

# A night to remember for Grant

Milton harness racing owner claims 3 Standardbred Canada O'Brien Awards

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Brad Grant joined the O'Brien Award fraternity in highly memorable fashion Saturday night.

Entering the black tie gala with his first three nominations ever, the Milton harness racing owner walked away with the Standardbred Canada bronze statue each time - winning with two-year-old pacing colt Stay Hungry, three-year-old pacing filly Bettors Up and pacing mare Sandbetweenurtoes.

"It feels pretty good . to go from never having been nominated before to three

nominations was great. This (winning three) is the icing on the cake," Grant told the Champion Sunday morning.

His monumental evening - which came about two years after losing several horses in the tragic barn fire at Classy Lane Training Centre - was highlighted by Sandbetweenurtoes' victory over Pure Country. The daughter of Somebeach-somewhere was a threat throughout 2017, hitting the board in 24 of 30 starts and banking more than \$243,000. Her success came primarily in the Fillies and Mares Preferred races at Mohawk and Woodbine.

"The other two horses I was pretty confident were as good or better (than other finalists). I was surprised by Sandbetweenurtoes' win," said Grant. "She's a tough mare, but Pure Country is pretty good too. She (Sandbetweenurtoes) has been surprising us from the start."

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- Brad Grant of O'Brien Award sweep

Continuing the horse racing tradition from their late father John, Brad and sister Teresa Davidson share ownership of Bettors Up, who earned more than half-a-million dollars last year and finished first or second in 10 of 17 races - highlighting her campaign with a career-best 1:49.4 performance in the Fan Hano-ver final at Mohawk.

"That (sharing win with sister) meant a lot."

Another sire of Somebeach-somewhere, Stay Hungry chased down a Breeders Crown sweep at Hoosier Park - with two dramatic wins - and went 6-for-9 overall in 2017 for

\$557,000 in earnings. His victories included those in the Champlain Stakes and an elimination of the Metro Pace at Mohawk.

The O'Brien awards sweep comes on the eve of the 20th anniversary of Grant's All-Ontario championship win on the ice with the Milton Jr. A Merchants.

"I guess you can compare the two," said the former longtime junior hockey owner. "With the hockey club it was all about the kids, the fans and the town of Milton. With the O'Brien awards it's about the three trainers and all the people who look after the horses."

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Grant family photo

Brad Grant holds two of his three O'Brien awards.

ville's Harness Horsepower Inc., Kadabra Queen earned the O'Brien award in the two-year-old filly trotter division.

Among the other big winners Saturday were

Guelph's Doug McNair, who won his first Driver of the Year title, and Richard Moreau of Puslinch, who captured his fifth consecutive O'Brien for Trainer of the Year.

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