



By Ray Cotolo (Ryan M Photo)

AB’SATTITUDEXPRESS (Trixtion—Abbie’sgotattitude—American Winner)

Breeder: Stop The Jade Farm LLC, *Pemberton, NJ*

Owners: Stop The Jade Farm LLC, *Pemberton, NJ*

Trainer: Lucas Wallin

Driver: Joe Bongiorno

Purchase: Homebred

Following his debut in 2019 with Queen Of Trixs (6th) and Princess Deo (5th), former Ake Svanstedt assistant Lucas Wallin returns with **Ab’sattitudexpress** to make his second start in the Hambletonian Oaks.

“This will be my fourth year [on my own] and it’s really exciting,” Wallin said. “I’m confident in myself and my team. I hoped we’d be competing in these races, but it’s all about getting the right horses.”

A filly by Trixton, **Ab'sattitudexpress** did not hit the track until late November of her two-year-old year. She won two of her three starts as a two-year-old—all of which came in overnight races at Harrah's Philadelphia.

“She was supposed to sell in Harrisburg as a yearling, but one month before the sale she broke her splint bone and they had to take her out of the sale,” Wallin said. “The owner contacted me in like April when she was two and we got her in May, and then we had to start from the beginning—she wasn't broken in or anything, so it took time to get her ready.

“The plan the whole time was to bring her back earlier,” Wallin also said. “To get her at least three, four more races before the New Jersey Sires Stakes. But for a horse that only raced three times last year, it's affecting her a little bit more than a horse who raced 10 times last year. She showed in the first leg of the Sires Stakes that she was short, but she was good in the second leg and in the final she was even better. It's at least four or five starts she's missing into this race, so I don't put too much pressure on the filly for this race.”

She returned as a three-year-old to the track in June for the New Jersey Sires Stakes (NJSS), finishing fourth in the first preliminary before winning in the second and then taking the \$160,000 NJSS Final off a pocket trip in 1:52.2. She then struggled to get another race in.

“We had a tough time to get her in [to race]. She wasn't staked to the Del Miller or the Tompkins-Geers—I would've loved to have raced her in better so she could race against good fillies a couple of times before the Oaks. We tried to get her in the overnights at the Meadowlands but they didn't use the races. Of course that made her a little bit short also—I qualified her once at the Meadowlands and she qualified good, but a qualifier and a race are not the same. So for the prep race last Saturday, I knew she was going to be short [**finished 7th**—and maybe she was a little bit shorter than I was hoping or thinking, but I was positive that she was going to be short. I think this race is coming a little bit too early, but she's going to be much better than last Saturday—that was the first time she raced against those kind of fillies also. The post doesn't help but she's going to do a better race on Saturday.”

In recent years, some fillies have used the NJSS as a springboard into the Hambletonian Oaks. Personal Style (2012) went from winning the NJSS final to pulling a 57-1 upset in the Oaks, becoming the last NJSS champ to win the Oaks since Passionate Glide (2006).

A homebred for Stop The Jade Farm LLC, **Ab'sattitudexpress** would become the 14th homebred to win the Hambletonian Oaks, with some recent homebred winners including Ariana G (2017), All The Time (2016), Lifetime Pursuit (2014), Broadway Schooner (2009) and Jalopy (2005).