



# ACHILLE DUHARAS

Bay, C, 3 by Andover Hall – Ariane Du Haras by Pine Chip

**OWNER:** Haras De L Estrie Inc., Dunham, QC  
**BREEDER:** Haras De L Estrie Inc., Dunham, QC  
**SALE INFO:**  
**TRAINER:** Jimmy Takter  
**DRIVER:** Yannick Gingras

YEAR	STARTS	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	EARNINGS	MARK
2017	4	2	0	0	\$12,900	1:52.4 M1
2016	7	1	2	1	\$39,687	1:56.4 Phl
LIFETIME	11	3	2	1	\$52,587	3,1:52.4 M1

Achille Duharas is a son of Andover Hall out of the mare Ariane Du Haras, who finished second to Syrinx Hanover in the 2001 Hambletonian Oaks. His family also includes 2003 Hambletonian Oaks winner Southwind Allaire.

He heads to the Hambletonian off a 1:54 win in a conditioned race at the Meadowlands. He beat 4-year-old Tech Titan by a nose.

On June 23, Achille Duharas won a conditioned race in a career-best 1:52.4.

Last year, the colt won a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes at Harrah's Philadelphia.

"He won in (1):52-and-a-piece and in his last start he raced good, came first up and won in (1):54," trainer Jimmy Takter said. "Is he the [Hambletonian] winner? No, I think that's a dream shot. But he's the type of horse that could surprise a little bit and make the final. Maybe he gets a little lucky with the draw and gets a piece of the action.

"I liked him as a 2-year-old. He wasn't really ready for too much last year, but he showed the possibility of developing into a nice colt."

Haras De L Estrie Inc. is Gilles Blondeau.

## **JIMMY TAKTER (East Windsor, NJ)**

Jimmy Takter, 56, has trained the winner of the Hambletonian four times and the Hambletonian Oaks a record-tying six times, including the three most recent editions.

Takter is tied with Chuck Sylvester for the second-most training wins in the Hambletonian. Billy Haughton, Stanley Dancer and Ben White share the record of five. Takter won the Hambletonian in 1997 with Malabar Man, 2010 with Muscle Massive, 2014 with Trixton, and 2015 with Pinkman.

He has one Hambletonian win as a driver, with Trixton.

Hambletonian Oaks winners for Takter were Gleam in 1994, Southwind Allaire in 2003, Passionate Glide in 2006, Lifetime Pursuit in 2014, Wild Honey in 2015, and All The Time in 2016. He is tied with Jan Johnson for the most training wins in the event's history, which dates back to 1971.

Malabar Man was the first of three Takter-trained horses named Horse of the Year. Malabar Man received the honor in 1997 and was followed by two-time recipient Moni Maker in 1998 and 1999. Moni Maker, a female trotter who won races in North America and Europe, retired in 2000 as the richest harness racing horse in history, with \$5.58 million in purses. Male pacer Always B Miki, who last year became the fastest horse in harness racing history when he won in 1:46 at Lexington's Red Mile, was named 2016 Horse of the Year.

Takter and Stanley Dancer are the only trainers with at least three different Horse of the Year winners. In addition, Takter is the fifth trainer to have both a pacer and trotter receive Horse of the Year honors. He joined Dancer, Blair Burgess, Billy Haughton, and Clint Hodgins in that group.

A native of Sweden, Takter could have enjoyed a comfortable career there, where his father, Bo, was already established as one of the sport's top trainers. But after getting a taste of racing in the U.S. as a teenager during a 10-month stint with the powerful Continental Farms Stable, Takter decided at the age of 22 to make his home in the States for good. He became a U.S. citizen in 2000.

Takter has been named Trainer of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association a record six times: 2016, 2015, 2014, 2010, 2000 and 1996.

In 2012, Takter was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

### **YANNICK GINGRAS (Allentown, NJ)**

Yannick Gingras, who turns 38 on Aug. 4, has teamed with trainer Jimmy Takter to win the three most recent editions of the Hambletonian Oaks and has finished second in the two most recent editions of the Hambletonian.

Last year, Gingras won the Oaks with All The Time and missed adding the Hambletonian by a nose when Southwind Frank was second to Marion Marauder. In 2015, Gingras captured the Oaks with Wild Honey and was second in the Hambletonian with filly Mission Brief. Gingras' first Oaks victory came with Lifetime Pursuit in 2014.

Gingras is tied with Glen Garnsey and Ron Pierce for the second-most wins in the Hambletonian Oaks, trailing only Berndt Lindstedt's four.

A third-generation horseman from Quebec, Gingras arrived in the U.S. in 2001 and established himself as a top driver at Yonkers Raceway. In 2003, he received the Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association and in 2004 he moved his base to the Meadowlands. He has led the Big M in wins four times in his career, most recently in 2015. He has won more than 6,500 races in his career and \$149 million in purses, which ranks ninth best in history.

Gingras has led the sport in purses each of the past three years. He was voted Driver of the Year by the U.S. Harness Writers Association in 2014. Among his many accomplishments, Gingras is known for his association with pacer Foiled Again, the richest horse in harness racing history, with \$7.52 million in lifetime earnings.