

For Immediate Release

Scarborough Downs
PO Box 468
Scarborough, ME 04070
www.ScarboroughDowns.com
For further information contact
Mike Sweeney, Director of Publicity
207-883-4331 x1037
msweeney@scarboroughdowns.com

Bad Boy Billy in track record performance during Maine Sire Stakes Championships

Scarborough, Maine (October 18, 2009) – Bad Boy Billy successfully defended his two-year-old stakes trotting title Sunday at Scarborough Downs adding the lion's share of the \$77,561 three-year-old championship purse to his impressive bankroll as he visited the winners circle for the 19th time from just 22 career starts.

Bad Boy Billy mounted a successful front-end strategy on Sunday with the veteran teamster Leigh Fitch calling the shots for trainer Gordon Corey, dissuading any challenge at all junctures en route to establishing a brand new Scarborough Downs track record for three-year-old geldings, tripping the tele-timer in 2:00 flat to supplant the standard which had been established by his former stable-mate, Up Tempo, just last season.

"I didn't know he could leave that fast" said jubilant owner Michael Andrew, "If he hadn't made the top so quickly they would have tried to park him but he never gave them the chance. Leigh Fitch is so good on the front-end. He's a smart driver and perfectly controlled the issue on the lead."

Leigh Fitch, the owner of over 7400 career driving win, was emotionally grateful during post race comments stating, "He's a powerful horse and I'd like to thank everyone for this chance to drive him. It's been a long time since I've been to the Stakes Finals – To win this one is special."

The Don Richards trained entry of Current Closer (Mark Athearn) and Current Ca Ching (Gary Mosher) finished second and third respectively.

Thebandfromboston claimed top prize in the \$77,577 filly trotting division with Gary Mosher insisting on the point while driving hard through an overland opening panel of thirty seconds to control the tempo and the eventual outcome. The rookie sophomore held firm in the lane to withstand a determined late challenge from A Cappella Bella (Ivan Davis) and post the half-length margin of victory timed in 2:02.2 as Elegant Eve (Leigh Fitch) finished third.

“It was a challenge to develop her as an unraced three-year-old, she was a bit of a nut case” Gary Mosher remarked, “But she’s progressed quite nicely, settling down and relaxing just a bit with every start and was strong coming into the finals today. My wife and I consider it a privilege to have had the chance to work with her this year.”

A contentious opening panel of 28.3 sparked by a three-wide cavalry charge for early supremacy set the stage for a stunning stretch battle in the \$77,658 filly pacing championship with heavily favored Pembroke Whittney (Heath Campbell) taking the brunt of the grueling opening salvo. The torrid pace scenario set up perfectly for eventual winner The Salem Witch with driver Stephen Mahar miraculously finding seam after seam to post the one-length victory over Isn’t She Lovely (Leigh Fitch) timed in 2:01.4 with Pembroke Whittney settling for third.

“I’d like to thank Scarborough Downs for doing such a great job hosting this big weekend” trainer Allie Hiscock said, “And thanks to the fans who came out to watch – what a great crowd we have here today and of course Stevie Mahar. This is the third stakes final we’ve won together – he does a great job with my horses.”

An accident heading into the first turn marred the \$77,669 colt pacing championship as Guapo (Kim Ireland) stumbled and fell just past the start putting Pembroke Mike (Heath Campbell) on an unavoidable collision course with the fallen entry. Horses and drivers were immediately attended to by track personnel and reported out with only minor scrapes and bruises.

The race itself eventually turned into a game of cat and mouse as heavily backed Neutral Court (Mike Graffam) pursued stable-mate Signthepaige (Shawn Gray) around the oval. A nose in front at the top of the lane, Neutral Court’s bid at an undefeated season would fall just 1-1/2-lengths short as Signthepaige found another gear to repel the late challenge from his much ballyhooed competitor.

Neutralize (Drew Campbell) finished third.

As the resurgent Maine Sire Stakes season comes to a successful close the final stakes on the New England harness calendar will be contested next Saturday as the New England Sulky Championships return to action at Scarborough Downs.

Scarborough Downs proudly features live harness racing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:45 pm (EDT).