

BRANDED BY LINDY (c, Chapter Seven –The Lindy Label – Cantab Hall)

Driver Yannick Gingras, sixth in the all-time standings among Breeders Crown steered drivers, drove both of the midgate starters in this Final, Branded By Lindy and World At War Deo. The latter finished fifth at 72-1 in his elim, whereas this 10-time winner of \$550,919 has more overall impressive credentials on paper. He won his Breeders Crown elimination last year, then had a two length lead turning for home in the Crown Championship, but tired a bit in finishing third. He won his \$400,000 Kentucky top-level championship this year (and a lower-level final there at two), and has shown some versatility. His owner-breeder, Lindy Farms of Connecticut (the Antonacci family), won the 2021 USHWA Bergstein Proximity Award for long and outstanding performance in and service to the sport.

Trainer Domenico Cecere: I'm very happy with how he raced. I'm very satisfied. He came in off his miscue in the Canadian Trotting Classic, he put in a bad step on the last turn, and then in the Futurity we got locked in. We came up here and did some changes with his shoes and he looked smoother. Yannick (Gingras) was very happy, he charged home good. The colt was good

COOL PAPA BELL (g, Chapter Seven - Blk Thai Optional – Muscle Hill)

James Thomas Bell, known as "Cool Papa," was a star in the Negro Leagues of baseball, renowned for his speed and his ability to stay "cool." His nickname, "christened" by Barry Farber (a baseball fanatic and player of some renown) of owners Runthetable Stables, has proven true for the trotter as well, as he coolly was kept near the back of the Hambletonian pack by driver Todd McCarthy, then dashed home for the prestigious victory while paying a record \$106.00, providing trainer Jim Campbell with a rare Hambo – Oaks double (winning the filly event with Fashion Schooner, also in her Breeders Crown final). Cool Papa Bell also won his New York Sire Stakes Championship this year, came from way out of it to be fourth in his Crown elim, and even with a disadvantageous draw could be part of the race whatever his tactics. Finishing in the top five would put him over \$1 million in his career.

Trainer Jim Campbell: It's always nice if you can win an elimination and guarantee a better post with the draw, but the ultimate goal is to get that shot to go for \$600,000. We accomplished that. I was happy with the way all three of my horses (Cool Papa Bell, Fashion Schooner, Misswalner Fashion) raced. You can't ask for anything more than that.

On Cool Papa Bell's elim: He was really good. Todd (McCarthy) didn't plan on getting away last, it's just the way it worked out. When King Of The North left and then put in a couple steps, he was kind of in front of (Cool Papa Bell) and Todd had to grab up a little bit. When you get away last, you're at the mercy of the flow, and the flow never moved. I thought the horse did a tremendous job to pass the ones he did and get qualified. He always gives us a good effort every time we put him out there. He did everything he could do, it was just circumstances. There really wasn't anything Todd could do.

DOUBLE DECEIVER (g, Cantab Hall – Sarcy – Donato Hanover)

This sophomore lived up to the “deceiver” part of his name in his Crown elimination by rallying from dead last early, given an icy drive by David Miller (a 29-time Crown winner) to shoot up the rail and get the victory and the guaranteed inner post while going off at almost 8-1. A winner of nine races and \$551,479 in his two solid seasons at the racetrack, Double Deceiver was second in his Crown elimination last year, then had a brutal trip in the final and was off the board. The Pinske Stables have had three Crown champions after sending fewer starters than many others, and young trainer Carter Pinske could add a signature victory to his burgeoning career.

Driver David Miller: I never used him, stayed to the inside, and when he got room, he exploded.

I feel for sure if he would have gotten room (in the Kentucky Futurity), he would have been real close. In hindsight, it didn't hurt him, but I'm glad to see him get in the (Breeders Crown) final and actually win. Now we're looking pretty good.

Right from the start as a 2-year-old, he always had a real quick step to him. He was always real handy, just a real nice horse. This year, he's a little stronger and he's carried his season on a little further.

FAST AS THE WIND (c, Cantab Hall – Wind Stroll – Muscle Mass)

This three-year-old has hit the board in all three of his Breeders Crown outings in his young career: he was third in last year's eliminations and second to the done-for-the-year Rebuff in the Crown Championship, and he was third in his 2022 Crown elim after coming from far back. With winnings of \$858,858 to his credit, Fast As The Wind finished his freshman campaign strongly with wins in the Kindergarten and Valley Victory Finals, and this year has a Simcoe win on this track – he may be again ready for late-season heroics.

Driver Dexter Dunn has won eight Breeders Crowns and three Driver of the Year titles in his three full years Stateside.

Trainer Tony Alagna captured this 3 T C with Amigo Volo in 2020.

Trainer Tony Alagna: He raced good. I was a little worried in the last turn, he kind of gapped out a little bit, but then he stepped on the gas, and he took off again when it counted. He closed up really good to finish third. Dex (Dexter Dunn) was happy with him. All of mine have another week to get acclimated up here, but he's always shown an affinity for this track. He likes it up here. Horses for courses; he seems to get over the track well and some of the horses that came up here didn't get over the track well. There were horses that didn't make the final that were models of consistency all year.

GOLDEN WALL AS (c. Walner – Golden Door Lindy - Cambest)

This colt has been taking the “low road” on the stakes trail, but he still has seven wins and ten more on-the-board finishes at two and three. He took his mark of 1:51.2 in a overnight on Kentucky Futurity day, and he closed in :26.3 to win the Langley at Hoosier Park. He also posted a series of good finishes in the top level in the Kentucky program against many of tonight’s entrants in this event. One of only two (the other was Twin B Archie) to not try his Crown elims at two, but his two-move third in his elimination shows that he fits in with this kind, though post ten will be no bargain. His driver, Tony Hall, drove the stakes record-setting winner of last year’s Breeders Crown (and Trotter of the Year) Jujubee in many of that horse’s early-season 2021 contests leading up to the Crown.

KEG STAND (c, Bar Hopping – Palm Beach Bi – Angus Hall)

Seventh in his Crown elim last year, Keg Stand improved to fourth this campaign to get him into this rich and prestigious opportunity. He comes from the most golden of Breeders Crown “human pedigrees”: co-owner John Fielding has visited 15 Breeders Crown winners circle, second all-time, while his fourth-place earnings status in money won places him two notches above co-owner Christina Takter.

Trainer Nancy Takter already has seven Crown championships in her young career, and the colt is slated to be driven by her father, Hall Of Famer Jimmy Takter, the leading trainer of all-time in the Crown. Add those credentials to being a major factor in the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes all of this year, and you could have a contender.

KING OF THE NORTH (c, Walner – Check Me Out – Donato Hanover)

On September 11 of last year, King Of The North looked like he was King Of The World – royally-bred (his mom won the Crown 2 T F Championship in 2011), five wins in six starts, victories in the Peter Haughton and Wellwood on his way to divisional Dan Patch honors. Then the world went out of his orbit, and King Of The North would lose his next fourteen races, three at the end of 2021 and his first eleven starts in 2022. But his ship righted in a big way in his Crown elim, as despite a less-than-desirable start, driver Mark MacDonald (a former WEG champion) had the horse rocketing to the lead and scoring a 1:51.1 track record victory. Upon returning to Canada, King Of The North regained his name status, and the winner of \$812,380 could be tough to defeat on a repeat of that mile.

Driver Mark MacDonald: He’s a super sure-footed horse, he just kind of touched his knee a little bit right when the gate opened and just put a little bobble in. I was ready for him, he’ll do that sometimes, so I had a good hold of him, and he just came right back trotting. He still wanted to get into gear, so I just kept going forward. He’s a good horse. He started the year off, we were just trying to target him, and unfortunately he made a break in the Hambletonian. If you come out of here with a Breeders Crown ‘W’ it would still be a successful year.

I thought maybe he could have won in Kentucky; I think the no Lasix hurt him. He doesn’t get much Lasix, he just gets a little touch. You saw Pebble Beach (in his elimination), some of those that are coming from Kentucky and going back on Lasix, that last 100 yards it makes a big difference.

SLAY (c, Chapter Seven – Swinging Royalty – RC Royalty)

A stablemate in the Alagna barn to his left-hand neighbor behind the starting gate, Fast As The Wind, Slay has won over half a million dollars this year. Slay took his mark of 1:51 in the Stanley Dancer, was 3-4 in the Yonkers Trot, and had a brilliant moment right at Woodbine Mohawk in the \$615,000 Canadian Trotting Classic, when, stuck on the rail turning for home, he made a short break, but was quickly righted by driver Joe Bongiorno and gamely battled back to score a length success; among the vanquished that night were the two horses starting inside him. Has hit the board in 14 of 21 career starts; unfortunately, his 2021 Crown elim saw him finish seventh and miss the Championship.

Trainer Tony Alagna: I thought he raced good, very good. I don't think he saw that horse coming on the inside and got beat on the wire. But I thought he raced great. He's been a good horse all year.

TWIN B ARCHIE (g, Archangel – Affair Hall -- Deweycheatumhowe)

The "local hope," with \$765,731 on his card, has never raced outside of Ontario. He got most of his money being one of the very best in the difficult Ontario Sire Stakes, winning his Super Final at two (then finishing third in defense of that title earlier this month); he has won several OntSS Gold legs, and had a 1-2 finish in the eliminations and final of the Goodtimes, a local Grand Circuit event. Scott McEneny, the trainer, is no stranger to stakes success, and driver James MacDonald, a former World Driving Champion, is having the best year of his career after rising to the top of the WEG drivers colony in 2021.

WORLD AT WAR DEO (c, Chapter Seven – Yalta Hanover – Andover Hall)

He joined the Ron Burke barn, second in all-time Breeders Crown statistics, just before his elimination last year, where finishing fifth (there were three eliminations in this group last year) did not get him through to the Championship. At the start of this year he went back to local and successful trainer David Menary, and perhaps it was his taking his lifetime mark of 1:53 at Woodbine Mohawk that convinced his ownership (Burke Racing LLC and Weaver-Bruscemi LLC, 2-3 in lifetime Crown ownership money) to try him in the Crown after Burke took over his care in mid-August. He was used early for the lead last week, held on for fifth at 72-1, draws better this time, and stranger things have happened.