

Gimpanzee looks for Graduate Series sweep

July 8, 2020, by [Ken Weingartner, USTA Media Relations Manager](#)

Hightstown, NJ — Gimpanzee was in the shadow of stablemate [Greenshoe](#) much of last season, with the latter being named the sport's best 3-year-old male trotter as well as Trotter of the Year, but is basking in the spotlight now as he aims for a win in Saturday's (July 11) \$250,000 Graduate Series final for 4-year-old trotters.

The Graduate final for trotters is part of a 13-race card at The Meadowlands that also includes the \$250,000 Graduate championship for 4-year-old pacers, a single elimination for the Meadowlands Pace, and Reynolds Memorial divisions for 3-year-old trotters. Racing begins at 7:15 p.m. (EDT).



Gimpanzee heads to his Graduate test off victories in the two preliminary rounds of the series. Lisa photo.

A 4-year-old stallion, Gimpanzee heads to his Graduate test off victories in the two preliminary rounds of the series. He won his first start in gate-to-wire fashion by 1-1/4 lengths in 1:51.2 at Tioga

Downs. Two weeks later, on June 27, he rallied from sixth at three-quarters to win by a half-length in 1:50.2 at The Meadowlands. That time is tied for fourth fastest of the season by a trotter.

For his career, Gimpanzee has won 19 of 25 races and earned \$1.77 million.

"He trained well all winter and we were very excited to bring him back," trainer Marcus Melander said. "He showed me how he was feeling all winter and he's come back great. I couldn't be more happy with him after two starts.

"He was a great horse last year and he's filled out and put on a lot more muscle this year. You can really see that he's a year older. He never threw in a bad race last year, and so far this year, he's been very good."

Gimpanzee, owned by Courant Inc. and S R F Stable, was undefeated in nine races at age 2 and received the Dan Patch Award for best 2-year-old male trotter. Last year, he won eight of 14 races and earned \$1.12 million but saw Dan Patch honors go to now-retired [Greenshoe](#). Gimpanzee's Grand Circuit victories in 2019 included the Breeders Crown (he also won the event in 2018), Yonkers Trot, and Matron Stakes.

"At 3, everyone was talking about [Greenshoe](#) because he was so extremely fast," Melander said. "Gimpanzee didn't have the speed or acceleration that [Greenshoe](#) had, but he still showed a lot of speed. It was just [Greenshoe](#) was so much faster than all the other horses. There are not too many like [Greenshoe](#)."

Not too many like Gimpanzee, either.

"He's the nicest horse to train," Melander said. "At home, he's perfect. He does exactly what I want him to do. He's just the horse you're looking for. If everyone was like him it would be very easy."

Following the Graduate, Gimpanzee will have one more opportunity to face trotters in his age group when the Hambletonian Maturity is contested July 18 at The Meadowlands. Then, it will be into open stakes action, where the likes of Atlanta, Manchego, and Guardian Angel AS await.

"Obviously Atlanta and Manchego and those horses are really, really good," Melander said, "but I have a pretty good horse too."

For Saturday's complete Meadowlands entries, click [here](#).