

Ghostly Casper

Bay colt, 3 by Resolve – Cool Creek Breeze – Angus Hall



OWNER: Benoit O. Baillargeon, ON; Teresa J. Davidson, ON; Santo & Nunzio Vena, ON

BREEDER: Diane N Ingham & Harry A Rutherford, ON

SALE INFO:

TRAINER: Benoit Baillargeon

DRIVER: Brian Sears

YEAR	STARTS	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2023	8	2	1	1	\$83,832	1:53.3 Wbsb
2022	12	0	6	3	\$165,782	
LIFETIME	20	2	7	4	\$249,614	3 1:53.3 Wbsb

- Finished fourth in his elimination. Has post nine in the final.
- Trainer Baillargeon on the elim, “He raced real good. He was right there at the wire, and he came a long way (from eighth place, eight lengths behind at three-quarters). He had all the reason to quit. I’m real happy. We’re in (the final). When you’re in, you’re in. I’m not going home this week. I’m spending it here.”
- “He’s had bad luck, all his life, Baillargeon continued. “He never won last year but made all kinds of money. This year, it’s the same thing. He’s had two or three trips that have been difficult. Again (in his elimination) he got interfered with in the first turn. But he closed a ton of ground. Dave (Miller) was really happy with him. He said to have him the same way for the final. Eventually, he will get his day. You never know. The horse last year (Cool Papa Bell) won at 50-1. You never know what will happen. The horse closed real good. He came the fastest last quarter of the race (:27). The thing with him is that he never quits.”
- “His last race was awesome. It was a big race,” said Baillargeon after his OSS Gold Leg before his Hambletonian elimination. “Ten feet after the wire he was in front. He was three wide in the last turn and trotted (1:52.3) and got beat by barely a head.”
- On June 27, he dominated conditioned foes at Mohawk, winning by three lengths in a career best of 1:53.3.
- In his Goodtimes elimination, he battled traffic to finish fourth and qualify for the final where he again faced traffic and finished eighth.

- He started his sophomore stakes engagements by going off-stride in the SBOA Final, and then rebounded with a sharp off the pace score in the opening Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Gold Leg of the season in 1:54.1.
- “I always had lots of faith in this horse. He’s a really nice horse,” said trainer Ben Baillargeon. “Last year, he didn’t win, but had some huge miles. This year, he didn’t get bigger, but he got more muscular and stronger. He’s just a nice horse.”
- Failed to post a win as a two-year-old, but did have six seconds and three third-place finishes from twelve starts. He had a second-place finish in his William Wellwood elimination and finished third in the final behind fellow Hambletonian contender Winner’s Bet. His other on the board finishes came in Ontario Sire Stakes action.
- 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.
- Last year, Sears finished second in the Hambletonian final with filly Joviality S. She was named the Dan Patch Award winner for best 3-year-old female trotter.
- In 2019, Sears finished second in the Hambletonian final with Greenshoe, who was an elimination winner. Forbidden Trade won the final by a neck.
- Sears ranks No. 6 in career driving purses with \$212 million. He led the sport in earnings in 2005 with a then-record \$15 million.
- He ranks No. 18 in lifetime driving wins in North America with more than 10,400.
- 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 Baillargeon’s first full season on the WEG circuit in 2001 was an unqualified success as his stable finished fifth in the standings with 79 wins and more than \$1.9 million in purses. Within a decade, he twice finished second. Prior to moving to Ontario, Baillargeon

had a successful stable at Hippodrome de Montreal.

- Benoit on how he got started in the racing, “My dad [Gaetan] was in the business. He got started because his brother-in-law's daughter was marrying Ron Turcotte in New Jersey. He is my godfather and he introduced my dad to racing. I was born into the business. My dad was involved in it full-time as far back as I can remember.”
- Ben’s brother, Mario, is 363 days older than him and helps out with the stable. Daughter Sara now trains her own stable after helping her father for years.
- Baillargeon has over 2,500 training wins and over \$40.5 million in earnings. His horses have earned more than \$1 million in purses for 18 consecutive years and topped \$2 million seven times during that span.
- Benoit “Ben” Baillargeon appeared in the 2018 Hambletonian with Alarm Detector, who was fourth in his elimination and sixth in the final. Alarm Detector was the O’Brien Award winner for best 2-year-old male trotter in 2017.
- “It is me and my horse, I take care of him, I’m grooming him, and I am doing everything,” said Baillargeon. “So just me and one horse, but I take care of him at the farm too. I’m his caretaker on top of his trainer and his owner. I am everything to him. I know all of his quirks.”
- Sire Resolve put together a career record reading 18-17-9 from 65 starts and earned \$2,749,545. He was named Canada's Older Trotting Horse of the Year in 2015. His career highlights include winning the International Trot at Yonkers Raceway, the Maple Leaf Trot at Mohawk Racetrack as well as the TVG Championship, Cashman Memorial and Cutler Memorial (twice) at The Meadowlands. He took his mark of 1:50.4 in the Vincennes Trot at The Meadowlands. Campaigned by Ake Svanstedt, the international star competed in the Elitlopp twice, finishing second to Nuncio in 2016 and third to Timoko and Propulsion in 2017. Resolve finished fifth in the 2014 Hambletonian.
- “I had his mother (Cool Creek Breeze), said Baillargeon. “He’s the fifth foal out of the mother and he’s the first one that I liked. This one, I saw him when he was 8 months old, and I said, ‘You’re coming with me.’ He looked a little bit like his mom. His mom was a good mare. She only made \$200,000 but she was meant to do more. She was a nice, big mare. He’s the first one that looked a little bit like her. I said, I’m going to take you. We bought him privately.