



DOVER DAN

Bay, C, 3 by Andover Hall – CR Kay Suzie by Royal Troubador

OWNER: William C Wiswell, Elkhorn, WI; Jean A Goehlen, Aurora, IL; Eugene W Schick, Elgin, IL
BREEDER: Rod Allen, Inc., FL
SALE INFO: \$67,000 Standardbred Horse Sale (as Doverlicious)
TRAINER: John Butenschoen
DRIVER: Brian Sears

| YEAR | STARTS | 1 ST | 2 ND | 3 RD | EARNINGS | MARK |
|----------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| 2017 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | \$58,924 | 1:52.4 PcD |
| 2016 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 2 | \$122,899 | 1:55 Lex1 |
| LIFETIME | 19 | 6 | 1 | 3 | \$181,823 | 3,1:52.4 PcD |

Dover Dan is a son of Andover Hall out of the mare CR Kay Suzie. His dam was a three-time Dan Patch Award winner, including 1995 Horse of the Year. She took on the boys in the 1995 Hambletonian, but went off stride in her elimination and failed to advance to the final.

Breeder Rod Allen has filly Dream Baby Dream in the Hambletonian Oaks.

Dover Dan has finished off the board four times this year, with three of those instances coming when starting from a post No. 9. He started from the outside post in the Reynolds in his most recent race and also had the outside in the final of the Beal Memorial and a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes.

"I've been disappointed with the draws we've had," trainer John Butenschoen said. "Every time the draw comes out, he seems to be outside, outside, outside. He was a little flat in his elimination for the Beal, but I thought he bounced back well in the final. But he drew the nine hole. Brett (Miller) said he was really good and if he'd drawn inside he would have been right with them. He's just been a little bit of a victim of circumstances with post positions.

"The other night Brian (Sears) said he had a ton of trot. Usually for a horse to trot as hard as he did to get back into the race they're kind of tired. He said he wasn't tired. He trotted his back half in 54.2 or 54.3 and came from way, way, way out of it. I've been pleased him performance-wise. You can't do anything about the post positions."

Last year Dover Dan was a three-time winner on the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes circuit and also won a division of the Bluegrass Stakes at Lexington's Red Mile.

Bill Wiswell is retired as owner and president of an Internet and long distance communications firm. He also co-owns Bill's Man in the Hambletonian and Fine Tuned Lady in the Hambletonian Oaks.

Jean Goehlen taught school in the primary grades for a number of years in Aurora, Ohio and Indiana. While in Indiana, she organized and directed a Meals on Wheels program. Her other community involvement includes being a longstanding member of the Child Welfare Society.

Goehlen's father, George Alexander, bred 1992 Hambletonian winner Alf Palema. It was the last horse he ever bred. Alexander, whose Chestnut Farm raised and bred only trotters, was a director of the Hambletonian Society. He was elected as an Immortal to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 1990.

Gene Schick has been active on the Kane County Fair Board for more than five decades and a longtime supporter of 4-H.

JOHN BUTENSCHOEN (Wind Gap, PA)

John Butenschoen, 54, has started one horse in the Hambletonian, Punxsutawney in 2013. The colt finished fifth in his elimination and failed to reach the final, which was won by Royalty For Life.

Last year Butenschoen set career highs with 85 wins and \$2.34 million in purses. Butenschoen's successes included Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champions Fine Tuned Lady (2-year-old female trotter division) and Giveitgasandgo (2-year-old male trotter division). He also trained New York Sire Stakes champion pacer Funknwaffles.

Butenschoen was born in Marengo, Illinois, worked as a groom for the legendary Hall of Famer Delvin Miller out of high school. He met his wife, Jackie Kiger Butenschoen, while working for Miller. Her father was also a trainer and for a time was the farrier at Miller's Meadow Lands Farm. She works alongside him in the stable, as does their son, Tyler.

He spent a number of years based in the Midwest before moving to Pennsylvania. His stable has won more than 1,500 races and \$23 million in purses.

He enjoyed his first million-dollar season as a trainer in 2001, when the trotter Plesac (named in honor of then-major league pitcher Dan Plesac), was the star of his barn. Plesac raced from 1999 to 2003, earning \$2.5 million in his career.

BRIAN SEARS (Secaucus, NJ)

Brian Sears, 49, is a three-time winning driver in the Hambletonian and two-time winner of the Hambletonian Oaks.

He won both the Hambletonian and Oaks in 2009, earning his Hambletonian victory with Muscle Hill and Oaks triumph with Broadway Schooner. He became the first driver to win the Hambletonian and Oaks in the same year. In 2013, he repeated the double, winning the Hambletonian with Royalty For Life and the Oaks with Bee A Magician.

In 2015, Sears won the Hambletonian with Pinkman. Yannick Gingras drove Pinkman to victory in his elimination, but opted to drive filly Mission Brief, also an elimination winner, in the final.

Sears is among five drivers to win the Hambletonian three times. John Campbell holds the record, with six, and there are four drivers tied for second place, with four. They are Ben White, Billy Haughton, Stanley Dancer, and Mike Lachance.

On July 2, Sears was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in Goshen, N.Y.

For his career, Sears has won more than 9,800 races and \$179 million in purses. He ranks 15th in North American history for wins among drivers and sixth in purses. He led the sport in earnings in 2005, with a then-record \$15 million, and has finished among the top 10 in purses each of the past 13 years.

Sears has driven three Horse of the Year award winners --- Rocknroll Hanover in 2005, Muscle Hill in 2009 and Bee A Magician in 2013. He received the 2009 Driver of the Year Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association and was the 1991 Rising Star Award recipient from the same organization.

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.