



By Greg Reinhardt (Ken Weingartner Photo)

PANEM

(Father Patrick-Katniss-Credit Winner)

Panem comes into the Hambletonian Oaks final after finishing second in her last start, which was the \$253,500 Delvin Miller Memorial at the Meadowlands on July 18. She was a length and a half behind eventual Hambletonian elimination winner Ramona Hill and completed her mile in 1:50.4.

As a 2-year-old Panem won a division of the Champlain Stakes at Woodbine Mohawk Park, then came back the following week to win her Peaceful Way Stakes elimination over the same oval. She was fourth in the Peaceful Way final. So far in 2020 she has one victory in an overnight race at the Meadowlands, and then was second in a Reynolds division and the runner-up in the above-mentioned Del Miller Memorial. Overall, she has a record of 3-5-2 from 14 starts, has earned \$175,301, and has a mark of 1:53.4.

Breeding Notes

Panem is by Father Patrick, who was the favorite in the 2014 Hambletonian but made an early break and was taken out of contention. Her dam, the Credit Winner mare Katniss, was a three-time winner in her

racing career, earning \$65,953 and a mark of 1:53. Panem is Katniss's first foal. Katniss is a full sister to Dejambro (1:52.2, \$1,137,493). Panem was bred and retained for racing by Diamond Creek Farm, and she would be their first Hambletonian Oaks champion as either an owner or a breeder.

Driver Bio

DEXTER DUNN

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

New Zealand native Dexter Dunn, 30, enjoyed a memorable first full season of racing in North America in 2019. He received the Driver of the Year Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association after winning 460 races (eighth best in North America) and \$12 million in purses (third). He won Breeders Crown finals with Amigo Volo and Manchego and drove the season's top money-earner, Bettor's Wish.

Dunn made his Hambletonian debut in 2019. He drove Soul Strong to a third-place finish in his elimination and was fourth from post 10 in the final.

In addition to the Hambletonian, Dunn drove Millies Possesion to a second-place finish behind When Dovescry in the Hambletonian Oaks.

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 the summer of 2018, Dunn was invited to drive in the U.S. by trainer Chris Ryder, a longtime family friend. When Dunn left New Zealand, his 2,225 wins ranked fifth in history there. He was the youngest driver to both 1,000 and 2,000 wins, and the youngest, at the age of 18, to win a Group 1 race in New Zealand.

Dunn represented his country in the 2015 World Driving Championship and drove off with the trophy.

Trainer Bio

NANCY TAKTER

Born: 6/23/1981 – Birthplace: Malmo, Sweden – Resides: Allentown, NJ

Nancy Takter, 39, started Don't Let'em in the 2019 Hambletonian. The colt finished second in his elimination and went off stride in the final.

She made her Hambletonian final debut in 2014 with Resolve, finishing fifth. She has started two other horses in elims, one each in 2015 and 2016, but did not reach the final.

On July 18, the Takter-trained Tall Dark Stranger won the Meadowlands Pace. Tall Dark Stranger was the Dan Patch Award winner for best 2-year-old male pacer in 2019. No trainer has ever won the Meadowlands Pace and Hambletonian in the same year.

Takter was 1 when she moved with her family from Sweden to the U.S. Her father is Hall of Fame trainer Jimmy Takter, a four-time winner of the Hambletonian and record eight-time winner of the Hambletonian Oaks. Nancy was the caretaker of Muscle Massive, who won the 2010 Hambletonian for her father.

In 2013, Takter started her own training stable. In 2014, she guided 2-year-old female pacer JK She'salady to Horse of the Year honors. JK She'salady is the only 2-year-old filly pacer to be named Horse of the Year.

Takter received the Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association in 2014.

Last year, Takter set career highs with 72 wins and \$4.59 million in purses. Her earnings ranked seventh among all trainers in North America.

Owner Bio

Diamond Creek Racing, Wellsville, Pennsylvania

Diamond Creek Racing is the on-track arm of Diamond Creek Farm, based in Wellsville, Pennsylvania. Owner Adam Bowden founded Diamond Creek in 2005 and they are in search of their first Hambletonian Oaks victory. Diamond Creek, whose horses race in stable colors that are white with black and blue diamonds on the driver's chest and sleeves, stands noteworthy stallions including Panem's sire Father Patrick, world champion pacer Always B Miki, and the popular Sweet Lou.