Green Manalishi S Continues To Impress

With five wins in seven starts, including a career-best 1:53.4 effort in the $380,000 William Wellwood Memorial on Sept. 15 at Woodbine Mohawk Park, Green Manalishi S is arguably one of the front-runners for Dan Patch Award honors as 2-Year-Old Colt Trotter of the Year.

Green Manalishi S’s fifth win of 2018 came during week one of Grand Circuit action at The Red Mile, scoring a 1:56.1 win over a “good” racetrack in an $85,000 Bluegrass division. Green Manalishi S will go after his sixth victory of the year on Thursday afternoon in Lexington, but while his Bluegrass win came after starting from post 1, he’ll have to overcome the outside post 9 in the $92,200 third and last division of the International Stallion Stake (ISS).

Green Manalishi S’s rivals include Cantab Fashion, who drew the one hole. While Green Manalishi S is riding a three-race win streak into the race, Cantab Fashion has won four straight, including a 1:55.3 victory last time out in a Bluegrass split.

Trainer Marcus Melander isn’t overly concerned about the outside post for Green Manalishi S, who will be driven by Tim Tetrick.

“You can do whatever you want with him in a race,” said Melander. “He’s fast, he’s strong, and he’s nice to drive. He’s just a great horse.”

While there is no yearling price listed next to Green Manalishi S’s name in the program, the son of Muscle Hill out of the Enjoy Lavac mare Naga Morich is actually the highest-priced yearling ever sold in Sweden (thus the S at the end of his name, noting the Swedish breeding), bringing a price of approximately $300,000 U.S. dollars from Anders Strom’s Courant Inc. With $343,257 in earnings, Green Manalishi S is the richest first-year trotter in North America in 2018.

Melander said Strom’s plan was to send Green Manalishi S to Melander’s U.S.-based stable for his 2-year-old campaign.
Melander said Green Manalishi S will wrap up his freshman campaign in the Breeders Crown, and there are plans for the colt next year if he returns in top form.

“Next year he has a lot of races here, but he also has big races in Sweden,” said Melander. “Those are a little bit later in the fall. If we want to go with him to Sweden, he’d race here through the Hambo and then he could go to Sweden where they go for $860,000 in purses in the Swedish Kriterium. He has dual citizenship so he could race wherever.”

If the trotter heads to Sweden, it would mean he would miss the Grand Circuit stand at The Red Mile.

“It’s on the last Sunday in September,” said Melander. “But that’s next year; we’ll take one race at a time. We don’t know how he does next year, but at least we have the options.”

Melander will also send out Demon Onthe Hill in the second $92,200 ISS division (Race 7). The son of Muscle Hill starts from post 3 with Brian Sears in the sulky. A three-time winner on the Pennsylvania Sires Stakes circuit—including a career-best 1:55.4 at Pocono—Demon Onthe Hill finished fifth in a Bluegrass division one week ago at The Red Mile.

“He got stuck behind a tired horse last week and he had a lot of power left in him,” said Melander. “It’s not the toughest division and I think he has a good shot.”

Demon Onthe Hill, a half-brother to the 2010 Hambletonian starter He’s A Demon, was a $125,000 yearling purchase by Jan Spals and Peter Weisberg’s Vicky Trotting Inc. His seven starts have resulted in $133,478 in earnings.—By Gordon Waterstone
Ohio Sires Stakes
$60,000 Veteran Championships

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Gingras To Drive Ariana G
In Yonkers International

Yannick Gingras told Weekend Preview Tuesday morning (Oct. 2) that he will be driving Ariana G in the $1 million International Trot at Yonkers Raceway on Saturday, Oct. 13. Gingras had earlier committed to drive the French entry Up And Quick, but made the change after conferring with Ariana G’s trainer, Jimmy Takter, after the 4-year-old mare won last Friday night’s Dayton Trotting Derby in a track-record 1:52.1.

“It was nice to be asked to drive the French trotter, but I’ve driven Ariana G her whole life,” said Gingras. “My association with the horse definitely makes it more special to be able to drive her. I think she will love Yonkers; she’s very nice gaited so she should have no problem as far as the racetrack goes.”

Ariana G, the Dan Patch and O’Brien divisional champ at both two and three, has five wins in 11 starts this year at four. Gingras had driven Ariana G her first 32 career starts, including a lifetime-best 1:50.2 effort in the $250,000 Gaudette final on July 7 at the Meadowlands. Three starts later Gingras opted off for the first time to instead drive the Ron Burke-trained Hannelore Hanover in the Joie De Vie on Aug. 12 at Tioga Downs. Hannelore Hanover and driver Tim Tetrick finished third in that race, with Ariana G fourth.

Up next was the Maple Leaf Trot, and Gingras again drove Hannelore Hanover. David Miller picked up the drive behind Ariana G, and the mare won her elim—with Hannelore Hanover third—and was third in the final (Hannelore Hanover was fifth).

With Gingras remaining at The Red Mile last Friday night to drive several horses in Bluegrass Stakes action, Brian Sears got the call from Takter to drive Ariana G in the Dayton Trotting Derby. The mare rallied late for the track-record victory, besting runner-up Warrawee Roo by a half-length. The effort led to Yonkers’ race secretary Steve Starr making the phone call the following day to Takter to extend the invitation to the International.

As a result of the invitation, Ariana G will miss the upcoming Allerage at The Red Mile.

Overall, Ariana G has 26 wins in 37 starts, with $2,367,709 in earnings for Marvin Katz and Al Libfeld, who also bred the daughter of Muscle Hill.—By Gordon Waterstone

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STALLION DIRECTORY
Sky Racing Launches North American Wagering

Sky Racing World, the Louisville, Ky.-based distributor of international horse racing content and subsidiary of Australian wagering operator Tabcorp, has launched harness racing from multiple Australian states in North America. From Oct. 7, Sky Racing World’s North American advance depositing wagering partners will offer simulcast wagering on harness racing from Australia every Sunday and Monday night.

Following harness horse Lazarus N’s winning American debut on Aug. 10 at Hoosier Park, United States racing fans’ appetite for Southern Hemisphere harness racing has never been stronger. Sky Racing World will serve increased North American demand by providing simulcast wagering from major trot races run in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, to its more than 70 US ADW partners, including TVG, TwinSpires, Xpressbet, NYRABets, WatchandWager, HP1bet, AmWager, and BetAmerica.

Bet types, including 20-cent trifecta combinations, will remain consistent with those offered on standard Australian racing for the upcoming harness races, which start this Sunday, Oct. 7, at Maryborough Harness Racing Club, in Victoria, with first post at 10:42 p.m. (EDT). The following night’s harness racing starts at 10:39 p.m. (EDT) from Tabcorp Menangle Park, in New South Wales.

The following weekend’s harness racing runs at Victoria’s Yarra Valley from 10:39 p.m. (EDT) on Sunday, Oct. 14, before returning to Menangle from 10:42 p.m. (EDT) the following night.

Australian harness racing in October will climax with races at South Australia’s Globe Derby Park on Sunday, Oct. 21, from 10:12 p.m. (EDT); at Menangle again on Monday, Oct. 22, from 10:47 p.m. (EDT); at Victoria’s Hamilton Harness track on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 10:34 p.m. (EDT); and at Menangle on Monday, Oct. 29, from 10:47 p.m. (EDT).

Past performances for these and subsequent harness races will be available on Sky Racing World’s website, which also features expert picks. The track codes for wagering on all harness races will be either AU1 (codes for Thoroughbred racing will remain AUS, AUB, AUC or AUD).

David Haslett, president and CEO at Sky Racing World, said: “U.S. harness racing has been available in Australia for several years, so we’re excited to extend the two markets’ relationship by bringing the best Australian harness racing to North America, where interest is just as strong.”

“We’re excited to extend the two markets’ relationship by bringing the best Australian harness racing to North America, where interest is just as strong.”

—Sky Racing World president and CEO David Haslett

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Average Price Soars In Lexington With Bullish Buyers

Most would agree that the 2018 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale is showing that the catalog of horses offered is strong, purse money is plentiful if you have the right horses, and the gains of the stock market have put capital on the bottom lines of quite a few.

Through two of five sessions, the sale of 265 yearlings had generated an average price of $100,192, an increase of 8.9 percent. Thus far a total of 110 yearlings have been sold for prices of $100,000 or more; last year the entire sale produced only 102 six-figure yearlings.

The median price—the point where half the yearlings sell for more and half for less—was $85,000.

As was the case last year, a horse sold in the second session topped the opening night stars. Actually, two yearlings sold for higher prices than any of the opening session sale toppers.

On Tuesday night Hip 113, a Muscle Hill filly out of Bella Dolce 2, 1:55; 3, 1:54.2 ($730,384), was purchased by Lennart Agren’s SRF Stable for $400,000. Agren was in Lexington last fall and purchased the sale topper Beautiful Sin for $480,000. This year he watched the sale from his home in Sweden, where it was about 2:30 in the morning when Hip 113, named Bellareina Dolce, walked in the auction ring. Lena Alm, acting as his agent, handled the bidding and signed the sales slip.

Marcus Melander will train Bellareina Dolce for Agren.

Bellareina Dolce was consigned by Peninsula Farm, acting as agent for breeder Dave McDuffee. McDuffee and Mel Hartman also sold Hip 214 for $410,000, which topped the second session and thus far the sale, but McDuffee said he intends to keep part of this yearling. Hip 214, a bay Muscle Hill colt out of 2009 Two-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year Poof She’s Gone, was purchased by trainer Nifty Norman, who trained Poof She’s Gone, a winner of $1.3 million for McDuffee, Hartman and their partners during her racing days.

Burke Racing LLC and its new entity Elite Trotting is the leading buyer at the sale thus far and had a noticeably reduced presence in Session 2. The two groups collectively bought 10 yearlings in Session 1 but just two last night. Through the two sessions Burke/Elite have purchased 12 yearlings for $1,085,000.

Ken Jacobs, well known as the owner of such top performers as Walner and Heston Blue Chip, was closely behind the Burke brigade in the amount of money spent. His five purchases have cost him $1,075,000. On Wednesday night of the sale Jacobs bought four yearlings for prices of $200,000 or more.

The top pacing-bred yearling at the sale appears to have been sold on Tuesday night when John Cancelliere bought the full brother to Captaintreacherous for $360,000. Bred by White Birch Farm and consigned by Preferred Equine Marketing, the colt named Treasure Trove produced spirited bidding between Cancelliere and Dana Parham in the auction theater before the final bid by Cancelliere.

The success of the Captaintreacherous offspring on the track this year, his first crop, has propelled his 2018 yearlings to even greater popularity. Last year in the first two sessions 41 “Captain” yearlings were sold for an average of $82,561; this year the 42 sold in the opening two sessions generated an average of $102,690, a whopping 24.4 percent increase. Somebeachsomewhere is holding his usual strong spot among sires although his average is down slightly, from $117,130 for 23 sold in last year’s first two sessions to $110,063, a 26.6 percent increase. —By Kathy Parker