

Mission Brief Earns Hambletonian Try With Big Win in Zweig

By Bill Finley

VERNON, NY - Looking every bit like the Mission Brief of 2014, the 3-year-old filly scored her biggest win of the year in yesterday's Zweig Memorial for fillies at Vernon Downs. Buoyed by the performance, trainer Ron Burke afterward declared that Mission Brief will start in the Hambletonian rather than the Hambletonian Oaks.



Mission Brief made it to the winner's circle yesterday at Vernon. Will she do the same in the Hambletonian?

"We're going (to the Hambletonian)," said Burke. "The plan has always been to go as long as she was good and today at Vernon she was as good as she has ever been. She had to be super and she was."

In the Hambletonian, she will face, among others, Pinkman, the winner of yesterday's Zweig for males for trainer Jimmy Takter. Gingras is the regular driver of both Mission Brief and Pinkman and will have to choose between the two.

The decision to gin the Hambo could not have been an easy

one for Burke, who, moments after the race said he was "really torn." Prior to the Zweig he seemed to be leaning toward racing his filly in the Hambletonian Oaks because she was not showing the razor sharp form she displayed at two. Burke had said that a back problem was keeping Mission Brief from racing at her very best.

But that didn't seem to be an issue yesterday as she won by two lengths over Wild Honey in 1:51.4 in a dominant performance that was reminiscent of some of her scintillating 2014 races.

"She's back," Gingras said. "Every other week she would throw a step here or there throughout the miles. Today, she didn't do any of that. She was really solid."

When asked if Mission Brief was back at her very best, Gingras replied: "I would say so. She didn't go as fast as she has, but she didn't have to. It's her first good performance this year when it comes to being as solid as can be. Hopefully she can build on that."

Gingras said the work that the Burke crew has been doing on the filly's back has paid off.

"She's sounder now," he said. "They figured out about three weeks ago that they needed to work on her back and everything else has come from that. The main problem was her back. They've done different things with her, including working with chiropractors. They've been working hard on her and it is definitely working."

Burke said that in the end he couldn't resist the chance to make some history. The last filly to win the Hambletonian was Continentalvictory in 1996.

"If we win this race, it will change our lives and it makes her career," he said. "I know the Oaks is \$500,000 and she would be odds-on to win that race, but it wouldn't change our lives. Winning The Hambletonian changes lives."

"It will be great for the sport. To have a filly like this trying to beat all of Takter's horses. This will be a great story. I think we have the filly to do it. If I am wrong, I'm wrong and I have been wrong and criticized before, but I really think she can do it."

Gingras did not make a commitment to either horse yesterday before boarding a plane for Sweden, where he will drive Maven Tuesday at Jägersås. It is possible that Gingras could stick with both horse through the heats and not make a decision until the final. As for Takter, he didn't seem concerned about who would drive Pinkman.

"I don't know what Yannick will do," he said. "It is his call. Pinkman is not a difficult horse to drive. There are a lot of good drivers out there who will want to drive Pinkman if Yannick doesn't."

Takter, who drove the winner of the Hambletonian last year, said he is not a candidate to drive Pinkman.

As far as Pinkman goes, his showing in the Zweig for males was a case of more of the same. The gelding by Explosive Matter never takes anyone's breath away or shatters any stop watches. He just wins. Yesterday's win was his sixth this year from seven tries and he is 12 for 15 lifetime.

There was, however, a new wrinkle to this race. Pinkman normally gets quickly to the front and dares anyone to catch him. Yesterday, once he got to the lead he yielded and allowed stablemate Canepa Hanover to go to the front. Canepa Hanover was driven by Takter, who admitted the plan was to force Pinkman to get a two-hole trip. A little versatility might come in handy down the road.

"I wanted to get Pinkman to race behind Canepa, to race from the hole," he said.

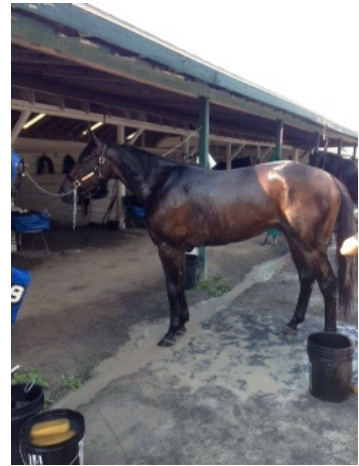
Canepa Hanover still led at the top of the stretch, but Pinkman had no problem scooting past him on the inside to win by three-quarters of a length in 1:52. Canepa Hanover was second and Workout Wonder finished third.

"What makes this horse special is his consistency," Takter said. "It's not like you ever say, 'wow, look at this horse.' But, hey, it will take a hell of a horse to beat him."

Takter's Uncle Lasse was fifth and he also finished sixth

with Whom Shall I Fear. Takter said her will enter five horses in the Hambletonian–Pinkman, Canepa Hanover, Uncle Lasse, The Bank and French Laundry.

Takter is in a similar position to last year when he had strength and numbers, starting the three top horses in the race. He won it with Trixton. The only difference this year is that there wasn't a challenger like Mission Brief in last year's field.



Getting a well-deserved refreshing bath on a hot day, Pinkman relaxes after his Zweig win

"I feel very good about the Hambletonian," he said. "I have five solid horses going into the race. I think we'll have a very good chance."

Waiting in the wait at the Hambletonian will be the Ake Svanstedt trained Centurion ATM, who put in a remarkable effort in the Stanley Dancer to finish second. But all eyes come Aug. 8 at the Meadowlands will be on Team

Takter and Mission Brief in what could be one of the most interesting showdowns in the race's history.

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BALMORALREPORT

2, BmIP, \$36,500, T, 2 Year Old Colt & Gelding Stake Final, 30.4, 1:01.2, 1:30.4, 1:59.3, FT

1-Wrightwood (c, 2, Powerful Emotion--Racy Roz, by Conway Hall), \$35,000 2014 WALKER O-Quaid Racing LLC. B-Fox Valley Standardbreds. T-Nelson Willis. D-Casey Leonard, \$18,250, Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0, \$24,250

2-Mr Strata (g, 2, Pizzazzed--Fox Valley Strata, by Vaporize) O-Cynthia Kay Willis. B-Cynthia Kay Willis. T-Nelson Willis. D-Michael Oosting, \$9,125

3-Jd Cheese (g, 2, Polar Winner--I Still Owe, by Conway Hall), \$7,500 2014 ILL-CL O-La Bella Vita Stables & Christine E Roberts. B-Cynthia J Demarlie. T-Ronnie Roberts. D-John De Long, \$4,380

Calls: 6H, HD, 1T, 1T, 1 - Finish Order: Todger, Pastor Clint, Homershobbyhorse

To watch the race replay click [here](#)

4, BmIP, \$40,000, T, 2 Year Old Filly Stake Final (Illinois Conceived & Foaled), 29.4, 1:01.2, 1:32.0, 2:00.4, FT

1-Shez A Devil Woman (f, 2, Powerful Emotion--Wealthy Women, by Garland Lobell), \$3,300 2014 WALKER O-Anthony F Munoz & Christopher M Mroz & Marion I Ratliff. B-Fox Valley Standardbreds. T-Joel Smith. D-Dale Hiteman, \$20,000, Lifetime Record: 4-1-3-0, \$24,500

IT COULD BE AN EXPLOSIVE HAMBLETONIAN!



Explosive Matter



Pinkman

g, Explosive Matter-Margie Seelster-Angus Hall
2, 1:53.2M; 3, 1:51.3F (\$1,187,139)

By Hanover stallion EXPLOSIVE MATTER, PINKMAN won yesterday's \$370,000 Zweig Memorial at Vernon and could be the favorite in the Hambletonian. Congratulations to owners Christina Takter, John and Jim Fielding and Joyce McClelland.

Look for future stars
by Explosive Matter
and other Hanover stallions
at this fall's yearling sales.

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2-Awfully Emotional (f, 2, Powerful Emotion--Bernice G Hanover, by Donato Hanover) O-Mike S Brink. B-Mike S Brink. T-Mike Brink. D-Michael Oosting, \$10,000

3-Rocknprincessabbie (f, 2, Powerful Emotion--Queen Jamie, by Can't Be Jimmie) O-Danny S Graham. B-Danny S Graham. T-Nelson Willis. D-Todd Warren, \$4,800
Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, 1Q, H - Finish Order: Fox Valley Honey, Praise Singer, Lilbitoftrixie, Simsha, More Than Likely, Vengeful, Recovery Mode

To watch the race replay click [here](#)

6, BmIP, \$39,000, T, 3 Year Old Filly Stake Final (Illinois Conceived & Foaled), 29.3, 58.3, 1:28.0, 1:56.4, FT

1-Persuasive Look (f, 3, Powerful Emotion--Black N Bluegenes, by Muscles Yankee) O-Homer J Hochstetler & Robert J Buddig. B-Homer J Hochstetler & Robert J Buddig. T-Homer Hochstetler. D-Casey Leonard, \$19,500, Lifetime Record: 23-8-6-5, \$136,492

2-Bi Polar Rose (f, 3, Polar Winner--I Still Owe, by Conway Hall) O-Cynthia J Demarlie & Jason W Van Winkle. B-Cynthia J Demarlie. T-Ronnie Roberts. D-Travis Seekman, \$9,750

3-Fox Valley Yoko (f, 3, Pizzazzed--Yankee Victory Om, by Valley Victory), \$11,000 2013 WALKER O-Dr Patrick Graham. B-Fox Valley Standardbreds. T-Curt Grummel. D-Kyle Wilfong, \$4,680

Calls: HD, 1H, 1Q, H, HD - Finish Order: Shez So Sassy, Bands Muse, Fox Valley Harrah, Lc'snmotion

To watch the race replay click [here](#)

HARRAH'S PHILADELPHIA REPORT

5, PhI, \$30,000, P, Open, 26.3, 55.2, 1:22.1, 1:50.1, FT

1-Great Vintage (h, 7, American Ideal--Art's Vintage, by Artsplace), \$65,000 2009 LEX-SEL O-Christina Takter & John D Fielding, CA & Goran N Anderberg, SD & Goran C Falk. B-Brittany Farms & Brian P Monieson Revtrust. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Scott Zeron, \$15,000, Lifetime Record: 101-31-18-10, \$860,548

Another BRITTANY FARMS Bred Winner!

2-Mcwicked (h, 4, McArdle--Western Sahara, by Western Ideal), \$35,000 2012 SHS-HBG O-S S G Stables. B-Andray Farm. T-Casie Coleman. D-David Miller, \$7,500

3-Dream Out Loud N (g, 8, Bettor's Delight--Nothin Butadreamer, by In The Pocket) O-Muscara Racing Stable LLC. B-B D West, NZ. T-Darran Cassar. D-Andy Miller, \$3,600

Calls: T, 1H, 1H, 2, 2T - Finish Order: Ideal Matters, Caution Signs, El Bloombito, Bandalito, Allstar Legend

To watch the race replay click [here](#)

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8, PhI, \$24,000, T, Winners Over \$25,000 Lifetime, 27.1, 56.1, 1:25.0, 1:54.3, FT

1-Sevruga (g, 7, SJ's Caviar--Stunning Lindsey, by Malabar Man), \$18,000 2009 SHS-HBG O-Joe P Racing LLC. B-White Birch Farm. T-Julie Miller. D-Andy Miller, \$12,000, Lifetime Record: 99-35-19-11, \$1,131,566



ANOTHER WINNER FROM WHITE BIRCH FARM,
2013 BREEDER OF THE YEAR



To watch the race replay click [here](#)

12, PhI, \$22,000, P, NW \$20,000 in Last 5 Starts AE: NW 9 Ext. PM Races or \$90,000 Lifetime, 27.1, 56.3, 1:24.3, 1:52.4, FT

1-Nova Artist (h, 8, Real Artist--Avon Lady, by Elegant Osborne), \$35,000 2008 SHS-HBG O-Howard Edward & Kathleen Davis. B-Arlene L & Jules J Siegel. T-Martin Davis. D-Allan Davis, \$11,000, Lifetime Record: 180-42-25-27, \$958,867

To watch the race replay click [here](#)

OCEAN DOWNS REPORT

1, OD, \$42,000, T, EARLY NON-WAGERING - POST TIME 6:15 MARYLAND SIRE STAKES FINAL 2 YEAR OLD FILLIES, M, 34.0, 1:06.4, 1:39.4, 2:11.2, FT

1-Star Rose (f, 2, You Betcha--Ragland Road, by Garland Lobell) O-Sylvanus B King Jr. B-Meadow Creek Stables LLC. T-Syl King Jr. D-Ray Robinson Jr, \$27,300, Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$30,030

2-Rock The Game (f, 2, Cam's Rocket--Game Speed, by Program Speed) O-Breakaway Racing. B-Nicholas I Callahan. T-Shaun Callahan. D-Corey Callahan, \$14,700
Calls: 20, DIS, DIS, DIS, DIS
Race replay unavailable

2, OD, \$42,000, T, EARLY NON-WAGERING - POST TIME 6:25 MARYLAND SIRE STAKES FINAL 2 YEAR OLD COLTS & GELDINGS, 33.1, 1:05.3, 1:38.1, 2:10.2, FT

1-Sweeten Me Up (c, 2, Cr Renegade--Miadora, by Striking Sahbra) O-Neal Damron. B-Neal Damron. T-Neal Damron. D-Neal Damron, \$27,300, Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$28,770

2-Speed It (c, 2, Cam's Rocket--Hyercast, by Veeba Rova) O-Richard L Hans. B-Richard L Hans. T-Richard Hans. D-Corey Callahan, \$14,700
Calls: 20, DIS, DIS, DIS, 34H
Race replay unavailable

3, OD, \$42,000, P, EARLY NON-WAGERING - POST TIME 6:35 MARYLAND SIRE STAKES FINAL 2 YEAR OLD COLTS & GELDINGS, 30.1, 1:02.2, 1:33.3, 2:03.1, FT

1-What I Say Goes (c, 2, Cam's Rocket--Look Sunder, by Andover Hall) O-Richard L Hans. B-Richard L Hans. T-Richard Hans. D-Jonathan Roberts, \$23,100, Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$26,612

2-Happy Hayward (g, 2, Allie's Western--Flannel Yankee, by The Panderosa) O-Frank E Chick. B-Thomas W & Linda J Winebrener. T-Cory Mumford. D-Cory Mumford, \$12,600

3-Toms Tae Kwon Do (c, 2, Cam's Rocket--Radiant Breeze, by Falcon Seelster) O-Thomas B Cooke. B-Thomas B Cooke. T-Roger Hans. D-Jim Morand, \$6,300 Calls: 4, 5, 3, 5, 6
Race replay unavailable

4, OD, \$42,000, P, EARLY NON-WAGERING - POST TIME 6:50 MARYLAND SIRE STAKES FINAL 2 YEAR OLD FILLIES, 30.2, 1:01.2, 1:31.3, 2:02.0, FT

1-Fastestgirlaround (f, 2, Dontloseyourdayjob--Sand Calady, by On The Attack) O-Brian L Callahan & Gloria A Kinnamon. B-Gloria A Kinnamon. T-Brian Callahan. D-Frank Milby, \$23,100, Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$26,158

2-Mo Power (f, 2, Capitol Power--Mystery Shadow, by Shadow Light) O-Dale Massey. B-Dale Massey. T-William Long. D-William Long, \$12,600

3-Little Bit Wild (f, 2, Cam's Rocket--Shaaga, by David's Pass) O-Mark S Gray. B-Mark S Gray. T-Mark Gray. D-Mark Gray, \$6,300 - Calls: 2H, 2H, 3, 1, T
Race replay unavailable

VERNON DOWNSREPORT

3, VD, \$76,000, T, "DR. HARRY M. ZWEIG MEMORIAL" Consolation - 3 Year Olds (Declaration Fee - \$1,010), 27.2, 56.4, 1:25.3, 1:53.2, FT

1-Muscle Diamond (c, 3, Muscle Hill--Windylane Hanover, by Lindy Lane), \$40,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Charles E Keller III & Charles E Keller IV & E Daniel & Brett Douglas Bittle. B-Odds On Nourrir. T-Brett Bittle. D-John Campbell, \$38,000, Lifetime Record: 12-3-7-1, \$344,994

2-Total Darkness (c, 3, Muscles Yankee--Leila, by Andover Hall), \$7,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Menhammar Stuteri Ab, SD. B-Menhammar Stuteri Ab, SD. T-Jonas Czernyson. D-Yannick Gingras, \$19,000

3-Fashion Creditor (g, 3, Credit Winner--Bon Voyage, by Dream Vacation) O-Joseph E Smith. B-Standardbred Equities LLC. T-Tom Fanning. D-Brian Sears, \$9,120 Calls: 1H, 1H, 1Q, 3, 3Q - Finish Order: Tidquist, Dapper Don, Uncle Hanover, Iron
To watch the race replay click [here](#)

6, VD, \$185,000, T, "DR. HARRY M. ZWEIG MEMORIAL" Main Event - 3 Year Old Fillies (Declaration Fee - \$2,010), 27.0, 56.1, 1:23.4, 1:51.4, FT

1-Mission Brief (f, 3, Muscle Hill--Southwind Serena, by Varenne), \$150,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Burke Racing Stable LLC & Our Horse Cents Stables & J&T Silva Stables, LLC & Weaver Bruscemi LLC. B-Steve H Stewart & Black Creek Farm & Andrea Lea Racingstables Inc, CA. T-Ron Burke. D-Yannick Gingras, \$92,500, Lifetime Record: 17-12-1-0, \$791,417

A LEXINGTON SUCCESS STORY.
THIS STAKES WINNER WAS SOLD AT THE LEXINGTON YEARLING SALE.

2-Wild Honey (f, 3, Cantab Hall--U Wanna Lindy, by S J's Photo), \$35,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Christina Takter & John D Fielding, CA & Herb A Liverman & Jim H Fielding, CA. B-Lindy Racing Stable. T-Jimmy Takter. D-John Campbell, \$46,250

3-Magic Marker (f, 3, Andover Hall--Susie's Magic, by Dream Vacation), \$110,000 2013 SHS-HBG O-Melvin Hartman, CA & Herb A Liverman & David H Mc Duffee & Little E LLC. B-L&L Devisser LLC & William L Jones. T-R. Nifty Norman. D-Brian Sears, \$22,200
Calls: 3, H, 2, 1H, 2 - Finish Order: Gatka Hanover, Sweet Thing, Concentration, She Glides, I'm So Fancy, Lock Down Lindy

To watch the race replay click [here](#)

9, VD, \$370,000, T, "DR. HARRY M. ZWEIG MEMORIAL" Main Event - 3 Year Olds (Declaration Fee - \$4,010), 27.3, 56.0, 1:23.4, 1:52.0, FT

1-Pinkman (g, 3, Explosive Matter--Margie Seelster, by Angus Hall), \$77,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-Christina Takter & John And Jim Fielding, CA & Joyce A Mc Clelland & Herb A Liverman. B-O Narutac Equine Nursery. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Yannick Gingras, \$185,000, Lifetime Record: 15-12-2-0, \$1,187,925

A LEXINGTON SUCCESS STORY.
THIS STAKES WINNER WAS SOLD AT THE LEXINGTON YEARLING SALE.

2-Canepa Hanover (c, 3, Muscle Hill--Cressida Hanover, by Mr Lavec), \$300,000 2013 SHS-HBG O-Brittany Farms & Mkatz Alibfeld Sgoldband, CA & Brixton Medical Inc & Christina Takter. B-Brittany Farms. T-Jimmy Takter. D-Jimmy Takter, \$92,500

3-Workout Wonder (c, 3, Conway Hall--Dear Abs, by Muscles Yankee), \$70,000 2013 LEX-SEL O-All Laid Out Stable Inc. B-Kentuckiana Farms. T-Ake Svanstedt. D-Daniel Dube, \$44,400

Calls: 1H, 1H, 1H, H, T - Finish Order: Wings Of Royalty, Uncle Lasse, Whom Shall I Fear, Habitat, Royal Deceptor, Boots N Chains

To watch the race replay click [here](#)

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