

## Lily Stride (Muscle Hill-Sterling Volo-Donato Hanover)



A 36-1 shot, Lily Stride made the Hambletonian Oaks final by finishing second in the elimination won by Manchego. She finished 3 3/4 lengths behind the winner, and she trotted her mile in 1:52, with a 27 second final quarter after a second-over trip.

Lily Stride has a record of 5-8-2 from 19 career starts, and she has earned \$321,822. Her mark is 1:55.2, taken last year at The Red Mile in Lexington, Kentucky. Lily Stride has one stakes win this year, a division of the Pennsylvania Sire Stakes at The Meadows on May 12. Last year she was second in the Kentucky Sire Stakes final and third in both the Jim Doherty Memorial and the Goldsmith Maid.

“Things were going well and then I had to scratch her out of a race (June 12 at Pocono),” remarked trainer Mark Harder. “She jumped on her foot in the paddock and opened it up. We gave her time off. I went to qualifier and there were all 2-year-olds so I didn’t even get a qualifier. So I had to race off like six weeks. She finished really good at Chester (a Pennsylvania Sire Stakes division on July 3). She wasn’t so good (in her Del Miller Memorial division), but she might have bounced off that start. It looks like now she’s just coming back. Things might be just working out in our favor now. Not that I think Manchego and Plunge Blue Chip (and Phaetosive) are worried about us, but I’m very happy to be in the race. I’m proud of the filly and I’m happy to go there, that’s for sure.

“She’s a good solid filly, she really is. She’s overlooked a lot. Look at her record, she doesn’t miss many checks. Unfortunately, there are two or three that are a little bit more than solid. (Laughing.) What a

year for trotting fillies. There are three or four of them that could beat the boys. It's unbelievable. But I'm proud of mine and very happy to be in the race. It's not easy to get there."

### **Breeding Notes**

Lily Stride is by 2009 Hambletonian winner Muscle Hill. Her dam, the Donato Hanover mare Sterling Volo, is out of 2004 Hambletonian Oaks champion Silver Springs and is a half-sister to the late Springtime Volo (Classic Photo), who won her elimination and was third in the 2010 Hambletonian Oaks, and to Bill's Man (Credit Winner), who was second in his elimination and fifth-placed-fourth in the final of last year's Hambletonian.

A \$220,000 purchase at the 2016 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale (sold as Stylish Volo), Lily Stride was bred by Kentuckiana Farms LLC. and Jorgen Jahre. Kentuckiana was the winning breeder in the 2012 edition of the Hambletonian Oaks with Personal Style, and Jahre bred and owned Silver Springs.

### **Driver – Tim Tetrick**

**Born: 11/22/1981 – Birthplace: Flora, IL – Resides: Woolwich Township, NJ**

Tim Tetrick, 36, has two wins in the Hambletonian Oaks, with Bar Slide in 2010 and Danae in 2007.

Tetrick grew up in Illinois and followed his father, Tom D. Tetrick, into the sport. Brothers Tom T. and Trace also are involved in harness racing. Trace is the all-time leader in wins at Hoosier Park, where he has won six driving titles.

In 2007, Tetrick won a single-season record 1,189 races and was named the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Rising Star Award winner as well as Driver of the Year. That season he became the first driver to lead the sport in both wins and purses (a then-record \$18.3 million) in the same year since 1991.

Driver of the Year honors from the U.S. Harness Writers Association followed in 2008, 2012 and 2013.

Tetrick led the sport in purses seven consecutive years (2007 through 2013) and ranks fourth all time in earnings, with \$194 million. Tetrick has ranked among the Top 10 drivers in wins for 13 consecutive years, beginning in 2005. He has won nearly 10,500 career races and ranks No. 11 all time in the category.

He shattered the record for youngest driver to reach 10,000 wins, which was set previously by 40-year-old Walter Case Jr. in 2001. Tetrick was two weeks from turning 36.

Tetrick has topped \$10 million in purses each of the past 11 years, which is a record.

He was the regular driver of 2012 Horse of the Year Award winner Chapter Seven. He represented the U.S. in the 2015 World Driving Championship and finished third.

### **Trainer – Mark Harder**

**Born: 11/12/1961 – Birthplace: Wellington, New Zealand – Resides: Freehold, NJ**

Mark Harder, 56, is making his Hambletonian Oaks debut.

Harder's stable is in the midst of its 18th consecutive season with at least \$1 million in purses. He has won more than 1,900 races and \$43 million in purses.

In 2004, Harder-trained Holborn Hanover won the Meadowlands Pace at odds of 58-1. He also won the 2004 Meadowlands training title. Among Harder's other previous stars was pacer Golden Receiver, who earned \$2.2 million in his career. His current group includes millionaire female pacer Blue Moon Stride.

Harder grew up in New Zealand, where his parents owned a kiwi and avocado orchard. Harder thought he would go to college to earn a degree in agriculture, but instead got the horse bug and started working with horses after finishing high school. After arriving in North America, he worked for several horsemen, including Ross Croghan in New Jersey. He launched his own stable in 2000 and in 2001 won the Jugette with Pleasure Chest for his first major stakes win.

**Owners – Emilio and Maria Rosati**

This will be the first Hambletonian Oaks participants for the Rosatis, who are from Australia.