

# KING OF THE NORTH

Bay colt, 3 by Walner – Check Me Out – Donato Hanover



**OWNER:** Schnittker Ward, NY; Arden Homestead Stable [Elbridge & Peter Gerry], NY; Nolamaura Racing [Patrick English, Kerry English, Robert Eustace & Frank Cavalari], NY; Steve Arnold, NY  
**BREEDER:** Steve Jones & Ray Schnittker, NY  
**SALE INFO:** \$190,000 Lexington Selected  
**TRAINER:** Ray Schnittker  
**DRIVER:** Mark MacDonald

YEAR	STARTS	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	EARNINGS	MARK
2022	5	0	2	0	\$52,564	N/A
2021	10	6	1	1	\$578,915	1:52.4 M
LIFETIME	15	6	3	1	\$631,479	2, 1:52.4 M

- Fourth in his Hambletonian elimination. Drew post eight in the final and listed at odds of 15-1.
- "I thought maybe he should have had a little more pop, but then I watched the replay, and he kind of got jammed up and had to go a little sideways across the track," said trainer Ray Schnittker. "I was happy with him. He scoped clean (after the race) with no Lasix, so that was a good positive. We'll probably change his shoeing a little bit next week and go from there. The track was probably a little deeper than it's going to be on Hambo Day. I seems like he's very sound, he's really got a good mouth on him and he tries. Mentally, he's a very good horse."
- Has hit the board in two of his five starts as a three year old. Was second by a neck in the Zweig Consolation at Vernon Downs on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Was passed in the stretch and beaten by a length by Slay in his Stanley Dancer Memorial division at the Meadowlands on July 16<sup>th</sup>
- "He got a little sick and just wasn't himself after The Red Mile (last Fall)," said driver Mark MacDonald. "Ray [trainer Ray Schnittker] did the right thing with him and shut him down."
- Finished his two-year-old campaign with a third place finish in the International Stallion Stakes at The Red Mile and a fifth place finish in his Breeders Crown elimination.
- "He was really sharp the night of the Mohawk Million," said MacDonald of King Of The North. "He got taken out at the start and raced great to finish fifth. Not to take anything away from the winner, but I really think he could have won that race if not for what happened to him at the start."

- King Of the North was parked out for most of the mile in the Mohawk Million and passed rivals late to grind out a fifth place finish.
- Finished second in his William Wellwood Memorial elimination. He rallied to win the \$505,600 Final in 1:54.2 as the heavy favorite at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- Caught behind stalled cover early, King Of the North rallied in the stretch to capture the \$293,450 Peter Haughton Memorial for two-year-old male trotters in 1:53.4 on the 2021 Hambletonian Day undercard at The Meadowlands.
- “He’s a really nice horse,” said Schnittker after his Peter Haughton elimination last year. “He’s like a five-year-old.”
- Began his career sweeping the New Jersey Sire Stakes including the Final at the Meadowlands in 1:52.4, his lifetime mark.
- Mark MacDonald, 44, is from Prince Edward Island, Canada. He won the 2021 Meadowlands Pace with Lawless Shadow through a disqualification. Last year he earned over \$3.9 million and 141 driving victories. This is Mark MacDonald’s debut in a Hambletonian Final.
- Mark MacDonald has been through it all in his driving career, the good, the bad and the ugly. But he's also endured, undaunted by the past and optimistic about the future. The reinsman has experienced numerous high-profile moments in the sulky. He produced a career year in 2006 when he notched what was then a single-season Canadian record of 739 wins. He also captured the \$1.5 million Pepsi North America Cup four years later with Sportswriter in 2010. The triumph came on the same night he won the Fan Hanover with Western Silk, both for trainer Casie Coleman. He captured the 2006 Little Brown Jug with Mr Feelgood for trainer Jimmy Takter, set a world record of 1:47.4 with American Ideal in 2005 and won Breeders Crowns with Moving Pictures and Betterthancheddar for Coleman.
- MacDonald has over \$99 million in career earnings and over 6,500 driving victories. His brother Anthony runs the Stable.ca, a successful fractional horse ownership stable, and his younger brother James is a top driver at Woodbine Mohawk Park, who won the 2021 O'Brien Award as Canada’s top driver. Brother Curtis produces COSA TV.
- Ray Schnittker, 64, is from Buffalo, NY, and has over \$43 million in career earnings and is closing in on 2,900 wins. Since his career began in 1977, he has won more than 2,700 races as a driver, has dominated the New York Sires Stakes circuit and enjoyed success at the sport’s top level.
- Schnittker campaigned King Of The North’s dam, two-time Dan Patch Award winner Check Me Out. She was the favorite going into the 2012 Hambletonian Oaks but broke and finished eighth in the final.
- Schnittker captured the 2008 Hambletonian with Trotter of the Year Deweycheatumhowe, and another trainee Make It Happen finished third from post ten at over 46-1.

- Schnittker worked alongside his father, Warren, as they campaigned a strong stable of claiming horses on the New York circuit in the 1980s. Schnittker's breakthrough at the Meadowlands came with Covert Action, who won the 1991 Presidential [paying a stakes record \$118]. Covert Action earned \$1,193,594 while racing from 1987 through 1995, winning 49 of his 251 starts. The pacer's success gave Schnittker the financial freedom to buy better quality horses.
- Schnittker shares a home in Middletown, NY with his wife, equine veterinarian Dr. Janet Durso. He credits Janet with playing a vital role in the stable's success, lending her expertise to both the daily care of the horses and in selecting yearlings to buy.
- King Of The North is from the first crop of Walner, a standout trotter sidelined in his three-year-old year due to injury. His other notable offspring include Hambletonian Oaks contenders Venerable [\$1.1 million], Fashion Schooner and fellow Hambletonian contenders Temporal Hanover and the filly Jiggy Jog S.
- Co-breeder Steve Jones also bred 2008 Hambletonian winner Deweycheatumnhowe.
- Co-owner Wesley Ward is a retired jockey and current Thoroughbred trainer. He won the 1984 Eclipse Award for Outstanding Apprentice jockey and won riding championships at Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Meadowlands Racetrack. As a trainer he has won stakes races at the Royal Ascot meeting.
- Arden Homestead Stable campaigned such stellar performers as Florlis, Matastar, Tassel Hanover, Sharpshooter, Florican and Hambletonian winners Flirth and Titan Hanover. Arden Homestead started a two-horse entry in the 1926 Hambletonian and holds the record for the most starters in the classic event, with 40.
- Arden Homestead was a co-owner on 2008 winner Deweycheatumnhowe, giving them a 35-year span between Flirth in 1973 and "Dewey." Their last finalist was The Chancellor (2009) who finished fourth.