



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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Tuesday Action at Paulding

By Thom Pye

When Paulding track announcer Bill Peters called out the two-year-old colt pacers for Tuesday's \$3,490 Ohio Fair Racing Conference first race on Tuesday (June 12th), quite a few fans double-checked their programs when they heard "...driven by Merritt Dokey."

The 79-year-old Dokey, one of the Midwest's perennial leading drivers since he first started driving in 1966, had journeyed down from Plymouth, Michigan to pilot owner/breeder Gerry Mijal's Tanner J. This was only the 2nd drive in the past 7 years for Dokey, who had competed daily on the tough Chicago circuit for over five decades. As soon as starter Mike Wuebkenberg said "go" Dokey shot for the lead and successfully steered the Steve Novak-trained youngster to a commanding 10-length win in 2:06.4h. It was the very first trip to the Winners Circle for the altered son of Believeinbruiser-How Is Carrie in his very first start but it notched career victory #3,878 for Dokey and reaffirmed to everyone that "talent does not age."

In the second half of the daily double it was only career start number 19 for 44-year-old Cardington, Ohio native and co-owner Cory High in the \$5,078 OFRC two-year-old filly trot division but he drove dad Bud High's Count On Karma (Full Count) to victory. While the track surface was dulled by a downpour an hour before the 5:00 p.m. post time, it did not dampen anyone's spirits for the nine-race card.

There were some pretty impressive stretch drives during the day and driver Pierce Henry posted 3 wins for the evening including tallies in the \$5,003 OFRC two-year-old filly trot division with Jim Burris' Forbid Me Not (Forbidden-Simone Begonia) - paying a hefty \$32.20 - and Doug Hartung's pacer Doug's Jaxx, a two-year-old son of Pet Rock-Intrinsic Value.

Paulding County wraps up its 2018 Fair racing this evening with a nine-race program starting at 5:00 p.m. Amongst the highlights will be the OFRC 3-year-old filly pacers and trotters, the Free For All Paulding County Pace, and the first round in the summer-long battles of the Ohio Ladies Pace Series... Ladies, let's get ready to rumble!