

## For Immediate Release

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## Ideal Conditions victorious in Mid-Summer Classic

Scarborough, Maine (July 11, 2008) – *Ideal Conditions* found Scarborough Downs the perfect spot to launch his attack on the New England Invitational circuit as the six-year-old Western Ideal gelding powered through the long Scarborough stretch to claim victory in the \$20,000 renewal of *The Mid Summer Classic* before a packed grandstand filled with both hardcore harness fans and casual spectators alike.

Expertly teamed by Maryland native Jonathan Roberts, *Ideal Conditions* broke second from the start as he tracked the veteran *Chewy Gross* (Heath Campbell) through opening panels of 27.1 and 56.2 – fast enough to ensure an honest pace as the field geared up for their second spin around the quaint seaside oval.

“Legitimate fractions created a legitimate mile,” said winning trainer Joseph Nelson. “Credit Heath Campbell for letting the old horse roll on a little in the early going. He gave everyone of us a chance to win this race and ensured an exciting race for the fans to watch. I’m glad for the fans and glad for the track that we were able to stage such a fast mile here today.”

*Ideal Conditions* sat patient until the final turn when Roberts guided his charge off the pylons and geared him up to engage the classy leader.

“I’ve raced against *Chewy Gross* down at Harrington and I know what a tough competitor he can be,” Jonathan Roberts remarked. “It was no forgone conclusion that we would be able to pass him by but I had talked to Jason Bartlett this morning – Jason drives *Ideal Conditions* down in New York – and he told me what to expect. Jason said he was a real animal and that he would respond well at the Downs – the horse did everything that Jason said he would.”

*Ideal Conditions* then engaged *Chewy Gross* in an epic battle through the storied Scarborough stretch before marching on to victory while stopping the teletimer in blistering 1:54.1 – the third fastest mile ever paced at Scarborough Downs.

“I’m so glad that everything worked out today,” said jubilant owner Scott Dillon who resides in Anson, Maine. “There’s so much pressure in bringing a horse like him to race at

home – you never know how things will work out. It’s good to own a fast mile at the Downs and it was great to showcase him before the local fans.”

“I’d like to thank Scarborough Downs for putting some of the old Invitational races back on the schedule” Dillon continued. “Races like this one allow owners to invest in quality animals. We’re all proud of our horses – they’re like our children --we like to show them off. The Mid Summer Classic and The Joseph Ricci Memorial give us a chance to do just that. It’s a lot more fun to watch these horses race at the Downs than to watch them on simulcast. This is the way racing should be.”

*Ideal Conditions* now heads to Bangor Raceway for next Sunday’s edition of the Paul Bunyan Invitational, then off to Woodstock, New Brunswick before returning to Maine to compete in the Height Memorial at the Maine State Fair in Skowhegan.

His connections leave with the lion’s share of the \$20,000 purse but they also leave with glowing praise for Scarborough Downs.

“The folks at Scarborough put on a first class event here today” said Jonathan Roberts as he awaited his lobster dinner in the clubhouse dining room “I’ve never been treated better or made to feel more at home.”

“The redesign of the racetrack itself is also quite impressive” Roberts continued. “The turns are perfect and the surface was consistent. They’ve done a lot of good work here since the last time I visited – I can’t wait to come back.”

Roberts and *Ideal Conditions* did a lot of good work on the track today too as they enter the record books as the third fastest tandem to ever traverse the Scarborough oval – topped only by Hotrod Falcon’s (Walter Case, Jr.) 1:52.4 in 1993 and Prince Ebony’s (Ron Pierce)1:54 in 1990.

With today’s successful renewal of The Mid Summer Classic, the age of the Invitational has surely returned to Scarborough Downs.

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

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