



Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association

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Warren County Fair doubles up

By Thom Pye

Lebanon, Ohio - The Oho Colt Racing Association's stakes were held with a double card on Thursday (July 19th) as a 1 p.m. post time started the first 7-race program.

The track has been in use since 1852 and has seen numerous changes throughout the years. When the original grandstand went in 1947, an enclosed air-conditioned facility known as Lebanon Raceway was built and was the main enjoyment in the area until the venue moved out of town 7 miles west to Miami Valley Gaming.

But the old half-mile oval still has some good miles left to offer and the OCRA \$5,880 2-year-old colt division was testament to it. Don Williams' Woo's Roanie was "that gray horse" amongst the 7 pacers and the Lamar Moody-trained Pet Rock-Robinmeblind gelding was a fast-moving blur as Jack Dailey got away 5th, almost 9 lengths off the leader, before storming home in :28.2 to nip Kryptonite Rock and Jason Brewer by a nose in 2:00.3 in only the youngster's 3rd lifetime start. Pretty Boy B (Trevor Smith) took the show position.

Jeff Nisonger grabbed the 2nd division with his own trainee Sectionline Bogo (by McArdle) when he bested Crown Time Up Turn (Ryan Holton) and Jason Brewer with Bonsai in 204.1 pacing the last panel in :29.4. The \$10,914 OCRA 2-year-old colt trot was won by the Roger Hughes Jr owned, trained, and driven Rockys Wedding as the Dontyouforgetit gelding beat a 6-horse field in 2:04 flat.

The \$5,585 OCRA 1st division for 2-year-old pacing fillies saw Lebanon's Velocity Standardbred's Blymar's Dragon (by Dragon Again) notch her first fair win as she paced a last quarter in :29 seconds as the Mark Evers trained and driven lass topped Giggles In Dreams with Jack Dailey and Brady Galliers aboard Blooming Sunflower and 5 others.

It was also the Racing With The Stars' contest and the increasingly-popular event now has the fans deploying new strategies. Rod Cooper of Van Wert had been witness to several of the draws throughout the Fair circuit and was waiting in the wings. As the other participants drew their horses number he opted to go last and ended up with the number 3. And while Blymar's Dragon wasn't the favorite she did get additional support from Cooper as he bet "a couple of bucks on my horse."

After the filly paid a nice \$13.80 to win and Cooper received his Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association prize package that included a \$25 grocery gift certificate, he smiled and said "that wasn't a bad day at all, was it?"

Heythere Lisamarie with Ryan Holton took the 2nd \$5,585 OCRA division as the Steve Carter-conditioned daughter of Pet Rock came home in :29.1 as she too a new tab of 2:03.2 over Official Line (Brady Galliers) and Sweet She Rock and Mark Evers.

Brady Galliers aboard Galliers Racing LLC of Defiance was the victor in the Warren County Fair FFA Trot with Pine Dream in 2:00.4 as he came his last quarter in :29.1 to hold of Stemily Touch (Jeff Nisonger) as Sum It Up (Joey Putnam) posted 3rd.

Announcer Ted Hines called the horses to the track for the start of the 6 o'clock evening program and starter Mike Woebkenberg got the condition pace off flawlessly. When 1:58.2 minutes had quickly passed it was the Steve Livingston-trained, Chris Hope-driven Northwesterndreams as the 9-year-old gelding won by 3 3/4's over Come What May (Jack Daily) and Roy Wilson with Robin's Stock as he dished out a :28.2 last panel.

Mark Evers and another of Velocity Standardbreds' pupils Velocity Gretchen (by Arts Chip) steamed away by 4

lengths over JP Silver (Chris hope) and stablemate Badlilvelocity (Jack Dailey) in 1:59.4 in the \$9,554 OCRA 3-year-old filly pace.

Crews Hilltopper with Joe Essig captured the \$9,134 3-year-old colt trot as the gelding by Break The Bank K trotted home in :29 flat in his mile in 2:01.

It was another one of Velocity Standardbreds' 3-year-olds gathering in the \$5,237 OCRA division in the Eleanor & Corwin Nixon Memorial Pace as the Art Chip gelding Velocity U Betcha bested World Of Secrets (Mike Mc Nabb) and UF Lindsay's Boy (Scott Ferguson) in 1:59.2

Bang (by Winning Fireworks) reeled in the \$9,459 OCRA 3-year-old filly trot in 2:04.4 by a neck as Thisis she with David Myers as they drove to the wire in :28.4. Jeff Nisonger and Dontforgetyourluck took show. It was the Stella & Maynard Hagemeyer Memorial Race and as their accomplishments were read off it was noted that they both had long, distinguished, and exemplary lives.

And in keeping with the proud family tradition it was Scott Hagemeyer's Pacin To Paydaze (by World Of Rocknroll) winning the \$5,237 OCRA 3-year-old pacing colt division by 6 3/4's as the Mark Winters Sr-trained, Jeff Nisonger-driven gelding topped his rivals in 1:57.3 as neither Wheatley Wildcat (Chris Hope) nor UR Just Joe (Jack Dailey) could close the gap.

The evening's finale was a condition pace and produced another quick time when Sherif Cunmulaj's Andy Roo paced his last station in :28 flat as the 8-year-old gelding overpowered Rockin Zendaya (Rany Tharps) and Saulsbrook Astrobo (Jeff Nisonger) with a mile in 1:58 for the 2018 speed program's conclusion.

As the trophy was presented by Hagemeyer Farms, Fair Superintendent Mel Hagemeyer surveyed the oval he had known all his life and noted that after 10 years as Director "this is my last year." He will be another tradition that will be tough to replace.

Most certainly so.