

By Greg Reinhardt (Sarah Lauren Scott Photo)

Solsbury Hill

(Muscle Hill-Emmylou Who-Ken Warkentin)

Solsbury Hill goes into the Hambletonian Oaks final after finishing third in the prep race at the Meadowlands on Saturday, August 1. She led early, yielded to sit in the pocket behind the eventual winner Hypnotic AM, and finished a length and three-quarters behind Hypnotic AM, trotting her mile in 1:53.

Solsbury Hill won her Jim Doherty Memorial elimination last year at the Meadowlands and also dead-heated for the victory in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes consolation event. So far in 2020 she has two wins, one coming in an overnight race at the Meadowlands and an upset score over Hambletonian finalist Sister Sledge in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes division on July 15 at Harrah's Philadelphia. She sports a record of 4-1-3 from 12 efforts, has earned \$97,526, and owns a mark of 1:52.4.

Breeding Notes

Solsbury Hill is by Muscle Hill, who won his elimination and the final of the 2009 Hambletonian. As a sire, Muscle Hill has won the last four editions of the Hambletonian Oaks. Solsbury Hill's dam, the Ken Warkentin mare Emmylou Who, was an eight-time winner in her racing career and made \$635,958. In addition to Solsbury Hill, Emmylou Who is the dam of Emoticon Hanover (Kadabra, 1:50.2, \$1,777,580), a two-time Breeders Crown champion. Solsbury Hill was bred by Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. and was taken from the 2018 Standardbred Horse Sale in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for \$120,000. Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. has bred three Hambletonian Oaks champions, placing them third on the all-time list behind Castleton Farms and Brittany Farms.

Driver Bio

SCOTT ZERON

Born: 5/23/1989 – Birthplace: Montreal, Quebec – Resides: Chester, NY



Scott Zeron, 31, has already hoisted the Hambletonian trophy twice in his career.

In 2018, Zeron-driven Atlanta became the first female trotter since Continental victory in 1996 to win the Hambletonian. At the end of the season, she was named Trotter of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

Two years earlier, Zeron won with Marion Marauder, who went on to capture the Yonkers Trot and Kentucky Futurity to sweep the Trotting Triple Crown. Marion Marauder was the ninth Trotting Triple Crown winner and was named Trotter of the Year.

With Marion Marauder, the then 27-year-old Zeron was the second-youngest driver to win the Hambletonian and youngest driver to win a harness racing Triple Crown, either trotting or pacing.

In 2019, Zeron finished ninth in the Hambletonian final with Cantab Fashion.

Zeron was born in Montreal and made a name for himself in Ontario, twice leading all Canadian drivers in wins (2010 and 2011) before relocating to the U.S. near the end of 2013.

He won the 2012 Little Brown Jug with Michael's Power and at age 23 was the youngest driver to ever win the race. He received the 2012 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

Trainer Bio

RICK ZERON

Born: 9/8/1956

Rick Zeron is in search of his first Hambletonian Oaks win but joined forces with his son Scott to win the Hambletonian in 2018 with the filly Atlanta.

Zeron was second in the Oaks in 2011 with Lady Rainbow. He also drove that daughter of Muscles Yankee and was one of the breeders.

Zeron has been recognized twice with Canada's O'Brien Award of Horsemanship (2010 & 2016).

Owner Bio

Rick Zeron Stables, Howard A. Taylor, Rojan Stables, and W.J. Donovan, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Massachusetts

Solsbury Hill would be the first Hambletonian Oaks champion for any of her owners. Rick Zeron Stables and Howard Taylor did co-own 2018 Hambletonian winner Atlanta.