



Hat Trick Habit

Bay colt, 3 by Donato Hanover – Habit's Best by Muscles Yankee

OWNER: John McGill, Albion, IN; Brian Carsey, Connerville, IN
BREEDERS: Fredericka Caldwell, KY
SALE INFO: Lexington Select Yearling Sale, KY \$65,000
TRAINER: Scott Di Domenico
DRIVER: TBA

YEAR	STARTS	1ST	2ND	3 RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2018	8	3	1	0	\$35,580	1:52.3 M
2017	9	3	1	2	\$169,474	1:55.1 M
LIFETIME	17	6	2	2	\$205,054	1:52.3 M

- Competing for the Antonaccis in 13 of his 17 starts, Hat Trick Habit was sold to John McGill and Brian Carsey following his ninth-place finish in the \$202,160 Goodtimes Trot at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The Donato Hanover colt made his debut for trainer Scott Di Domenico July 7 in an overnight at the Meadowlands, winning in a lifetime-best 1:52.3.
- “He was very impressive,” DiDomenico said of his first start. “We were really happy with him. He trotted good, he looked good, and we’re hoping for good things out of him.”
- Hat Trick Habit demonstrated gait issues when shipping north for the Goodtimes. Following his win with Di Domenico, the colt broke in his next start, a \$181,000 division of the Stanley Dancer Memorial, and made his next start in a \$56,830 division of Pennsylvania Sires Stakes at Harrah’s Philadelphia with hopples. He broke as the odds-on favorite.
- “I think he is on the way up again,” Di Domenico said. “We’ve been having trouble with his feet, they’ve been aggravating him some, and I think that’s been part of the reason he’s been jumping. That’s been one of my biggest concerns and I think we’ve sort of got it under control. I hope it works out okay”
- Andy Miller piloted Hat Trick Habit in his next start, a \$46,600 Reynolds division, as Tim Tetrick, who had driven him since entering the Di Domenico barn, chose to drive Earl Beal Jr. Memorial-champ Crystal Fashion. Hat Trick Habit moved to the lead past the quarter and stayed flat through the mile, finishing second a length behind Crystal Fashion, the odds-on favorite.
- “I was very, very happy with him the other night,” Di Domenico said. “He sat behind a horse and was manageable. Andy [Miller] did a really good job with him. He was comfortable, he wasn’t getting too anxious and wasn’t getting silly following a horse. And when he moved him back to the lead he was trotting good. He did everything right, [Crystal Fashion] just caught him down by the line. He got beat by a 1-9 shot that’s a really good horse.”
- Frank Antonacci trained Hat Trick Habit through his two-year-old season. As a freshman, he won a prelim and the \$250,000 final of the Kentucky Sires Stakes as well as a late closer during the Grand Circuit fortnight at The Red Mile. He was also third in a \$59,400 division of the International Stallion Stakes, sixth in his Breeders Crown elimination (not making the final) and 10th in the \$464,650 Valley Victory Final (to Fourth Dimension).

- With trainer Domenico Cecere taking over the Antonacci operation in 2018, Hat Trick Habit made his first four starts of his sophomore campaign for Cecere. He won his first two races, which were conditioned events at the Meadowlands, and qualified for the Goodtimes Final with a fourth-place finish.
- Trainer Scott Di Domenico makes his first start as a trainer in the Hambletonian. At age 36, Di Domenico is one of the top trainers at Yonkers Raceway, having won 100 races in 549 starts and earning over \$1.7 million this season. Di Domenico also trained star mare pacer Handsoffmycookie, who accrued \$1.4 million in earnings by the time she retired in 2016.
- “All things considered, it’s probably a little bit of a shot,” Di Domenico said, “but how many times are you going to have a shot to race a horse of this caliber in this kind of race? We’re excited about it and getting the shot to make some money in there. That’s a pretty neat feeling. It’s cool. I’ve never been there before, never had a horse that I even considered putting in that race. Now that I do, it’s special.”
- Hat Trick Habit is a half-brother to 2015 Hambletonian finalist Habitat (2012, 3, 1:53 F; \$1,262,221), who finished fourth in his elimination and seventh in the final (to Pinkman).