



### **MANON (Bar Hopping – Are You Ready – Broadway Hall)**

Pushing first-over into the final turn, Manon could not sustain her challenge to tempo-setter Venerable and faded to finish fifth by 1-3/4 lengths in the first Hambletonian Oaks elimination.

Manon popped onto the scene off a single start as a 2-year-old, where she finished third in a division of Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at The Meadows. She uncorked a five-race win streak coming into her 3-year-old season, winning in Pennsylvania Sires Stakes and in a \$35,600 Reynolds Memorial division before finishing second to Fashion Schooner in a \$100,000 Del Miller Memorial division.

#### **Quotes**

On her performance in the elimination, trainer Lucas Wallin said “It was okay, but not as good as before probably. It’s pretty tough to go first-up so early against a filly like Venerable. To be super happy, she should probably finish second at least. She needs to step up a little bit, which I think she will when we do a couple of changes on her. But she was not as sharp as before.

Regarding changes Wallin will make coming into the Hambletonian Oaks final, he said “We’re probably going to pull the shoes and put pop outs on her for the first time and also some changes on the bridle, which I haven’t really decided yet. It could be a pulldown bridle or something like that. We’ve been waiting for the right race [to make the changes] and now we feel this is the right race to do it.

With just one start as a 2-year-old, Wallin said of Manon “She showed a lot of speed early. She raced at The Meadows and got sore after that race, so we turned her out. The plan was to bring her back later in the year, but we weren’t as happy as we could be with her, so we just let her stay turned out. She trained back very good during the winter, so we came into this year very confident. She’s been really good.

Manon's best qualities, according to Wallin, is that "I like the Bar Hoppings a lot. Good attitude, happy horses, nice gaited, easy to be around. She pretty much has everything a good filly needs to have. She's pretty good on everything."

### **Breeding Info**

Manon is sired by Bar Hopping, who collected his first Hambletonian Oaks victory as a sire when Bella Bellini won in 2021. She is out of the Broadway Hall mare Are You Ready, who raced just seven times as a 2-year-old before retiring.

Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. bred Manon and have won three times in the Hambletonian Oaks: first with Berna Hanover in 1974 and then scoring back-to-back wins with Syrinx Hanover 2001 and with Windylane Hanover in 2002. Only one other breeder has won back-to-back Hambletonian Oaks – Al Libfeld & Marvin Katz when All The Time won in 2016 and Ariana G won in 2017.

### **Driver Bio**

#### **DEXTER DUNN**

**Born: 9/1/1989 – Birthplace: New Zealand – Resides: Swedesboro, NJ**

**Dan Patch Award Driver of the Year: 2021, 2020, 2019.**

**Hambletonian Oaks wins (1): Bella Bellini, 2021.**

Dexter Dunn won the 2021 Hambletonian Oaks with Bella Bellini, trained by Richard "Nifty" Norman. Bella Bellini went on to be named the Dan Patch Award winner for best 3-year-old female trotter.

He has driven in three Hambletonian finals.

Last year, he drove Really Fast, who went off stride in the final and finished ninth. Really Fast was one of two horses Dunn drove in the eliminations. Really Fast finished second in his elimination and Delayed Hanover won his elim.

In his two previous finals, Dunn was fourth with Soul Strong in 2019 and fourth with Amigo Volo in 2020. Both horses started from post 10.

Dunn's biggest win so far this year came on July 16 at the Meadowlands when he won the William R. Haughton Memorial with Bulldog Hanover in 1:45.4 – the fastest mile in the history of harness racing.

On the same night, Dunn won the Hambletonian Maturity for 4-year-old trotters with mare Bella Bellini.

A native of New Zealand, Dunn moved to the U.S. in the summer of 2018. Since arriving in the States, he has won more than 1,500 races and earned \$42 million in purses. He has been named the Dan Patch Award Driver of the Year each of the past three seasons.

Dunn led all drivers in North America in purses in 2021 and 2020. He banked \$12.92 million in 2021 to edge Tim Tetrick for the honor and earned \$11.15 million in 2020.

In 2021, Dunn was 10th in wins in North America with 425.

Prior to moving, Dunn led New Zealand's premiership in wins for 10 consecutive years from 2008 through 2017. During that span, he won at least 200 races on six occasions and twice finished with 199. He was the first New Zealand driver to win at least 200 races in a season.

In 2015, Dunn won the World Driving Championship representing New Zealand.

### **Trainer Bio**

#### **LUCAS WALLIN**

**Born: 12/28/1992 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: New Egypt, NJ**

Lucas Wallin is making his Hambletonian debut as a trainer. Last year, he drove Cuatro De Julio in the Hambletonian for trainer Marie Ortolan Bar and finished seventh.

He is appearing in his third Hambletonian Oaks final as a trainer. In 2020, Ab'sattitudexpress finished eighth. In 2019, he had two finalists, with Princess Deo finishing fifth and Queen Of Trix finishing sixth.

Wallin grew up in Sweden, where he was driving ponies at the age of 8. Several years later, he began helping at his uncle Joakim Wallin's stable. In mid-2014, he was alerted to an opportunity to work for Ake Svanstedt's U.S. stable. Wallin spent two years with Svanstedt before deciding to go on his own.

Wallin's stable has won more than 140 races and \$3.5 million. He set a career high for purses last year with \$1.06 million.

His top victory in 2021 was the Breeders Crown for 2-year-old male trotters with Rebuff.

### **Owner Bio**

Manon races for Harbor Racing Stable LLC of Aurora, Ont. This is their first Hambletonian Oaks starter.