

## **PP 1 Charleston (Downbytheseaside-Western Montana-Western Hanover)**

From the mare Western Montana, who finished fourth in the 2006 2-Year-Old Filly Pace to Calgary Hanover. Charleston is the 10<sup>th</sup> foal from the mare and a three-quarter sister to 2015 2-Year-Old Filly Pace champ Pure Country, and a half-sister to 2018 3-Year-Old Colt Pace finalist Grand Teton.

This filly has not finished worse than second in eight starts, winning in six. Her only losses came in a Kindergarten Classic prelim and the \$525,000 Shes A Great Lady Final (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**). She won her Breeders Crown elimination by a neck in 1:50.4.

Trainer Brett Pelling tries for his second win in this event, having won in 1998 with Juliets Fate. Pelling is fifth in Breeders Crown history in trophies (12) and earnings (\$4.7 million), despite an 11-year gap in U.S training stats, when he returned home to Australia.

Driver Dexter Dunn will try to join John Campbell as the only driver to win this race in three consecutive years (John did it in 1990-1992). Dunn won the 2020 edition with Fire Start Hanover and the 2021 edition with Niki Hill.

She's owned by Diamond Creek Racing and bred by Diamond Creek Farm; Diamond Creek Farm also bred **HORIZONTAL**. Diamond Creek Racing also owned and bred 2015 winner Pure Country.

**Trainer Brett Pelling:** I thought she was super good. She's very slick and very professional. She's had four different drivers and every one of them has said she's an absolute Cadillac. She knows what she's doing, and she's ready to go.

She's incredibly versatile, has high speed. She's just a very nice filly. She's extremely well bred (three-quarter sister to two-time Crown winner Pure Country), and you can tell. She's just got great qualities about her. She's not very big, but she's another one of those horses that you don't know when you're driving them.

**Driver Dexter Dunn:** She felt great. She's been progressing really well this year. They've kind of aimed her for this for a long time. She had a nice qualifier after the break and had a really nice performance (in the elimination). It was a big mile. We got away in a pretty handy spot and we had to work for it late in the stretch there. It was a really strong mile.

(Sylvia Hanover) was great again and she's an amazing filly herself. We'll look forward to another bout with her.

## **PP2 Strong Poison (Always B Miki-Fiyonce-Rocknroll Hanover)**

Four of her five wins from 11 starts have come in Kentucky, winning in three preliminaries of the Kentucky Championship and in a \$142,000 Bluegrass division. She also finished second in the \$400,000 Kentucky Championship final and in her Breeders Crown elimination (to **CHARLESTON**).

Trainer Ron Burke looks for his third win in this event (winning in 2017 with Youaremycandygirl and in 2018 with Warrawee Ubeaut) to become just the third trainer to win this race at least three times, the other two being Bruce Nickells (who has four wins) and Jimmy Takter. Burke also trains **MCSEASIDE**.

Overall Burke is the second-most successful trainer in Crown history in terms of trophies (18) and earnings (\$10.82 million), trailing only Jimmy Takter.

Driver Yannick Gingras also tries for his third win, having won with Burke's two champs. Gingras and Burke finished sixth in this race last year with Galleria Hanover.

Owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC, J&T Silva Stables LLC, Knox Services Inc. and Beasty LLC.

Bred by Steve Stewart and Charles and Julie Nash. All three have yet to breed a winner of this event. Stewart has bred five winners, Charles Nash has bred one (2010 3-Year-Old Colt Pace winner Rock N Roll Heaven) and Julie Nash makes her first start with one.

**Trainer Ron Burke:** She's a very good horse, does everything you ask of her. She drew in a great spot. She probably doesn't want to end up having to cut it, but she fought gamely (in her elimination). We'll see how she is. She's ready

### PP 3 Horizontal (Always B Miki-Geometry-Somebeachsomewhere)

All three of her wins have come against conditioned stock. In her stakes appearances, she finished sixth in an \$117,150 Eternal Camnation division and eighth in the \$525,000 Shes A Great Lady (won by **SYLVIA HANOVER**). Also finished second in her Shes A Great Lady elimination (to **CHARLESTON**) and third in her Breeders Crown elimination (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**).

Trainer Kevin Benn makes his Breeders Crown debut with this filly.

Driver Sylvain Filion tries for his first win in the race. His father, Herve Filion, drove 1985 winner Caressable for trainer Bill Haughton at Yonkers Raceway. Sylvain Filion has two Breeders Crown trophies: the 2001 Open Pace with Goliath Bayama and the 2012 2-Year-Old Colt Trot with Wheeling N Dealin.

Owned by Leo Fleming, Kevin Benn, Dennis Chadwick and Zachary Mills, all of whom have their first Breeders Crown starter.

Bred by Diamond Creek Farm, which also bred **CHARLESTON**.

**Driver Sylvain Filion:** She raced pretty good. We kind of got jammed up down the backside. There was a horse three wide, so I let her drop in front of me hoping to follow her, but she cleared. That made my trip a little harder. I was kind of first-up all the way around the last turn, which is a big turn. But she raced real big and fought hard.

She drew good in the final, so my hopes are pretty high on her. She has a lot of potential and she is pretty easy to drive too. She can leave, she can race from off the pace, so that makes my job a lot easier. She's not a flashy filly, she's just efficient at what she does. I like the way she comes off a helmet. She can bust out of there. If we can get a nice trip, I think she can fly home off a helmet.

#### **PP 4 McSeaside (Downbytheseaside-McGibson-McArdle)**

She had just one win in an Ohio Sires Stake preliminary before delivering as the even-money favourite in the \$300,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship at Dayton Raceway on Oct. 1. She also won a \$126,500 International Stallion Stake division (beating **ZANATTA**) and finished second in her Breeders Crown elimination (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**).

Trainer Ron Burke looks for his third win in this event (winning in 2017 with Youaremycandygirl and in 2018 with Warrawee Ubeaut) to become just the third trainer to win this race at least three times, the other two being Bruce Nickells (who has four wins) and Jimmy Takter. Burke also trains **CHARLESTON**.

Overall Burke is the second-most successful trainer in Crown history in terms of trophies (18) and earnings (\$10.82 million), trailing only Jimmy Takter.

Driver Chris Page tries for his first Breeders Crown win after having made 12 other appearances. Page also finished second in this event last year with Sea Silk. He also drives top pacing sophomore and Burke trainee Bythemissal, with whom he fulfilled a childhood dream by winning the 2022 Little Brown Jug with Bythemissal on Sept. 22 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Ohio.

Page got lifetime win 6,000 on June 9 at Eldorado Scioto Downs, where he has captured multiple driving titles during his career. He set a career high with \$6.80 million in purses in 2021. He is on the verge of surpassing that figure this season.

Page got involved in harness racing by helping his uncles, who were hobby horsemen, at the county fairs in Ohio. He attended his first Little Brown Jug in 1993, won by Life Sign, which cemented his love of the sport.

McSeaside is owned by Burke Racing Stable LLC, Beasty LLC, J&T Silva Stables LLC and Knox Services Inc.

Bred by Andray Farm and Sergeant Stables LLC. Andray Farm has three Breeders Crown trophies, one with Boston Red Rocks (2015 2-Year-Old Colt Pace) and two with McWicked (2014 3-Year-Old Colt Pace and 2018 Open Pace). Sergeant Stables LLC also bred 2-Year-Old Colt Pace finalist Ammo.

**Trainer Ron Burke:** She's another one that went a tough trip. She's been really good. She got a mid-pack post, and I still have to decide on a driver for her yet. We'll go from there.

## PP 5 Sylvia Hanover (Always B Miki-Shyaway-Artiscape)

Only three fillies since the race's inception in 2000 have won the Shes A Great Lady and the Breeders Crown in the same year: JK Shesalady (2014), Youaremycandygirl (2017) and Niki Hill (2021).

Sylvia Hanover will try to become the fourth to pull the double. She has only lost once in eight starts when she started from the second tier in a Whenuwishuponastar preliminary, where she finished second. She won the \$88,500 Whenuwishuponastar Final, an \$117,150 Eternal Camnation division, an \$167,200 Champlain Division, the \$525,000 Shes A Great Lady Final and her Breeders Crown elimination, the last of which she won by a length in 1:51.4.

Trainer Shawn Steacy will try and match his father Mark, who won the 2007 2-Year-Old Filly Pace with Stylish Artist. This is Shawn's first Breeders Crown starter.

Driver Bob McClure makes his debut in this event and will attempt to add a second Breeders Crown trophy to his resume, winning his first in the 2020 2-Year-Old Colt Trot with On A Streak. Owned by Hudson Standardbred Stable Inc., which has yet to win a Breeders Crown from four finals appearances.

Bred by Hanover Shoe Farms, the all-time leader among breeders in Breeders Crown earnings.

**Driver Bob McClure:** I kind of let (McSeaside) go, he was coming really hard. She's been front-ended a lot; I didn't mind following that one. I figured she was going to keep going. With a short field, I was pretty confident we would get out eventually. I didn't mind the way it worked out there. She's pretty professional. She's not like most 2-year-olds.

**Mark Steacy, father of trainer Shawn Steacy:** There's no end to her. She always seems to give you that little extra. The biggest worry with her is that she gets a little lazy from time to time. My concern going into (the elimination) was that it was pretty much four weeks going from race to race. She schooled a couple times, but it's not the same as racing.

On the stable's season: We've had a really good year. This is the first time our stable has gone over C\$2 million, and we're quite a bit over now. Hopefully with a win next week, it will make it really impressive. But we all work hard at it, and when you do that, it usually comes together.

## **PP 6 Light And Tight (American Ideal-Dont Point At-At Point Blank)**

Her only stakes win came in a \$37,900 Reynolds Memorial division on Sept. 23 at Tioga Downs. She has finished third in an \$142,000 Bluegrass division (to **STRONG POISON**) and in an \$126,500 International Stallion Stakes division. She finished fourth from a pylon trip in her Breeders Crown elimination (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**).

Trainer Richard “Nifty” Norman tries for his second win in this event, having won in 2020 with Fire Start Hanover.

Driver David Miller tries for his third win in this event, having won in 2008 with Fox Valley Topaz and in 2013 with Uffizi Hanover.

Owned by Pinske Stables and David Hoese, who owned Fire Start Hanover. Pinske Stables also co-owned two-time Breeders Crown winner Amigo Volo (2019 2-Year-Old Colt Trot and 2020 3-Year-Old Colt Trot).

Bred by Concord Stud Farm, which tries for its first win in this event.

**Trainer Richard “Nifty” Norman:** It was a pretty tough race; she was in all kinds of trouble there. But the filly herself raced really good. She didn’t have a lot of room there, but she had a lot of pace finishing. I was real happy with her run. She’s a bit of a sleeper. She’s not a bad filly. She’s not going to get any respect in there, but she’s not bad.

## **PP 7 Proud Mary (Sweet Lou-Tug River Princess-Badlands Hanover)**

From star pacing mare Tug River Princess, who made three Breeders Crown appearances in her career: a second-place finish in the 2008 3-Year-Old Filly Pace, a second-place finish in the 2009 Open Mare Pace and an eighth-place finish in the 2010 Open Mare Pace. Proud Mary has two wins from nine starts, both of which came in Pennsylvania Sires Stakes. She also finished third in the \$252,000 Pennsylvania Sires Stakes Final and fifth in the \$525,000 Shes A Great Lady Final (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**). She finished fifth in her Breeders Crown elimination (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**).

Trainer Chris Ryder will try to become the third trainer to win this race in back-to-back years, the other two being Bruce Nickells (1991-1993) and Ron Burke (2017-2018). Ryder won this race last year with Niki Hill.

Driver Tim Tetrick tries for his second win in this event, having driven stakes-record holder JK Shesalady to victory in 2014.

Owned by Let It Ride Stables Inc. and Bottom Line Racing LLC and bred by Let It Ride Stables Inc., Docs Farm Inc. and Dana Parham. Let It Ride Stable has one Breeders Crown win, which came with Call Me Queen Be in the 2016 3-Year-Old Filly Pace. This is the first start for owner Bottom Line Racing. All three breeders are trying for their first Breeders Crown trophy.

### **PP 8 Sweet Amira (Sweet Lou-Bolt Of Thunder-Rocknroll Hanover)**

She broke her maiden in her start before the Breeders Crown elimination with a 1:52.3 mile. Her only other stakes engagements all resulted in fifth-place finishes – one coming in the \$88,500 Whenuwishuponastar Final (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**) and the other in an \$117,150 Eternal Camnation division (also to **SYLVIA HANOVER**). She added another fifth-place finish with her finish in the Breeders Crown elimination (behind **CHARLESTON**).

Trainer Chantal Mitchell made her Breeders Crown debut in this race in 2019 with Alicorn, who finished sixth.

Driver Louis Roy tries for his first Breeders Crown win, having driven in seven other finals. Owned by Lindsey and Connie Rankin, who make their first Breeders Crown start.

Bred by Vieux Carre Farms LLC, which bred its only trophy winner in 2004 2-Year-Old Colt Pace champ Village Jolt.

### **PP 9 Bellisima Hanover (Captaintreacherous-Bedroomconfessions-American Ideal)**

Her dam Bedroomconfessions made three Breeders Crown appearances: a third in the 2015 3-Year-Old Filly Pace, a sixth in the 2016 Open Mare Pace and a second in the 2017 Open Mare Pace.

Bellisima Hanover, her second foal and full-sister to 2021 2-Year-Old Filly Pace finalist Boudoir Hanover, has yet to win a stakes race. Her lone victory came in an overnight event at The Meadowlands on July 29. She finished third in an \$117,150 Eternal Camnation division (to **SYLVIA HANOVER**), third in an \$167,200 Champlain Stakes division (also to **SYLVIA HANOVER**) and second in her Shes A Great Lady elimination (again, to **SYLVIA HANOVER**) before finishing third in her Breeders Crown elimination (to **CHARLESTON**).

Trainer Tony Alagna owns one win in this race with Reflect With Me in 2019 and altogether has six trophies.

Driver Todd McCarthy tries for his first Breeders Crown trophy. Todd McCarthy and Tony Alagna finished fourth in this event last year with Boudoir Hanover.

Owned by Riverview Racing LLC, Alagna Racing LLC, Caviart Farms, D. Plouffe (Daniel) and S. Head (Steve,) same ownership on Boudoir Hanover (full sister) in the sophomore filly pace.

Bred by Hanover Shoe Farms Inc., Riverview Breeding LLC and Visionary Breeders LLC.

**Trainer Tony Alagna:** I was very happy with her. She didn't have a good go her last start in Lexington, she tied up, so with shipping up here and everything, I was happy we got that kind of effort from her. I think she will be that much better next week. I'm glad she was back to herself. She's a big, strong filly. I think she will be a great 3-year-old. She reminds me a lot of the family, Boudoir Hanover and (dam Bedroomconfessions), but she acts like she's going to be a bigger, stronger version of them.

## **PP 10 Zanatta (Stay Hungry-Major Dancer-Art Major)**

She nearly was a foal from two freshman Breeders Crown winners. Her sire Stay Hungry won the 2017 2-Year-Old Colt Pace, but her dam Major Dancer missed by less than a length and finished second to Sayitall BB in the 2014 2-Year-Old Filly Pace. Zanatta will try to add a second win to her resume from nine starts, with her only victory coming in a Kentucky Commonwealth Series preliminary. She finished third in the \$400,000 Kentucky Championship Series Final, second in an \$141,000 Bluegrass division and in an \$126,500 International Stallion Stakes division (to **MCSEASIDE**). She finished fourth in her Breeders Crown elimination (to **CHARLESTON**).

Trainer Jenn Bongiorno makes her third Breeders Crown final appearance and tries for her first win. This is also her debut in this event.

Driver Joe Bongiorno makes his third appearance in the 2-Year-Old Filly Pace, having most recently finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the 2020 edition with Nashville Elegenna.

Bongiorno debuted in the Breeders Crown in 2016. He won the 2019 Breeders Crown Pace with American History for trainer Tony Alagna here at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

He also finished second by a nose with Play Trix On Me in 2020 final for 3-year-old male trotters.

Most recently, Bongiorno won the Canadian Trotting Classic with Slay on Sept. 24 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

The brother of Jennifer Bongiorno, Joe was the 2010 Amateur Driver of the Year, awarded by the U.S. Harness Writers Association, and the USHWA Monticello-Goshen chapter's 2011 Rising Star Award winner. He has since set a career high for purses in 2021 with \$6.87 million and won more than 2,600 races and \$39 million in purses lifetime.

Owned by One Legend Stable Inc., which makes its first Breeders Crown start.

Bred by AM Bloodstock Inc., which has one Breeders Crown win from one starter in 2021 2-Year-Old Filly Trot champ Joviality S.

**Driver Joe Bongiorno:** She was a little dull. I kind of felt her going into the last turn letting up a little bit on me. I wasn't surprised to see her not pace the lane as strong as I wanted her to. We scoped her and she's a little bit sick, but nothing major, nothing that she shouldn't be back to her 'A' game next week. Sometimes, travel will do that to a horse. It can be a little hard on them. But now she will spend the week here in Canada and have a chance to get healthy.

She's just a sweetheart. She beautiful gaited, doesn't wear a boot. She was a little aggressive early on, but she's really learned to be a professional racehorse. I think she will make even a nicer 3-year-old.