



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

Regina Mayhugh | rmayhugh@ohha.com

2237 Sonora Dr. | Grove City, OH 43123 | 800-353-6442 or 614-221-3650 | Fax 614-221-8726 | www.ohha.com

July 3, 2018

Memories Made at Marion

By Thom Pye

As soon as Starter Mike Woebkenberg released the 2nd race Ohio Fair Racing Conference \$3,490 1st division for 3-year-old pacing colts on Tuesday (July 3rd) a few folks in the grandstand at Marion County Fair had to be singing The Doobie Brothers' hit from 1973: Long Train Running... at least down around the corner, half a mile from here.

Long Train Runnin, the Mike Conklin-trained altered son of Big Bad John driven by 20-yearold

Hunter Myers, lead at every station and clipped off a half in 1:00.4 before highballing it home to win by 4 in an all-time track standard of 1:58.3. It was the Winchester Bay Acres Inc's speedster's 7th win in 17 lifetime starts which includes several miles at Scioto in 1:53.2 and 1:53.3. Ohio Prince (Ken Holiday) was 2nd while Matty Will with Cameron McCown took third.

The other two equally impressive OFRC divisions were taken by the Ron Steck-conditioned Drinka Beer (We Will See) with Ryan Holton in the sulky as he circled the 150+-year-old oval in 2:00.4 with a last quarter in :28.4 and Madison's Max (Duke Suke) who steamed a last panel of :29.1 en route to his victory in 2:00.2 in the 14th.

"Longshot Luke" Ebersole - a tag put on him by quick-witted announcer Ayers Ratliff - took the 1st of his driving triple in the \$3,465 2-year-old colt pace with the David Wornstaff owned and trained Woodstock colt Thundering Jim as they went a mile in 2:05.4 and posted a payoff of \$22.00 on the board.

The other OFRC divisions brought miles of 2:03.3 by David Pimstill's Winchester Wally (Pet Rock) with Jeff Nisonger in the seat and a 28.3 stretch driving crowd-thriller that separated Linda Ebersole's Cross Country (Luke Ebersole) and Josh Miller's Woodman B with Hunter Myers by a mere nose in 2:05. There was another audible murmur of approval from the crowd when the win price of \$75.40 lit up the toteboard.

The 8th race \$3,465 OFRC 3-year-old colt trot brought even more drama to the day as the 7 contestants for the Racing With The Stars lined along the rail to cheer their horses on. When the gate opened Blasco, Bud High's owned/trained/and driven favorite by Manofmanymissions, went up in the air. Young Ranger Steck, who had drawn the coveted number 4, ran back to the tent and growled "he made a break" as he threw his number on the table. Blasco spotted the field 15 lengths at the quarter but Bud High took aim at the leader.

Young Steck was pacing back and forth along the fence like a caged panther and when he heard "here comes Blasco up on the outside" he scooted over to the table to put his number back on. At the half Blasco only trailed by 5. When they hit the 3/4s he was a mere 2 lengths off the lead.

"He's makin g his move," he yelled at the older gent who sported the number 6 who was cutting the mile. The man just grimaced and tried to smile but got a cramp in his jaw. When Blasco threw a quarter of :28.2 at the field, he drew off to win in 2:04.4 by 3.

And it was one happy kid who went into the Winners Circle.

Plaudits to the officials, the trackmen, and the volunteers at the Marion County Fair for doing a fine job.

For these are the days we remember.

Marion Delivers

By Thom Pye



The action began in earnest in the first race on Monday as Luke Ebersole and Hard Rock Gal leads the way to the wire at Marion.

With temperatures in the mid-eighties and a full card of 17 races on Monday (July 2nd) the excitement at Marion County Fair was as promised.

Beginning with the very first Ohio Fair Racing Conference \$2,442 1st division that was won by Yorkshire Pacers Stud Farm's Hard Rock Gal, announcer Ayers Ratliff would add "a new track record" as the horses returned to the Winners Circle at Marion. The Jeff Ebersole-trained/Luke Ebersole-driven daughter of Pet Rock lead the 7 other lasses to the wire in a time of 2:03.3 for her initial lifetime victory and... a new track record for 2-year-old filly pacers.

It was George Mijal's Believe In Waco (Believeinbruiser) and Art McMurray

stepping of to a new track record for 3-year-old filly pacers as the Steve Novak-conditioned distaffer defeated Grant Me This (Beau Brown) and Betty's Legacy (Jeff Nisonger) in 2:01.3.

Christopher Beaver's pupil Bugs MVP with Cameron McCown would regain the form that had put over \$60,000 on her dance card as the 3-year-old by My MVP trotted to a new track record with her mile in 2:02.1 and rewarded her followers with a \$31 to win payoff.

The combo of Jeff and Luke Ebersole in the 2nd OFRC division for 2-year-old filly pacers put Linda Ebersole's Flight Seveeneleven (Pacificpanflight) in the win column with a mile in 2:04.2 and on the board with a ticket of \$61.40 to her supporters.

Don Tiger's Eden's Lucky Charm (Big Bad John-Pandemonious) and Kurt Sugg stopped the teletimer in 2:00.3 in her division as she established another new track record for 3-year-old pacing fillies over Crazy K and Rei's Honor Roll and the rest of the field.

The 2-year-old filly pacers 3rd division gave Bet You I'm Rockin (Rockin Armadeus) a new lifetime mark as well as a new track record as the Todd Luther-trained and driven lass went an impressive mile of 2:02.3 over Vintage Gal and Bigbadaffair.

But then Old Mother West Wind tried to put a damper on the festivities when the sky opened and the downpour came. A strong breeze picked up and moved a few things around but it calmed down after a few minutes.

After a rain delay of just about an hour the horses were back on the track that was now rated 2 seconds off but that didn't stop Cameron McCown from scoring his 3rd win of the day as he brought Mark Yoder's Bubba Delight to victory in the Tom Criswell FFA pace and returned \$18.80 to the fans.

Ed Hennessey took the 4th OFRC 2-year-old filly division when he brought the Sandra Hennessey-trained Atlantic Star (Cheyenne Rei) home over Rosies Apple (Pierce Henry) and posted a \$28 win price for her maiden score.

The Marion Beachy-owned/Chris Beaver-conditioned Diablu Lady (Western Vintage) was in the 17th and last race of the day and the 2-year-old filly win easily over her 7 rivals as BJ Roberts steered her into the Winners Circle.

The fans enjoyed Text Trivia throughout the day and R.C. Kendall made the 75-mile pilgrimage from Portage, Ohio a winning one as he took the top prize home in the Racing With The Stars contest after he drew the eventual race victor #2 Eden's Lucky Charm.

More action and fun to come on Tuesday (July 3rd) with an 11:00 a.m. post time for the 14 races... maybe another "new track record" will be heard echoing over the fairgrounds once again.