

NY-Bred Guardian Angel AS connections hope to spring upset.

by Kim French, USTA Internet News Editor

Columbus, OH --- Despite not possessing sterling resumes or bulging bank accounts, Anette Lorentzon has faith that Guardian Angel AS, her first \$1.2 million Hambletonian contestant, and Southwind Avanti, the second filly she has entered in the \$500,000 Hambletonian Oaks, will be a great source of pride after their appearances on Saturday (Aug. 5) at the Meadowlands.

"We have liked him since he was a baby as we always thought he had talent; he just hasn't put it all together yet," she said of Guardian Angel AS. "He has been very good in New York company except for that break going into the first turn at Monticello in his last start (a NYSS race on July 17) because he just was not focused. Once he realized Jason (driver Bartlett) was mad at him though, he got his mind on his business and came back to finish only four lengths behind (in fourth place). You can't be unhappy with that effort.



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Competing as a homebred for ACL Stuteri AB (Ann-Christin Lorentzon and John Erik Magnusson), who share ownership with Kjell Johansson, Guardian Angel AS is a son of [Archangel](#) and the unraced Provide AS. He sports a lifetime record of 13-6-3-0, has earned \$93,993 and established his lifetime

mark of 1:54.3 this year at Vernon Downs. On Saturday he will have the services of Jason Bartlett, who recently collected his 7,000th driving victory and will be competing in his first Hambletonian. The duo will leave from post position three in the first of two eliminations (race eight) and are listed at 10-1 on the morning line.

"We had always planned on pointing him (Guardian Angel AS) to the Yonkers Trot," Lorentzon said. "Putting him in this race was decided once Walner was not coming. We figured he deserved the chance as the race is much more wide-open now. That's why I wish we could have had the opportunity to qualify him or race him one more time since Monticello. But I did ask Jason what he thought about putting him in the Hambletonian and he did say he thought we should because the colt does have ability. Also, he has a very long stride so the mile track should be very good for him.

Although his connections did alter their plans to pursue the Hambletonian after divisional leader Walner's withdrawal, they do believe this contest could be a tremendous opportunity for Guardian Angel AS to demonstrate his class.

"He was very good when he finished second in his Goodtimes elimination in Canada to International Moni," Lorentzon said. "That is a very nice horse and is the deserving favorite in this Hambletonian elimination. Unfortunately he drew the 10-hole for the final so he never had the chance to get involved in the race right from the beginning.

"All we are hoping for is that he will have a nice trip, that he can make the best of. The first goal is making the final which would make us very happy and the next one is for us to race well enough to get a nice check.