

PLUNGE BLUE CHIP (Muscle Mass – Dunk The Donato – Donato Hanover)



Owners: Ake Svanstedt, Blue Chip Bloodstock, Tomas Andersson, Rick Zeron Stables

Trainer: Ake Svanstedt

Driver: Ake Svanstedt

Purchase: \$42,000 Harrisburg Selected Yearling Sale

Plunge Blue Chip became the fastest three-year-old trotter in history with a 1:49.4 victory in the \$128,500 Del Miller Memorial, beating **Manchego** by a nose.

“[1]:49.4 was a surprise,” Ake Svanstedt said after the Del Miller, “but she’s a good horse and she had not raced on the big tracks as much and that’s [maybe] why she raced so fast.”

Plunge Blue Chip’s mile equaled the world record by JI Cruze’s 1:49.4 mark in 2015 and is beaten by Hannelore Hanover’s 1:49.2 mile in the Allerage at The Red Mile in 2017, Enough Talk’s 1:49.3 victory at Colonial Downs in 2008 and, from Svanstedt’s barn, Sebastian K’s all-time fastest trotting mile of 1:49 in 2013 at Pocono Downs.

Off the world-record performance, **Plunge Blue Chip** took the lead past the quarter in her Oaks elimination but folded in the stretch, finishing third (to **Phaetosive**).

A winner of 12 races in 16 starts, **Plunge Blue Chip** has amassed \$568,809 in earnings. At two, she was undefeated in her first six starts before suffering her one loss of the season, finishing seventh in the New York Sires Stakes final. She then won her last three starts of the year in the \$173,000 Matron Stakes and the elimination and \$420,750 final of the Goldsmith Maid (at the Meadowlands).

She has raced six times at three, winning a division of New York Sires Stakes, an Empire Breeders Classic elim and the Del Miller Memorial. She was second in the \$238,613 Empire Breeders Classic Final to Atlanta, who co-owner Rick Zeron also trains and pointed to race against the boys in the Hambletonian, in a track-record 1:50.3.

Trainer-driver Ake Svanstedt makes his third appearance in the Hambletonian Oaks since shifting his operation from Sweden to the United States in 2014. In his first year stateside, he qualified for the final with Heaven's Door, finishing seventh. He made his second Oaks appearance in 2016 driving Wildflower to an eighth-place finish. That year he also sent Windowshopper, who broke by the half and finished 10th.

Blue Chip Bloodstock is yet to own or have bred a winner of the Hambletonian Oaks.