

## **Righteous Resolve (Resolve-Motown Muscle-Muscle Mass)**

Righteous Resolve turned a pocket trip into a third-place result in the second Hambletonian Oaks elimination on July 29 at the Meadowlands. She finished a length and a quarter behind winner Heart On Fire, was timed in 1:51.3 and trotted her last quarter in 28.3.

Righteous Resolve was the O'Brien Award winner for top 2-year-old filly trotter in 2022 after winning her elim and the final of the Peaceful Way, a Champlain Stakes division, the Ontario Sires Stakes Super Final and multiple Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Series legs. She added another Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Series victory to her ledger this year. In summary, she has a record of 9-2-2 from 13 starts with earnings of \$533,003 and a mark of 1:53.

### **Quotes**

"She raced OK. I expected a little more at the end off that trip. Maybe the travel affected her. We'll try to address those issues.

"She's been racing great, tough, and is a little stronger this year. She's just a nice horse. She was already made at (age) 2. She had a great year. She's doing it again this year. Hopefully, we have some luck in the draw and she should be good in the final.

"She always had the tools (to be a good horse) but it wasn't until she got to the track for her first start that you said 'Wow.' You just didn't know that she had that extra gear. It wasn't until she had to do it that she did it.

"She just kind of does anything. She can leave, she can sprint at the end, and she's a professional on the track. She's real easy to get along with for drivers and she can do whatever they want. She also has a little extra fight in her, that extra grittiness that all the good horses have." - **trainer Matt Bax**

"I thought she raced great. I don't know if I've ever seen a first quarter in :25.4 on the trot, especially a trotting filly. I asked her to do quite a bit early and she still had a little bit left to fight down the lane. I think if she draws OK and gets a nice trip, I have to think she's as good as any of them in there. I'm excited for her chances and I was really proud of how she hung in there off those big fractions.

"She's big, she's strong. She's a really versatile filly. I think her versatility is something that will come in handy come Saturday afternoon." - **driver James MacDonald**

### **Breeding Notes**

Righteous Resolve would be the first Hambletonian Oaks champion for sire Resolve, who finished fifth in the 2014 Hambletonian.

She is a homebred for Bet Max Stables Inc. and Benenati Inc., both from Michigan, and would be their first Hambletonian Oaks champion as breeders.

### **Driver Bio**

#### **JAMES MacDONALD**

**Born: 1/10/1986 – Birthplace: Prince Edward Island – Resides: Guelph, Ontario  
O'Brien Award Driver of the Year: 2022, 2021.**

James MacDonald is making his Hambletonian debut.

MacDonald has received the O'Brien Award as Canada's top driver the past two years.

Last year, MacDonald led all drivers in Canada in purses with \$9.91 million (the highest total since 2011) and wins with 451, both career highs.

He also led all drivers in Canada in purses and wins in 2021.

This season, MacDonald is No. 1 in purses with more than \$4.6 million and is second in wins with more than 230.

MacDonald's top victory in 2022 came with Linedrive Hanover in the Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup at Flamboro Downs' half-mile oval in a Canadian-record 1:49.

For his career, MacDonald has won more than 3,300 races and \$58 million in purses. MacDonald won the 2017 World Driving Championship, hosted by Canada that year.

He is the brother of Mark MacDonald and Anthony MacDonald.

### **Trainer Bio**

#### **MATT BAX**

**Born: 5/20/1989 – Birthplace: Ontario – Resides: Campbellville, Ontario**

Matt Bax is making his Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks debuts. He is in his first season at the helm of the Bax Stable, which previously was led by his father, John.

John Bax was Canada's Trainer of the Year in 2001 when he stars included Breeders Crown champ Duke Of York, who received the O'Brien Award for best 2-year-old male trotter.

The Bax Stable has had one previous Hambletonian starter, Duke Of York in 2002. He finished second in his elimination and third in the final.

Other past stars included Goodtimes, who was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2004.

Last year, the Bax Stable set a career high with \$1.93 million in purses. Righteous Resolve was the O'Brien Award winner for best 2-year-old female trotter.

Matt Bax's top win this season came with Southwind Coors in the Goodtimes Stakes on June 17 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

### **Owner Bio**

#### **Bet Max Stables Inc, Casco, Michigan- Benenati Inc, Clinton Twp, Michigan**

Bet Max Stables Inc. (Roy Maxwell and Bruce Tayler) and Benenati Inc. (Sebastian Benenati) have not won the Hambletonian Oaks before. They have campaigned several excellent horses in Ontario over the years, including Righteous Resolve's dam Motown Muscle and Righteous Resolve's full brother Duly Resolved.