



### **Mon Cheval (Father Patrick-Shake It Cerry-Donato Hanover)**

Mon Cheval led early in the second Hambletonian Oaks elimination, yielded to sit in the pocket behind Fashion Schooner, and wound up finishing fourth, two lengths behind winner Warrawee Xenia. Mon Cheval was timed in 1:52.4 and closed with a 28.1 last quarter.

Mon Cheval captured a Pennsylvania All-Stars division and two Pennsylvania Sire Stakes legs as a 2-year-old and added victories in the All-Stars, another PA Sire Stakes split, and a section of the Tompkins-Geers in 2022. Her win in the Tompkins-Geers, which took place at the Meadowlands, came in a life's-best clocking of 1:52. Overall, she has a record of 6-3-1 from 16 starts and has banked \$284,820.

### **Quotes**

#### **Trainer Nancy Takter:**

*On the elim:* "She raced good. Andrew [McCarthy] said she had plenty of trot finishing, but he went to the inside, and she was a little hesitant. There was no room to go to the outside and sometimes horses aren't really used to passing on the inside and she just kind of took herself up a little bit. But I was very happy with her. She's raced well all year and she took another step forward."

*On breeding, Father Patrick-Shake It Cerry:* "Neither one of her parents had much luck in the Hambletonian [or Oaks], so hopefully we can change that with her."

*On changes from last year:* "She's grown up a lot since last year. She's a lot easier. Last year, she was always throwing herself going to the gate and stuff. She still does it a tiny bit, but she's definitely gotten much better."

## **Breeding Notes**

Mon Cheval is by Father Patrick, who is in search of his first sire credit in the Hambletonian or Hambletonian Oaks. Mon Cheval is the first foal out of the Donato Hanover mare Shake It Cerry, the fourth-place finisher in the 2014 Hambletonian Oaks final. Shake It Cerry would go on to earn over \$2.78 million lifetime and three Dan Patch Awards: top 2-year-old in 2013, top 3-year-old in 2014, and Trotter of the Year in 2014.

Mon Cheval is a homebred for Solveig's Racing Partners, a group that includes Christina Takter, Goran Anderberg, John Fielding, John Fodera, Martha Frank, and Fred Hertrich III. This would be their first Hambletonian Oaks win as a breeder.

## **Driver Bio**

### **ANDREW McCARTHY**

**Born: 3/31/1986 – Birthplace: Bathurst, Australia – Resides: Swedesboro, NJ**

### **Hambletonian wins (1): Ramona Hill, 2020.**

Andy McCarthy won the 2020 Hambletonian with filly Ramona Hill, trained by Tony Alagna. It was McCarthy's second appearance in a Hambletonian final.

Ramona Hill became the fourth filly trotter to win the Hambletonian since it moved to the Meadowlands in 1981 and the 15th overall to capture the sport's premier event for 3-year-old trotters. She received the 2020 Dan Patch Award for best 3-year-old filly trotter.

Last year, McCarthy drove Locatelli in the Hambletonian final. Locatelli went off stride and finished 10th.

A native of Australia, McCarthy has raced regularly in North America since 2007. On May 7 at Harrah's Philadelphia, he recorded his 3,000th lifetime win in North America. He now has won more than 3,100 races and \$64 million in purses since arriving.

In 2021, McCarthy set career highs with 315 victories and \$8.72 million in earnings. He ranked No. 5 among all drivers in North America in purses.

McCarthy is a third-generation horseman. His brothers Todd, who moved to the U.S. in 2020, and Luke, who raced in the U.S. in 2009, are also successful drivers and his father John is a highly regarded trainer. The McCarthy family was selected by the Bathurst Harness Racing Club as its 2016 Gold Crown honoree.

## **Trainer Bio**

## **NANCY TAKTER**

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

**Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2020.**

**Hambletonian Oaks wins (1): 2020.**

Nancy Takter has finished second in the past two editions of the Hambletonian, with 55-1 longshot Spy Booth in 2021 and with Ready For Moni in 2020.

In 2020, Takter continued something of a family tradition by winning the Hambletonian Oaks with Sorella. Her father Jimmy won the event a record eight times. Yannick Gingras drove Jimmy Takter's final five Oaks champs, which came consecutively from 2014 to 2018, and also drove Sorella.

Sorella was Canada's 2020 O'Brien Award winner for best 3-year-old filly trotter.

Takter was the caretaker of 2010 Hambletonian winner Muscle Massive, trained by her father. She made her Hambletonian final debut as a trainer in 2014 with Resolve, who finished fifth.

In 2020, Takter was the unanimous selection for Trainer of the Year by the chapters of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. She trained 2020 Horse of the Year Tall Dark Stranger and set career highs with 127 wins and \$8.07 million in purses. Her earnings were second in North America to perennial category leader Ron Burke.

Last year, Takter was No. 6 in purses with \$4.83 million. For her career, she has won nearly 550 races and \$27 million.

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.

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.

### **Owner Bio**

**Solveig's Racing Partners, East Windsor, New Jersey**

Solveig's Racing Partners is a group composed of Christina Takter, Goran Anderberg, John Fielding, John Fodera, Martha Frank, and Fred Hertrich III. Christina Takter is the wife of Jimmy Takter, the all-time leading trainer in the Hambletonian Oaks with eight champions. Christina co-owned 2015 Hambletonian Oaks victor Wild Honey, as did John Fielding. Fielding was also part owner of 2018 Hambletonian Oaks winner Manchego.