

## **Big City Pearl (Chapter Seven-Annaliina-Explosive Matter)**

Big City Pearl was fourth in elimination with former trainer Verlin Yoder in the bike. She possesses a record of 8-3-1-0 and has earned \$80,072 while racing early in her career on the New York Sire Stakes circuit.

She will leave from post position seven

The filly jumped up from non-winners of \$8,300 to finish second in a \$221,000 division of the Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stake. She finished second on October 14 in a qualifier prior to her appearance in the Breeders Crown elimination.

Big City Pearl is family affair as trainer James, 26, made his Breeders Crown debut in 2019 with 2-year-old filly trotter May Baby, finishing fourth in her elimination and eighth in the final.

Yoder is the son of trainer/driver Verlin Yoder, who in 2018 made his Breeders Crown debut and won the 2-year-old filly trot with Woodside Charm with the undefeated (7 for 7) Woodside Charm who was won a Dan Patch Award.

Lifetime, James has won more than 270 races as a driver and 75 as a trainer. He surpassed \$1 million in career training purses earlier this month. He is among the top drivers and trainers at Harrah's Hoosier Park in win percentage this year.

Big City Pearl is owned by Verlin Yoder and was bred by Bruce James Potter.

## **Gotta Believe (Donato Hanover-Mets Life-Kadabra)**

Despite only racing five times, Gotta Believe was second her Breeders Crown elimination. In her only other previous attempt in Grand Circuit company the filly was third in a \$75,750 division of the International Stallion Stake. She will leave from post position nine in the final with Andy Miller in the sulky. Her record currently stands at 5-2-1-1 and she has earned \$25,540.

Driver Miller has won five Breeders Crown trophies in his career. He got his first win in 2004 with 2-year-old female pacer Restive Hanover, who was trained by his brother, Erv. It also was Erv's first victory in the Breeders Crown.

In 2009, Miller teamed with his wife, trainer Julie Miller, to win a Breeders Crown with Lucky Jim in the Open Trot at The Meadowlands. Andy and Julie were married in 1996 and started their harness racing stable the same year.

This year, Julie's stable ranks seventh in purses in North America with nearly \$3 million. She has finished among the Top 10 in five of the past six years.

In September, she won the inaugural Mohawk Million with Venerate at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Earlier this month, she won the Kentucky Filly Futurity with Love A Good Story.

For her career, she has won nearly 2,000 races and \$45 million in purses.

Gotta Believe is owned by Andy Miller Stable Inc.(Andy and Julie), Thomson Sisters Racing Stable(Kimberly Zeller and Ashley Bradbard) and Let It Ride Stables(Eric Cherry). The filly was bred by Winbak Farm.

## **Hello I Love You (Trixtion-Flirtin Miss-Malabar Man)**

Hello I Love You was fifth in her Breeders Crown elimination with Joe Bongiorno in the sulky. She was knocking at the door for a breakthrough win after struggling early in the season. The filly has a record of 9-2-2-0 and has banked \$78,387. She will leave from post position six in the final.

After a pair of 10th place finishes in the New Jersey Sire Stakes, Hello I love was dropped down in company then given a brief freshening after a fourth place finish in the \$40,000 Garden State. She was fifth and second in two legs of the Kindergarten series before heading to Lexington to compete at The Red Mile.

Both Flirtin Miss(2004) and Malabar Man (1997,98) were Breeders Crown Champions

Hello I Love you won an \$87,000 division of the Bluegrass Stake and was second in a \$75,750 division of the International Stallion Stake.

The filly is trained by Tony Alagna. Alagna has won six Breeders Crown finals. In 2019, he won three trophies and became the fourth trainer ever to win three or more in a year, joining Jimmy Takter, Ron Burke, and Bob McIntosh. Alagna's 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.

Alagna's 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. "The Captain" became the first pacer to win that honor in consecutive years since Jenna's Beach Boy in 1995-96 and joined Niatross as the only horses to accomplish the feat at ages 2 and 3 since the award was first given in 1970.

Hello I Love You is owned by Let It Ride Stables(Eric Cherry), M T Pockets Stables(Ronald Ruggles), Alagna Stables and Marvin Katz. She was bred by Docs Farm Inc.

## **Ima Diamond Babe (Guccio-I Wil Take Credit-Credit Winner)**

Appearing her first Breeders Crown, Ima Diamond Babe has a record of 11-1-0-1 but has been consistent against top company in her division. The filly was fourth in a \$221,000 division of the Kentuckiana Stallion Management behind one of the divisional leaders, Iteration.

She was also fourth behind Swift Swanda in the \$270,000 Indiana Sire Stakes Super Final and was fifth in her \$25,000 Breeders Crown elimination.

Ima Diamond Babe seeks to redeem her sire's lack of luck in the Breeders Crown as the world champion was ninth in 2012 and fifth in 2013.

The filly has earned \$70,525 in purse money. She is owned by James and Cheyenne Yoder and a triumph by Ima A Diamond Babe would be the first Breeders Crown win for both. She is also trained by James and will leave from the rail in her respective Breeders Crown final.

## **Iteration (Chapter Seven-Steamy Windows-Muscle Massive**

A full sister to two-time Breeders Crown champion and Dan Patch-Award winner Gimpanzee, Iteration is one of the top contenders in this division and will leave from post position two with Brian Sears holding the lines. 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).

Iteration sports a record of 9-5-1-2 and has banked \$309,009.

Her wins include the \$225,000 New York Sire Stakes final, a \$221,000 division of the Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stake over the Hoosier Park surface, and a \$76,750 division of the International Stallion Stake. Iteration was fourth in her Breeders Crown elimination. There may, however, be a reason for that.

She got a little too grabby on the lead in the elimination, but otherwise she looked very good and felt very good," said Marcus Melander, her trainer. "We're going to change some equipment on her and hopefully it will turn out good. I think it will. She is one of those that can win that race. It's a very open field in my opinion and we drew good."

Melander, 28, has won two Breeders Crown trophies, both with this filly's older sibling, Gimpanzee.

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. His stable in 2019 won 86 races and \$5.36 million in purses. He ranked fourth in earnings in North America.

In 2018, Melander got the Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

Melander's stable in 2020 has more than \$3 million in purses, fifth best in North America.

Iteration is owned by Courant Inc.(Anders Strom), and was bred by Order By Stable.

## **Lady Chaos (Cantab Hall-Strong Legacy-Muscles Yankee)**

Lady Chaos, with David Miller in the bike, popped the pocket to best Presto in her elimination. The victory improved her record to 9-5-1-1 and she has earned \$26,803. She will leave from post position five in the final.

The only poor race the filly has on her card is a seventh place in an \$87,000 Bluegrass Stake division. But she rebounded from that effort with this win. The rest of her resume includes a second in the \$254,600 Peaceful Way final and win in the \$250,000 Kentucky Sire Stakes final.

David Miller, the filly's driver, 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.

Lady Chaos is trained by Linda Toscano. Toscano 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.

Linda is the first woman trainer to win a Breeders Crown.

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.

Heston Blue Chip and Market Share also were Dan Patch Award winners for Toscano.

Toscano received the 2012 Trainer of the Year Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association. She was the first female trainer to receive the honor. She also was the first female trainer to win the Hambletonian, which she did with Market Share in 2012.

In 2019, Toscano was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. She has won nearly 2,300 lifetime races and \$58 million in purses. She ranks among the sport's top 10 in all time training purses.

Lady Chaos is owned by Richard Gutnick, Thomas Pontone, Joseph Lozito and Enviro Stables(Gordon Banks and Marc Hanover). She was bred by Lindy Farms and AV & Son Bloodstock.

## **Mazzarati (Cantab Hall-Falls For You-Yankee Glide)**

Mazzarati stormed home with authority to capture her Breeders Crown elimination with Tim Tetrick in the bike. The filly has a record of 9-4-1-2, earned \$83,785 and will leave from post position in the final.

The filly captured her \$20,000 Jim Doherty Memorial elimination but was fifth in the \$350,300 final. Her third win (her first was in a \$30,000 PA All Stars event) was in the second leg of the Kindergarten Classic series. Mazzarati was then fifth in a \$76,750 division of the International Stallion Stake prior to winning her Breeders Crown.

She is trained by Lucas Wallin.

Lucas said, "I've been high on her from the beginning. She's done some good things, but not as much as I thought she could do. We found a few issues and have worked on it. The race in the Kindergarten was a very good race, probably her best race so far. We skipped the first week in Lexington and that might have made her a little bit short for the second week, but helped her for this event. If everything works out and she stays fresh and healthy, my feeling is she's going to be better for the final off this (elimination). We're just working to keep them fresh and no sickness. Then we just have to cross our fingers. It's going to be up to the trips and that day's form."

Mazzarati will be Wallin's first Breeders Crown starter.

It's another step forward for the 27-year-old, now in his fourth full year of building up a stable since coming from Sweden in 2014. His earnings and victories have risen each year, although that won't happen this season due to a COVID-19-impacted season. But his numbers still look good considering the huge drop-off in starts.

In 2017, he won 18 races and \$183,712 in 110 starts; followed by 29 wins and \$351,877 in 164 starts in 2018, and 32 wins and \$692,544 in 216 starts last year. This season, in just 87 races, Wallin has 19 wins and earned \$434,155, which is roughly \$250,000 less than 2019 in 129 fewer starts.

"It's a pretty strong feeling," Wallin said on being in the Breeders Crown finals for the first time. "It's one of the biggest events in harness racing. That's a pretty special feeling. It's the end of the year, most of the horses have raced a lot. Anything can happen. It's a good feeling to have three of them in there."

Mazzarati is owned by Mazza Racing Stables (Mario Mazza) and Stormi and Bruiser Stable (Michael Barnard). She was bred by Fair Winds Farm.

## **Presto (Trixtion-Susie's Magic-Dream Vacation)**

Presto will leave from post position 10, which is the second tier, in the Breeders Crown final. The filly was second in her elimination and now has a record of 7-3-1-2 and \$109,190 in the bank.

Presto was third in the \$160,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final, won the \$40,000 Garden State and was fourth in a leg of the Kindergarten Series. She went to Red Mile where she won an \$87,000 division of the Bluegrass Stake and fourth in a \$76,750 division of the International Stallion Stake.

Steered by Yannick Gingras, who has previously taken up the reins, in her elimination Presto seeks to provide her pilot with yet another Breeders Crown trophy. Gingras 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.

Presto is trained by Ake Svanstedt and this would be his first Breeders Crown win. Her dam Susie's Magic won the Three Filly Trot in 2006.

She is owned by Brixton Medical Inc(Bengt Agerup). and bred by William Jones and Steve Stewart.

## **Splash Blue Chip (E L Titan-Dunk The Donato-Donato Hanover)**

Splash Blue Chip captured her debut, which was a New York Sire Stakes leg, but she has been competitive in this division. She possesses a record of 8-1-4-1 and earned \$93,718.

The filly was fourth in the \$225,000 New York Sire Stakes final, fourth in an \$88,000 division of the Bluegrass Stake, second in a \$75,750 division of the International Stallion Stake and was third in her Breeders Crown elimination. She will leave from post position three in the Breeders Crown final with her trainer and co-owner, Ake Svanstedt, most likely handling the lines.

It would be Svanstedt's first Breeders Crown trophy but 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.

Since arriving in the U.S., Svanstedt has trained more than 650 winners and earned nearly \$28 million in purses. As a driver, he has more than 400 wins and \$19 million in purses.

Svanstedt 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. Svanstedt won 6,306 races as a driver in Sweden and 5,384 as a trainer.

Splash Blue Chip is owned by Svanstedt and Mellby Gard Inc(Rene Andersson). She was bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.

## **Swift Swanda (Swan For All-Cheetah Hall-Tom Ridge)**

Indiana champion Swift Swanda was third in her Breeders Crown elimination with Hoosier's perennial leading driver, Trace Tetrick, holding the reins. She has a record of 11-6-1-2 and earned \$231,137. She was assigned post position eight for the final.

Swift Swanda has never left the confines of Hoosier Park through her brief career. All of her triumphs have come in Indiana company but she was third in a \$221,000 division of the Kentuckiana Stallion Management Stake.

The filly is trained by Erv Miller. He has won five Breeders Crown finals.

Miller got his first trophy in 2004 with 2-year-old female pacer Restive Hanover, who was driven by his brother, Andy. He got his most recent trophy 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.

In 2005 he was honored as Trainer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

"She's a pretty immature, green filly," Miller said. "She's really growing this year and, just like Trace said, she will make a great 3-year-old. She's mainly been babied along because of immaturity."

Trace Tetrick has won three Breeders Crown finals, including two in 2017 at his home track of Harrah's Hoosier Park. He won with 3-year-old female pacer Blazin Britches and 2-year-old male trotter Fiftydallarbill. His first trophy came in 2015 with Freaky Feet Pete in the final for 3-year-old male pacers at Toronto's Woodbine Racetrack.

Tetrick calls Hoosier Park his home. In fact, Tetrick lives only five minutes from the track, where he holds the record for most career wins and is on his way to his seventh consecutive driving title (and ninth overall).

Swift Swanda is owned by Anthony Lombardi and The Kales Company (Tekla Young). She was bred by Lavon Miller.







