

WINNER'S BET

Brown colt, 3 by Walner – Side Bet Hanover – Donato Hanover



OWNER: Lindy Farms Of Conn, Enfield, CT; Robert A Rudolph, Vineland, NJ

BREEDER: SRF Stable, FL

SALE INFO: \$200,000 Lexington-Select

TRAINER: Domenico Cecere

DRIVER: Dexter Dunn

YEAR	STARTS	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2023	3	2	0	0	\$91,487	1:51.0 M
2022	10	3	3	1	\$344,130	1:51.1 Wbsb
LIFETIME	13	5	3	1	\$432,617	3, 1:51.0 M

- Fourth in his Hambletonian elimination. Drew post four the in the final.
- “He’s come back really well,” Dunn said. “Domenico [Cecere] and the team have done a great job bringing him back. He’s super relaxed this year; he’s trotting great and he’s filled out. He had a good draw tonight and we got a good trip. I was really impressed with his turn of foot.”
- Winner’s Bet started his sophomore year two for two winning the Reynolds on July 1 and his Stanley Dancer Division in a new personal best of 1:51 at the Meadowlands on July 15.
- Finished his two year old campaign with an eighth place finish in the Breeders Crown final.
- After hitting the board in his first two career starts in New Jersey Sire Stakes action, Winner’s Bet rolled to three straight wins including a leg of the Kindergarten at the Meadowlands and his elimination and final of the William Wellwood Memorial. He followed those wins up with a second place finish in the Champlain at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- 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 four Hambletonian finals. Last year, he drove filly Jiggy Jog S, who won her elimination and finished fourth in the final. He was second with Fast As The Wind in the first of the event’s two elims.

- In his previous finals, Dunn was fourth with Soul Strong in 2019 and fourth with Amigo Volo in 2020. Both horses started from post 10. In 2021, he was ninth with Really Fast, who went off stride.
- Dunn was the regular driver of 2022 Horse of the Year Bulldog Hanover, who last July won the William R. Haughton Memorial at the Meadowlands 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 1,800 races and earned \$56 million in purses. He has been named the Dan Patch Award Driver of the Year each of the past four seasons.
- Dunn led all drivers in North America in purses in 2022, 2021 and 2020. Dunn-driven horses banked \$15.19 million last year, \$12.93 million in 2021 and \$11.15 million in 2020.
- In 2022, Dunn topped the purse standings despite ranking 30th in wins, with 308. He won 59 races with purses of at least \$100,000, equating to nearly 20 percent of his total victories. No other driver won more than 36 races worth six figures.
- 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.
- In Italy, Cecere worked for Mario Baroncini for seven years. Baroncini provided a wealth of knowledge, as Cecere started as a groom, then became a trainer and driver. He was sent all around Italy, including major cities like Rome and Florence, with a small group of horses. Through the years, Cecere went from fourth trainer to second trainer and was about to become head trainer when his friend suggested the U.S. in 2007. In the U.S. he worked for Jan Johnson before meeting Frank Antonacci and going to work for Lindy Farms.
- Domenico Cecere has been the head trainer for Lindy Farms and its various racing stables beginning in 2018. He succeeded Frank M. Antonacci, whose family founded and operates Lindy Farms. Cecere is in his 16th year as a member of "Team Lindy."
- Frank Antonacci was inducted to the Hall of Fame this July, following his father Guy "Sonny" Antonacci and his cousin Frank J. Antonacci who were inducted in 2000.
- "I worked side-by-side with him," Antonacci said. "At that point, I was the trainer and I was there all hours of the day and he was there as well. I could speak enough Italian to get myself in trouble and communicate with him; and I saw something. Horsemanship is like playing an instrument sometimes. Certain people—you see it when they pick up an instrument that they can just play it. You can see that they know what they're doing. And Domenico had that ability."
- "In any competitive sport, you need fire in your belly," Antonacci said. "He's got that. He's a graceful winner, but nobody hates losing as much as him or me. That's important. That's the type of people I want to be in business with and the type of people I want to be racing

horses with. It's just the type of people I want to be around. That's something you can't teach. If you have that, you learn all the other skills you need. That's stuff you don't necessarily read in textbooks," Antonacci said. "That comes from living with the animals and them teaching you, and you being willing to listen to them. The difference between good trainers and great trainers, or average trainers and good trainers, is a good trainer listens to their horses and the other trainers will try to impose their will on their horses. Domenico listens to his horses."

- Winner's Bet is Domenico's first Hambletonian final starter. In 2022 his Hambletonian contender Branded By Lindy failed to make it to the final after finishing last in his elimination.
- The Antonaccis and/or Lindy Racing have been involved in the ownership of five Hambletonian winners: Lindy's Pride (1969), Speedy Crown (1971), Probe (1989) Harmonious (1990) and Victory Dream (1994).
- Last year, Cecere set career highs with 66 wins and \$2.28 million in purses. His top victory came with Winner's Bet in the William Wellwood Memorial at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- Sire Walner, was a standout trotter sidelined in his three-year-old year due to injury. His other notable offspring include older trotter Venerable, 2022 Hambletonian Oaks winner Fashion Schooner, 2022 Breeders Crown winner King Of The North and standout four year old mare Jiggy Jog S.