

Toscano perfect at Goshen; Schnittker trotter sets track record; New York Breds dominate Thursday card.

By Ken Weingartner, Harness Racing Communications

Goshen, NY -- Linda Toscano's day at Historic Track was literally perfect. Ray Schnittker's afternoon was pretty good, too.

Toscano on Thursday (July 2) sent out five horses in Landmark Stakes divisions for 2-year-old pacers, and watched all five go to the winner's circle. The Brooklyn-born trainer, who is well on her way to a third consecutive \$2 million season, could not recall ever winning five races on a single card.

"It can only go down from here," Toscano said, laughing. "You better be humble in this business when you win because you lose a whole lot more than you ever win. But it was a good day."



USTA/Ken Weingartner photo

Ray Schnittker and Margarita Man leave the winner's circle after their track record performance at Historic Track.

Schnittker won two Landmark divisions for 2-year-old trotters, including a track record victory with Margarita Man. The son of Malabar Man-Margarita Miss won by 23-1/4 lengths in 2:00.2, breaking the mark of 2:00.3 set by Here Comes Herbie in 2005. Here Comes Herbie, who earned \$365,541 lifetime, at that point in his career was trained and driven by Schnittker.

"He'll be a very nice colt if he doesn't lose his mind," said Schnittker, who is stabled at Historic Track. "He's a little goofy, but he can go. Hopefully, he'll be all right. He won real good today. He'll be a killer on a half (mile track). Hopefully, he can win the finals of the New York Sire Stakes.

"You never know (what his potential is). You can't tell at this stage of the game. He's a very nice colt, though."

Toscano, too, might be hoping for a few New York Sire Stakes winners after her horses' performances. One reason she likes to race at Historic Track is to see how her young horses get around a half-mile oval.

"The first sire stakes races are at Buffalo, and if you can get around Goshen, you can usually get around Buffalo," Toscano said. "Plus, it's a nice day and the owners love it."

Toscano was particularly pleased with the pacing colt He's Gorgeous, who won by a half-length in 2:01. He's Gorgeous (Art Major-So Ravishing) was purchased for \$97,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale. He was one of three horses owned by Ken Jacobs that found the winner's circle.

"I think (He's Gorgeous) is the best of them," Toscano said. "He only goes as much as he has to go, but he's got the right attitude and a good gait. I love a lazy horse. I love a horse that only goes as much as he has to go because they only expend as much energy as they need to.

"Ken Jacobs has been incredibly good to me," she added. "He buys his yearlings and sifts through them and he sends me only the best of what he has. It's kind of nice."

Jacobs' other winners were colt pacer Holiday Spot and filly pacer Truly A Treasure.

"Holiday Spot is a nice horse," Toscano said. "I don't think he's in the same league as (He's Gorgeous), but we'll see as it goes on. They can fool you all the time.

"Truly A Treasure has done everything I've asked her to do so far, and done it easily. We'll keep our fingers crossed."

Stake Your Claim Stable went to the winner's circle twice with Toscano, with filly pacer Galimony and colt pacer Capital Blue Chip. Galimony won in 1:59.1, which was the day's fastest time.

"Galimony was the big surprise for the day," Toscano said. "She's a big strapping filly. I thought she might do well, but I wasn't sure. She's been lazy. She was a very pleasant surprise.

"Capital Blue Chip I expected to get around here like a hoop around a barrel. I think he could pace Cowtown (Rodeo) with a carriage, he's so handy."

Driver Jim Morrill, Jr. teamed with Toscano to win four times.



USTA/Mark Hall photo

Trainer Linda Toscano won five Landmark Stakes on Thursday.