

## **Amigo Volo (Father Patrick-Margarita Momma-Yankee Glide)**

Amigo Volo, the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot champion from a season ago, will be back to defend his title after winning Saturday night's second 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination at Harrah's Hoosier Park in a track record 1:51.2. He scored by three-quarters of a length and trotted his last quarter in 26.3.

A gelded son of Father Patrick, Amigo Volo won the Dan Patch Award for best 2-year-old male trotter. He won six of 12 appearances, visiting the winner's circle after a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes leg, two Grand Circuit races at The Red Mile, and the Matron, in addition to his Breeders Crown triumph.

In 2020, Amigo Volo has taken a split of the Keystone Classic and Pennsylvania All-Stars, two preliminary Pennsylvania Sire Stakes rounds and the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Championship, an International Stallion Stakes flight at The Red Mile and the Kentucky Futurity in Lexington.

Richard "Nifty" Norman is the trainer of Amigo Volo. Nifty Norman, 60, has won four Breeders Crown trophies, with the most recent coming in 2019 with 2-year-old male trotter Amigo Volo. Earlier this month, Amigo Volo won the Kentucky Futurity.

He got his first trophy with 2-year-old filly trotter Poof She's Gone in 2009 and the next two with female trotter Bee A Magician, at age 3 in 2013 and age 4 in 2014. Bee A Magician was Horse of the Year in 2013. She was 17-for-17 and earned \$1.54 million. Her earnings were a record for a 3-year-old filly trotter.

Dexter Dunn is Amigo Volo's regular driver. Dunn, 31, made his Breeders Crown finals debut in 2019 and came away with two trophies. Dunn won with Manchego in the Mare Trot and with Amigo Volo in the event for 2-year-old male trotters.

Pinske Stables and David J. Miller are the owners of Amigo Volo.

"He didn't get a whole lot of luck in the Hambletonian, but he's gone on since then and hasn't put a bad race in. He's a pleasure to sit behind. He can make his own luck. He gets out of the gate good and you can put him in position. He felt brilliant tonight. He came off that last turn, and he put his head down and really sprinted hard." - Dexter Dunn

## **Back Of The Neck (Ready Cash-Big Barb-Andover Hall)**

Back Of The Neck kicked home in 26 seconds flat to advance from seventh at three-quarters to fourth at the end of the second Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination on Saturday at Harrah's Hoosier Park. He finished 7 1/4 lengths behind the winner and completed the mile in 1:52.4.

This colt by the French stallion Ready Cash raced in the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination a year ago but finished ninth and didn't advance to the final. His rookie campaign saw him win three times, with those victories coming in a Kindergarten Classic split, a Reynolds division, and his elimination of the William Wellwood Memorial. Back Of The Neck also has a trio of tallies this year, having taken another Reynolds event, his Stanley Dancer Memorial flight, and his Bluegrass section at The Red Mile. He was third in the final of the Hambletonian.

Ake Svanstedt trains and drives Back Of The Neck, and he will be one of his two entrants in the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot final. Svanstedt, 60, is seeking his first Breeders Crown trophy.

He has finished second on five occasions, twice with Resolve in the Open Trot, in 2015 and 2016, and twice with Ice Attraction, in 2017 in the 3-year-old filly trot and 2018 in the Mare Trot. In 2019, he was second with Six Pack in the Open Trot.

Svanstedt moved to the U.S. from Sweden in 2014. That year, he trained and drove Sebastian K, who trotted the then-fastest mile in harness racing history when he won in 1:49 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

In 2019, Svanstedt's stable set a career high with \$4.96 million in purses and ranked fifth among all trainers in North America.

This year, he is fourth, with more than \$4 million. His wins this year include a drive behind Plunge Blue Chip in the Miss Versatility Series championship at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Ohio, where she trotted 1:51.3, setting the record for the fastest race mile ever on a half-mile track.

The ownership group of Back Of The Neck includes Svanstedt, Howard Taylor, Judith Taylor, and breeder Order By Stable(Stefan Balazsi).

"He was good (in his elimination). He came home fast, and he felt good. It was the first time I drove him in a race. I hope we can do better next time. I qualified him twice, but he was a different horse in the race. When he qualified, I think he understood it was a qualifier, and he was not so serious. Now he was a different horse. I'll know him better after this time." - Ake Svanstedt

## **Beads (Archangel-Nepentha-SJ's Caviar)**

Beads qualified for a Breeders Crown final for the second straight year by finishing second in Saturday night's second 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination. He was three-parts of a length behind winner Amigo Volo, trotted the mile in 1:51.3, and kicked home in 26.2.

In 2019, Beads made the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot final after finishing sixth in the elimination, but unfortunately he made a break when the trophy was on the line and ended up tenth. After winning two overnight races as a freshman, he's won all five times as a 3-year-old. He took the Muscle Hill on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands, then swept through the three legs and the final of the Kentucky Sires Stakes at The Red Mile.

This colt by Archangel is trained by Per Engblom. Engblom, 40, made his Breeders Crown debut in 2019 and had five finalists. His best finish came with Synergy in the 2-year-old colt-and-gelding trot. Synergy won his elimination and was fifth in the final. Two-year-old filly trotter Ms Savannah Belle also was an elim winner. She finished seventh in her final.

Brian Sears drove Beads in his elimination. Sears, 52, leads active drivers in wins in Breeders Crown finals, with 32, and is second all-time in the history of the series. Sears trails only John Campbell (48). Sears won two Breeders Crown finals in 2019, with 3-year-old filly trotter Winndevie and international star Bold Eagle in the Open Trot. He won three trophies in 2018. His triumphs came with 2-year-old male trotter Gimpanzee, 3-year-old male trotter Tactical Landing, and older male pacer McWicked. McWicked was the 2018 Horse of the Year in both the U.S. and Canada. Sears has driven three other Horse of the Year award winners: Rocknroll Hanover in 2005, Muscle Hill in 2009, and Bee A Magician in 2013. They also were Breeders Crown champs for Sears.

Sears got his first Breeders Crown trophy with 3-year-old female trotter Stroke Play in 2003. He won a total of 19 trophies in the next six years. He won four Crowns in each 2004 and 2005, and three in each 2006, 2008 and 2009. He had two victories in 2007.

Renee Spahr, wife of prominent Bloodstock agent Ernesto Martinez, owns Beads. She also owns another finalist in the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot in Play Trix On Me.

"I was very happy (with his elimination). He went off-stride in two starts down in Lexington, including on the off track last time in the Futurity. Obviously we were not happy with that, but he bounced back great. We did some shoeing changes and we tuned him up a little bit, and yesterday he was great. Of course we got beat by Amigo Volo, but we were full speed across the wire, and I was really happy with that performance.

"He's got the ability to race the best ones, but he's got to be in that mood. Sometimes he doesn't put his mind into it and then his heart. When he's there and he's focused and he's racing great like he did last night and a couple times down in Lexington and at the Meadowlands, then he's good enough to compete with all of them." - Per Engblom

## **Capricornus (Cantab Hall-Oh My Darlin-Glidemaster)**

Capricornus picked a great time to win his first race of 2020, rallying with a 26.1 final quarter to go from seventh at three-quarters to the victory in the first Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination on Saturday night at Harrah's Hoosier Park. Capricornus prevailed by a neck and halted the clock in 1:52.2. and paid \$125.00 for a win ticket.

A Cantab Hall colt, Capricornus won a division of the Kindergarten Classic, a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes leg, and his William Wellwood Memorial elimination as a rookie, but he had a donut in the win column in 2020 until Saturday night. He made the Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot final a season ago, finishing eighth in the rich final after taking a bye.

Marcus Melander is the trainer of Capricornus. Melander, 28, has won two Breeders Crown trophies, both with male trotter Gimpanzee, who was victorious at age 2 in 2018 and again last year at 3. He was the 2018 Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old male trotter.

Tim Tetrick piloted Capricornus in the elimination. Tetrick, 38, is fourth among active drivers in Breeders Crown finals wins with 20 and is No. 7 all time in the series. His most recent trophies came in 2018, in the Mare Pace with Shartin N and the 3-year-old filly trot with Lily Stride.

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

In 2014, Tetrick drove 2-year-old filly pacer JK She'salady to wins in her Breeders Crown elimination and final. She was named 2014 Horse of the Year.

JJ Racing Stable Inc. owns Capricornus.

"This horse, I kind of liked him from last year, and he's just really disappointed me all year. Today, I got away sixth or seventh on the rail and never even pulled him until the top of the lane. He gave me a good sprint, and we got up in time to win. I thought he'd be a contender in every race, and he's just not fulfilled his job that he's supposed to do. Tonight was what I thought he could do all year, and he showed he's still got talent.

"Like Marcus and I were talking before, if he raced as good as he felt like warming up and everything he'll win. He said 'we can't trust him,' but tonight he actually did perform well." - Tim Tetrick

## **Chestnut Hill (Muscle Hill-Poof She's Gone-Kadabra)**

A son of two Breeders Crown champions, Chestnut Hill will race in the event for the second time in 2020 after finishing second in Saturday night's first 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination at Harrah's Hoosier Park. Positioned fourth at three-quarters, he closed in 27 seconds and fell a neck short of the victory. He trotted the mile in 1:52.2.

Chestnut Hill was fourth in the elimination and third in the final of last year's Breeders Crown 2-Year-Old Colt Trot. He won twice in 2019, taking a division of the Kindergarten Classic and a preliminary leg of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes. As a 3-year-old he bagged the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Consolation and then pulled a stunning 60-1 upset in the Canadian Trotting Classic at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

He will be one of two in this final sent out by trainer Richard "Nifty" Norman. Norman, 60, has won four Breeders Crown trophies, with the most recent coming in 2019 with 2-year-old male trotter Amigo Volo. Earlier this month, Amigo Volo won the Kentucky Futurity.

He got his first trophy with 2-year-old filly trotter Poof She's Gone, who is Chestnut Hill's dam, in 2009 and the next two with female trotter Bee A Magician, at age 3 in 2013 and age 4 in 2014. Bee A Magician was Horse of the Year in 2013. She was 17-for-17 and earned \$1.54 million. Her earnings were a record for a 3-year-old filly trotter.

David Miller is Chestnut Hill's driver. Miller, 55, ranks No. 2 among active drivers in Breeders Crown wins, with 24, and is No. 5 all time in the series. His most recent trophy came in 2019 with Gimpanzee in the 3-year-old colt trot.

In 2015, Miller set the record for most Breeders Crown victories in a single year, with five. He accomplished the feat at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto.

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

Breeders Mel Hartman and David McDuffee co-own Chestnut Hill in partnership with Little E LLC.

"I was really happy with his run last night, just got beat at the wire. It was a good effort. He left out hard and David gave him a great trip. He stuck his head out, and I thought he was going to get there, but he just got nabbed at the wire. Obviously the draw will be important for him, but he's in a good spot, and I think he's as good as anybody." - Nifty Norman

## **Gangster Hanover (Father Patrick-Global Desire-Yankee Glide)**

Gangster Hanover rallied with a 26.3 final panel to go from sixth at three-quarters to third at the finish line in the first Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination on Saturday night at Harrah's Hoosier Park. He came up half a length short of the win and completed the mile in 1:52.2.

This Father Patrick colt did not race in the Breeders Crown as a rookie but did have a solid campaign, winning half of his six starts. Those victories came in two legs of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes and his Bluegrass division at The Red Mile. In 2020, Gangster Hanover added another Pennsylvania Sire Stakes triumph and once again prevailed in his Bluegrass flight.

He will be one of two entrants in the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot for trainer Ake Svanstedt. Svanstedt, 60, is seeking his first Breeders Crown trophy.

He has finished second on five occasions, twice with Resolve in the Open Trot, in 2015 and 2016, and twice with Ice Attraction, in 2017 in the 3-year-old filly trot and 2018 in the Mare Trot. In 2019, he was second with Six Pack in the Open Trot.

Andrew McCarthy drove Gangster Hanover in the elimination. McCarthy, 33, in 2019 became the eighth driver in history to win at least four Breeders Crown finals in a year. He became the first to accomplish the feat without driving a favorite. McCarthy's victories came with 2-year-old filly trotter Ramona Hill, 2-year-old filly pacer Reflect With Me, pacing mare Caviart Ally, and 3-year-old colt pacer Dancin Lou.

Svanstedt's stable also co-owns Gangster Hanover with S R F Stable and breeder Brittany Farms LLC.

"He raced good (in the elimination). Andy McCarthy drove him good, and he's going to drive him again in the final. He was good. The races when I left fast with him, he never came home good. But if you can take it easy when the gate leaves, he can come home good. It looks like he can't leave fast. That's the only thing, so you need a good post. But he has been good before, and he raced good (in his elimination). With a good post, he can do good." - Ake Svanstedt

## **Hillexotic (Muscle Hill-Exotic Destination-Dream Vacation)**

Hillexotic advanced to the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot final by finishing fifth in the Saturday night's second elimination at Harrah's Hoosier Park. He came in 7 1/2 lengths behind the winner, was timed in 1:52.4, and trotted a 26.2 final quarter.

This Muscle Hill gelding was unraced as a 2-year-old. He won three straight races in August, taking a division of the Muscle Hill on Hambletonian Eve at the Meadowlands and then two legs of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes at Harrah's Philadelphia and The Meadows.

Trond Smedshammer trains and drives Hillexotic. Smedshammer, 53, won the 2019 Breeders Crown for 3-year-old filly trotters with Winndevie, upping his career total for trophies to nine.

He 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.

Smedshammer is one of six trainers to win at least two Breeders Crown finals in multiple years, with Jimmy Takter, Bob McIntosh, Ron Burke, Steve Elliott and Brett Pelling.

A native of Norway, Smedshammer arrived in the U.S. in 1987 after a mandatory year in the Norwegian Army. He 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. In 1992, he started his own stable.

Smedshammer trained and drove 2004 Trotting Triple Crown winner Windsong's Legacy and was named Trainer of the Year.

Purple Haze Stables LLC(Wanda Polisseni). is the owner of Hillexotic.

"I was happy with him (in his elimination). It was a little slow in the middle there, which is kind of normal (at Hoosier). He got away back, and you've got good horses up front sprinting home in 26 and a piece, 27 flat, so it's hard to make up ground, but I was happy with my horse's performance. He had a pretty good break after the Pennsylvania program, and he got a little sick there. He had one start going back into this race, so he should improve a little bit off this elimination.

"Hopefully he'll get a decent post and get a little piece of it. I don't really have high expectations that he can beat Amigo Volo and a couple of the best ones, but with a little luck, he can get a little piece." - Trond Smedshammer

## **Maesteraemon (Andover Hall-Angel Pie-Muscles Yankee)**

Maesteraemon, who did not race in the Breeders Crown last year, was the third-place finisher in Saturday night's second 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination at Harrah's Hoosier Park. He was five lengths behind the winner, trotted the mile in 1:52.2, and finished with a 27.2 final quarter.

As a 2-year-old, Maesteraemon won four times - once in overnight competition, once in the Pennsylvania Stallion Series, and twice in late closers at The Red Mile. He owns a single victory in 2020, that coming in a dead-heat in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes leg at Harrah's Philadelphia.

This Andover Hall colt is one of two finalists in the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot for trainer Marcus Melander. Melander, 28, has won two Breeders Crown trophies, both with male trotter Gimpanzee, who was victorious at age 2 in 2018 and again last year at 3. He was the 2018 Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old male trotter.

Tim Tetrick drove Maesteraemon in the elimination. Tetrick, 38, is fourth among active drivers in Breeders Crown finals wins with 20 and is No. 7 all time in the series. His most recent trophies came in 2018, in the Mare Pace with Shartin N and the 3-year-old filly trot with Lily Stride.

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

In 2014, Tetrick drove 2-year-old filly pacer JK She'salady to wins in her Breeders Crown elimination and final. She was named 2014 Horse of the Year.

S R F Stable is the owner of Maesteraemon.

"He was better than he's been in a while (in his elimination). We're going to do some equipment changes on him but he raced good. Hopefully he draws good and can get a good check in the final." - Marcus Melander



## **Play Trix On Me (Trixton-Lima Playmate-Credit Winner)**

Play Trix On Me advanced to the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot final by finishing fifth in the first elimination on Saturday night at Harrah's Hoosier Park. Play Trix On Me finished a length and three-quarters behind the winner, trotted his mile in 1:52.4, and ended with a 27.4 final kicker.

A colt by Trixton, Play Trix On Me is making his first appearance in the Breeders Crown. A season ago, he won five of six starts. He took an overnight race at Harrah's Philadelphia to start his career, then won both preliminary rounds and the final of the New Jersey Sire Stakes at the Meadowlands. He then added a win in a leg of the New Jersey Sire Stakes-Standardbred Development Fund at Freehold. As a sophomore, he again won a leg and the final of the New Jersey Sire Stakes at the Meadowlands and also captured an event for 3-year-old trotters at Harrah's Hoosier Park.

Linda Toscano trains Play Trix On Me. Toscano, 65, is a five-time winner of Breeders Crown finals. She got her most recent victory in 2016 with 2-year-old male trotter Walner, who was a Dan Patch Award winner. Her first trophy came in 2002 with pacing mare Molly Can Do It. She was the first woman trainer to take home a Crown trophy.

Male trotter Chapter Seven was a two-time Breeders Crown champion (2011 and 2012) for Toscano and Horse of the Year in 2012. Toscano also won in 2012 with 3-year-old male pacer Heston Blue Chip. A year later, Market Share won the Open Trot. She was the first woman

Joe Bongiorno drove Play Trix On Me in the elimination. Bongiorno, 27, won his first Breeders Crown final in 2019, guiding American History to victory in the Open Pace. Bongiorno debuted in the Breeders Crown in 2016.

Renee Spahr owns Play Trix On Me. She is also the owner of another finalist in the Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot in Beads.

"I was pretty happy with him (in his elimination) considering that we had to use him as hard as we did from the outside post to get him involved. He left a good quarter, and then he finished up pretty good. He had to wait for the passing lane, and the horses on the outside got a much better head start on him, but he held his own in the stretch and wasn't beaten much.

"The one thing about him is, he doesn't lay over them, but he certainly always seems to fit. He always seems to be there for me at the end." - Linda Toscano

## **Ready For Moni (Ready Cash-Nothing But Moni-Credit Winner)**

Ready For Moni took the lead from first-over in the stretch of the first Breeders Crown 3-Year-Old Colt Trot elimination on Saturday at Harrah's Hoosier Park, but he got caught late in the mile and had to settle for fourth. He wound up a length behind the winner, finished in 1:52.3, and trotted his final quarter in 27.3.

This is the Breeders Crown debut for the colt by French stallion Ready Cash. As a 2-year-old, Ready For Moni won an overnight race and then two legs and the final of the Kentucky Sires Stakes. This year, he won his Stanley Dancer Memorial division, the Zweig Memorial, and his elimination and the final of the Goodtimes. He was second in the Hambletonian.

Nancy Takter is Ready For Moni's trainer. Takter, 39, won two Breeders Crown trophies in 2019, increasing her career total to four. She won last year with 2-year-old male pacer Tall Dark Stranger and trotting mare Manchego. Tall Dark Stranger was a Dan Patch Award winner.

Her 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 2014 Horse of the Year. She is the only 2-year-old filly pacer in history to receive the honor.

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

Yannick Gingras is Ready For Moni's driver. Gingras, 41, is third among active drivers in Breeders Crown trophies, with 23, and No. 6 all time in the series. He won two finals in 2019, with 3-year-old filly pacer Warrawee Ubeaut and 2-year-old colt pacer Tall Dark Stranger. He also won a Breeders Crown in 2018 with Warrawee Ubeaut in the 2-year-old filly pace.

In 2017, Gingras won four Crowns in a year for the second time in his career. Among those victories, he won the Open Trot with Hannelore Hanover, who became the first female to win the event since Moni Maker in 1998. Hannelore Hanover went on to be named Horse of the Year in the U.S. and Canada.

Gingras won his first Breeders Crown in 2007 with 3-year-old female trotter Southwind Serena, at odds of 50-1. He won four trophies in 2014 at the Meadowlands Racetrack in New Jersey and has won three trophies in a year three times.

John Fielding, Lindy Farms, Herb Liverman, and Bud Hatfield own Ready For Moni.

"We made a shoeing change, and I was happy with him as far as his gait goes (in his elimination). He raced with an earhood, which will come off for the final. I think he should take a step forward from this race." - Nancy Takter