

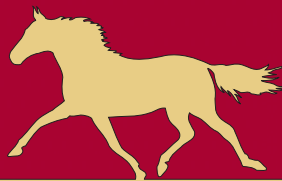
WINDSONG ESPOIR

Greatest Canadian Two Year Old Trotting Colt Of All Time

History has proven time and again that a stallion's performance on the racetrack at two is the most reliable guide to his potential as a sire. Windsong Espoir was not only the greatest Canadian bred two year old trotting colt of all time, he was one of the best ever produced anywhere. For those with short memories, he won nine straight stakes at two, by a combined total of 45 3/4 lengths, while earning \$707,920 and taking a record of 1:55.3. He was the overwhelming choice as O'Brien Champion Two-Year-Old Trotting Colt.

By leading sire Kadabra, out of the top Balanced Image producer Diamond Image, Windsong Espoir is blessed with an exquisite pedigree which at the same time makes him an ideal outcross for virtually all the popular trotting lines of the present day. His maternal line goes straight back to the great foundation mare and Hambletonian winner Miss Tilly, and it doesn't get any better than that.

Windsong Espoir is standing his first season at Westwind Farm, Strathroy, Ontario, under the management of Walnut Hall Ltd. At his fee of \$3,500 Cdn., live foal, he offers a sire value unequalled not only in Ontario, but all of North America.



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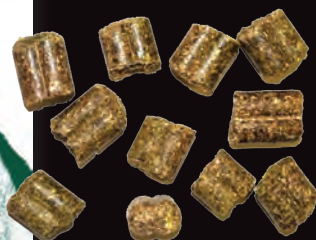
J. Wimbush photos

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2, 1:56.4 (\$583,762)

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Broadway Hall proved again in 2009 that he's one of the leading trotting sires in North America when his progeny won two Breeders Crowns, a Hambletonian Oaks, and many Grand Circuit and Sires Stakes races throughout Canada and the U.S.



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» **Pilgrims Taj 2**, 1:55.2f (\$746,939)...Breeders Crown and PASS Champion while never finishing worse than second in ten starts.

» **Fashion Feline 2**, 1:54.3 (\$321,332)...Grand Circuit winner in Lexington and PASS Champion.

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9 \$250,000+ earners.

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Driving Higher

Driver **JASON BARTLETT** enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2009 with more than \$10 million in purses and 720 victories and a very special award few Standardbred stars can claim, presented this month.

M. Kelly Young • Photos by Mary Williams

Jason Bartlett will be rubbing elbows with New York sports stars like Yankees pitcher Joba Chamberlain and former baseball star Darryl Strawberry during a dinner in New York City this month for the Thurman Munson Awards honouring athletes for excellence in competition and philanthropic work in the community. It's not often that stars from harness racing and big league baseball share the stage.

"It's a great award for me personally and an honour to be in the same sentence as those guys, but it's wonderful for the sport of harness racing to be recognized with these other sports," said Bartlett of the awards presented by the AHRC New York City Foundation.

The 28 year-old driver has donated his time to further the charity work of the tracks where he races, including events last year at Yonkers Raceway, Batavia Downs and Tioga Downs.

Bartlett's name will be added to a list of former honourees which includes such legendary athletes as Muhammad Ali, Yogi Berra, Joe Torre, Patrick Ewing, Arthur Ashe and Bernie Williams. No other modern-day harness talent can brag of being recognized on such a broad scale so early in their career.



The Bartlett family - Kristen, Kobe and Jason.

DRIVING HIGHER

The irony is that unless you were a student of the Maine racing circuit, you probably never heard of Jason Bartlett until two years ago. Since then his career has taken off like a hot young colt in his first start and he has quickly become racing's newest superstar.

"I moved here two years ago and now I'm driving against guys I looked up to my whole life and wanted to be like, so it's a dream come true," he said of the transition to Yonkers Raceway.

"But it's not as easy as it looks. I came at a great time and worked with people who were doing well. I wouldn't want to try to come in right now; it's getting harder and harder to get your spot at the Meadowlands or Yonkers."

This Augusta, Maine, native calls Yonkers his home base and has earned the driving crown there two consecutive years after unseating perennial leader Stephane Bouchard in 2008.

Bartlett finished 2009 as the second leading dash-winning driver in North America (720) behind Jody Jamieson, who set a single-season win record in Canada with 796. Jamieson was very vocal about pursuing the dash title and traveled to a number of tracks to chase that dream while Bartlett was hot on his heels for most of the year.

"Anybody would want to say that 'I was the leading dash-winning driver in all of North America this year,' but earnings are really more important," Bartlett said of his runner-up status. "I didn't change too much down here to get neck and neck with Jody; I went to Pocono and picked up drives here and there, but I didn't stretch myself to the limit.

"Some people say I should have done it, but at the end of the day the money is what you want. It's a little bit of a double-edged sword; being healthy and staying healthy is what's most important. It's something that I will definitely look forward to in the future if I get the opportunity to be that close again."

Bartlett also finished fourth in earnings last year (nearly \$10.9 million) behind Tim Tetrick, Ron Pierce and Brian Sears, all of whom attract top mounts in the richest events at the Meadowlands and on the Grand Circuit. He earned his top five rank primarily at Yonkers, with forays to



Photo courtesy of Yonkers Raceway

"You just never know what could happen around the corner; I could go down in an accident and never drive again. Then what do I do? A lot of people don't realize there is no security for catch drivers and there is always someone waiting to take your spot."

Pocono, Saratoga, Freehold and some Meadowlands appearances, underscoring the rejuvenation of Yonkers' purses.

However, the highlight of last year was being asked to represent the U.S. in the World Driving Championship in Norway, highlights of which may be seen by [clicking here](#).

"It was great to represent my country and be part of something like that which most people don't get the opportunity to see and experience," explained Bartlett who ended up finishing sixth. "It was a very different racing style for sure. It was tough to get used to, but I had a great time."

Although he may be doing it in spectacular fashion, Bartlett is just the latest in

a long line of ambitious drivers from Maine who have paved a well-worn route to success through Yonkers Raceway.

"A lot of guys have come down from Maine, like Walter (Case Jr.) and Billy Parker and Bob Summer. It just shows you that Maine people don't race for much money and don't have the best horses, but they're still good horsemen up there. Lee Fitch just hit 8,000 wins and there were always a lot of good drivers for me to learn from," he offered.

But not all of Maine's exports have been able to handle success once they achieved it. Drugs and other distractions have derailed careers. Bartlett, however, seems to have his driving boots firmly planted on the ground.

What Do These Two Champions Have In Common?



San Pail 1:52.1s (\$1,079,965)
San Pellegrino-Village Beauty

Owner - Glenn Van Camp & Rod Hughes
Breeder - Glenn Van Camp
Trainer - Rod Hughes



Define The World 4,1:52.s (\$1,019,981)
Duke Of York-Venice Holiday

Breeder/Owner - Al Libfeld
Trainer - John Bax

It should come as no surprise that both are fed Brooks Feeds.

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As recently as last month, ARMBRO CHRONICLE 1:52.4 s (\$1,382,452) won the \$91,000 final of the Glorys Comet Series at Woodbine.

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DRIVING HIGHER

"You just have to keep reminding yourself that money doesn't grow on trees and you have to work for every penny in this business," Bartlett said of handling his sudden success. "You just never know what could happen around the corner; I could go down in an accident and never drive again. Then what do I do?"

"We've been putting away for my son's college and for my retirement in 10 years or so. A lot of people don't realize there is no security for catch drivers and there is always someone waiting to take your spot."

Bartlett was destined for harness racing from the start. He grew up caring for horses in the stable of his grandfather, Dick Bartlett, a well respected Maine trainer. He received his driving license at age 17 and the elder Bartlett's large stable allowed him plenty of opportunity to learn on the fair circuit and later at the pari-mutuel tracks in New England.

"Even now, I call for him to lecture me when I'm not really on top of my game," he revealed of his close relationship with his grandfather. "I consider myself a pretty aggressive driver, so when I get a little comfortable, he'll call me out on it, or tell me I'm not driving with my head."

"He critiques me a lot because he watches me so much he knows when I'm driving good and when I'm driving bad. He'll tell me what I'm doing wrong and then I have to go and fix it. He watches me every night, everywhere I go. He's been in this business a long time and he knows so much."

Even though there was never a question that he would pursue a career in racing, Bartlett attended college, partly to play basketball and partly to earn a degree in industrial electricity. But as soon as he graduated, he returned to drive for his grandfather and assist with the training.

"We had a really good year in Maine, we had some pretty good horses and Yonkers had just opened up again with their slots," said the driver of the beginning of winter in 2007. "I had always talked about going down but had never done it. I took a stable of my own horses and Bob Sumner helped get me going."

"I brought 10 horses and ended up with 22 at one point. People were giving



"I want it so my son has nothing to worry about, that would be an accomplishment. Life is pretty tough for everyone right now so if I can make it easier for him that's my goal. Basically, I want to look out for my family."

me horses and then it just got too tough to catch drive and race a stable of horses so I ended up giving up the stable. I miss it, but I'll go back to it some day."

Heading south turned out well for Bartlett, but there were second thoughts.

"I questioned it the day I was going down. I bought a brand new truck and the truck was heating up and wanted to break down. I left a horse at home that I was supposed to bring to New York. I had a brand new house, a wife and a new baby at home that I was leaving. There were a lot of things that made me question whether going down to Yonkers was wise."

He quickly became a favourite driver of some strong stables at Yonkers and that support helped him rise to the top of a

much more competitive driving colony than in his home state.

"He came very well recommended from the guys in Maine and I didn't know him when he got here, but I put him down on some horses," said Mark Ford, one of the trainers who gave Bartlett his early leg-up at Yonkers.

"Not every driver is concerned about getting fourth and fifth-place money all the time, but it really matters for me and my owners. Jason is out there to get every penny and gives horses the best shot to earn. When Jason is at Yonkers, I put him on everything."

For the first six months, Bartlett commuted nearly seven hours back to Maine each week to see his family until he



Photography: Jim Gillies

North America's *best*

CAMLUCK

Cam Fella – Lucky Lady – Striking Image p, 3, 1:52.4f; T1:48.4 (\$1,003,260)

His 2009 standouts include:

- Dreamfair Eternal p, 1:49' 09 (\$766,415)
- Wellthereyougo p, 2, 1:54.4h' 09 (\$295,250)
- Hyperion Hanover p, 1:49.1s' 09 (\$879,843)
- Lucky Man p, 3, 1:51.1s (\$543,298)
- Jans Luck p, 4, 1:50.4f (\$801,867)
- My Gift To You p, 3, 1:52.3f' 09 (\$250,002)
- Wholly Louy p, 1:51.3h' 09 (\$510,047)
- Giddy Up Lucky p, 3, 1:50.4s (\$370,036)
- Eagle Luck p, 1:48.3 (\$1,159,774)
- Chancey Lady p, 3, 1:50.4f (\$1,257,740)
- Card Dealer p, 4, 1:50.3 (\$277,261)
- Chief Karen p, 3, 1:54.2f' 09 (\$188,848)
- Michelles Power p, 3, 1:50.1s (\$1,364,993)
- Spoiled Beach p, 3, 1:52.4f' 09 (\$186,077)
- Stonebridge Tonic p, 2, 1:56.3h' 09 (\$149,019)

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Camluck's credentials as a sire are undeniable. As of January 9, 2010, **Camluck's** offspring have averaged an incredible \$111,868 per starter, producing 17 winners of over \$1,000,000 & 451 winners of over \$100,000. **Camluck** has sired 39 1:50 or sub 1:50 winners. (Standardbred Canada TrackIT)

Camluck is a member of both the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame & the United States Living Horse Hall of Fame.

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DRIVING HIGHER

decided to make the move permanent. Now they have settled in Goshen, N.Y., in close proximity to New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania tracks.

Even though he is racing six days a week and sometimes double headers in the summer, family is the most important thing to Bartlett. He has been married to his wife Kristen for nearly six years and she and their three-year-old son Kobe frequently attend the races.

Kristen was from a racing family but a life in the sport wasn't in her future until she met Bartlett in the winner's circle at Plainridge Racecourse in Massachusetts. Bartlett centers his off-track time on Kristen and Kobe, who is currently absorbed by swimming, T-ball and soccer.

Keeping this focus on his family will help keep this young star from the downfalls of some of his predecessors. For his age, he is keenly aware of the responsibilities of caring for a family and how uncertain his career is despite earning more than half a million dollars last year.

"I'm constantly worried about that.

"It was great to represent my country and be part of something like that which most people don't get the opportunity to see and experience."

That's the worst thing about this business. If I had a contract to sign guaranteeing the money I make, I could still take care of my family no matter what happened. I would trade the money for that security," he explained.

"All these baseball and football players, they have a contract and even if they blow a knee out or something, they're going to get their money. Right now I just have to be really smart and not make bad choices."

Despite the public anticipation of his next move, Bartlett has no plans to begin driving regularly at the Meadowlands in the near future, but is racing there twice a week to gain more experience on the mile

track. Instead, his goal is to keep doing what he is doing; staying healthy, making a living and being a leading driver at Yonkers.

He eventually wants to race on the Grand Circuit more and wouldn't mind having that dash-winning title some day. But his ultimate goal is pretty simple and probably not all that different from his fellow honourees at that New York City awards dinner.

"I want it so my son has nothing to worry about, that would be an accomplishment. Life is pretty tough for everyone right now so if I can make it easier for him that's my goal. Basically, I want to look out for my family." 🏠



Ray Bednarz



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p,2,1:55h, 3,1:50.4-1:51.3f-1:52.2h, 1:50f-1:52h (\$781,873)

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- From a half-sister to LARGO p,1:51 (\$736,910) and the dam of CANYON WIND p,1:48.4 (\$691,906).

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...driver **JODY JAMIESON**

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...trainer **DR. IAN MOORE**



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