

For Immediate Release

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Nice Guys finish first at Scarborough Downs

Scarborough, Maine (April 11, 2009) – Enthusiastic crowds thronged once again to Scarborough Downs on Saturday (April 11) as Opening Weekend festivities continued with the carding of the first Open-level pacing event of the 2009 season and the assembled faithful were certainly treated to an inspired performance as the aptly named *Mr. Nice Guy* made an immediate impact on his new hometown partisans with an effortless navigation of the southern Maine racecourse.

Sent briskly to the top by driver Kim Ireland, *Mr. Nice Guy* appeared to actually toy with the field as the four-year-old son of *Western Ideal* seemed to wait for his competitors to catch him at the half. Just as quickly as the top-class field closed in though, the pace-setting newcomer throttled up to a higher gear and sprinted away to an in-hand 4-1/2 length margin of victory punctuated by an unhurried yet spectacular 57.4 back-half.

Swing Batter Batter (Drew Campbell) finished second while *Rusty's Rascal* (Rob Dinning) grabbed show honors.

The winning time of 1:57.3 equaled the fastest time of the young state of Maine harness season – tying the standard set by *Ideal Conditions* (Shawn Gray) just two races prior.

Purchased by Lew Hayden of Pleasanton, Texas during the 2008 edition of the Harrisburg Sale, *Mr. Nice Guy* joins his trotting-star stable-mate (and two-time state of Maine Trotter of the Year) *Kerogen* in the Wendy Ireland Stable to form what might well become the most imposing tandem to challenge the top New England classes in recent memory.

In other news, driver Drew Campbell continued his defense of his 2008 state of Maine driving title by registering three additional victories on Saturday's card to compliment his opening day driving double. Shawn Gray and Kevin Switzer, Jr. were the other multiple winners on Saturday with two scores apiece.

Scarborough Downs proudly features live harness racing every Friday and Saturday evening at 4:15 pm (EDT). The popular Sunday matinees feature a 1:30 pm post time.

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