





Congratulations to CAMPANILE daughter
of NO PAN INTENDED winner of a 2YO PASS in 1:55.1

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Admiral honored with Cam Fella Award

Monday, January 10, 2011 - by Karen Briggs, USTA Web Newsroom Senior Correspondent



Toronto, ON --- There may be a good deal of debate over the finalists for this year's O'Brien Awards, celebrating the best in Canadian harness racing, but I'd venture there isn't going to be any dissent over the choice of the 2010 recipient of the Cam Fella Award. It's just a shame that it's being awarded posthumously.

The Cam Fella Award is intended to honor "meritorious service to the Canadian harness racing industry" and it will go to the connections of Admiral's Express, the hard-knocking pacer who bankrolled more than \$1.76 million, posted 14 sub-1:50 victories, picked up two O'Brien Awards (including Horse of the Year in 2005), and earned the nickname, "the Grey Gladiator."

For years, the Admiral was the most recognizable personality on the Ontario circuit: an imposing grey gelding who was nearly unstoppable once he got on the front end. And a gladiator he surely was. He set his lifetime mark of 1:48.2 at the age of nine, and made 353 trips behind the starting gate before retiring to become a proud ambassador for his breed, under the tutelage of his long-time groom, Wellington Charles, at exhibitions and horse shows.



Karen Briggs photo "We would never have seen the true measure of him in Michigan," he says. "We're a small stable, and we never dreamt we'd be connected with such a great horse," Sayfie remarked after the Admiral's untimely death. "He was a hero for our family. We tried to make it up to Toronto to see him race as often as we could, and when we couldn't make the trip, we would have everyone over to watch him go on TV. It was a regular Saturday night thing."

Only two other horses have received the Cam Fella Award to date. The first was Cam Fella himself, in 1997 (the year the award was inaugurated); the other, in 2008, was [Somebeachsomewhere](#). That's rarified company, indeed, but no animal is as deserving of the honor than the 'blue-collar worker' who won so many hearts.

Responding to the announcement, Sayfie wrote, "We, on behalf of Admiral's

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Express, would like to thank you for this wonderful award, and the love you have shown the great grey. He will be remembered long after we are all gone, and for that we are so grateful. Thank you all of Canada."

No, thank you, Grey Gladiator.

Editor's Note: The views contained in this column are that of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions or views of the United States Trotting Association.

Related Articles :

- [Farewell to the Admiral](#) (Wednesday, October 20, 2010)
In a year when far too many champions have passed prematurely already, it came as a shock to Ontario racing fans when the news spread today of the death of Admiral's Express.
- [Admirals Express voted 2010 Cam Fella Award recipient](#) (Wednesday, January 5, 2011)
Standardbred Canada has announced that Admirals Express has been voted the 2010 recipient of the Cam Fella Award.

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