



PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS

Ajax Downs horse wins ticket to big American race

Ajax Downs owners Carol and Jaime Robertson are making plans to head to the U.S. in the fall after their exciting 2-year-old Had to Be Ivory won the important John Deere Juvenile Challenge on Sunday, July 9.

Had to Be Ivory earned a free entry to the **\$150,000 (US) John Deere Juvenile Championship on Oct. 14 at Prairie Meadows in Iowa** with his surge to victory in the \$26,550 dash for juveniles, remaining unbeaten after two starts.

The towering 2-year-old, trained by Carol's husband Bryn, was bred in Ontario by the Robertson family and was ridden to victory by longtime leading Ajax jockey Tony Phillips.

"He didn't break all that well from the gate but he got going quickly," said Phillips, who fell in love the horse when he was still a baby. "The more distance he gets, the better he will be too."

Bryn Robertson, who has won a remarkable eight races from his 13 Ajax starters in 2017, said he has had high hopes for Had to Be Ivory all along.

“I thought he was the better one of my 2-year-olds and he proved it today.”

Ajax Downs is gearing up for a big summer of on-track events in addition to its top class Quarter Horse racing. The track will have a **twilight afternoon** of racing on Thursday, July 20, with a post time of 3:45 p.m. and host the popular **Craft Beer day on July 23.**

For more - www.ajaxdowns.com