PERFECT SPIRIT

Bay, C, 3 by Andover Hall – Good Common Cents by Kadabra

OWNER: SRF Stable, Delray Beach, FL
BREEDER: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc, PA
SALE INFO: Standardbred Horse Sale Yearling $75,000
TRAINER: Ake Svanstedt
DRIVER: Ake Svanstedt

YEAR	STARTS	1ST	2ND	3RD	EARNINGS	MARK
2017	7	4	0	0	$99,628	1:51.2 M
2016	7	2	1	1	$34,791	1:56 PcD
LIFETIME	14	6	1	1	$134,419	3,1:51.2 M

- Last start was a victory in the Tompkins on July 22 at the Meadowlands. Perfect Spirit stopped the clock in 1:51.2, picking up a new lifetime mark in addition to his first career stakes victory

- Won his elimination for the Earl Beal Jr. Memorial at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono on June 24 and finished fourth in the final

- Also has two wins in overnight competition this year, both at Pocono, and was fifth and sixth in two Pennsylvania Sire Stakes tries (The Meadows and Pocono)

- As a 2-year-old he won two overnight races at Harrah's Philadelphia and at Pocono and picked up checks in the Liberty Bell (second, Harrah's Philadelphia) and in three attempts against Pennsylvania Sire Stakes foes (third, The Meadows and fourth at The Meadows and at Harrah's Philadelphia)

- "He is a different horse this year," said trainer/driver Ake Svanstedt. "He is bigger, stronger and faster. He has a good head, and I think he is improving in every race."

- Sire Andover Hall was the odds-on choice in the 2002 Hambletonian, but broke stride early and did not finish. He would redeem himself later that August by winning the World Trotting Derby. The dam Good Common Cents is a Kadabra mare who earned $165,176 in her career with three wins in the Ontario Sires Stakes program. She has produced the likes of Goosebump Hanover (RC Royalty, $256,520).

- Hanover Shoe Farms has won the most Hambletonians as a breeder with ten, the last coming in 2007 with Donato Hanover

- SRF Stable is the nom de course of Lennart Agren. Agren raced Brooklyn Hill in last year's Hambletonian, but he broke stride in his elimination and did not advance to the final

- Svanstedt is in search of his first Hambletonian crown as both a trainer and driver. He made the final last year with both The Royal Harry (driven by John Campbell) and Mavens Way (Svanstedt drove), and they finished ninth and tenth. He also qualified for the final in 2014 with Doncango, who was tenth as well.

- Svanstedt, 58, is in his fourth season of racing in North America after moving to the U.S. from Sweden. He was Sweden's Trainer of the Year five times and Driver of the Year on three occasions. He is perhaps best known as the trainer and driver of Sebastian K, who trotted the fastest mile in harness racing history when he won in 1:49 at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono in 2014. In July, Svanstedt was inducted in Sweden's Hall of Fame.

- Svanstedt grew up with horses in Sweden. His father, who was in the timber business, used horses for work ("He was the last one to buy a tractor in the village," Svanstedt said, laughing.) and raced cold-blooded trotters. Svanstedt began his professional career at the age of 24 and within several years was the champion at his home track in Bergsaker.

- During his career overseas, Svanstedt won the Elitlopp twice, with Torvald Palema in 2009 and Gidde Palema in 2004, the Copenhagen Cup three times and both the Oslo Grand Prix and Olympic Trot four times. Svanstedt won 6,306 races as a driver in Sweden and 5,384 as a trainer.

- Last year Svanstedt set career highs in North American training starts (657), training wins (120) and training purses ($4.42 million). Since arriving in the U.S., the 58-year-old Svanstedt has trained 335 winners and earned $11.35 million in purses. As a driver, he has totaled 217 wins and $8.04 million in purses.

- "I love my job," said Svanstedt, who spends the winters in Florida and summers in New Jersey. "It is many hours to work, but if you love your job it's not so tough. I love to train horses and I love the horses. I like to race too. You feel what you've worked for. If I can win a race with a horse I have trained, I'm satisfied. You've worked for that."