtime, in the Ontario Sire Stakes championship and Champlain Stakes.
- * Showed no interest in harness racing as a youngster but would tag along with his dad on trips to the track because it involved stopping at a restaurant for a cheeseburger and fries.
- * Was focused on motorsports as a teenager and was a member of the Canadian Motocross Association. Also participated in competitive snowmobile meets.
- * Attended a horse auction with some work associates and ended up buying his first horse on a whim and caught the racing bug because of his competitive nature.

ROBERT FELLOWS**Born: 8/27/1962 – Birthplace: Ontario – Resides: Rockwood, Ontario**

- * Has appeared in eight Breeders Crown finals, with a best finish of third with 3-year-old filly trotter Sturdy Lori in 2002.
- * Was fifth with Logan Park in last year's Open Trot.
- * Has won more than 1,560 races and \$20 million (U.S.) in purses lifetime.
- * Turned over the daily stable operations to his son Kyle this year.
- * Top horse in 2023 has been Ontario Sire Stakes champion Willys Home Run.
- * Stable is No. 2 in purses in Canada with more than \$2 million, its fourth consecutive year over \$1 million.

NICK GALLUCCI**Born: 8/3/1987 – Birthplace: Brantford, ON – Resides: Stouffville, ON**

- * Made his Breeders Crown debut in 2022 and appeared with two horses in the final for 3-year-old female pacers. Finished fourth with Silver Label and fifth with Prohibition Legal.
- * Prohibition Legal was an O'Brien Award winner in 2021.
- * Has won nearly 500 races and more than \$7 million in purses in his career.
- * Is in his fourth consecutive year with more than \$1 million (Canadian) in purses.
- * Set career high for purses in 2021, with \$2.14 million.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Silver Label in the Lady Liberty on Aug. 5 at the Meadowlands and in the Perfect Sting on July 1, also at the Big M.

ANDREW HARRIS**Born: 12/7/1984 – Birthplace: Hamilton, ON – Resides: Allentown, NJ**

- * Appeared in three previous Breeders Crown finals with a best finish of fourth with 3-year-old male pacer Save Me A Dance in 2020 at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- * Has won more than 1,000 races and \$20 million in purses in his career.
- * Enjoying his eighth consecutive year with more than \$1 million in purses.
- * Set his career high for purses in 2019, with \$3.13 million.
- * Top wins so far this year include the Carl Milstein Memorial with Seven Colors on Aug. 12 at Northfield Park and the Gold Cup with Abuckabett Hanover on June 17 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- * Followed his father, Jack, and grandfather, Ron, into racing.
- * Worked as an assistant to trainer Casie Coleman, a five-time Breeders Crown winner, before starting his own stable.

JAY HOCHSTETLER**Born: 12/29/1992 – Birthplace: Downers Grove, IL – Resides: Greenfield, IN**

- * Made his Breeders Crown debut in 2022 and finished fifth with Ponda Warrior in the final for 3-year-old male pacers.
- * His mom Connie bred trotter Kadabra, who won a Breeders Crown in 2002 at age 3 and was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2012 for his career as a racehorse and stallion.
- * In his third full season training his own stable.
- * Has set a career high this year with more than \$1.46 million in purses.
- * Ranks fourth in purses at Harrah's Hoosier Park in 2023.
- * Has won more than 115 races and more than \$2.9 million in purses lifetime.
- * Top win this year came with Ponda Warrior in the Dan Patch Stakes on Aug. 11 at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- * Was the 2009 Illinois Amateur Driver of the Year.
- * His father, Homer, has won more than 1,900 races and \$21 million in purses as a trainer.
- * Grandfather Doug Ackerman won a Breeders Crown in 2005 with 2-year-old male trotter Chocolatier and is a member of the U.S. Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

JOE HOLLOWAY**Born: 9/17/1956 – Birthplace: Wilmington, DE – Resides: Freehold, NJ****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2019. -- **Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 1995.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 10.

- * Ranks sixth for most Breeders Crown trophies in history.
- * Captured a 2022 Breeders Crown with 2-year-old male pacer Ammo at odds of 52-1 from post nine at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2021 with 3-year-old male pacer Perfect Sting.
- * Perfect Sting also won a Crown in 2020 at age 2 in a dead heat with Summa Cum Laude at Harrah's Hoosier Park. It was the first dead heat for win in Breeders Crown history.
- * First three Crown trophies came with Jenna's Beach Boy, who was victorious in 1994, 1995 and 1996. Jenna's Beach Boy is the only male pacer in history to win more than two Breeders Crown finals and the only pacer to win three in a row.
- * Jenna's Beach Boy was Pacer of the Year in 1995 and 1996.
- * Remaining Crown victories came with pacing mare She's A Great Lady in 1996, 2-year-old male pacer Badlands Hanover in 1998, 2-year-old filly pacer Lady MacBeach in 2000, and 3-year-old filly pacer Divine Caroline in 2015.
- * Has won more than 1,000 races and \$37 million in purses lifetime.
- * Top Grand Circuit wins so far this year came with 2-year-old female pacer Blue Pacific in the Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stakes and 2-year-old male pacer Newsroom in the Elevation, both at Harrah's Hoosier Park.
- * Started in the sport as a caretaker when he was an altar boy, assisting a local priest who had taken up harness racing.
- * Graduated from the University of Delaware in 1978 with a degree in animal science. He turned his attention, though, to harness racing and began his career racing at Brandywine.
- * Prior to starting his own stable in 1988, he teamed with David Rovine for one of the top stables at the Meadowlands.

ANETTE LORENTZON**Born: 5/24/1983 – Birthplace: Vanjo, Sweden – Resides: Paris, KY**

- * Has made 10 previous starts in the finals with a best finish of third with 2-year-old filly trotter Adelaide Hall in 2006. Adelaide Hall was an elimination winner.
- * Finished fifth last year with 3-year-old male trotter Golden Wall As.
- * Also won an elimination in the 2018 Open Trot with Guardian Angel AS, who was fourth in the final.
- * Guardian Angel AS won the 2019 Maple Leaf Trot at Woodbine Mohawk Park and earned more than \$1.5 million lifetime.
- * Stable has surpassed \$2 million for the sixth time in seven years.
- * Top Grand Circuit win so far this year came with Quick Stop in a division of the Delvin Miller Memorial on July 15 at the Meadowlands.
- * Has won more than 1,500 races and \$27 million in purses lifetime.
- * Prior to starting her own stable, Lorentzon worked briefly for trainer Jimmy Takter and later for Trond Smedshammer when she arrived in the U.S. from Sweden. She trains now mainly for her family's ACL Stuteri AB stable.
- * She is assisted by her sister, Anna.

TODD LUTHER**Born: 6/15/1985 – Birthplace: Columbus, OH – Resides: Commercial Point, OH**

- * Has appeared in one Breeders Crown final, finishing fifth with Catch The Fire in the 2021 Open Pace at the Meadowlands.
- * Stable is enjoying its third consecutive year with more than \$2 million in purses.
- * Set a career high for purses in 2022, with \$2.58 million. Is at \$2.18 million this year.
- * Has won more than 630 races and nearly \$9 million in purses in his career.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Rose Run Yolanda and Tarapasta in the Ohio Sire Stakes championships on Sept. 9 at Eldorado Scioto Downs.
- * Trains for his brother, Greg, a real estate coach and marketer who in 2020 decided to launch his "million-dollar experiment" of seeking and buying stakes-caliber racehorses and yearlings for his stable.

KEVIN McDERMOTT**Born: 5/2/1961 – Birthplace: Kearny, NJ – Resides: Saratoga, NY**

- * Has appeared in 10 previous Breeders Crown finals. Finished third with 3-year-old male pacer Blueridge Western in 2008.
- * Has won more than 1,600 races and \$25 million in purses in his career.
- * Notable horses trained by McDermott include stakes-winners Hypnotic Blue Chip, Lonewolf Currier, Mac Action, Major Look, and Yes Its True, as well as millionaires Blueridge Western and Noble Falcon.
- * Has posted 10 seasons with more than \$1 million in purses in his career, twice exceeding \$2 million.
- * Was introduced to racing by going to the track with his father.
- * Began writing letters to drivers and trainers in the sport and got his first job at the age of 16 with Jack Parker Jr.
- * His brother, John, also is a trainer.

GREGG McNAIR**Born: 5/2/1961 – Birthplace: Walkerton, ON – Resides: Guelph, ON**

- * Seeking his first Breeders Crown trophy. Finished second with 3-year-old male pacer George Scooter in 2000. Was third with 2-year-old female pacer Prescient Beauty in 2018.
- * Has won more than 2,600 races and \$51 million (U.S.) in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks 19th in purses since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Stable has surpassed \$1 million (Canadian) in purses for 28 consecutive years.
- * Top win so far this year came with Huntinthelastdolar in the New York Sire Stakes championship on Sept. 9 at MGM Yonkers Raceway.
- * Captured his fifth Johnston Cup in 2021 as top trainer in the Ontario Sire Stakes.
- * Worked for Canadian Hall of Fame horseman William "Bud" Fritz before venturing out on his own.
- * Wife Susie received the 2021 Outstanding Groom Award at the O'Brien Awards.

MARCUS MELANDER**Born: 7/1/1992 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: New Egypt, NJ****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2019.****Breeders Crown trophies: 4.**

- * Won the Breeders Crown 2-year-old filly trot in 2021 with Joviality S.
- * Captured three Breeders Crown trophies with male trotter Gimpanzee in 2018, 2019, and 2020. He joined Mack Lobell as the only male trotters to win finals at ages 2, 3, and 4.
- * Gimpanzee was the 2020 Trotter of the Year and runner-up to stablemate Greenshoe for Trotter of the Year in 2019. Was a Dan Patch Award divisional winner in 2018.
- * Melander was voted 2019 Trainer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. He is the youngest trainer to ever receive the award.
- * Received the 2018 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.
- * Has topped \$4 million in purses in 2023, his second consecutive year above \$4 million.
- * Set career high for purses in 2019, with \$5.36 million.
- * Has won more than 500 races and \$26 million lifetime.
- * Top victory so far this year came with 3-year-old female trotter Heaven Hanover in the Hambletonian Oaks on Aug. 5 at the Meadowlands. Also won a Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final with Date Night Hanover and New Jersey Sire Stakes championship with Air Power.
- * At age 19, Melander won Sweden's equivalent to the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Rising Star Award.
- * Younger brother Mattias assists with training and drives occasionally.
- * Nephew of Stefan Melander, who trained and drove Scarlet Knight to victory in the 2001 Hambletonian.
- * Worked in Sweden for his uncle. After moving to the U.S., he worked for Jimmy Takter, who is the winningest trainer in Breeders Crown history.

DAVID MENARY**Born: 4/17/1979 – Resides: Cambridge, ON**

- * Has appeared in 11 Breeders Crown finals and finished third on three occasions.
- * Stable has topped \$1 million in 2023 for the ninth time in his career.
- * Has won nearly 900 races and \$20 million (U.S.) lifetime.
- * Top wins this year came with 2-year-old filly pacer Its A Love Thing in the She's A Great Lady Stakes on Sept. 23 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, and in the Ontario Sire Stakes finals with 2-year-old filly pacer Pass Line and 3-year-old filly trotter Believe U Me.
- * Captured the 2014 Meadowlands Pace with He's Watching, in a world-record-equaling 1:46.4 performance.
- * His father was a truck operator and part-time trainer in the 1970s.
- * At the age of 13, dipped into his savings and bought a horse with his dad, which fueled his passion for harness racing.
- * Went to college for business and administration but turned to racing after a year.

ERV MILLER

Born: 12/11/1966 – Birthplace: Arthur, IL – Resides: Wind Gap, PA

Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2005 - Breeders Crown trophies: 5.

- * Got his first trophy in 2004 with 2-year-old female pacer Restive Hanover, who was driven by his brother, Andy.
- * His most recent came in 2016 with 2-year-old female pacer Someomensomewhere, who was driven by his son, Marcus. He is the only trainer in history to win a Breeders Crown with each a brother and son.
- * Won two Crowns in 2006, with Lis Mara in the Breeders Crown Open Pace and with 3-year-old male pacer Shark Gesture.
- * Remaining trophy came with 2-year-old male trotter Manofmanymissions in 2010.
- * Stable has ranked among the Top 10 in purses for 19 of the last 20 years including 2023 (in fourth with more than \$4.7 million).
- * Has \$105 million in career purses to rank No. 3 among all trainers since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Won more than 6,400 races lifetime, ranking No. 4 in history.
- * Approaching 300 wins in 2023, ranking second in North America.
- * His son Marcus was the 2016 Rising Star Award winner and has more than 4,400 victories as a driver.
- * His daughter Hannah was the Amateur Driver of the Year in 2015 and 2016.
- * Miller grew up in an Amish community and was used to being around horses but was unfamiliar with harness racing. He saw his first race at a county fair and was hooked when he won his first matinee race at the age of 16.

JULIE MILLER

Born: 11/20/1972 – Birthplace: Iowa City, Iowa – Resides: Millstone Twp, NJ

Breeders Crown trophies: 1.

- * Won the 2009 Breeders Crown Open Trot with Lucky Jim. Her husband, Andy, drove Lucky Jim, who was named a Dan Patch Award divisional champion.
- * Has finished second in a Breeders Crown final on five occasions.
- * Stable has earned more than \$2 million for 15 consecutive years, including 2023.
- * Has won more than 2,300 races and \$53 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks 15th in purses since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Top win so far this year came with 3-year-old male trotter French Wine in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes championship on Sept. 3 at Harrah's Philadelphia.
- * In 2017, she was inducted into the Iowa Harness Racing Hall of Fame, where she joined her father, Owen Julius.
- * Her family raced at the Iowa county fairs. Graduated from Southern Illinois University with a science degree but turned her attention to racing.
- * After beginning her career in Illinois, Miller moved with her husband Andy to the East Coast and became a top trainer at the Meadowlands and on the Grand Circuit.
- * Son Tyler started driving in 2018 and has more than 330 career wins.

CHANTAL MITCHELL**Born: 1987 – Birthplace: Lincroft, NJ – Resides: Waterdown, Ontario**

- * Has appeared in two Breeders Crown finals, with a best finish of fourth with 2-year-old female pacer Sweet Amira in 2022.
- * Was sixth in 2019 with 2-year-old filly pacer Alicorn, who was an O'Brien Award winner.
- * Stable has won more than 300 races and earned \$4.5 million (U.S.) lifetime.
- * In 2021 became one of only four female trainers to crack the WEG Top 10 for wins in the last 20 years.
- * Moved from New Jersey to Quebec when she was 11.
- * Her mom Sheelagh worked with hunter/jumpers and her father Bob was a trainer, but saw his career cut short by an injury.

IAN MOORE**Born: 1/14/1954 – Birthplace: England – Resides: Cambridge, Ontario****Breeders Crown trophies: 1**

- * Won his Breeders Crown with Century Farroh in the 2020 Open Pace.
- * Twice finished second in finals with male pacer Shadow Play, 2008 and 2009.
- * Shadow Play, winner of the 2008 Little Brown Jug, was elected to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2022.
- * Also finished second with Tattoo Artist in the 2022 Open Pace.
- * Has won more than 700 races and earned \$19 million (U.S.) in purses lifetime.
- * Already established a career high with more than \$2.7 million (Canadian) in purses this year. Ranks No. 3 among all trainers in Canada.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Tattoo Artist in the Canadian Pacing Derby, Jim Ewart Memorial, and Dayton Derby. Also won an Ohio Sire Stakes championship with Clever Cody and Ontario Sire Stakes final with Storm Shadow.
- * Received the O'Brien Award of Horsemanship in 2015.
- * Came to Canada from England at the age of 4.
- * Parents had no involvement in racing. Was introduced to the sport while in school on Prince Edward Island by a janitor who had a stable of horses.

VIRGIL MORGAN JR.**Born: 11/23/1965 – Birthplace: Columbus, OH – Resides: Grove City, OH****Breeders Crown trophies: 1.**

- * Won the 2008 Open Pace with Mister Big, who received the second of his two divisional Dan Patch Award honors that year.
- * Morgan was inducted into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2021.
- * Has won more than 7,300 races and \$70 million in purses in his career.
- * Ranks No. 2 in wins and No. 7 in purses since the start of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Led the sport in wins in 2000 and 2002 and finished second on five occasions.
- * Top wins so far this year came with Grace Hill in the Dayton Distaff, Roses Are Red, and Milton. Also won the Armbro Flight with Refined. Captured an Ohio Sire Stakes championship with Sugar Instead.
- * 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.
- * At age 18, Morgan bought his first horse for \$800 and sold it three months later for a profit. When he eventually opened his own stable, Big Virg was one of his owners.

RICHARD "NIFTY" NORMAN**Born: 10/21/1960 – Birthplace: New Zealand – Resides: Allentown, NJ****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2021.****Breeders Crown trophies: 8.**

- * Has won at least one Breeders Crown for four consecutive years.
- * Won in 2022 with Bella Bellini in the Mare Trot. She was named 2022 Trotter of the Year.
- * Also won with Bella Bellini in 2021 in the final for 3-year-old filly trotters. She was a divisional Dan Patch Award winner.
- * Bella Bellini became the first trotter in eight years to win a Breeders Crown as a 3-year-old and transition to the older ranks and win the Mare Trot at age 4. The previous filly/mare to accomplish the feat was Norman-trained Bee A Magician.
- * Captured two trophies in 2020, with 3-year-old male trotter Amigo Volo and 2-year-old female pacer Fire Start Hanover. Both received divisional Dan Patch Award honors.
- * Amigo Volo also was a Crown winner at age 2.
- * Got his first trophy with 2-year-old filly trotter Poof She's Gone in 2009.
- * The next two came with female trotter Bee A Magician, at age 3 in 2013 and age 4 in 2014. She was Horse of the Year in 2013.
- * Stable set career high with \$6 million in purses in 2021.
- * Has won more than 1,700 races and nearly \$53 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks 16th in purses since the start of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Norman finalist Blonde Bombshell is a Grand Circuit winner this season.

BRETT PELLING

Born: 7/17/1958 – Birthplace: Auckland, NZ – Resides: Cream Ridge, NJ

Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 1998. -- Breeders Crown trophies: 12.

- * Ranks No. 5 among all trainers in history in Breeders Crown wins.
- * Won in 2021 with 3-year-old filly pacer Test Of Faith.
- * Test Of Faith was the 2021 U.S. Horse of the Year.
- * Won the 2019 Mare Pace with Caviart Ally, whose victory came upon Pelling's return to the Breeders Crown stage after an absence of 14 years. Pelling, a New Zealand native, left the U.S. for Australia in 2006 before deciding to come back in 2017.
- * Prior to Caviart Ally's win, Pelling's previous Crown came in 2005 when Rocknroll Hanover won the 3-year-old colt pace on his way to Horse of the Year.
- * Stable also produced two-time Breeders Crown champion Armbro Operative, Forever Starlet, Grinfromeartear, I Am A Fool, Juliet's Fate, Mystical Maddy, Western Ideal, and Western Terror.
- * This year, his stable's top horse is Confederate, who is ranked No. 1 in the Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown poll. He has eight wins on the Grand Circuit, including the Meadowlands Pace.
- * Another top trainee, Allywag Hanover, won the Hoosier Park Pacing Derby on Sept. 22.
- * Pelling has won more than 1,900 races and \$68 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks ninth in purses since the start of official trainer stats in 1992.

CHRIS RYDER

Born: 10/2/1955 – Birthplace: Greymouth, New Zealand – Resides: Allentown, NJ

Breeders Crown trophies: 5.

- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2021 with 2-year-old filly pacer Niki Hill.
- * Picked up his first two trophies with Mystical Sunshine, in the 2006 and 2007 Mare Trot.
- * Won with 3-year-old filly pacer Put On A Show in 2010 and 3-year-old filly pacer I Luv The Nitelife in 2013.
- * All four horses were Dan Patch Award divisional champions.
- * Has 10 runner-up finishes in Breeders Crown finals, tied for fourth most in history. Has finished first or second in nearly 36 percent of his 42 appearances in finals.
- * Set a career high with \$3.73 million in purses in 2022.
- * Top Grand Circuit win so far this year came with Twin B Joe Fresh in the James M. Lynch Memorial on Aug. 19 at Mohegan Pennsylvania's Pocono Downs. Also won the Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final with Twin B Joe Fresh and New York Sire Stake final with Peace Talks.
- * Has won nearly 1,800 races and \$52 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks 17th in purses all time since the inception of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Grew up in New Zealand and began riding ponies at the age of 10.
- * Father was a dairy farmer who later worked at a stable and trained horses. Ryder worked for his father and older brother, who had a stable, before a stint in Montreal as a groom.
- * Came to the U.S. when his wife, Nicola, got a job in the New York area. Ryder worked several odd jobs before turning to training on a fulltime basis.

TROND SMEDSHAMMER**Born: 3/22/1967 – Birthplace: Norway – Resides: Allentown, NJ****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2004.****Breeders Crown trophies: 9.**

- * Tied for seventh for the most Breeders Crown trophies in history.
- * Most recent triumph came in 2019 with 3-year-old filly trotter Winndevie.
- * All nine of his wins have come with driver Brian Sears.
- * Got his first with 3-year-old filly trotter Stroke Play in 2003. His other Crown winners included trotter Arch Madness, a two-time O'Brien Award winner and the richest Canadian-sired Standardbred in history, with \$4.32 million.
- * Stroke Play was a Dan Patch Award winner as were Smedshammer's trophy winners Housethatruthbuilt, Blur, and Sand Vic. His remaining Crown champs were H P Paque, Strong Yankee, and Break The Bank K.
- * Arrived in the U.S. in 1987 after a mandatory year in the Norwegian Army. Worked for trainer Per Henriksen for six months before heading back home, where he continued to train horses. A year later, he returned to the States and worked at Lindy Farms.
- * Started his own stable in 1992.
- * Trained and drove 2004 Trotting Triple Crown winner Windsong's Legacy and was named Trainer of the Year.
- * Has won more than 1,300 races and \$52 million in purses as a trainer.
- * Ranks No. 18 in purses since the start of official trainer stats in 1992.
- * Has won more than 750 races as a driver and nearly \$23 million in purses lifetime.
- * Top win so far this year came with Chaplind in the New York Sire Stakes championship on Sept. 9 at MGM Yonkers Raceway.

MARK STEACY**Born: 7/15/1961 – Birthplace: Kingston, Ontario – Resides: Lansdowne, Ontario****Breeders Crown trophies: 3.**

- * Won his first Breeders Crown trophy in 2006 with 3-year-old male trotter Majestic Son. The next year, he captured a Crown with 2-year-old female pacer Stylish Artist. In 2009, Hana Hanover won the Mare Pace.
- * Majestic Son was Canada's Horse of the Year in 2006. Hana Hanover was an O'Brien Award winner in 2007.
- * Steacy's son Shawn has taken over the bulk of the stable's daily operations, with Mark often handling the horses that race in the U.S.
- * Shawn Steacy won a 2022 Breeders Crown with 2-year-old female pacer Sylvia Hanover, who was a Dan Patch and O'Brien awards winner.
- * Mark Steacy has won more than 1,400 races and \$22 million (U.S.) in purses lifetime.

ANNIE STOEBE**Born: 9/27/1987 – Birthplace: Great Falls, MT – Resides: New Egypt, NJ**

- * Making her Breeders Crown debut in 2022 and finished fifth with Instagram Model in the final for 2-year-old filly trotters.
- * Started her own small stable in 2021. Has won 21 of 89 races and \$733,548 in 2022 and 2023 combined.
- * Top win this year came with Instagram Model in the New York Sire Stakes championship at MGM Yonkers Raceway on Sept. 9.
- * Got started in harness racing by working for trainer Brett Bittle, a Breeders Crown winner in 1994 with 2-year-old filly pacer Yankee Cashmere.
- * Grew up on a farm in Montana and was active as a barrel racer.
- * Got a rodeo scholarship to a college in Texas.
- * Active as an amateur driver when she began in harness racing and has eight driving wins.

AKE SVANSTEDT**Born: 11/18/1958 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: Columbus, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies: 5.**

- * Has won all five of his Breeders Crown trophies in the past two years.
- * In 2022, he captured three Crowns – becoming the sixth trainer in history with at least three in a year – winning with 2-year-old filly trotter Special Way, 3-year-old filly trotter Jiggy Jog S, and Ecurie D (DK) for the second consecutive year in the Open Trot.
- * Ecurie D became the first repeat Open Trot winner since Fool's Goal in 2002-2003.
- * Svanstedt drove Special Way; Dexter Dunn drove Jiggy Jog S and Ecurie D.
- * Special Way and Ecurie D were Dan Patch Award winners in 2022.
- * Got two Breeders Crown wins in 2021, with Felicityshagwell S in the Mare Trot and Ecurie D in the Open Trot.
- * Drove both trotters to victory, joining Ray Schnittker (Deweycheatumnhowe, 2007) and Verlin Yoder (Woodside Charm, 2018) to win as both trainer and driver in the past 15 years.
- * Set a career best with \$7.52 million in trainer purses in 2022 (third highest in North America) and entered this week at \$7.51 million (second highest in North America).
- * Has won more than 1,000 races and \$50 million in purses as a trainer since starting his U.S. stable in 2014.
- * Ranks in the Top 25 in purses among trainers since official records began in 1992.
- * Has won more than 600 races and \$30 million in purses as a driver in North America.
- * Already has set career highs for driving wins, with 87, and purses, with more than \$4.22 million, this year.
- * Top wins this year came with Alrajah One (IT) in the Maple Leaf Trot on Sept. 2 at Woodbine Mohawk Park and Up Your Deo in the MGM Yonkers Trot on June 30 at MGM Yonkers Raceway. Also won the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial with Up Your Deo and the Elegantimage with Bond.
- * Two-time winner of Hambletonian, with Captain Corey (2021) and Perfect Spirit (2017).
- * Was Sweden's Trainer of the Year five times and Driver of the Year on three occasions.
- * In 2017, he was inducted in Sweden's Hall of Fame.

NANCY TAKTER**Born: 6/23/1981 – Birthplace: Malmo, Sweden – Resides: Allentown, NJ****Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2020.****Breeders Crown trophies: 8.**

- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2022 with 3-year-old filly pacer Treacherous Dragon.
- * Treacherous Dragon was a Dan Patch Award winner in 2022.
- * In 2020 became the fifth trainer in Breeders Crown history to win at least three finals in a year, capturing 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 Crowns.
- * Kissin In The Sand and Manchego were Dan Patch Award winners.
- * Won two trophies in 2019, with 2-year-old male pacer Tall Dark Stranger and Manchego.
- * Tall Dark Stranger was a Dan Patch Award winner.
- * Previous wins came with 2-year-old male pacer Captain Crunch in 2018 and 2-year-old filly pacer JK She'salady in 2014.
- * Captain Crunch was a Dan Patch Award winner and JK She'salady was Horse of the Year.
- * In 2020, Tall Dark Stranger became Takter's second Horse of the Year.
- * Has won nearly 700 races and \$34 million in purses lifetime. Stable has exceeded \$4 million for five consecutive years (including 2022).
- * Top wins this year came with 3-year-old male trotter Tactical Approach, in the Hambletonian on Aug. 5 at the Meadowlands, and Kentucky Futurity on Oct. 8 at the Red Mile. Also counts the Adios, with Cannibal, and Kentucky Sire Stakes Championship Series final with 2-year-old male trotter Karl among this season's triumphs.
- * Worked for her father Jimmy, who won a record 34 Breeders Crown trophies in his Hall of Fame career, before starting her own stable in 2013.
- * Was the U.S. Harness Writers Association's 2014 Rising Star Award winner.

LINDA TOSCANO**Born: 6/26/1955 – Birthplace: Brooklyn, NY – Resides: Freehold, NJ****Hall of Fame:** Class of 2019. - **Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year:** 2012.**Breeders Crown trophies:** 8.

- * Added to her Breeders Crown collection in 2021 with Rocknificent in the Mare Pace.
- * Her first trophy came in 2002 with pacing mare Molly Can Do It.
- * Male trotter **Chapter Seven** was a two-time Breeders Crown champion (2011 & 2012) for Toscano and Horse of the Year in 2012. Also won in 2012 with 3yo male pacer Heston Blue Chip.
- * A year later, Market Share won the Open Trot. In 2016, Walner won the final for 2-year-old male trotters.
- * Won a Breeders Crown in 2020 with 2-year-old filly trotter Lady Chaos.
- * Heston Blue Chip, Market Share, and Walner also were Dan Patch Award winners. Market Share won the 2012 Hambletonian.
- * Has won more than 2,500 races and \$68 million in purses lifetime.
- * Ranks No. 10 in purses since the inception of official trainer records in 1992.
- * Stable has earned more than \$2 million for 17 consecutive years, including 2023.
- * Top wins so far this year came with It's My Show in the Little Brown Jug and North America Cup. Also won the Jugette with Ucandoit Blue Chip.
- * Joined Ron Burke and Brett Pelling as the only trainers to win the Little Brown Jug and Jugette in the same year in the past 25 years.
- * Briefly attended SUNY at Stony Brook before finding her calling and beginning her career on the track. Worked with veteran trainer Buddy Regan and Hall of Famers Buddy Gilmour and John Campbell prior to starting her own stable in 1985.

LUCAS WALLIN**Born: 12/28/1992 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: New Egypt, NJ****Breeders Crown trophies:** 1.

- * Won his Breeders Crown in 2021 with 2-year-old male trotter Rebuff at the Meadowlands.
- * Made his debut in 2020 and has appeared in a total of three finals, posting a win, a second, and a third.
- * Rebuff won the Kentucky Futurity, the third leg of the Trotting Triple Crown, in 2022.
- * Wallin received the 2022 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.
- * Earned a career-high \$1.69 million in purses in 2022 and entered this week at \$1.48 million for 2023.
- * Has won 200 races and \$6.2 million in purses in his career.
- * Top win so far this year came with Soiree Hanover in the Jim Doherty Memorial on Sept. 15 at Harrah's Hoosier Park. The victory gave Soiree Hanover an automatic berth in her Breeders Crown final.
- * Started driving ponies in Sweden at the age of 8. Several years later, he began helping at his uncle Joakim Wallin's stable.
- * In mid-2014, he was alerted to an opportunity to work for Ake Svanstedt's U.S.-based stable. He spent two years with Svanstedt before deciding to go on his own.

MELANIE WRENN**Born: 8/15/1965 – Birthplace: Lima, OH – Resides: Carmel, IN**

- * Has appeared in two previous Breeders Crown finals, finishing fifth each time.
- * Stable has exceeded \$1 million in purses for the fifth consecutive year.
- * Top Grand Circuit win so far this year came with Helpoftheseason, driven by her husband, Peter, in the Buckette on Sept. 20 at the Delaware County (Ohio) Fairgrounds.
- * For her career, Wrenn has more than 550 wins and \$10 million in purses.
- * Followed her father, Bill Deters, into the sport. Her brother, Mike Deters, is also a successful trainer.
- * Her husband, Peter, is a two-time Breeders Crown winner as a driver.