



# Back Of The Neck

Bay colt, 3 by Ready Cash – Big Barb by Andover Hall

**OWNER:** Howard A. Taylor, Order By Stable, Judith A. Taylor  
**BREEDER:** Order By Stable, Sweden  
**SALE INFO:** Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg \$150,000  
**TRAINER:** Ake Svanstedt  
**DRIVER:** Scott Zeron

YEAR	STARTS	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	EARNINGS	MARK
2020	4	2	2	0	\$108,645	1:52 M
2019	9	3	0	3	\$107,675	1:55 Wbsb
LIFETIME	13	5	2	3	\$216,320	3, 1:52 M

- Finished second in his Hambletonian elimination behind Ramona Hill who caught him at the wire. Leaving from post 2 in the final and listed at 4-1.
- “He was really handy today, really relaxed, which is good,” Zeron said after his Dancer win. “He’s progressively getting smarter and smarter on the track. Every start is just leading up to the Hambletonian in my eyes, so today it was like leave, let him sit, see how he feels in the hole. I was able to sit in longer than I thought I could because of the pace.”
- Won his Stanley Dancer division in a personal best of 1:52 on July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Meadowlands.
- “His best effort was on the front end in his first start,” said Zeron. “To have come home in :26.1 and get picked off as the last second, that was a great effort. I avoided the front end going forward because I wanted to teach him to do other things.”



- In his first start as a three year old he finished second in a three year old open behind Oaks contender Sorella. Back Of The Neck went on to win his next start in the Reynolds at the Meadowlands on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Back Of The Neck finished third in his Bluegrass Stakes division in Lexington before finishing out his year with a fifth place finish in the Kindergarten Classic Final at the Meadowlands in November.
- Went two-for-two capturing a division of the Reynolds at Tioga Downs before earning his freshman mark of 1:55 in his William Wellwood elimination. Back of the Neck finished third in the Wellwood final at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- Won his first start as a two year old in a leg of the Kindergarten at the Meadowlands. Then, he was third in his Peter Haughton elimination and seventh in the final on Hambletonian Day 2019.
- Trained by Marcus Melander during his two year old campaign before being switched to Svanstedt's barn this year.
- Scott Zeron, 31, has already hoisted the Hambletonian trophy twice in his career.
- In 2018, Zeron-driven Atlanta became the first female trotter since Continentalvictory 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.
- Ake Svanstedt, 61, won the 2017 Hambletonian with Perfect Spirit, who was second-placed-first in the final after What The Hill was disqualified for interference in

the stretch. It was the first disqualification of a winner in Hambletonian history. Svanstedt trained and drove Perfect Spirit.

- Svanstedt had two Hambletonian finalists in 2019. Soul Strong, driven by Dexter Dunn, finished third in his elimination and fourth in the final. Marseille, driven by Svanstedt, was fourth in his elimination and sixth in the final.
- Previous stars for Svanstedt included Dan Patch Award winner Sebastian K, who became the then-fastest trotter in history when he went a mile in 1:49 in 2014. Svanstedt has trained a record four trotters to win races in 1:49.4 or faster, with two-time Dan Patch Award winner Six Pack, Darling Mearas S and Plunge Blue Chip joining Sebastian K.
- Svanstedt moved to the U.S. from Sweden in 2014. His training stable set a career high with \$4.96 million in purses in 2019. He also established a career best in earnings as a driver, with \$3.32 million.
- His earnings as a trainer ranked fifth in North America.
- Svanstedt was Sweden's Trainer of the Year five times and Driver of the Year on three occasions. He won 6,306 races as a driver in Sweden and 5,384 as a trainer. In 2017, he was inducted in Sweden's Hall of Fame.
- During his career overseas, Svanstedt won the Elitlopp twice, with Torvald Palema in 2009 and Gidde Palema in 2004, the Copenhagen Cup three times and both the Oslo Grand Prix and Olympic Trot four times.
- Svanstedt grew up with horses in Sweden. His father, who was in the timber business, used horses for work and raced cold-blooded trotters. Svanstedt began his professional career at the age of 24 and within several years was the champion at his home track in Bergsaker.
- Back Of The Neck's owners have won this race previously: Order By Stable (Stefan Balazsi), Muscle Massive (2010) and Howard Taylor, Atlanta, 2018.
- "(My mom says,) 'You have all these good horses. I've never had one,'" Howard Taylor said. "I said, 'Every time I buy a horse for you, I own part of it too, I'm not trying to give you a bad horse. But it just never worked out that way. Now it has.'"
- His French-bred sire Ready Cash won the Prix d' Amerique two times and retired as the richest trotter of all time. His offspring have earned more than \$12 million.