

1976

DuQuoin State Fair • September 4, 1976 • Purse \$263,524

Steve Lobell: Second Straight 4-Heat Clash

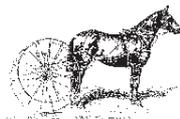
In the long and storied history of the Hambletonian, only six races had taken four heats to declare a winner. In 1975, Bonefish proved toughest of all and in 1976, Steve Lobell and Bill Haughton responded to the call of greatness with a record-breaking victory.

Haughton, who won his first Hambletonian with Christopher T. in 1974, returned to Victory Lane for the second time in three years with Steve Lobell, a son of Haughton pupil Speedy Count.

The first heat of what would be the sixth four-heater in history was taken by

the cleverly named Zoot Suit, a son of Nevele Pride—Glad Rags, who trotted in 1:58² for Vernon Dancer. Steve Lobell and Haughton returned in the second, equalling Super Bowl's three-year-old record of 1:56². Then the filly queen, Armbro Regina, knocked the colts over with a resounding 1:56³ photo decision of the narrowest kind with Zoot Suit and Quick Pay right there.

The final was cut out by Armbro Regina, but Steve Lobell prevailed in the final sixteenth for Haughton and his owners.



- First heat winner Zoot Suit was a son of 1965 winner Nevele Pride and the multiple stakes winning pacing mare Glad Rags (who was second to Meadow Skipper in his last career start). Despite his mixed gait pedigree (a trotting sire on a pacing dam) Zoot Suit became one of the foremost trotting stallions in Sweden.
- Steve Lobell's 1:56.2 second heat was a world record for a 3-year-old; the first sub-1:57 3-year-old trotting mile.
- Armbro Regina's third heat in 1:56.3 was a world record for a 3-year-old filly.
- Winner Steve Lobell collapsed after an exhausting fourth heat race-off. This, along with the four heats of the 1975 race, precipitated a change in the conditions to limit the greatest number of heats to three (beginning with the 1981 race).
- Steve Lobell also won the Yonkers Trot, but was beaten in the Kentucky Futurity by less than half a length in each of three heats. He lost by a nose to Soothsayer in the first heat and by a nose and a neck to the eventual winner Quick Pay, ironically driven by Haughton's son Peter.
- Steve Lobell was voted Trotter of the Year.

STEVE LOBELL, b c, by Speedy Count—Sophia Hanover, by Star's Pride
 Driver: Bill Haughton
 Trainer: Bill Haughton
 Owner: Mill Island Stable, Brooklyn, NY
 Breeder: Bonnie Keek Farm, (Don Millar), Ohio
 Groom: Markku Vartianen
 Sale History: Sophia Hanover sold in foal at the Tattersalls Mixed Sale for \$14,000 to Peter Rhulen and Lana Lobell Farms. Steve Lobell was sold as a yearling in the Harness Breeders Sale at Liberty Bell Park, Philadelphia, PA for \$10,000. . . 14 1 4 1

ZOOT SUIT, Nevele Pride—Glad Rags, by Greentree Adios
 Driver: Vernon Dancer
 Owner: Clearview Stable . . . 1 6 2 2

ARMBRO REGINA, Speedy Scot—Armbro Flight, by Star's Pride
 Driver: Joe O'Brien
 Owner: Armstrong Bros . . . 17 2 1 3

DARING PRIDE, Nevele Pride—Daring Speed, by Speedster
 Driver: Howard Beissinger
 Owner: Louis and Mildred Resnick . . . 2 1 10 ro

QUICK PAY, Star's Pride—Spry Hanover, by Hoot Mon
 Driver: Peter Haughton
 Owner: Soldner, Miller, Hempt, Haughton . . . 4 3 3 ro

Also competed: Pershing 3-4-5, Lola's Express 7-5-8, Aladdin Hill 5-14-6, Peridot Pride 6-17-6, Soothsayer 10-13-7, Tropical Storm 8-10-13, Vintage Year 13-8-15, Closed Circuit 12-9-12, Sharp Steel 9-16-11, Seafoot 11-12-14, White Knight 15-7-dr, Chompers 16-15-dr, Nevile Thunder 18-dnf-dr

TIME BY QUARTERS:			
1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
:28 ³	:58 ¹	1:28 ³	1:58 ¹
:28	:56 ⁴	1:27	1:56 ²
:27 ³	:57	1:26 ⁴	1:56 ³
:30 ³	1:02 ⁴	1:34 ⁴	2:02 ³

