

## In Illinois

# Du Quoin Grand Circuit

*Elmsford Wins \$65,686 Hambletonian Filly Stake; Two-Year-Old Trotters Brisco Hanover In 1:57, Speedy Somolli In 1:57.2*

By Milo Folley

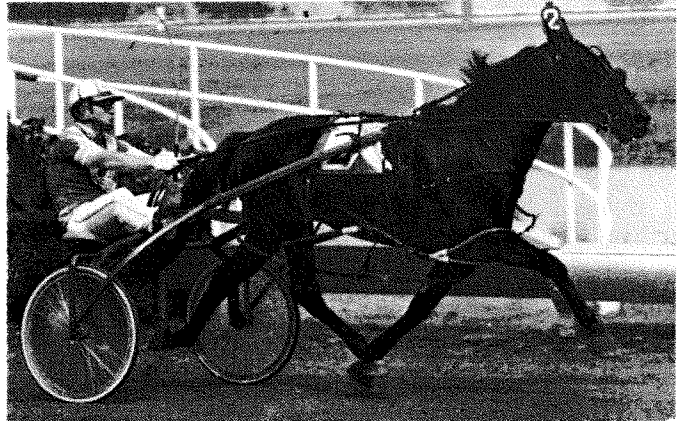
**D**U QUOIN, Ill.—Grand Circuit racing was staged from Thursday through Sunday, with Wednesday and Labor Day devoted to Illinois competition. Weather was perfect, the track excellent, and the horses ready for their greatest performances ever.

Sunday's Hambletonian Filly Stake, with a record \$65,686 purse, was every bit as dramatic and exciting as the colts' big race the day before. Nine fillies were entered, led by the Simpson entry of 1:58.2 season's leaders Superlou and Nobie Hanover, and the Canadian-owned filly Elmsford, pretty much a stranger to the big mile tracks.

The first heat saw almost half the field barreling into the first turn and wanting the lead, fillies flying four wide to the :28.4 quarter. Superlou got the top there, was covered by Spryella Hanover, and the pace slackened toward the half. Elmsford, meanwhile, had found the rail early from her five-hole, but Henri Filion sensed the slower pace and took the Lindy's Pride lass out once in the backstretch. Past the half in :58.4, John Simpson took Superlou out as Elmsford trotted up behind her, and it was time for Nobie Hanover and Billy Herman to move, too, from their three-spot on the wood.

A great stretch battle followed the 1:28.3 timing as Elmsford passed Superlou and then held off Nobie Hanover for a 1:57.3 season's record heat win.

The second heat resulted in a disqualification that took the edge off another great mile by Elmsford, but it set the stage for an even gamer and more dramatic final mile. The first three finishers left quickly in the second heat, Elmsford getting covered by Nobie Hanover past the 30-second quarter. Herman sharpened the pace as Nobie hit the half in :59.1. Simpson wanted to come out with Superlou, then



Skipper's Subject came wide around the last turn twice to take the Hayes Memorial 2-year-old colt pace in straight heat triumphs of 1:57.1-1:57.3. Archie McNeil drove the Meadow Skipper colt to his record for Gordon G. Walters.

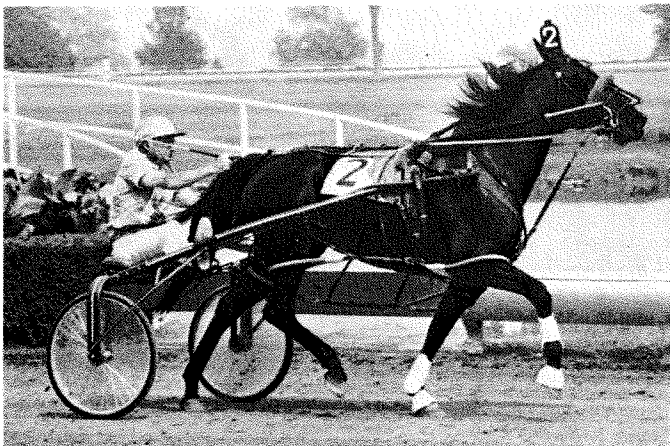
changed his mind as the field passed the third quarter in 1:29.3.

That's when it all broke loose. Elmsford charged out of second with Superlou right behind, ready to go three-wide in what was to become a :28.1 final quarter. As Elmsford passed Nobie Hanover, however, she began to drift out with each of Filion's urgings. Half a lane at a time the filly bore out, carrying Superlou wider and wider. Elmsford passed the wire a length and a quarter the best in 1:57.4, but the judges said No — after rolling the tapes they placed Elmsford second, giving the heat to Superlou and forcing a third-heat race-off.

That race-off followed the classic style, the rail horse (Superlou) jogging into the stretch off a 1:47.2 third quarter. The dash home was electrifying, Elmsford gaining ever so slowly on the Super Bowl filly, Filion urged her for one final time but 50 feet from the wire, and that's where Elmsford won it with a game and dazzling finish.

Elmsford was bred by Lindy's Farm, a product of Triple Crown winner Lindy's Pride and the Damley mare Sabelo 3, T2:01.1. She cost \$4,500 at Old Glory as a yearling and has now earned \$174,496, with \$117,732 coming this season. She was brought to the Hambletonian by co-owner, trainer and driver Henri Filion, who has spent an enormous amount of time getting his filly balanced and schooled for this event.

Only once before had Elmsford even been two heats, and that was when she took her 2-year-old mark of 2:03.2 at Lexington. This was her first trip to Du Quoin, although her sire took his 1:57.3 mark in the 1969 Hambletonian. Her dam, Sabelo, was here, too, ten years earlier. She had finished last in the Breeders Filly Stakes at two to one Carlene Hanover, the third dam of one of Elmsford's competitors this day, Noble Carlene.



Horseman photos

Impatiens bested Whatanut in straight heats to win Hayes Memorial 3-year-old filly pace. Joe O'Brien catch-drove the Steady Star filly to a 1:58.1 win before a 1:57.2 life mark for owners Hobby Horse Farm, T. Sheehan, M. Abraham.