



By Greg Reinhardt (Deuce Photo)

Reba Blue Chip

(Chapter Seven-Natasha's Kiss-Balanced Image)

Reba Blue Chip raced in the Hambletonian Oaks prep race on Saturday, August 1 at the Meadowlands and finished fourth. She was in the pocket at the opening quarter, got shuffled back along the inside, angled out in the last eighth, and closed well, finishing a length and three-quarters behind winner Hypnotic AM and trotting her mile in 1:53. The prep race was the first time Reba Blue Chip had competed at the Meadowlands.

As a 2-year-old, Reba Blue Chip was a three-time winner, with all of her victories coming at Harrah's Hoosier Park. She shipped east once for a New York Sire Stakes event at Vernon Downs and was second. As a sophomore, Reba Blue Chip has added three more victories to her ledger, with all of them coming at Tioga Downs. She has appeared twice in the New York Sire Stakes program, coming in second both times, once at Tioga Downs and once at Vernon Downs. Her overall record is 6-3-0 from 11 tries with earnings of \$76,950 and a mark of 1:54.1 taken in a qualifier at Gilcrist Training Center in Florida.

Breeding Notes

Reba Blue Chip is by Chapter Seven, who was second in his elimination and fourth in the final of the 2011 Hambletonian. Her dam, the Balanced Image mare Natasha's Kiss, was a five-time winner, earned \$275,922, and had a mark of 1:57.2. Reba Blue Chip is the tenth foal out of Natasha's Kiss, whose best performer to date is the Conway Hall mare Aiken For Clay (1:56.2, \$222,946). Natasha's Kiss is also a full sister to Lindy's New Lady (1:58, \$209,101), who was third in her elimination and seventh in the final of the 1997 Hambletonian Oaks. Reba Blue Chip was bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc., who has yet to breed a Hambletonian Oaks champion, and was purchased for \$80,000 at the 2018 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

Driver/Trainer Bio

VERLIN YODER

Born: 9/12/1973

Verlin Yoder came to prominence on harness racing's Grand Circuit when he won the \$250,000 International Trot Preview at Yonkers Raceway in 2014 with Natural Herbie. Yoder, who grew up in an Amish community and at one time was a foreman in a recreational vehicle plant in Indiana, also had success with the good Indiana Sires Stakes filly J R's Star prior to Natural Herbie propelling him into stardom. After Natural Herbie's success, Yoder trained and drove superstar 2-year-old trotting filly Woodside Charm to an undefeated season in 2018 that included Breeders Crown and divisional honors. 2018 was Yoder's best year as a trainer as he had 31 wins and \$1,381,770 in earnings. As a driver, Yoder banked \$1,152,485 in 2018 for his best campaign, and in 2017 he had his most driving victories with 28, just topping 2018's 26.

This will be Yoder's first appearance in a Hambletonian Oaks.

Owner Bio

Verlin and Rachel Yoder, Bell, Florida

Reba Blue Chip will be the first Hambletonian Oaks starter for the husband and wife duo of Verlin and Rachel Yoder. The Yoders both grew up in Amish communities and have three sons. One of them, James, also has a starter in the Hambletonian Oaks this year in May Baby.