

For Immediate Release

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Freshmen champions crowned in Maine Breeders Stakes

Scarborough, Maine (October 11, 2008) – Maine’s Super Sire Stakes Weekend got off to a rambunctious start on Saturday (October 11) as the four rich two-year-old divisional championships were contested before an enthusiastic crowd at Scarborough Downs with a record setting \$210,000 in stakes purses on the line.

Pembroke Annie was the popular odds on winner of the filly trotting division on Saturday as teamster Heath Campbell executed a picture perfect patient driving strategy. Sitting fourth in the early going behind the speed of Sweet Dust (Gary Mosher) Campbell quickly brushed to the lead as the field passed the three-quarter-mile marker en route to posting a 9-1/2 length victory timed in 2:06-2/5th.

“You don’t have to ask her” Campbell remarked when commenting on her quick burst of speed “She just does it all by herself. She really makes my job a lot easier.”

Owned by William Varney of Bangor, Maine and trained under the guidance of Valerie Grondin, the product of the first crop from the Maine based stallion Musclini finishes her freshman season riding a four-race win streak while bankrolling over \$56,000 in purse earnings.

“We connected with Heath and Valerie early on” said winning owner William Varney “And the relationship has been extremely profitable. They are consummate horsemen who year after year deliver an outstanding product.”

The two-year-old colt trotting crown will be worn by Bad Boy Billy this season as the son of the exciting new stallion Boy Band concluded a rare undefeated freshman campaign on Saturday as driver/trainer Gordon Corey engineered an expertly rated front-running mile to claim the championship by 1-1/2 lengths over Quinn Quickly (Ivan Davies).

Davies sent Quinn Quickly aggressively after the leader just past the half-mile marker but was never able to head Bad Boy Billy as the duo trotted toe-to-toe up the backstretch and around the final turn. The undefeated wunderkind held plenty in reserve though as he persevered at the wire timed in 2:03 flat for owner Michael Andrew of Gorham, Maine.

With the victory Andrew and Corey have now teamed up to claim victory in two \$50,000 races at Scarborough Downs this year after winning the Joseph Ricci Memorial trot earlier in the season with Likeabatoutahell.

“It’s a nice habit to acquire” quipped the jubilant driver in a winner’s circle interview “I could certainly get accustomed to it.”

“Don’t let him off so easy” Andrew joked in response, “We’ve got another chance coming up tomorrow in the (\$77,000) three-year-old finals.”

No Peeking overcame post position eight to claim a determined victory in the \$52,659 filly pacing final as driver Drew Campbell willed his pacer past the pace-setting Isn’t She Lovely (Leigh Fitch) with a scant ¾-length separating the two at the wire.

“The Fox’s (Fitch) filly got a little tired after fighting off my brother (driver Heath Campbell with Pembroke Whittney)” Campbell explained. “But my filly was game through the lane and I was able to pick them off late. She’s a pretty nice two-year-old.”

No Peeking is owned in partnership by the Ben Bill and Will stable of Carmel, Maine and has now won 8 of 10 freshman starts for trainer Eric Bickmore.

Neutral Court capped off the stakes championship action on Saturday as the pride and joy of the Pineholm Farm and the Fox Ridge Stable overcame an early miscue to seal a ¾-length victory in the two-year-old colt pacing division over stable-mate Signthepaige (Shawn Gray).

Trained and driven by Michael Graffam, the two-year-son of the Neutralize left smartly to secure a two-hole journey but became rough-gated and broke stride as the field settled into the first turn. The colt quickly came back pacing though and boldly captured the lead after pulling the pocket just past the half. He was then able to withstand the deep stretch rally of Signthepaige to post his ninth seasonal win timed in 2:00-1/5th.

“It was a little too close for comfort and very nerve-whacking to watch” said part owner Laurie Salzillo, “But we are so proud of this colt and everything that he’s accomplished this year. Mike has done an outstanding job.”

The three-year-old finals of the Maine Standardbred Breeders Stakes program will be contested on Sunday (October 12) at Scarborough Downs with total purses for the four divisions in excess of \$310,000.

The 12-race program goes to post at 12:30 pm (EDT).

Scarborough Downs proudly features live harness racing every Friday through Sunday afternoon featuring a 12:30 pm post time.