

PRETTYASAPAGEANT CAPTURES THURSDAY FEATURE

By Jim Moran



Prettyasapageant came from off the pace to record a 1:55.2 triumph in Thursday night's (July 2) \$5,000 featured sixth race at Vernon Downs.

While Lesley's Jlo Belle (Howard Okusko, Jr. driving) took the seven-filly/mare field to the half in :57.1 over a track labeled sloppy, Prettyasapageant paced along in sixth place. Entering the final turn of Vernon's 7/8ths-

mile oval, the 6-year-old daughter of Tune Town-Swinging Meg began a three-wide rally that resulted in her taking the lead entering the homestretch, where she drew off to defeat Bille Bella Chick by a little more than two lengths.

Thursday's tally was the fourth locally, the fifth this season and 12th lifetime for the career-winner of \$67,205, who is owned by the In Front Racing stable. Fern Paquet, Jr. did the driving for Jamie Paquet.

Paquet also piloted the Indigo Racing Stable's pacer It's Been Real, conditioned by Adam Capizzano, to a lifetime best 1:57.4 score in Thursday's seventh session.

Okusko, Jr., the meet's leading driver with 48 victories through 31 programs, and Jimmy Whittemore, second with 43 first-place finishes, also doubled during the nine-race card.

Red Brandy, newcomer Jimmy Whisman teaming for trainer Brenda Ohol and owner Mike Mc Danel, followed up her 2:47.2 record performance in a 1-3/8 mile race here on June 25 with a lifetime best 1:59 tally in Thursday's eight event. It was the 4-year-old mare's seventh score in 20 trips to the track this season.

DOWNS DOINGS—Prominent area dairy farmer and breeder Paul S. Nower, 77, died on Tuesday (June 30) in Hamilton. After selling his dairy interests in 2001, Nower and his wife of 59 years, Pauline, turned their attention to breeding and racing Standardbreds, and spent much of their retirement traveling throughout the state watching their horses compete in New York Sires Stakes races, where they enjoyed much success...The Downs will present nine live races starting at 6:55 tomorrow night, followed by a fireworks spectacular, then offer up a nine-race Independence Day matinee card at 1:15 on Saturday (July 4)...The Downs will also present four Tuesday cards in July, the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 27th, with each starting at 6 p.m...Additional information can be obtained at www.vernondowns.com.

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