

By John Manzi

New York Sires Stakes fans got a plethora of races to enjoy on Sunday afternoon, July 25 when Monticello Raceway presented eight divisions of freshmen pacing colts and geldings which went total purses in excess of \$165,000.

The day, which started with the sun shining soon turned ominous when early in the card a steady rain began to fall and it continued throughout the rest of the afternoon.

Besides the very talented pacing colts the stars of the afternoon were trainer Linda Toscano and drivers Jason Bartlett and Cat Manzi. Bartlett drove three winners for Toscano and Manzi won two splits.



Thomas J, an Artiscape colt scored a 1:57 triumph over China King and Jimmy Morrill, Jr in a 1:57 clocking in the first race on the card. In the third Bartlett again romped to victory with Flipper J, a son of Art Major, in a time of 1:56:3 and turned back Sea Me Now with Stephane Bouchard at the controls. The third Bartlett-

Toscano triumph came in race number four when Yonkers leading driver toured the Mighty M oval in 1:59 with Major Way. In that one A And G's Major finished second for Jimmy Morrill, Jr. All three winners are owned by Kenny Jacobs of Baldwinsville, NY.

The Catman, who began his illustrious career at the Mighty M, returned home and reined two NYSS winners.. His first was with David MacDuffee's Roadside Delight, a Bettor's delight colt, when they turned back Sir Jonathan Z Tam (Pat Lachance) in a 1:58:3 clocking. They cruised to a :57:3 final half en route to victory.

Manzi's second triumph on the card was with Reflection Of Blue when they defeated favored Samandar (Jimmy Morrill,Jr.) in 1:59:4 as the rains drizzled down even more steadily. Owned by K&R Racing and George Teague, Jr. Reflection of Blue is the Bettor's Delight son out of the great pacing mare Rainbow Blue.

Pat Lachance scored an impressive victory with Sir Ziggy's Z Tam in 1:56:4 over Cowboy Wisdom and Jason Bartlett. Co-owner Bill Matz was on hand to explain the colt's name.

"Pat's (Lachance) nickname is Ziggy so we named this son of Art Major after him and if today is any indication he looks like he'll be a real nice colt for us this season," Matz said. Matz's partners here are Lachance and Ira Rosenblum.

In the seventh race it was Test Of Will who defeated Valley Fever in a time of 1:59:4. The son of Art Major was driven by Brian Cross and is trained by Joe Spadaro for owner Mike Polansky

The final NYSS division went to Mat's Delight, driven by Ray Schnittker, in an easy victory timed in 1:57:3. The son of Bettor's Delight was bred by Matt Meinzingher who co-owns the colt with Schnittker.



Photo: Liz Stubits