

BLONDE MAGIC (Muscle Massive – Ally Oop – Kadabra)



Owner: June Durand

Trainer: Thomas Durand

Driver: Thomas Durand

Purchase: \$22,000 Lexington Selected Yearling Sale

Making his debut in the Hambletonian Oaks, trainer-driver Thomas Durand finished second in the 2011 Hambletonian with Whiskey Tax (to Broad Bahn). **Blonde Magic**'s half brother Seven And Seven (Chapter Seven – *Ally Oop*) competed in the 2017 Hambletonian, finishing seventh in the elimination and not advancing to the final. Randy Waples piloted Whiskey Tax and Dave Miller drove Seven And Seven but Durand stays up for the Oaks drive.

“I don’t drive all my horses,” Durand said after the elimination. “I usually drive them, get them ready, and then turn them over. But since [she] is a hundred percent my wife’s horse, and her birthday was two days ago, she said the greatest birthday present you could give me would be to drive my horse. I thought, I could get off that easy. I don’t have to go to the jewelry store.”

Durand also raised, trained and raced **Blonde Magic**'s dam, Ally Oop.

“We had her mother and her grandmother. She is the second foal out of a nice Kadabra filly that we raced in the Ontario Sire Stakes. She wasn’t a world beater, maybe like a (1):55 trotter, but she was very honest and very likable. She had a great personality. She throws that into her foals.”

Winless at two, **Blonde Magic** has three wins to her credit from six starts this season and 11 starts in total, collecting \$51,798 in earnings. She tried Grand Circuit competition her freshman year, finishing second in a \$69,552 Champlain division with Sylvain Filion driving. She then broke in her Peaceful Way elimination but still made the \$307,500 final where she broke again, finishing 10th.

“It was just kind of pushing her past her limit and her getting tired,” Durand said of her breaks at two. “There was nothing really wrong with her. She’s kind of grown into herself. She was a little underdeveloped and wasn’t ready to do it. That’s why she didn’t have many starts.”

She competed mainly in conditioned races at Woodbine Mohawk Park, breaking her maiden by 10-and-a-half lengths and then winning her next two starts, before entering the Hambletonian Oaks eliminations. She finished fourth in her elim (to **Phaetosive**).

“You have to test the water somewhere,” Durand said on **Blond Magic**’s class shift. “It’s like maybe two steps up. Maybe three steps up, I don’t know.

“I don’t think she’ll do anything bad,” Durand also said. “We’ll just have to see how she fits with a world champion in the race. That’s going to be tough enough. I look down the page and I see a lot of ones and twos on those horses, so they know how to win.”

Durand has won nearly 240 races as a trainer and earned more than \$7 million. He also trained and drove two-time O’Brien Award winner Casual Breeze (2000, 2001).