



YANABA (Trixtion – Zanna Royal – RC Royalty)

Off the longest shot on the board at odds of 69-1 in the first Hambletonian Oaks elimination, Yanaba sprung into action midway around the final turn to charge home and snag second behind Venerable by three-quarter lengths in a 1:52.4 mile.

Yanaba had a precocious freshman season laden with breaks in strides. But in her first start as a three-year-old, Yanaba presented menacing late speed when winning an overnight event at The Meadowlands in 1:54.4 with a :26.3 final quarter. Her only sophomore stakes engagement prior to the Hambletonian Oaks came in the \$123,000 Zweig Filly Trot at Vernon Downs, where she finished fourth to Hambletonian finalist Jiggy Jog S when faltering on the lead.

Quotes

“She was really good this week,” trainer Dan Daley said after her elimination. “I think she’s a really good filly. She’s got a chance; at least we get to go to the big dance. She was really bad [in her previous start] but she was a little sick and had some issues. I fixed her up and trained her good and she showed up and raced. We can hope.

On the differences between Yanaba at 2 and at 3, Daley said “Last year, she had a blind splint. We never found it until this year. Once we found it, she was like a new horse. It’s good. I’m pleased with her [this season]. I kind of battled a little on keeping her for ourselves. I could have used the money, but I wanted a good horse. It’s much better racing a good horse.

For Daley, Yanaba’s best quality is that “She tries. She tries hard. I think it was a little surprise she got home so good, but she will dig right to the wire. She’s a good horse.”

Breeding Notes

Yanaba is sired by 2014 Hambletonian winner Trixtion and out of the mare Zanna Royal, who is sired by a former Dan Daley campaigner in RC Royalty – who broke stride in the 2006

Hambletonian eliminations to miss the final but also sired 2013 Hambletonian winner Royalty For Life. Zanna Royal earned \$171,132 before retiring in 2014. Yanaba is her richest offspring.

Crawford Farms LLC bred Yanaba, who is owned by Ann-Mari Daley, Jared Daley and Oleg Ivutin. Crawford Farms has not bred an Hambletonian Oaks winner, but famously hit the grand stage when their offspring Ramona Hill beat the boys in the 2020 Hambletonian, becoming just the 15th filly to win America's trotting classic.

Driver Bio

BRIAN SEARS

Born: 1/21/1968 – Birthplace: Fort Lauderdale, FL – Resides: Secaucus, NJ

Hall of Fame: Class of 2017.

Dan Patch Award Driver of the Year: 2009.

Hambletonian wins (3): Pinkman, 2015; Royalty For Life, 2013; Muscle Hill, 2009.

Hambletonian Oaks wins (2): Bee A Magician, 2013; Broadway Schooner, 2009.

Brian Sears leads all active drivers in Hambletonian wins with three. John Campbell holds the record with six. No other driver has won the race more than four times.

In 2009, Sears became the first driver to win the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks in the same year. He won the Hambletonian with Muscle Hill for trainer Greg Peck and the Oaks with Broadway Schooner for trainer Jim Campbell.

Sears doubled again in 2013, capturing the Hambletonian with Royalty For Life for trainer George Ducharme and the Oaks with Bee A Magician for trainer Richard "Nifty" Norman.

His third Hambletonian triumph came with Pinkman for trainer Jimmy Takter in 2015.

In 2019, Sears finished second in the Hambletonian final with Greenshoe, who was an elimination winner. Forbidden Trade won the final by a neck.

Last year, Sears finished sixth in the final with Sonofamistry.

Sears ranks No. 6 in career driving purses with \$208 million. He led the sport in earnings in 2005 with a then-record \$15 million.

He ranks No. 18 in lifetime driving wins with more than 10,300.

Sears has driven four Horse of the Year award winners: McWicked in 2018, Bee A Magician in 2013, Muscle Hill in 2009, and Rocknroll Hanover in 2005.

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Sears is a third-generation horseman, following in the footsteps of his grandfather Gene and dad Jay. Both are in the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame.

Brian Sears received the 1991 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association.

Trainer Bio

DAN DALEY

Born: 8/22/1958 – Birthplace: Norfolk, VA – Resides: Lake Worth, FL

Dan Daley is making his Hambletonian Oaks debut. He has started five horses in Hambletonian eliminations, most recently in 2006 with RC Royalty.

His first major victory came in 1999 when he won the Breeders Crown with 2-year-old male trotter Master Lavec from post 10 at Mohawk. The colt, trained and driven by Daley, received the Dan Patch Award for best 2-year-old male trotter.

Daley, who grew up with riding horses, jogged his first horse at the age of 14 and decided harness racing would be his career. He spent eight years as a groom and worked for Hall of Famer Billy Haughton and Soren Nordin before starting his own stable

For his career, Daley has won more than 1,300 races and \$15 million in purses as a driver. He has more than 900 victories and \$14 million as a trainer. He splits his time between Florida and upstate New York, where he has enjoyed success on the state's sire stakes circuit for years.

Daley was inducted into the Florida Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2018.

In addition to training horses, he has played polo and participated in showjumping. In 1976, at the age of 17, he rode from New York to California as part of the Great American Horse Race, which was created to celebrate America's Bicentennial.

Daley's son, Dan Jr., is a state representative in the Florida legislature.

Owner Bio

Ann-Mari Daley is the wife of trainer Dan Daley. Her, along with owners Jared Daley and Oleg Ivutin, are trying for their first Hambletonian Oaks win.