

SOUTHWIND AVANTI (Muscle Hill – Auvergne – Windsong’s Legacy)



By: Ray Cotolo

After a winless two-year-old campaign, Southwind Avanti switched from Nancy Johansson’s barn to Anette Lorentzon’s for her three-year-old season. Over six starts this season, Southwind Avanti has won three, all of which came in overnight events at Yonkers Raceway and Pocono Downs. She scratched sick from a start at Yonkers on June 20 and did not return to racing until July 15 for the Del Miller Memorial, where she finished fifth to **Ariana G.**

“She’s not one that shows much in training, but since the first qualifier I know they really liked her,” Lorentzon said. “She gets a little hot sometimes, that’s the only thing. We never push her off the gate because she can get hot. It’s hard to get her to relax. We try to take her off the gate and hopefully have something left in the tank at the end.”

“We thought she’s been really good. We raced her easy to brave her up and see what kind of horse she was. When they can trot in [1]:55 in a non-winners of 2 at Yonkers, they’re okay. We were hoping she was this kind of horse, but you never know until you make them go as fast as they have to. We are very happy with her.”

Southwind Avanti finished third in her Hambletonian Oaks elimination, closing from third over to finish behind **Magic Presto** and **Feed Your Head.**

“She raced really good—she stayed nice and quiet too, so that was good,” Lorentzon said on her performance in the elimination. “She came home strong. Big pluses compared to the last time [she raced].”

Anette Lorentzon’s last appearance in the Hambletonian Oaks final was with Jersey As in 2009, finishing fifth. She has since sent one other starter when Fortunes Dream competed in the eliminations in 2010, but finished fourth and missed the final. She is going for her first win in the Hambletonian Oaks.

Driver Jason Bartlett will be making his Hambletonian Oaks debut.