

## **Kayleigh S (Chapter Seven-Pasithea Face S-Muscle Hill)**

Kayleigh S was last at the half in the second Hambletonian Oaks elimination on July 29 at the Meadowlands but followed cover from third-over and then closed well to finish fourth, beaten 2 1/2 lengths by winner Heart On Fire. She was timed in 1:51.4 with a last quarter in 28 seconds flat.

Kayleigh S hasn't won yet as a 3-year-old but last year she won three legs and the final of the New York Sire Stakes and picked up a second-place finish against open company in the Kentuckiana Stallion Management at Harrah's Hoosier Park. She has a record of 4-1-4 from 15 starts, has earned \$318,196 and has a mark of 1:55.4.

### **Quotes**

"It took a couple of starts for us to get her going, but these last two starts at the Meadowlands have been very good. She got bad posts both times and she's been coming from off the pace and finishing up very good. She gets better and better with every start.

"I'm not sure why, but it took a couple of starts for her to get going. She's a little bit bigger than her sister (Joviality S), so maybe it just took a couple of starts before she got in that form. The last two races have been very good." - **trainer Marcus Melander**

### **Breeding Notes**

She would be the first Hambletonian Oaks champion for sire Chapter Seven, who was second in his elimination and fourth in the Hambletonian final in 2011. Kayleigh S's full sister Joviality S was third in her elimination and second in the final of the Hambletonian last year and would go on to win the Dan Patch Award for top 3-year-old filly trotter.

She was bred by AM Bloodstock Inc., which is the breeding operation of owner Courant Inc. She would be their first Hambletonian Oaks champion.

### **Driver Bio**

#### **DAVID MILLER**

**Born: 12/10/1964 – Birthplace: Columbus, OH – Resides: Robbinsville, NJ**

**Hall of Fame: Class of 2014.**

**Dan Patch Award Driver of the Year: 2016, 2015, 2003.**

**Hambletonian Oaks wins (1): Personal Style, 2012.**

David Miller won the 2012 Hambletonian Oaks with Personal Style, trained by Richard "Nifty" Norman.

Miller is seeking his first Hambletonian trophy but has never driven a horse in the final at odds lower than 7-1. He had third-place finishes with Gimpanzee in 2019, Uncle Lasse in 2015, and Corky in 2013. In 2017, he drove What The Hill, who crossed the finish line first but was disqualified for interference in the stretch.

In 2021, Miller won the Hambletonian Maturity for 4-year-old trotters with Beads for trainer Per Engblom.

A 2014 inductee into the Hall of Fame, Miller ranks No. 2 all time in purses with \$275 million and has finished among the top five in earnings 23 of the past 24 years. John Campbell, now president and CEO of the Hambletonian Society, holds the driving record for North American purses with just less than \$300 million.

Miller is No. 6 all-time in wins among North American drivers. He got victory 14,000 on May 19 at Harrah's Philadelphia.

In 2003, Miller led the sport in purses and drove No Pan Intended to the Pacing Triple Crown and Horse of the Year honors. In 2016, he was the driver of Horse of the Year Award winner Always B Miki, who paced the then-fastest mile in harness racing history when he won in 1:46 at Lexington's Red Mile.

Miller was the regular driver of 2021 Horse of the Year winner Test Of Faith, who became the fourth 3-year-old female pacer to receive the honor.

In 2015, Miller set a record with five Breeders Crown wins in a single year.

Miller, who received the 1993 Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association, was already a standout in his native Ohio when he headed to the East Coast in the late 1990s and has been a force on the Grand Circuit ever since he made the move.

## **Trainer Bio**

### **MARCUS MELANDER**

**Born: 7/1/1992 – Birthplace: Sweden – Resides: New Egypt, NJ  
Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2019.**

Marcus Melander is seeking his first Hambletonian trophy. In 2022, he finished second with filly Joviality S, third with Temporal Hanover and fifth with Periculum.

Melander also finished second, third and fifth in the 2019 final, with Greenshoe, Gimpanzee and Green Manalishi S. Greenshoe and Green Manalishi S were elimination

winners. Greenshoe was the 2019 Trotter of the Year.

His first Hambletonian was in 2017. He saw Enterprise win his elimination and finish fourth-placed-third in the final. In 2018, Melander-trained Evaluate finished fifth in the final. In 2021, Melander finished sixth with Sonofamistery.

Melander has finished second twice in the Hambletonian Oaks, with Hypnotic AM in 2020 and Iteration in 2021.

In 2019 at the age of 27, Melander became the youngest trainer ever voted Trainer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association. The recognition came one year after he was named the Rising Star Award winner by the same organization.

A native of Sweden, Melander came to the U.S. and worked for four-time Hambletonian-winning trainer Takter before starting his own stable in late 2014. He is based in New Egypt, N.J., at a farm that was home previously to each the legendary Stanley Dancer, a five-time Hambletonian winner, and Continental Farms stables.

Melander has won more than 470 races and \$24 million in purses in his career. Last year, he ranked fifth among trainers in North America with \$4.96 million in earnings. His top victory in 2022 came with Oh Well in the Mohawk Million at Woodbine Mohawk Park. He also won the MGM Yonkers Trot with Joviality S.

His uncle, Stefan, won the 2001 Hambletonian as trainer and driver of Scarlet Knight.

## **Owner Bio**

### **Courant Inc., Delray Beach, Florida**

Anders Ström's Courant Inc. hasn't won the Hambletonian Oaks before but has campaigned some fantastic trotters in recent years, including their "G" team of horses in Greenshoe, Gimpanzee and Green Manalishi and Kayleigh S's full sister Joviality S.