

SOUTHWIND CASHA (Cantab Hall—Southwind Cabaret—Muscle Hill)

Breeder: Southwind Farms LLC, NJ

Owners: Bax Stable, *Campbellville, ON, CA*; Glengate Farms, *Erin, ON, CA*

Trainer: John Bax

Driver: Scott Zeron

Purchase: \$22,000 Harrisburg Selected Yearling Sale

The Canadian connection of John Bax and Scott Zeron team with **Southwind Casha**, who—like race-favourite **Millies Possesion**—never raced at two.

From an unraced Muscle Hill mare, **Southwind Casha** debuted on March 21 with a victory in a maiden trot at Woodbine Mohawk Park. With a couple more starts through early spring, she shipped south to Zan Kaiser's barn to race in the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes, though she only cashed checks. She then returned to Mohawk, where she won three straight and finished third before shipping south for the Hambletonian Oaks eliminations.

Scott Zeron, who has won two Hambletonians (one with a filly) and has yet to win the Oaks, picked up the drive on **Southwind Casha** for her Hambletonian Oaks elimination. Already with 11 races under her belt this season, she sat second the whole mile to **When Dovescry** and chased the winner home to finish second.

"I didn't really know anything about her," Zeron said after the elimination. "They told me she was good behind the gate, she can leave with the car, and that's her greatest asset. We used that. When [When Dovescry] pulled away from us at the three-quarter pole we were kind of at a stalemate where we were, but I was happy with the way she finished.

"I think no matter what, today was going to be about getting her feet underneath her and stretching her out. You get off that Mohawk surface and come here and it's just that much better. I think this was more of a confidence builder for her, and for me because I got to experience what she's like. I think this sets her up for [the final]. She can leave extremely fast, so I think she can position herself and we'll go from there. Post position will make somewhat of a difference, but she's so fast off the gate anyway."

Southwind Casha will start from post 1 in the Oaks final—directly inside of favourite **Millies Possesion**. She will try to give trainer John Bax his first victory in the Hambletonian Oaks in his first try.