

Instagram Model (Chapter Seven-Check Out Trixie-Trixton)

Instagram Model followed cover from second-over and then third-over in the first Hambletonian Oaks elimination on July 29 at the Meadowlands and wound up finishing fourth, 2 1/4 lengths behind winner Walner Payton. She was timed in 1:52.1 with a final quarter of 27 seconds flat.

As a freshman, Instagram Model won the final of the Jim Doherty Memorial on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands in a life's-best 1:53 flat. She also won multiple Kindergarten Classic Series divisions at the Meadowlands, a New York Sire Stakes leg at Vernon Downs and a Reynolds split at Tioga. She added another New York Sire Stakes win at Tioga in 2023. Overall she has six wins, two seconds and a third from 14 outings and has earned \$338,286.

Quotes

"I wasn't expecting that really slow third quarter (:28.4) and it kind of messed up the flow a little bit. But Andy (McCarthy) is so patient with her. The goal was to get in the final and she's accomplished every goal so far. We're going to pull all four shoes (in the final) and put a pull-down bridle on. So, some significant changes. It's go time.

"She was pretty unhappy her last trip to Vernon (on June 16). She just wasn't herself the entire day. That's when we decided to stay local for a couple starts and get her happy again. She is definitely back to the old Iggy.

"She's such a tough horse and she loves running horses down. The work ethic she has, I've never seen in another horse. She just loves to work. That's one thing you can teach, you can't train, they either have it or they don't. I've never met a horse with a work ethic like she has.

"I'm speechless (to be in the final). Just to have a horse of this caliber, not many people get that opportunity. To be this early in my career and have that is amazing. I have such an amazing team behind me, everyone that's helped me get here, because it's not about me. It's about your team. It takes a village." - **trainer Annie Stoebe**

Breeding Notes

She would be the first Hambletonian Oaks champion for sire Chapter Seven, who was second in his elimination and fourth in the Hambletonian final in 2011. The dam, the Trixton mare Check Out Trixie, is a half-sister to King Of The North, who was fourth in his elimination and ninth in the Hambletonian final last year. Instagram Model's second dam, the Donato Hanover mare Check Me Out, won her elimination and was third-placed-eighth in the 2012 Hambletonian Oaks final.

Bred by Steve Jones and Ray Schnittker, Instagram Model sold for \$350,000 as HIP 72 in the 2021 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale. She would be the first Hambletonian Oaks champion for either Jones or Schnittker as a breeder.

Driver Bio

ANDREW McCARTHY

**Born: 3/31/1986 – Birthplace: Bathurst, Australia – Resides: Swedesboro, NJ
Hambletonian wins (1): Ramona Hill, 2020.**

Andy McCarthy won the 2020 Hambletonian with filly Ramona Hill, trained by Tony Alagna. It was McCarthy's second appearance in a Hambletonian final.

Ramona Hill became the fourth filly trotter to win the Hambletonian since it moved to the Meadowlands in 1981 and the 15th overall to capture the sport's premier event for 3-year-old trotters. She received the 2020 Dan Patch Award for best 3-year-old filly trotter.

Last year, McCarthy drove Looks Like Moni in the Hambletonian final. He started from post 10 and finished seventh.

A native of Australia, McCarthy has raced regularly in North America since 2007. He has won more than 3,300 races and \$71 million in purses since arriving. In 2021, McCarthy set career highs with 315 victories and \$8.72 million in earnings. He ranked No. 5 among all drivers in North America in purses.

McCarthy is a third-generation horseman. His brothers Todd, who moved to the U.S. in 2020, and Luke, who raced in the U.S. in 2009, are also successful drivers and his father John is a highly regarded trainer.

Todd McCarthy drove 2022 Hambletonian winner Cool Papa Bell.

The McCarthy family was selected by the Bathurst Harness Racing Club as its 2016 Gold Crown honoree.

Trainer Bio

ANNIE STOEBE

Born: 9/27/1987 – Birthplace: Great Falls, MT – Resides: New Egypt, NJ

Annie Stoebe is making her Hambletonian Oaks debut.

Stoebe got started in harness racing by working for trainer Brett Bittle, who won the 2002

Hambletonian Oaks with Windylane Hanover. She started her own small stable in 2021.

Her top win last year came with Instagram Model in the Jim Doherty Memorial on Hambletonian Day at the Meadowlands.

Stoebe grew up on a farm in Montana and was active as a barrel racer. She got a rodeo scholarship to a college in Texas. After moving to New Jersey nine years ago, she was giving riding lessons when she heard about an opportunity to get into racing and decided to give it a try.

She also has competed as an amateur driver, winning eight times.

Owner Bio

R. Lynn Curry, West Chester, Pennsylvania

Mr. Curry has been a fan of harness racing going back to his teenage years and while in high school was a groom at The Meadows. He got into ownership in 2020 and currently has a stable of six trotting fillies or mares. Instagram Model would be his first Hambletonian Oaks champion.