



PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS

Had to Be Ivory knocks off Champion Country Boy 123 in Picov Maturity

AJAX DOWNS, SUNDAY MAY 25, 2019 - Ajax Downs has a new star in town as 4-year-old Ontario-bred **HAD TO BE IVORY** knocked off three-time Horse of the Year COUNTRY BOY 123 in the 7th PICOV MATURITY worth \$55,800 on May 26 at Ajax Downs.

In front of a big crowd enjoying perfect late spring weather, HAD TO BE IVORY surged to a three-quarter length win over the three-time Horse of the Year Country Boy 123 in the 300-yard dash in a time of :15.230 for a 104 Speed Index. Tony Phillips rode the winner for owners Carol and Jaime Robertson and trainer Bryn Robertson of Hillsburgh, Ontario.

Had to Be Ivory broke sharply on the drying out main track and quickly contested the lead with Country Boy 123 and Alberta champion Bringonthewave before surging clear to remain undefeated from two starts in 2019.

The big bark day gelding, who has only lost once in his 11 race career (last summer in his first meeting with Country Boy 123) upped his career earnings to over \$136,000 with the victory.

The Picov Maturity was the first stakes race on the exciting 2019 Ajax Downs schedule.

Fans of Quarter Horse Racing will be in the spotlight Sunday June 2 for Fan Appreciation Day with the on-track feature being the Trials for the Ontario-Bred Derby.

Follow Ajax Downs on Twitter (@AjaxDowns) and on Facebook and Instagram. And for more information visit <http://www.ajaxdowns.com>.

Photo - HAD TO BE IVORY surges to victory in the \$55,800 Picov Maturity on May 26 - photo by New Image Media)

