



Bass Pro Shops

SCOTT COULTER



THE TAN TORNADO'S A TRAVELIN' MAN

It's taken several years, and a lot of personal sacrifice, but Scott Coulter is now in the top echelon of Canadian drivers.

By Harold Howe

Scott Coulter puts approximately 70,000 kilometres per year on his Honda truck all in the pursuit of developing his craft as a catch driver and earning a good living along the way.

Through mid-December the 40 year-old Brantford, Ontario, horseman has tallied well over three million dollars in purses and 438 wins while running to Georgian Downs, Grand River Raceway, The Raceway at Western Fair District and Flamboro Downs. At press time he's sitting second behind Scott Zeron on the drivers list for the most wins in Canada in 2011.



Photo by New Image Media

It's been a record year for him but there's been a big price to pay, namely his marriage. It's no secret that horse racing is a hard business on home life. The game is littered with such stories, however, life and competing go on.

For Coulter this is his time. And while the impact he has made on the WEG circuit to date isn't significant, that could easily change.

"I guess right now you'd say I'm a journeyman. I have accomplished what I set out to do at the beginning of the year which was to pass \$20 million and 3,000 wins in my career," he notes.

"The amount I drive at Woodbine is less than five per cent of what I do. A few years ago going in there would have meant a certain amount of intimidation. That's not the case at all now. I believe that I'm respected now for my ability or if not I should be."

Coulter looks the part of the contemporary driver. He's 5'8" tall and tips

Scott Coulter joins the connections of Tymal Recap following the Ken Warkentin colt's victory in the \$100,000 Ontario Sires Stakes Grassroots Final at Mohawk this past October.

the scales at 150 pounds. He's fighting fit and looks like an athlete.

The path his career has taken could be described as plodding. It was 16 years ago he obtained his license and he's been working at improving ever since.

"I was not what one would call a natural talent like some guys were. I've had to work at it and take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way. For instance, the OSS Grassroots Finals night had to be a big step for my reputation."

Coulter is referring to October 1 at Mohawk where he brought home two winners in the \$100,000 contests, Defy Time and Tymal Recap. In addition to

showcasing his skills in the sulky, that evening also showed him to be insightful and articulate in the post race interviews.

Defy Time, a three-year-old daughter of Southfork, gave Coulter a 1:56.2 ride to take her final which may be watched by [clicking here](#). Tymal Recap, a sophomore gelding by Ken Warkentin, crossed the wire in 1:55.2 to give Coulter the double. That race may be viewed through [this link](#).

Coulter is not a stereotypical driver and there was actually a time that it appeared racing would not be his vocation.

"I studied business at Fanshawe College for two years. I don't regret that time but the horses were always there.



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TONY O'SULLIVAN STABLE

Tony, Heather, Haley, Mackenzie



THE TAN TORNADO'S A TRAVELIN' MAN

I just could not see myself in an office setting. I guess I wanted to follow my dad."

His father Paul Coulter has been around the racing game for years and is a survivor in a tough racket. At one time he owned what is now Zorgwijk Stables near Brantford.

"I needed more experience when I left school and Harry Rutherford (Cool Creek Farm) helped me get a job with Bill Wellwood. That was for a year and was

the best experience I could have had," he reflects.

"I'd never been around an operation like that before. This was the time of Village Jiffy, Armbro Marshall, Armbro Leader and a bunch of others including Village Connection whom I looked after. Bill was the very best manager of his horses and his business above all others.

"He knew the limits of a horse's talent and ability. Then he would position them to maximize their earning

potential by going places with them that others would not. Village Connection, who won over \$1 million, was a great example.

"I left because I wanted to drive and that was not going to happen there. Bill was totally professional about it and understood. He wished me well and left me with a real sense of vigour to make things happen for myself.

"Prior to working with him all I'd ever been around was cheap horses and there's a big difference."

It was 1995 that he procured his driving ticket and with little fanfare set out.

"It was slow, very slow. It took six months to get my qualifying drives. I worked with my dad and got a few on my own to train.

"I ended up going to Rideau Carleton with six horses one summer and did okay. There were mistakes but I was learning. When you're that age things never happen as quickly as you want."

Not until 2004 did Coulter feel he was starting to see results.

"Things just started to happen. Maybe people started feeling sorry for me because I just kept showing up. But I found my name being put down on more and more horses. There was no real turning point it was just a slow, steady crawl."

However, this past season has to qualify as a breakout year. But it demanded a 24/7 schedule and always, always being on the road.

"It's meant sacrifices, big ones. Thankfully, I don't have kids to consider because there was no other way to do this."

The well spoken driver spoke to *The Harness Edge* in October and reflected on this season to date and that interview may be viewed through [this link](#).

As this is being written, Coulter is in a battle with Scott Zeron for the dash title at Flamboro Downs with 233 victories at that track to Zeron's 189.

"Realistically, Scott has the advantage but it is never over until the fat lady sings. He swings a bigger club than I do but I invite competition. That's what it's all about."

In addition, he was the leading driver at the 2011 Grand River Raceway meet



Holiday Wishes

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THE TAN TORNADO'S A TRAVELIN' MAN



Photo by New Image Media

and currently sits second to Anthony MacDonald on the drivers' standings at Georgian Downs.

Coulter realizes that the key to his success is access to power. That translates to forging relationships with the better trainers.

"I'm getting calls on horses from Ben Baillargeon, John Bax, Richard Moreau, Mike Keeling and Paula Wellwood. That is a big deal for me. I could not have hoped for better than seeing these people put their faith in me."

Defy Time gave Coulter his first of two Ontario Sires Stakes Grassroots finals on October 1 at Mohawk. The three-year-old daughter of Southfork trained by Ian Downey has earned in excess of \$127,000 so far this year.

The skinny on Coulter is that he listens something many trainers lament catch drivers are not adept at. If nothing else Coulter is respectful.

"I try to give the trainer and owner what they are looking for. If a horse needs to be protected I'll try my best."

Obviously, Coulter wants to become a regular on the WEG scene. He's done his homework and is inching his way in. His challenge is to kick open that door.

And that might mean a new set of wheels for this travelin' man. 🐎

Warm Wishes To Everyone For A Wonderful Holiday Season.

FROM

Gord Irwin, Mike Hamilton, Jeff Hulse, Judie Farnan,
Barb Brown, Lyle Jenson and Russ Gourlie

AT

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A lit candle with a warm glow is the central focus, surrounded by a variety of Christmas ornaments including red and gold spheres, a white starburst, and a white flower. The background is a deep red with a subtle pattern.

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Christmas!*

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TWIN B LEGEND

p, 3, 1:49.4s (\$342,413)

b.g. Mach Three – What An Attitude – Cams Card Shark



Photo by New Image Media

1. He wore a tongue tie, that's fairly standard.
2. His bit was a plain snaffle.
3. He had a headpole on the inside with a small burr just to keep him from leaning into the turns.
4. He was perfectly gaited so he didn't wear any boots.
5. I wore aluminum shoes on him on the front and full swedge steel behind.
6. He had ear plugs until halfway through this season when he became calmer.
7. His hobbles were 60 inches.
8. He wore a blind bridle most of the time so he couldn't see around him and then I switched to blinkers.
9. His bike was whatever the driver wanted. Most drivers now have their own bikes, some have two. Paul MacDonell usually drove him so we just used his bike.
10. He wore a little shadow roll.

Trainer Jack Darling's comments:

"I bought him for \$47,000 as a yearling. I had his brother Twin B Survivor (\$260,831) and was the underbidder on another brother, Twin B Warrior (\$629,000), I just like the family. At the beginning he was a handful, he was nervous and a bit high strung which is funny given that he was a gelding most of his life, usually that makes them calmer. Something had happened to him as a baby and he had to be gelded at six days old.

"I had Laurie Bako break him for me and one day I went over and Laurie says, 'I have good news and bad news. The bad news is I turned him out in the paddock the first day and he jumped the fence. The good news is it's a five foot fence and he cleared it so we know he's athletic.'

"From an equipment standpoint he was very simple, but it did take awhile to get him used to the hobbles, he was always one you had to be careful with. He was very mentally immature at the start but by the end of this year he was much better.

"I just sold him for \$150,000 and I think he should do well going forward as he's matured mentally and physically and is good and sound."

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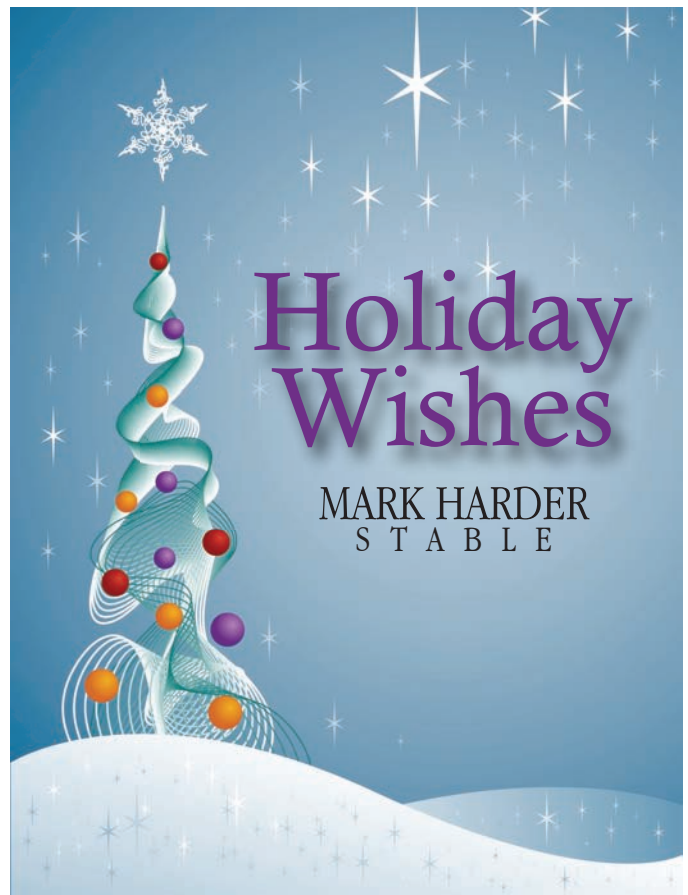
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