



### **Baptism (Southwind Frank-Fall From Grace-Chapter Seven)**

Baptism worked out a third-over trip, got by an off-stride Delilah Hanover in the lane after getting bothered, and just got up to finish fifth in the second Hambletonian Oaks elimination on Saturday night. She finished 4 3/4 lengths behind winner Warrawee Xenia, was timed in 1:53.2, and trotted a 28.1 last quarter.

Baptism won once in eight starts at age 2, that coming in a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes leg at Harrah's Philadelphia. As a sophomore, she has four victories: two splits of the Pennsylvania Stallion Series, a Pennsylvania All-Stars division, and a Reynolds section. Her win in the Reynolds at the Meadowlands came in a life's-best clocking of 1:51.3. In total, she has a record of 5-4-2 from 15 attempts and has banked \$206,349.

### **Quotes**

#### **Trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt:**

*On the elim:* "She needs a better trip to compete. She hadn't raced in a long time, so maybe she can be sharper next week. I'm happy she made the final. She can perform better next week."

### **Breeding Notes**

Baptism is from the second crop of Southwind Frank and would be his first Hambletonian or Hambletonian Oaks champion. Her dam, the Chapter Seven mare Fall From Grace, was unraced, but is a half-sister to Archangel, who was fourth in the 2012 Hambletonian final and made over \$1.1 million lifetime.

Baptism was bred by Diamond Creek Farm and foaled at their Wellsville, Pennsylvania, facility. This would be Diamond Creek's first Hambletonian or Hambletonian Oaks champion.

### **Driver-Trainer Bio**

## **AKE SVANSTEDT**

**Born: 11/18/1958 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: Columbus, NJ**

Hambletonian wins (2): Captain Corey, 2021; Perfect Spirit, 2017.

Ake Svanstedt drove Captain Corey to victory in the 2021 Hambletonian, giving him his second win in the event as both a trainer and driver. In 2017, he trained and drove Perfect Spirit, who was declared the winner when What The Hill was disqualified for interference in the stretch. It was the first disqualification of a winner in Hambletonian history.

Svanstedt's stable had three of the top-four finishers in the 2021 Hambletonian: winner Captain Corey, third-place Ambassador Hanover, and fourth-place Delayed Hanover.

He has had four Hambletonian Oaks finalists. His best finish came in 2018 when Plunge Blue Chip finished third.

Last year, Svanstedt ranked No. 3 among trainers in North America in purses with a career-best \$6.31 million. He won 104 races as a trainer in 2021. He also set a career high in purses as a driver with \$3.64 million. He won 62 races as a driver.

Svanstedt moved to the U.S. from Sweden in 2014. As a trainer, he has won more than 800 career races in North America and \$37 million in purses. As a driver, he has topped 500 victories and \$24 million.

He 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.

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.

### **Owner Bio**

**Diamond Creek Racing, Wellsville, PA- Crossover Racing, Lexington, KY**

Diamond Creek Farm's racing operation is in search of their initial Hambletonian or Hambletonian Oaks victory. Crossover Racing is a fractional ownership group that Diamond Creek is connected with.