

SOUTHWIND COORS

Bay gelding, 3 by Walner – Southwind Cabaret – Muscle Hill



OWNER: Bax Stable, ON; Glengate Farms, ON; David Richard Hudson, Dallas, TX; Craig D Wilson, ON
BREEDER: Southwind Farms, NJ
SALE INFO: \$65,000 Lexington Selected
TRAINER: Matthew Bax
DRIVER: James MacDonald

YEAR	STARTS	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2023	7	3	1	0	\$85,468	1:51.2 M
2022	11	1	3	3	\$68,198	1:56.4 Wbsb
LIFETIME	18	3	3	5	\$217,146	3 1:51.2 M

- Finished fifth in his elimination. Drew the post seven in the final.
- “It’s been a long trip with him, he was a little nervous, green. I have to give a lot of credit to [driver] Mike Saftic last year, he really managed him [driving him in all 11 of his rookie races]. He wouldn’t be here where he is now without that. He’s been coming off trips, he likes coming off a helmet and this year he’s really turned a corner, and coming into tonight, he’s never been better,” said Matt Bax after the tight Goodtime win.
- Captured the \$190,000 Goodtimes final in a personal best of 1:52 on June 17 and followed that up with a first in his Hambletonian elims prep on July 10 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.
- “He was a really nice horse last year, but he wasn’t very mature,” Bax said. “He’s very quick, he’s got high-end speed, but mentally maybe he didn’t want to go past the last horse.
- Posted only one win as a two year old in a non-winners event at Woodbine Mohawk Park in October. Overall he hit the board in seven of eleven starts.
- This is James MacDonald’s first Hambletonian drive.

- James is the youngest of five brothers. Brother Anthony, also a longtime driver, owns and operates TheStable.ca with his wife Amy, a company that allows people to own a percentage of a racehorse. His other two brothers, Lloyd and Curtis, are also involved in the sport, but work on the media side of things. Curtis operates the Guelph-based photography and videography company Cujo Entertainment that has produced the Hambletonian CBS Sportsnet show for the last three years. Mark MacDonald is a top U.S. based harness driver who captured the 2022 Breeders Crown with King Of The North and the 2020 Pace with Lawless Shadow.
- MacDonald clinched the 2017 World Driving Championship.
- James MacDonald was honoured as the Keith Waples Driver of the Year for the second consecutive year following a career best season. In 2022, the Guelph, Ont. resident shattered his personal bests, winning 451 races with more than \$9.9 million in purse earnings. In addition to leading all Canadian drivers in wins and earnings during this career season, he added a second consecutive Lampman Cup, which is awarded to the leading driver in the Ontario Sires Stakes program. Other accomplishments include winning the inaugural Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup at Flamboro Downs with Linedrive Hanover in a Canadian-record time, as well as an historic night at Woodbine Mohawk Park which saw him win eight races on a card — a new WEG/OJC record. MacDonald was the regular driver for three O'Brien Award winners: So Much More, Adare Castle and Twin B Archie.
- Trainer Bax: "My parents told me they didn't care what I did in life, but I had to get a piece of paper. Whether it was a one-year diploma, a four-year degree, I had to get that piece of paper to fall back on. I scraped my way into university and through university, and got my degree. But I remember the moment I wanted to be in racing. I was in my first year and it was March break. I was looking forward to getting home because it was the time you start training the 2-year-olds. They're starting to go faster, and the weather – it's those nice days in the spring. And I remember getting to the farm and thinking, 'What's that smell?' It was the smell of sweat on the horses. And I thought, 'That reminds me of home and I miss that.' Then I realized that this life was for me. It was a part of me more than I realized."
- In 2010, Bax officially joined the standardbred world as a trainer. Two years later, he was in the driver's seat. Soon after, he added owner to his resume. This is his first season at the Helm of the Bax Stable, which was previously led by his father, John.
- John Bax was Canada's Trainer of the Year in 2001 when he stars included Breeders Crown champ Duke Of York, who received the O'Brien Award for best 2-year-old male trotter.
- The Bax Stable has had one previous Hambletonian starter, Duke Of York in 2002. He finished second in his elimination and third in the final.
- Other past stars included Goodtimes, who was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Last year, the Bax Stable set a career high with \$1.93 million in purses. Righteous Resolve was the O'Brien Award winner for best 2-year-old female trotter.

- Matt Bax, 33, is making his Hambletonian and Hambletonian Oaks debuts.
- Bax on Southwind Coors: “We had his sister (Southwind Casha),” Bax said. “She was a nice, fast filly, but she didn’t have very good front legs on her. He’s correct. We kind of thought we stole him for \$65,000 at the sale knowing how much speed the family has. Being a Walner doesn’t hurt, either.”
- Sire Walner, was a standout trotter sidelined in his three-year-old year due to injury. His other notable offspring include older trotter Venerable, 2022 Hambletonian Oaks winner Fashion Schooner, 2022 Breeders Crown winner King Of The North and standout four year old mare Jiggy Jog S. Walner sends out four Hambletonian finalists.