

New York Bred Habitat wins Bluegrass trot

by Ray Cotolo, for The Red Mile

Lexington, KY --- Freshman colt trotters occupied the Friday night card at The Red Mile, with five divisions of the \$393,000 Bluegrass Stakes contested on Sept. 26. Habitat, The Bank and Southwind Stryker put in the quickest miles of the five divisions contested.



Habitat was a 1:53.4 winner for Yannick Gingras.

William Wellwood champion Habitat once again reigned supreme, this time by three-quarters of a length over Honor And Serve and Cruzado Dela Noche in 1:53.4.

The early tempo setter was Honor And Serve, leading Canappealformore and Habitat through a :28.2 first quarter. Yannick Gingras soon gave Habitat the cue to circle by his foes, clearing the field slightly after a :57.4 half.

Boots N Chains gradually progressed to Habitat's wheel around the far turn. Habitat, through three-quarters in 1:26.3, began to draw away from his competitors. Cruzado Dela Noche, traveling second over, fanned off cover and began a bid down the center of the course, while Honor And Serve snuck out of the pocket. Yet, they were the runner-up as Habitat held on in a lifetime-best of 1:53.4.

A son of [Conway Hall](#)-Habit's Best-[Muscles Yankee](#), he's owned by Burke Racing Stable, Our Horse Cents Stables and Weaver Bruscemi, trained by Ron Burke and driven by Yannick Gingras.

"I think he was as sharp, but he was maybe too sharp," Gingras said in regards to Habitat's margin of victory. "He was a little keen tonight. Usually, he lets me do what I want with him. He's usually two fingers to drive, but he was a little wound up tonight, and I think that cost him a little bit of energy."

"Coming to the top of the stretch, I knew I had a big last quarter left in him, but Honor And Serve and that horse Dave was driving (Cruzado Dela Noche) are two quality horses as well. He was 1-5, but it was no 'gimme,' there was good horses in here."