

Dan Patch Award for NY-bred JL Cruze

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 - from the U.S. Harness Writers Association

JL Cruze, a 4-year-old gelding trained by Eric Ell, saw his season cut short by complications from a virus, but before being sidelined won 16 of 21 races and put together a string of three consecutive world-record performances.

He became the sport's first trotter to trot a mile in less than 1:50 on a mile-sized track, stopping the timer in 1:49.4 to capture the Graduate Series championship at the Meadowlands. In addition, JL Cruze set the world record of 2:04.2 for the distance of 1-1/8 miles in the Hambletonian Maturity and equaled the world record of 1:51 for a 4-year-old gelding on a five-eighths oval in the Sun Invitational.

A relative unknown entering this year, JL Cruze began the season by winning the Super Bowl Series championship in January, followed by the Singer Memorial Series in February, the Shiaway St Pat Series in March, and the Weiss Series in April.

JL Cruze is owned by Ken Wood, Bill Dittmar Jr., and Stephen Iaquinta.

OLDER MALE TROTTER

JL Cruze (118 votes)

[Crazed](#)---Topcat Hall---[Conway Hall](#)

Sale Price: \$37,000 at 2014 Standardbred Horse Sale Mixed Sale

Breeders: Joanne Morrison, Glengate Farms

Owners: Ken Wood, Bill Dittmar Jr., Stephen Iaquinta

Trainer: Eric Ell **Driver:** John Campbell

Races: 21-16-2-0 **Purses:** \$627,456 **Mark:** 1:49.4 at Meadowlands (world record)

Top wins: \$443,300 Hambletonian Maturity; \$250,000 Graduate; \$75,000 Sun Invitational

Divisional honors for pacers will be announced Wednesday, followed by the live announcements of Trotter of the Year, Pacer of the Year, and Horse of the Year at approximately 1 p.m. Thursday after the second race at Monticello Raceway.

The announcement will be available on Monticello's simulcast, advance deposit wagering sites, or via replay at www.monticelloraceway.com/video-racing-results. An e-mail announcement will follow immediately after.