

Railee Something (International Moni-Railee Priti-Muscle Mass)

Railee Something was second in the first Hambletonian Oaks elimination on July 29 at the Meadowlands. After leading early, she yielded to sit in the pocket to eventual winner Walner Payton. She came to the outside before three-quarters but came up a half a length short of Walner Payton. She was timed in 1:51.4 with a 27.1 final quarter.

Last year Railee Something won the Kentucky Sires Stakes final at Oak Grove and a Bluegrass Series division at The Red Mile. Her victories thus far in 2023 include two Pennsylvania Sire Stakes legs at The Meadows and Harrah's Philadelphia and a Tompkins-Geers split at the Meadowlands. In total she has 11 wins, five seconds and a third from 20 outings, has earned \$342,636 and has a mark of 1:52 taken in her Tompkins-Geers triumph.

Quotes

"I'm not a person who stakes horses a great deal. But I am a person who also, and I don't want to sound braggadocious, but I think I have a pretty good eye. I've been around a while. When I saw (Railee Something) early on, I told people that this one is it.

"She was a beautiful, well-mannered, intelligent filly. If I could put it in one word, it's 'presence.' She simply had presence. She was so balanced. You could call it 'the look.' She had that. She has been a joy and continues to be a joy."

"She has a wonderful stride; she eats up ground. That's her best quality, with determination. She deserves a shot here. She really does. I would be kicking myself if I didn't give her a shot." - **owner/breeder Ronald Mersky prior to the eliminations**

Breeding Notes

Railee Something would be the first Hambletonian Oaks winner for sire International Moni and is from his first crop. International Moni won an elimination and then was tenth in the final after making an interference break in the 2017 Hambletonian.

She would be the first Hambletonian Oaks champion for breeder Ronald Mersky.

Driver Bio

YANNICK GINGRAS

Born: 8/4/1979 – Birthplace: Greenfield Park, Quebec – Resides: Allentown, NJ

Hall of Fame: Class of 2022.

Dan Patch Award Driver of the Year: 2017, 2014.

Hambletonian Oaks wins (6): Sorella, 2020; Manchego, 2018; Ariana G, 2017; All

The Time, 2016; Wild Honey, 2015; Lifetime Pursuit, 2014.

Yannick Gingras holds the record for most driving wins in the Hambletonian Oaks with six.

He won the 2020 Hambletonian Oaks with Sorella for trainer Nancy Takter. His previous five victories came for Takter's father, Jimmy, in consecutive years, 2014 through 2018.

Gingras has finished second in the Hambletonian on three occasions. He was runner-up with Ready For Moni in 2020, Southwind Frank in 2016, and filly Mission Brief in 2015. Southwind Frank's setback came by a nose to Marion Marauder, who went on to win the Trotting Triple Crown (Hambletonian, Yonkers Trot, Kentucky Futurity).

A third-generation horseman from Quebec, Gingras arrived in the U.S. in 2001 and established himself as a top driver at Yonkers Raceway. In 2003, he received the Rising Star Award from the U.S. Harness Writers Association and in 2004 he moved his base to the Meadowlands. He has won multiple Big M driving titles, most recently in 2022.

Gingras, who has won nearly 8,600 races lifetime, ranks fourth in career driving purses with \$220 million. He led the sport in earnings four consecutive years, 2014-2017.

He has sat behind three Dan Patch Award Horse of the Year winners: Tall Dark Stranger in 2020, Hannelore Hanover in 2017, and JK She'salady in 2014.

Among his many other accomplishments, Gingras is known for his association with pacer Foiled Again, who retired in 2018 as the richest horse in harness racing history with \$7.63 million in lifetime earnings.

Trainer Bio

RON BURKE

**Born: 10/16/1969 – Birthplace: Washington, PA – Resides: Canonsburg, PA
Dan Patch Award Trainer of the Year: 2018, 2013, 2011.**

Ron Burke is seeking his first Hambletonian trophy after a string of near misses during a three-year span, 2015-2017.

Burke finished second in 2015 with elimination-winning filly Mission Brief, who was beaten by three-quarters of a length by Pinkman. He was second again in 2016 with Southwind Frank, who was beaten by a nose by eventual Trotting Triple Crown winner Marion Marauder. The following year, What The Hill crossed the finish line first but was disqualified for interference in the stretch.

Mission Brief, Southwind Frank and What The Hill all were Dan Patch Award winners during their careers.

Burke has had four previous Hambletonian Oaks finalists, with a best finish of fourth in 2020 with Crucial.

No trainer in history comes close to Burke's production in terms of wins and purses. He is on his way to leading the sport in both categories for the 15th consecutive year. His nearly 14,000 lifetime victories are more than 6,600 ahead of second-place Virgil Morgan Jr. and his \$306 million in career purses are more than \$175 million ahead of retired Hall of Famer Jimmy Takter.

In May, Burke became the first person to reach \$300 million in North American purses in harness racing history.

Burke took over the family's training stable from his father Mickey, the 2006 Trainer of the Year, in late 2008. In his first full year, he won 762 races and \$14.8 million in purses, totals that he has exceeded every year since. No other trainer has ever won more 663 races or \$13.4 million in purses in a year.

He has topped 1,000 wins in a year four times and \$20 million in purses nine times. His record totals both came in 2014 when he had 1,093 victories and \$28.4 million in purses.

Burke's past stars include 2017 Horse of the Year Hannelore Hanover, 2014 Pacer of the Year Sweet Lou and 2011 Pacer of the Year Foiled Again, who retired following the 2018 season as the richest harness racing horse in history with \$7.63 million in lifetime earnings.

Hannelore Hanover was inducted into the Hall of Fame in July. Sweet Lou was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2021 and Foiled Again was inducted in 2019.

Owner Bio

Ronald Mersky, Paris, Kentucky

Railee Something is Mersky's first Hambletonian Oaks starter. The Kentuckian is probably best known for breeding a pair of millionaire full siblings in pacers Ginger And Fred and Fred And Ginger, who were both by Real Artist and out of the Beach Towel mare Graceful Motion.