

Ariana G (Muscle Hill – Cantab It All – Cantab Hall)



By: Greg Reinhart

Ariana G won the first of two \$40,438 Hambletonian Oaks eliminations on Saturday night, closing in :27.3 after a second-over trip to win in 1:51.3. She was driven by Yannick Gingras for trainer Jimmy Takter, who have teamed up to win the last three editions of the race (Lifetime Pursuit, Wild Honey, and last year with Ariana G's full sister All The Time). Takter also won the race in 1994 (Gleam), 2003 (Southwind Allaire), and 2006 (Passionate Glide), giving him six champions in all and tying him with Jan Johnson for the most Hambletonian Oaks titles in history.

Ariana G was bred and is owned by Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld, who also won last year with their homebred All The Time, in 2008 with Creamy Mimi, and in 1998 with Fern. Ariana G's dam Cantab It All raced in the eliminations for the 2010 Hambletonian Oaks, but did not advance to the final after finishing fourth.

"I had my options open going to the first turn," Gingras said about her elimination performance. "I would have been happy to cut the mile or race from the back. There were a lot of horses leaving, so I took my time. She's beautiful to drive, and she lets me drive her any way I want."

This year Ariana G has won five of six starts, including victories in the New Jersey Sire Stakes final and a division of the Del Miller Memorial, both at the Meadowlands. She raced against males in the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono, winning her elimination and finishing third in the final. In her life she sports a record of 14-1-1 from 17 starts to go with earnings of \$958,058 and mark of 1:51.1 taken at the Meadowlands.