



Pink Coco Chanel (Cantab Hall-Evening Prayer-Like A Prayer)

Pink Coco Chanel raced in the second Hambletonian elimination on Saturday night and wound up third. She came first-over out of fifth in the backstretch and wound up finishing a length and a quarter behind winner Warrawee Xenia. She was timed in 1:52.3 and trotted a 28 second last quarter.

Unraced at age 2 except for two qualifiers, Pink Coco Chanel has made six starts this year with a record of 1-2-2 and earnings of \$22,515. Her victory came in an overnight race at the Meadowlands, and she has a mark of 1:52.3 taken in a qualifier at The Big M this year.

Quotes

Trainer Tony Alagna:

On the elim: "I'm very happy with her. This was her sixth lifetime start. For an unraced 2-year-old filly that needed some time last year to come back and do what she's doing, first-up [Saturday], I couldn't be more proud of her."

On missing last year: "She just needed some time. She was just immature, mentally and physically. The Crawfords allowed me to take that time with her and she's come back this year and she's paying us back."

Best qualities: "Her gameness. [Saturday], even though she was going against fillies that were much more experienced, she came first-up and trotted hard all the way to the wire and fought off a filly inside of her that had a chance to beat her for third. I was very happy with her."

On whether impressed to see her step up: "I thought she could, that's why I put her in. I thought she had done all the work in the non-winners [conditions] and showed some good lines. With

Joviality and Jiggy Jog moving up [to the Hambletonian] it was the perfect time to put her in. She rewarded us. I think she will continue to get better the more we race her. She's just playing catch-up a little bit trying to get the experience these other fillies have got."

Breeding Notes

Pink Coco Chanel is by Cantab Hall, who sired back-to-back Hambletonian Oaks champions in 2014 and 2015 with Lifetime Pursuit and Wild Honey. Pink Coco Chanel is out of the Like A Prayer mare Evening Prayer, making Pink Coco Chanel a sister to Homicide Hunter, who earned over \$1.7 million in his career and is history's fastest trotter by virtue of his 1:48.4 win in the Allerage Farms Open Trot at The Red Mile in Lexington, Kentucky, on October 6, 2018.

Pink Coco Chanel is a homebred for Crawford Farms. Crawford Farms hasn't bred a Hambletonian Oaks champion to date but did breed 2020 Hambletonian winner Ramona Hill, the most recent filly to capture the event.

Driver Bio

JOE BONGIORNO

Born: 9/23/1993 – Birthplace: Red Bank, NJ – Resides: Millstone, NJ

Joe Bongiorno has appeared in one previous Hambletonian Oaks final, finishing eighth with Ab'sattitudexpress in 2020.

Bongiorno set a career high for purses in 2021 with \$6.87 million. He won 340 races, second to only his career-best 399 in 2016.

His top lifetime victories include the 2019 Breeders Crown Open Pace with American History and the 2020 Little Brown Jug with Captain Barbossa. That victory came one day after Bongiorno's 27th birthday. For his career, Bongiorno has won more than 2,600 races and \$37 million in purses. He is the brother of trainer Jennifer Bongiorno.

Bongiorno was the 2010 Amateur Driver of the Year, awarded by the U.S. Harness Writers Association, and was USHWA Monticello-Goshen chapter's 2011 Rising Star Award winner.

Trainer Bio TONY ALAGNA

Born: 6/8/1972 – Birthplace: Champaign, IL – Resides: Howell, NJ

Hambletonian wins (1): Ramona Hill, 2020.

Tony Alagna won the 2020 Hambletonian with filly Ramona Hill, driven by Andy McCarthy. She 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 Dan Patch Award for best 3-year-old filly trotter.

In 2012, the Alagna-trained My MVP finished third in the Hambletonian, only a neck behind winner Market Share. Later that season, My MVP won the Kentucky Futurity, which is the third jewel in the Trotting Triple Crown (with the Hambletonian and Yonkers Trot).

Alagna trained 2016 Hambletonian Oaks runner-up Caprice Hill, who was an O'Brien Award winner in Canada at ages 2 and 3.

Last year, Alagna set career highs for wins with 212 and purses with \$7.97 million. He ranked No. 8 among all trainers in North America in victories and No. 2 in earnings. This year, Alagna is No. 2 in purses with more than \$2.86 million.

For his career, Alagna has won more than 1,850 races and \$59 million in purses.

Among Alagna's past stars was Captaintreacherous, who was Pacer of the Year in 2012 and 2013. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019.

A native of Illinois, Alagna followed his mom, Donna Lee, into the sport. He had a pony at the age of 3, was reading up on pedigrees at 9, and solely responsible for his first horse at 10. Soon after graduating from high school, Alagna was assisting his mom with her stable. After working for several different stables, he went out on his own in 2009.

Owner Bio

Crawford Farms Racing, Syracuse, New York

Crawford Farms, operated by Al and Michelle Crawford, has enjoyed a great deal of success in the Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks in recent years. They were part of the ownership group of 2020 Hambletonian Oaks champion Sorella, 2020 Hambletonian winner Ramona Hill and 2018 Hambletonian victor Atlanta. Ramona Hill and Atlanta were both filly champions against open company.