

## BREEDERS CROWN 2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

COOL PAPA BELL (Chapter Seven-Blk Thai Optional-Muscle Hill)



Finished third by 3 1/4 lengths behind Rebuff in one of three Crown eliminations. He opened up her career with three consecutive victories in New York Sires Stakes legs at Yonkers Raceway, Vernon Downs and Tioga Downs, and then after finishing second in a fourth preliminary, finished second in the \$200,000 final on Sept. 10 at Yonkers. With a second and sixth (making a break at the start in an International Stallion Stake division at The Red Mile) in her next two starts, he has not won in five starts since he won those three straight Sires Stakes races.

He is trained by Jim Campbell, who won the 2002 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot with Broadway Hall, with that colt remaining undefeated in nine starts on his way to Dan Patch Award divisional honors. Campbell finished fourth and sixth in last year's Crown 2YO Colt Trot final with Take All Comers and Cricket Fashion, respectively. Driver Brian Sears has won the Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot twice, with Gimpanzee in 2018 and with Muscle Hill in 2008.

"We took him to Lexington to get a read on him to see about putting him in this race. With the break behind the gate, we didn't get the read," said Campbell. "(Owner Scott Farber) said that if I didn't have a reason not to put him in, he would put up the money to give him a try. Thankfully, everything worked out for him to get up in the time (and finish third in the Crown elimination)."

As for the horse named for Cool Papa Bell, a centerfielder who played in the Negro League from 1922-46 and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974, owner Scott Farber explained, "I'm a big baseball guy, and I take a lot of pride in my knowledge of the game and the history and the players. Cool Papa Bell was known for his speed. I was hoping the horse would live up to the great baseball player's name, and so far, he's done just that.

## TESTING TESTING (Walner-Sound Check-Yankee Glide)



Testing Testing passed his Crown elimination test with flying colors as he scored a career-best 1:53.4 victory with driver David Miller, but Andrew McCarthy has picked up the drive in the final when Miller opted off for Double Deceiver. Testing Testing is trained by George Ducharme, who won the 2013 Hambletonian with Royalty For Life. Testing Testing has won four of seven starts this year, with his other scores including a 1:54 effort in an overnight at The Red Mile.

Testing Testing qualified twice in June and then after making a break at the start in his debut on July 2 in a New Jersey Sires Stakes at The Meadowlands, didn't return to the races until early September, where he won at first asking in 1:56.1 in an overnight at The Meadowlands.

"When we qualified (in June) to get ready for the New Jersey Sire Stakes, he just wasn't a hundred percent. He had growing pains, more or less. The owners let me take my time with him and I backed off and got him ready for the Kindergarten legs in September. He just needed that time. He's come along good. I can't complain with the way he's been the last month or so.

"I like his attitude. He's really game. He likes to do his job and he's very willing. He tries and he fights through any adversity. Everything has gone to how I thought he would be, we just had to take our time with him."

BRANDED BY LINDY (Chapter Seven-The Lindy Label-Cantab Hall)



Cruised to a 2 3/4-length, 1:53 win in one of three Crown eliminations, his seventh straight victory and eighth overall in 10 starts. After opening up his career with a second and first in New York Sires Stakes races, trainer Domenico Cecere sent him to The Red Mile where his first start was a disaster when he broke and finished eighth in a Kentucky Sires Stakes Championship Series leg. Dropped down into the Commonwealth Series the next start, he responded with a 1:54 victory and has not lost since. His current win streak includes a 1:53 win in the \$50,000 Commonwealth Series final and wins in Bluegrass and International Stallion Stake splits, the former being a career-best 1:52 effort.

Driver Yannick Gingras has won three Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot finals, stringing them together in 2013-2015 with Father Patrick, Pinkman and Southwind Frank, respectively.

Owner-breeder Lindy Farms of Connecticut previously shared ownership (as Lindy Racing) of 2003 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot champion Cantab Hall, the last victor to win Trotter of the Year honors.

"The first time I sat behind him (in a Sept. 5 Commonwealth Series win in 1:58.1 on a "good" track at The Red Mile) it was a bad track. He had a good trip, but when I let him go in the stretch, he trotted through the wire faster than at any point in the race. That really impressed me," said driver Gingras. "Granted, there was no speed in the race, but he felt like a really strong horse.

"I wanted to make sure I got him in play (in the Crown elimination) and not get a bad trip. I thought he was the best and he showed it."

REBUFF (Muscle Hill-Meucci Madness-Yankee Glide)



Left from post seven in the Crown elimination with driver Tim Tetrick and dropped into fourth, and then tipped outside in the final turn before going on to a 2 1/4-length, 1:53.4 victory. The race followed up a career-best 1:52.2 score in an International Stallion Stake division at The Red Mile and was his third in 10 starts overall. His biggest paycheck of \$62,500 came via a second-place finish in the \$250,000 Kentucky Sires Stakes Championship Series final on Sept. 19 at The Red Mile. He is trained (and co-owned) by Lucas Wallin, who will also be stepping into the sulky to direct Cuatro De Julio (who won his elimination) in the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot final.

Driver Tim Tetrick has won the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot final once, that coming with Walner in 2016.

"He was very talented from the beginning, but he was very, very green," said Wallin. "We have a good owner--he let me take the time and race him from behind and it starts to pay off."

Prior to the elimination, Wallis said: I think he's going to be all right. We had high hopes for him, pretty much right away. He showed he had a lot of speed, but he was very immature when we trained him down. He's always been very special so it's nice that he's starting to show what he can do."

GIGONDAS (Trixtion-Magical Valentine-Kadabra)



Rallied three wide from seventh at the half to finish second behind Rebuff in their Crown elimination. Has won twice in nine starts this year, including a career-best 1:53.4 effort in a Bluegrass division on Oct. 1 at The Red Mile. He also finished second to fellow Crown finalist Branded By Lindy in an International Stallion Stake division. Finished fourth in the Kentucky Sires Stakes Championship Series final on Sept. 19 in Lexington. One of three entries in the race for trainer Tony Alagna (with Majestic J and Fast As The Wind)

"He raced really good (in the Crown elimination)," said trainer Alagna. "I was very happy with him. He showed some really good improvement in Lexington on the Grand Circuit. He won the first week and the next week he went to the front, but the track wasn't good on the front that day and he came up a little short. But he was beaten only a length or two against very good colts. So, that was encouraging. We put him in (the Breeders Crown eliminations) and he raced phenomenal.

"He was a private purchase (by owner Brad Grant). I had the horse in my barn for another owner and they wanted to sell him after his first lifetime start. I called Brad and told him I thought this was a nice solid horse with (the Kentucky program). Brad stepped up like he always does and bought the horse."

DOUBLE DECEIVER (Cantab Hall-Sarcy-Donato Hanover)



Finished second by 2 3/4 lengths to Branded By Lindy in their Crown elimination. He has four wins and four seconds in nine starts, with his victories including a 1:52.3 career-best effort in the \$250,000 Kentucky Sires Stakes Championship Series final on Sept. 19 at The Red Mile. He is trained by Carter Pinske and owned by Carter's parents, Karl and Marlys (as Pinske Stables, the 2020 Owner of the Year) and Carter's wife, Makenna, who also serves as caretaker. Pinske Stables shared ownership of 2019 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot victor Amigo Hall, with Carter serving at the time as assistant to trainer Nifty Norman.

Although driver David Miller had directed Testing Testing to a win in their respective Crown elimination, the Hall of Famer has opted off that horse to drive Double Deceiver. Miller has won the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot once in his career, that coming in 2004 with Ken Warkentin.

"We skipped the second week in Lexington because I wanted to get the shipping out of the way and give him a break to freshen him up in the hopes he would be peaking right now. That was our goal," said Carter Pinske. "He was full of trot at the wire (in the Crown elimination) and that's what we were looking for. Every race, he seems smarter. He likes The Meadowlands, he likes the track there, he's happy."

TEMPORAL HANOVER (Walner-Think Twice-Cantab Hall)



Charged to the lead past the opening quarter of :27.2 in his Crown elimination before yielding and subsequently holding ground to finish third behind Testing Testing. Has won five of 11 starts, including a lifetime-best 1:53.2 win the start before the Crown elims in an International Stallion Stake division at The Red Mile. After a first in the New Jersey Sires Stakes preliminaries, finished second to King Of The North in the \$200,000 final. Finished second in his elim for the Peter Haughton Memorial but then drew post nine for the \$293,450 final and after getting parked early before finding a spot in the two hole, tired to finish ninth. Sent to Woodbine Mohawk Park by trainer Marcus Melander, then won a Champlain division and his William Wellwood Memorial elimination before finishing fourth in the \$505,600 Wellwood final.

Trainer Melander won the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot final with Gimpanzee. In last year's championship, the Melander-trained In Range finished second as the 8-1 third favorite behind 9-1 fourth choice On A Streak.

"He got a tough trip in the Peter Haughton, and he just got tired that day. Other than that, he's done nothing wrong," Melander said prior to the Crown elimination."

As for the Crown elim, Melander noted that "the track didn't fit him, really. I think the track was a little bit loose and deep. He struggled a little bit with that. But he made the final and raced good, so we're happy with that."

DULY RESOLVED (Resolve-Motown Muscle-Muscle Mass)



Took over the lead just past the quarter in his Crown elimination and led at the half and three-quarters before settling for fourth, 3 1/2 lengths behind the winning Rebuff. Has five wins and five seconds in 11 starts and with his style of racing has never been farther back than third at the three-quarters in any of his races. Posted three wins and a second in Ontario Sires Stakes preliminaries before finishing second in the \$182,250 Super Final on Oct. 16 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The start before that on Sept. 25 was the Mohawk Million, where he finished second behind the filly Venerable. The richest finalist in the field with \$497,518 in earnings, he took his mark of 1:55.1 in his William Wellwood Memorial elim on Sept. 2. He then finished second in the Wellwood final to King Of The North.

He is trained by John Bax, who conditioned 2001 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot champion Duke Of York. Paul MacDonell drove Duke Of York and he will be in the sulky behind Duly Resolved in this year's Crown final.



MAJESTIC J (Walner-Upfrontluckycarol-Andover Hall)



One of three Tony Alagna-trained entries in the final, finished second to Testing Testing in their Breeders Crown elimination after closing from sixth heading into the final turn. Opened up his career with two wins in New Jersey Sires Stakes at The Meadowlands but hasn't won since in nine attempts. Finished third in the \$200,000 New Jersey Sires Stakes final. Was fourth and second in his two Grand Circuit stakes starts at The Red Mile which served as final preps for the Breeders Crown eliminations.

"He won the first two (New Jersey Sires Stakes) legs and was third in the final and really raced good. We sent him to Lexington, and it took him a little while to get going," said Alagna. "He just wasn't comfortable over the track. Actually, his best start of the whole meet was his last start (second in an International Stallion Stake division). After he finished second (owner Ken Jacobs, who owned sire Walner, who won the 2016 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot final) said he's earned his way into the Breeders Crown."

FAST AS THE WIND (Cantab Hall-Wind Stroll-Muscle Mass)



Finished third as a 47-1 longshot to Branded By Lindy in their Crown elimination. One of three Tony Alagna trainees in the final. Won his first two career starts in July at The Meadowlands, the latter being a career-best 1:55 score in a Kindergarten division. Has gone winless in his last nine starts though, with his best finishes being a third in the \$293,450 Peter Haughton Memorial and third in his Crown elimination.

Driver Dexter Dunn--the 2019 and 2020 Driver of the Year--won the 2019 Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot final with Amigo Volo.

"He got sick at Lexington and when he finally got over it, he still had no trot," said trainer Alagna. "He was just not himself. He showed a little sign of life his last start at The Red Mile, but he came up short on another one of those days when the front wasn't playing well. We got him home and his liver enzymes were through the roof. We've been working on that and Dexter (Dunn) said he was back to more what he felt like early in the year (in the Crown elimination). Dexter said he felt like his old self."