



PRESS RELEASE

Country Boy 123 returns a winner in Picov Maturity Trials

AJAX DOWNS, MONDAY MAY 21, 2018 - Ajax Downs' two-time Horse of the Year Country Boy 123 had an impressive return to the races on May 20 when he won the second of two trial races for the upcoming Picov Maturity.

In front of a large and enthusiastic Victoria Day weekend crowd, the popular 5-year-old gelding turned on the jets and came from off the pace to run down 2015 Horse of the Year Fiesty Icon to win by a long neck. His time for 300 yards was a sharp :15.34, good for a 103 speed index. That time makes Country Boy 123 the fastest qualifier heading into the June 3 Picov Maturity final worth \$50,000-added.

"I knew he was going to be game," said jockey Cory Spataro. "We hooked up with Fiesty Icon and he was just waiting for my signal to continue on. When I asked him he was there."

Country Boy 123, now a winner of 12 races in 20 starts, is owned by Ruth Barbour of Hillsburgh, Ontario.

The first trial for the Maturity went to the speedy Countrys Comin Bac owned by Whitby's Ralph Pearson. The 5-year-old gelding won a four-horse frantic finish by a head in :15.600 for a 93 speed index. Ridden by Ramiro Castillo, Countrys Comin Bac edged multiple stakes winner Alakazaam, owned by Cummings Cattle Co. and Full Circle Racing.

Ajax Downs' third racing day of the 2018 season was a big one for Cobourg's Cassandra Jeschke, who rode three winners on the eight-race card, all for trainer Scott Reid of Bowmanville.

The next racing day at Ajax, May 27, is Fan Appreciation Day with pop-up vouchers, giveaways and contests for all fans in attendance. Post time next Sunday is 12:55.



(Photos of COUNTRY BOY 123 (#5) and COUNTRYS COMIN BAC winning their trials for the Picov Maturity by Clive Cohen/New Image Media)