



BILL'S MAN

Bay, C, 3 by Credit Winner – Silver Springs by Yankee Glide

OWNER: Wiliam Wiswell, Elkhorn, WI; M&L of Delaware LLC, Wilmington, DE
BREEDER: Jorgen Jahre Jr., Norway
SALE INFO: \$75,000 yearling at Lexington Select Sale – sold as Credit Volo
TRAINER: John Butenschoen
DRIVER: Corey Callahan

YEAR	STARTS	1ST	2ND	3RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2017	9	2	4	2	\$115,986	1:53 VD
2016	12	2	3	2	\$70,441	1:52.3 Lex
LIFETIME	21	4	6	4	\$186,427	2,1:52.3 Lex

JOHN BUTENSCHOEN (Wind Gap, PA)

John Butenschoen, 54, has started one horse in the Hambletonian, Punxsutawney in 2013. The colt finished fifth in his elimination and failed to advance to the final, which was won by Royalty For Life.

Last year Butenschoen set career highs with 85 wins and \$2.34 million in purses. Butenschoen's successes included Pennsylvania Sire Stakes champions Fine Tuned Lady (2-year-old female trotter division) and Giveitgasandgo (2-year-old male trotter division). He also trained New York Sire Stakes champion pacer Funknwaffles.

Butenschoen was born in Marengo, Illinois, worked as a groom for the legendary Hall of Famer Delvin Miller out of high school. He met his wife, Jackie Kiger Butenschoen, while working for Miller. Her father was also a trainer and for a time was the farrier at Miller's Meadow Lands Farm. She works alongside him in the stable, as does their son, Tyler.

He later spent a number of years based in the Midwest before moving to Pennsylvania. His stable has won more than 1,500 races and \$23 million in purses.

He enjoyed his first million-dollar season as a trainer in 2001, when the trotter Plesac (named in honor of then-major league pitcher Dan Plesac), was the star of his barn. Plesac raced from 1999 to 2003, earning \$2.5 million in his career.

"We were a little disappointed he (Bill's Man) finished third (in the Reynolds)," said Butenschoen. "He was favored in that race. But he was parked the whole mile and finished third and seems to have come out of the race fine. He's shown he's good enough to go with him. He's had a good year.

"Maybe we've been a little too cautious with him as far as how aggressive we've been getting with him in races. Last year he made some very untimely miscues and it didn't seem to matter if we had hobbles on him or not. This year he's just a bigger, stronger version of himself. He's always had plenty of trot. I think if we can work out a trip we should be OK.

"The biggest disappointment is when he ran trying to catch a trip behind Ariana G in the Beal. In that race he came back the last half in 54 (seconds)-and-change after he made the break. He's got the ability. It would have been nice to have a win or two more, but it's all right. The main thing was trying to teach him to race and have his confidence and have him trotting.

Owners: Bill Wiswell is retired as owner and president of an internet and long distance communications firm. Doug and his mom, Rosalind Paul, make up M And L of Delaware. Their horses have been trained by John Butenschoen off and on for a couple decades. Around four years ago, Bill Wiswell joined the mix because he decided to spend a little more money than the Pauls one day.

"We just went to a sale and we actually bid against Bill on a horse," Doug Paul said. "He won the bidding and I went up afterward and I talked to him, and we ended up being partners on that horse."

"That was probably the worst horse we bought together," Paul said. "After that we've been very, very lucky. We've had quite a few nice horses together. We normally buy a trotting colt and trotting filly together. John and Bill pick out the trotting colt and our group normally picks out the trotting filly. John trains him and we've had some very nice horses."

Silver Springs, dam of Bill's Man, won the 2004 Hambletonian Oaks.

As a 2-year-old he won two of 12 races and earned \$70,441. One win came in a \$56,000 division of the International Stallion Stake and he had second place finishes in a \$55,250 division of the Bluegrass Stake as well as a \$28,585 division of the Tompkins-Geers Stakes.

This is the first Hambletonian for the Pauls and Wiswell, who has owned horses since 1979.

The horse's name was changed to have Bill as his first name and the Pauls always like the word "Man" or "Lady" in their horses' names.

The group also purchased Fine Tuned Lady (who had Lady in her name upon purchase), a multiple stakes-winning filly last year who is in the Hambletonian Oaks.

Paul notes that the 1:52.3 record he took at Red Mile last year was the fastest ever for a 2-year-old by [Credit Winner](#). "Which is saying something when you look at how many foals he has had," Paul said.

"When he keeps his mind on things, I think he's as good as any colt out there other than (Dan Patch Award winner) Walner, which seems like a standout," Paul said. "(Bill's Man) is a handsome looking colt. He's just an absolute gorgeous colt, and he's out of a great mare. You can't beat the mare."

"When you buy a [Credit Winner](#) out of that type of mare you're hoping to get a good horse," Paul said. "But he had high speed for a [Credit Winner](#), which exceeded our expectations. We thought we'd get a New York Sires Stakes horse out of it, but it looks like we got a Grand Circuit stakes colt out of it."

Corey Callahan was the most regular driver of Bill's Man as a 2-year-old, however, he was not always available because of other commitments. But no matter who was in the sulky, Bill's Man was well behaved and although he went off stride in several starts, never made a break because of his manners.

“He was just a 2-year-old that wasn’t quite sure-footed,” Paul said. “We’ve raced him on big tracks because of that. We kept him off the New York Sire Stakes half-mile (tracks) and decided to keep him on the big track last year. It’s early, but it looks like he’s coming back nice as a 3-year-old. We’re expecting big things out of him.”