

## Bamond feels the future is bright for Crazshana

by Kim French, USTA Internet News Editor

**Columbus, OH ---** In an industry where the competition is stiff and there is always a drive to gain a competitive edge, trainer Jeff Bamond Jr. certainly does not want to tip his hand for what strategies have led to his success, but the acquisition of Crazshana, who is a strong contender to capture the \$250,000 Graduate Series trotting final on Saturday (July 9) at Meadowlands Racetrack, is a prime example of how he prefers to conduct business.

"We feel that many of the horses that finish third or above in Excelsior B competition in New York can compete with stakes horses," he said. "That is one of the things that attracted us to Crazshana and also that he was lightly raced. Trond (Smedshammer, his previous trainer) really took care of him and we were fortunate to purchase a horse that has so much potential. We are very pleased with not only how he has raced, but what the future holds in store for him as an older horse."



*Lisa photo*

**Crazshana won a leg of the Graduate Series in 1:51.3 on May 21 at The Meadowlands.**

The 4-year-old has visited the winner's circle on 11 occasions with five seconds and three thirds. Despite competing in New York's Excelsior series as a freshman and sophomore, rather than in the marquee races his colleagues contested, Crazshana established a track record (2:00) in his fifth career appearance at Monticello Raceway in August of 2014. After his transition to the Bamond barn in January of this year, he has annexed a leg of the Graduate Series at the Meadowlands on May 21, finished fourth in the second leg at Mohawk Racetrack on June 4 after leaving from the 10-hole and was a very strong third at Tioga Downs in the third leg of the series on June 12. In that contest, he was unfortunate enough to have his bid for victory thwarted by the cover that stalled in front of him.

For the upcoming final, Crazshana will commence his journey from post position nine in the evening's eighth race. He will have the services of David Miller, yet again, and is the fourth choice on the morning line at 6-1 behind the [series points leader](#) Maestro Blue Chip (3-1), Canadian powerhouse Musical Rhythm (5-2) and Canepa Hanover (4-1).

"How could I not be proud of how this horse has performed?" Bamond said. "He really did not have much of a chance to win at Mohawk with his post but he finished so well. We were so pleased with him and then after that trip at Tioga when everything in front of him just stopped. He continues trotting no matter what."

An altered son of [Crazed](#) and the [Andover Hall](#) mare Keystone Shana, Crazshana was plucked from the 2013 Standardbred Horse Sale at Harrisburg for \$47,000 by Purple Haze Stables under the name Kane K Hanover. He was subsequently purchased by Bamond Racing for \$52,000 this past January at the Tattersalls Select Mixed Sale.

Although his name may not be familiar to the general public, this horse is one anyone would want in their barn as he has amassed \$201,429 from 28 trips to the post.

"Obviously, I'm not very excited about his draw for this race, but you know he is going to go out there every time and race no matter what he encounters. Not all horses are like that and we still really do not know what he has in reserve. We feel he can compete with these horses and it's a strong group.

"These 4-year-old trotters are very good and it's excellent to be able to have a horse like him that can be right up there with horses like Crazy Wow, Maestro Blue Chip and Pinkman. Maybe some of these trotters were not as mature last year, but they have grown up and this is a tough division that seems will only become more competitive as these horses get older."

After the Graduate Series has ended, Bamond does not have specific plans for Crazshana's future.

"This is really all he is eligible for," he said. "That is not a bad thing. We will race him in the spots we think he fits and manage him the same way as Trond did before he came to us. We will allow him to continue to grow and maybe not buck heads with these other horses all year. We will give him time and allow him to show us what works for him. Supplementing him later in the year is not out of the question, but putting him away early and waiting for next year is also a great option.

"David (Miller) really likes him and advised us that might be the best plan of action for him because he thinks he will come back next year even better.

"I have heard the [Crazed](#) horses do improve as they mature and that's what our operation is about is racing horses, that program may just be the perfect thing for him. Especially if David recommends something and takes the time to drive this horse when he has other options. We need to listen to him and be hopeful we can provide the right circumstances for Crazshana to be successful. We are not only looking forward to Saturday night, but what comes after that for him."

Saturday's card at the Meadowlands, which begins at 7:15 p.m., also includes the [\\$250,000 Graduate Series pacing championship](#), [a single elimination for the Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace](#), and two Reynolds Memorial divisions for 3-year-old female trotters.

Following is the field for the Graduate Series trotting championship:

**PP-Horse-Driver-Trainer-Line**

1. Wings Of Royalty-Corey Callahan-George Ducharme-8/1
2. Centurion ATM-Ake Svanstedt-Ake Svanstedt-15/1
3. Crescent Fashion-Scott Zeron-Ake Svanstedt-10/1
4. Canepa Hanover-Yannick Gingras-Jimmy Takter-4/1
5. Whataworkout-Brett Miller-Frank Antonacci-20/1
6. Maestro Blue Chip-Tim Tetrick-Jo Ann Looney-King-3/1
7. Fashion Creditor-Brett Miller-Tom Fanning-20/1
8. Honor And Serve-Ake Svanstedt-Ake Svanstedt-15/1
9. Crazshana-David Miller-Jeffrey Bamond Jr.-6/1
10. Musical Rhythm-John Campbell-Benoit Baillargeon-5/2