

Bare My Soul (Chapter Seven–Celebrity Angel-Yankee Glide)

May not have the highest profile of the entrants in this race, but she has earned \$228,652, with several good showings: a New York Sire Stakes victory at two, and two NYSS wins at two and a third in the final; 3-5 finishes in the Hambo Oaks; a second in her Empire Breeders Classic action.

Missed by a head to the highly-regarded Littlebitalexis in a Lexington overnight.

Breeder, Kentuckiana Farms, stands seventh in the moneywinning rankings among breeders, and trainer Linda Toscano has sent out eight Breeders Crown champions, among which is this filly's sire, Chapter Seven (OTH, 2012).

Trainer Linda Toscano:

I love her, I just think she's a good filly. We've kind of been up and down with her a little bit; she's had issues. We put her on Lasix, and it seems to have helped her. She got a little sick and she was having trouble getting over it, and the Lasix seems to have made the difference. That's why in Kentucky I elected not to race her in the (Kentucky Filly) Futurity and to race her in an overnight instead so I could keep her on the path. She raced against good horses (in her elimination) and she went with them. I love the filly. Maybe she is one hair a step off them, but we were just hoping if we draw a good post that we can go with them. And I think she can. She's just been a very challenging horse, and in spite of it, she's been a very good horse. She's great gaited, she has great gate speed, she's a beautiful filly, she's perfectly sound; she's just one of those horses that's been a little bit snake bitten when it comes to racing luck.

Fashion Schooner (Walner-Broadway Schooner-Broadway Hall)

What's a girl got to do to get a little respect? Win 8-of-11 starts and \$671,937 at three, and take down the Hambo Oaks, Delvin Miller, Moni Maker, NJ Classic – A, and New Jersey Stakes Final? But even with those lofty credentials on her resume, Fashion Schooner is often mentioned third in this division behind Joviality S and Jiggy Jog S: a rare occasion of three superstars in one year, each a runaway divisional leader in a normal year. Tried to get away from her field in her elimination, but was caught by Jiggy Jog S while well ahead of the rest. Tim Tetrick and Jim Campbell, who collaborated on the Oaks win with Fashion Schooner, both rank in the top seven all-time in their respective Breeders Crown categories, and Fashion Farms is in the top dozen as an owner.

Trainer Jim Campbell:

I was very happy with her race. She hadn't raced since Sept. 23, which was by design. I didn't want to race her off Lasix in Lexington. I knew that going into it, that she was going to have 30 days between races. I was really happy with the way she raced. Jiggy Jog has been the top filly in her last few starts. I like the way we're coming into the final. We got a good draw with her, and the race (in the elimination) should help set her up for the final.

It's a very tough group. It could set up to be a really good race with those fillies in together. The three of them (Fashion Schooner, Jiggy Jog S, Joviality S) have never been in together yet this year. I'm happy about that. I'm glad they went into the Hambletonian (instead of the Hambletonian Oaks). It's a strong group. I couldn't be happier with the post positions.

Jiggy Jog S (Walner–Hot Mess Hanover-Cantab Hall)

Has been slightly in the shadow of Joviality S this year, but in their last three starts: Jiggy Jog S set a track record of 1:51.2 in her Crown elim, while Joviality S won in 1:52.1; JJS defeated Joviality S in 1:50 in the Kentucky Filly Futurity; in the first Grand Circuit week at The Red Mile, Jiggy Jog S won in 1:50.1, JS won in 1:50.4. So there is little to pick between these two as far as recent form. Third in her Breeders Crown elim and final in 2021. She has won \$777,793 lifetime, with three straight victories (as described) coming into this showdown. Her Svanstedt barn stablemate Special Way won her 2TF Crown elim Friday, and on Sunday her half-sister Wild Jiggy S won a Simpson stake at Liberty Bell. Driver Dexter Dunn is the defending champion in his category, having won with Bella Bellini last year.

She raced good, very good. She has been a tough filly. Mentally, she has been so tough the last two months. I like that, very much. It looks like she is at the top of her game. She had not been so tough before. Last year, she was very sensitive. Now, she is a really tough horse. She has matured. Last year, she needed a trip to fight. Now she can do it by herself.
She is good.

Driver Dexter Dunn:

We got away in a good spot following (Raised By Lindy) and (Fashion Schooner) moved to the front. She's a pretty free runner on the front, (Fashion Schooner). We weren't too far off them. Coming to three-quarters, we had a good helmet to follow. As soon as I tipped her off cover, she accelerated quick and I sort of knew a quarter of the way down the straight that she was going to be OK there.

She is so sharp right now. Her run in the (Kentucky) Filly Futurity was massive.

It's a great bunch. Obviously, Joviality is an amazing filly, and her run (in her elimination) was awesome. It will be a good race for sure. My filly, she won from the front in Lexington, she's come from behind (in the Breeders Crown elimination). She's very versatile now at this time of the season and she knows what she's doing. We'll see how it goes.

She was doing it pretty easy from halfway down the stretch. She definitely had a lot more left to her. It's exciting going to (the final).



Joviality S (Chapter Seven–Pasithea Face S-Muscle Hill)

The leading-ranking trotter in the sport's Top Ten poll much of the season, behind only pacing fireball Bulldog Hanover, this ultra-consistent filly has won 10-of-13 and \$991,477 in 2022 after winning 9-of-12 and \$895,341 a year ago. At two, after finishing second in her elimination, she overcame post ten in the Championship to win by a nose over Raised By Lindy at 8-1. At three, she has added the New York Sire Stakes championship and the Delmonica Hanover to her resume, and she "took on the boys" twice: winning the Yonkers Trot, a Triple Crown race, and finishing a gallant 3/nk and 2/T in the elims and final of the Hambletonian. She won her Crown elim with a big sweeping charge from the back. Trainer Marcus Melander has never captured the Crown in this division, but driver Brian Sears holds the record with six victories with three-year-old trotting fillies.

Trainer Marcus Melander:

In the last turn, I thought it was going to be tough. I thought she was going to make the final, but it's so important to win because you draw (posts) one through five. She's had such bad luck in these races drawing bad, even (in her elimination) she had the nine hole, but she overcame it. She is a great horse.

I was very happy with her performance (in the Kentucky Filly Futurity). You always want to win, but she's been racing great all season. She started out in May and we're here in October and she's still in form. She's just a great horse.

Mischevious Rose (Muscle Mass–Vegas Virgin-Donato Hanover)

Another who has never raced outside of the province of Ontario, enjoying the “home cooking” to the tune of \$422,457 so far in her career, which has seen her hit the board in 16 of 22 starts. Hard-used setting the pace in her elimination, but still was beaten less than two lengths by Joviality S, and beaten for second by only a neck. The previous week, she had won her Ontario Sire Stakes Super Final in a lifetime best 1:54. A heavy dosage of Quebec connections behind her: driver Louis-Philippe Roy, trainer Luc Blais, and owner Determination, the latter pair doubling up in the 2017-2018 Crowns with the trotting mare Emoticon Hanover.

Misswalnerfashion (Walner–Sweet Love-Chocolatier)

Starting side-by-side in the middle of the gate is a pair of fillies from the barn of trainer Jim Campbell, seventh on the all-time Crown money list, and one of the few trainers to have pulled off a Hambo-Oaks double in one season, with Cool Papa Bell and Fashion Schooner, respectively. This winner of \$419,619 showed she deserved a chance against the very best while getting a brief stretch lead and holding for second behind Joviality S in her Crown elimination. Winner of the Kindergarten Final at two and then third behind Joviality S and Venerable in the Goldsmith Maid. Jules Siegel and his Fashion Farms rank among the top dozen owners in Breeders Crown history.

Trainer Jim Campbell:

I was very happy with her race. Joviality is just one of those horses that always finds a way to win. It's a really tough group.

Pure Countess (Chapter Seven-Southwind Carrier-Muscle Hill)

She may stand a bit in the shadow of her barnmate Jiggy Jog S in the stable of Åke Svanstedt (who will be driving her in the Crown), and she may not have drawn well, but this filly has had moments of glory even when things seem to be against her. She started only twice at two, and in Sweden – a first and a second – before being shipped westward to try her handle on the North American Grand Circuit. Her only win came in an overnight race at Pocono, but she was second in a Grand Circuit stakes at Lexington, and in her elim she was well-placed and was just photoed out of second behind Joviality S.

Trainer Ake Svanstedt:

She raced good. She has been good her last couple races. She is getting better and better. We'll see if she can get a check in the final.

Raised By Lindy (Walner-Birthright-Credit Winner)

From top connections – Lindy Farms and their trainer Domenico Cecere, and driver Yannick Gingras, who has won this event three times – this filly has shown herself as one who can go with the very best on the very biggest stages. After straight-week wins in the Grand Circuit stakes at Lexington at age two, she won her Crown elimination last year over Joviality S, then missed a desperate nose as the favorite in the final. At three, she won the Elegant Image stake over this Woodbine Mohawk track, dead-heated for the win in a Reynolds Stake, and earned her way into this Crown event with a third in her elimination. Already the winner of \$529,883.

Trainer Domenico Cecere: I was happy with her. Jiggy Jog and Fashion Schooner are great fillies. We scoped her, and she had a little bit of mucous, so we'll treat her and hope for the best in the final. It's a group of nice fillies. Last year, we won the elimination. Maybe this year we will win the final. You never know.

Venerable (Walner-Jolene Jolene-Muscle Hill)

The pedigree was there – a Walner filly out of Jolene Jolene (named after a Dolly Parton song), who had produced \$500G+ winner Crucial as her first foal – and for the vast part of 2021 Venerable was the best two-year-old trotter, rattling off eight straight wins including defeating “the boys” in the Mohawk Million at this track. Her fortunes have waxed and waned since then – she broke in her Crown elim at two, and her major win this year has been a Hambo Oaks elimination – but at her best the winner of \$1,271,276, last year’s divisional champion, can have her say in the outcome of big races, even from the outside post ten. She certainly has the team behind her – leading active money winning Crown driver David Miller; trainer Nifty Norman, who won this event last year with Bella Bellini; and as a partner in her David McDuffee, who also was owner/breeder of Bella Bellini and sits tenth all-time in Breeders Crown money won as an owner.

Trainer Nifty Norman: She was fair, just OK. She didn’t have a lot of trot; I thought she would have more. But it’s hard from back there, you’re last on the rail and they’re going (1):51 up front. That’s the way it is. We just weren’t good enough

Warrawee Xenia (Walner-Endless Flirt-Andover Hall)

After an undistinguished freshman season and a second in her sophomore bow, Warrawee Xenia won six in a row in the conditioned ranks here for local horsemen Bob McClure and Shawn Steacy, then dropped into the Hambletonian Oaks, where in her elimination she was far back, suffered interference, but still produced a whirlwind finish to announce herself in 1:52.2, her own last quarter in :26.4. But then some troubles set in, and she has won only one of seven since, a victory in the Simcoe. But she certainly still has her top turn of high late foot – she came home in :26.3 last time after being eighth at the three-quarters to be in a photo for second behind Joviality S (as the second choice in the race). For her, it’s a question of positioning and behavior.

Trainer Shawn Steacy: I was super happy with how she raced. She is the best she’s been in two months now, since that start in the Hambletonian elim. Her gait is solid, her attitude is good. I think she is setting up really good for the final.

The biggest adjustment we made equipment wise was adding the trotting hobbles. They’re not on very tight, they’re just there for that light amount of support. Maybe that’s all she needed all along. But she always battles minor little healthy issues; this, that or the other thing along the way. Nothing is ever perfect for her, but this is about as close as she’s been in a long time. So, I’m excited for the final.

When she is mentally strong, and her gait is strong, everybody knows how fast she is. She can close like a freight train. She drew a good post, seven, which is going to help her. I think we have a small chance. I know (Joviality S and Jiggy Jog S) are amazing. But you never know. It’s a horse race. What I liked about (the elimination) is she didn’t gap out anywhere. She left good off the gate, she was tight on a helmet the whole way. That’s going to increase her speed too. It makes a huge difference. I think that’s a big improvement for her. I was happy to see she didn’t give up lengths anywhere.