



### **Darlene Hanover (Chapter Seven-Danielle Hanover-Cantab Hall)**

Darlene Hanover, who started from post ten, raced in ninth for the first three-quarters of the mile in the first Hambletonian Oaks elimination, but then fanned out widest in the stretch and used a 26.4 final quarter to get up and finish fifth to make the final. She was 2 1/4 lengths behind winner Lady Chaos and timed in 1:53.1.

As a 2-year-old, Darlene Hanover was the champion of the Jim Doherty Memorial at the Meadowlands and also won two Kentucky Sires Stakes legs. In 2021, her one tally came in her split of the Empire Breeders Classic at Vernon Downs. Overall, she has a record of 5-3-0 from 13 starts, has earnings of \$320,462, and owns a mark of 1:53.4 taken last year at The Red Mile.

### **Quotes**

**Trainer Brett Bittle:** "I'm tickled to death to be able to race [in the final]. We were hoping to advance. She raced huge. She sat last and went by a lot of horses. I was tickled with the effort. At the three-quarter pole, I didn't think we had a shot. For her to stick her nose out was great.

She's missed just one check [this year]. I think she's been fine. Her previous start was a clunker and kind of had me scratching my head, but I was real happy with this effort. We'll see what happens going forward."

I think she's gifted gait-wise. She's been some tough trips."

On last season: "She showed some promise in spots. She kind of lost her manners after a few starts in Lexington. That hurt her. I really think her manners were the biggest issue why we had to cut things short last year. She had some allergies she was fighting off in Lexington. I couldn't get everything to come together while we were down there and just decided to pull the plug on her."

### **Breeding Notes**

Darlene Hanover would be the first Hambletonian Oaks winner for sire Chapter Seven, who has a total of three finalists this year (Darlene Hanover, Contested Hanover, and Iteration). Darlene Hanover is the first foal out of Danielle Hanover, an unraced Cantab Hall half-sister to 2007 Hambletonian champion Donato Hanover (by Andover Hall) and to Here Comes Herbie (by Credit Winner), who won an elimination and was sixth in the final of the 2006 Hambletonian.

Bred By Hanover Shoe Farms, Darlene Hanover sold for \$130,000 as HIP 146 at the 2019 Standardbred Horse Sale. Hanover Shoe Farms has been the winning breeder in the Hambletonian Oaks three times (2002 - Windylane Hanover, 2001 - Syrinx Hanover, and 1974 - Berna Hanover), and that's the third most in history, trailing only Castleton Farms and Brittany Farms.

## **Driver Bio**

### **TODD McCARTHY**

**Born: 2/24/1993 – Birthplace: Australia – Resides: Swedesboro, NJ**

Todd McCarthy, the younger brother of Andy McCarthy, is making his Hambletonian Day debut. He moved to the U.S. at the end of August 2020.

Since arriving in the States, McCarthy has won more than 300 races and \$4 million in purses. Last year, his top victory came with Anoka Hanover in the Goldsmith Maid Stakes. Anoka Hanover received the Dan Patch Award for best 2-year-old female trotter.

This year, he ranks among the top 20 drivers in North America in both wins and earnings.

McCarthy's accomplishments Down Under included winning the 2016 Australasian Young Drivers Championship and multiple New South Wales state and metropolitan premiership driving titles. He represented Australia at the 2019 World Driving Championship.

## **Trainer Bio**

### **BRETT BITTLE**

**Born: 5/3/1964 – Birthplace: Frederick, MD – Resides: Allentown, NJ**

**Hambletonian Oaks wins (1): Windylane Hanover, 2002.**

Brett Bittle won the 2002 Hambletonian Oaks with Windylane Hanover, driven by Ron Pierce. The filly was owned by his family's Yankeeland Farms, uncle Charles Keller III, Charles "Chaz" Keller IV, and Dan Bittle.

Windylane Hanover received a Dan Patch Award in 2003 for best trotting mare.

For his career, Bittle, who starts an average of around 100 horses per year, has more than 500 wins and \$9 million in purses.

Charles Keller III is in the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. Yankeeland Farms was started by his father, Charles "King Kong" Keller, following a standout baseball career with the New York Yankees. Yankeeland Farms bred two Hambletonian winners, Yankee Paco in 2000 and Muscles Yankee in 1998.

When he was a child, Bittle's grandfather bought him a pony and launched his interest in horses. Bittle's first love was riding but he became more interested in harness racing while

working at Yankeeland Farms when in high school. During the summers while home from college, he worked for a local training stable and decided to become a trainer.

## **Owner Bio**

### **Yankeeland Partners, LLP., Frederick, MD**

Yankeeland Partners, LLP. is made up of the former members of Yankeeland Farms - Brett Bittle, Charles Keller III, Charles "Chaz" Keller IV, and Dan Bittle. Darlene Hanover would be their second Hambletonian Oaks champion, joining Windylane Hanover (2002).