



PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS

'Ivory' Towers Over Rivals On a Super Day of Racing at Ajax Downs

AJAX DOWNS, WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2020 - It was only the second racing day of the 2020 Ajax Downs Quarter Horse season and but if today's racing was any indication, racing fans will be in for some super showdowns and great racing this year.

On a picture perfect, warm summer day the 2019 Horse of the Year HAD TO BE IVORY asserted his championship form in his first start of the year, fending off a stern challenge from the filly Shes Sizzling to win the featured allowance race by a long neck.

The 300 yard race served as a tune-up for some of the top older horses heading to the July 1 Picov Maturity, a race Had to Be Ivory won last year.

Owned by Hillsburgh, ON's Carol and Jaime Robertson and trained by Bryn Robertson, Had to Be Ivory broke a bit to the right out of the gate and caused some crowding before being straightened out by jockey Tony 'TP' Phillips. The 5-year-old grabbed a quick lead and then held safe Shes Sizzling, owned by Joyce and Erik Lehtinen of Uxbridge, in a quick time of 15.280, for a sharp 100 speed index.

The top two finishers are both Ontario-bred. Spy for the Senate, owned by Milena Kwiecien, finished a closing third.

The Robertsons and Phillips were right back in the winner's circle one race later when their 2-year-old champion of 2019 EAZY STREET won his 2020 opener, surging late to defeat older horses through 250 yards. The Ontario-bred sophomore is now undefeated in 5 career races. His time of 13.342 was good for a 92 speed index.

Eazy Street heads a strong 3-year-old division at Ajax Downs this year and the best will meet in September in the Picov Derby.

Earlier on the June 17 card, CHALK CLIFFS won his season debut to remain undefeated in 2 starts for Patty Ball and Bonnie Kirkwood-Peavoy. Trained by Michelle Woodley of Nobleton, Chalk Cliffs put up a 90 speed index for a time of 15.579 for 300 yards.



And Joyce and Erik Lehtinen's SILKEN SIRI was another impressive 3-year-old winner, taking a maiden race in 13.393 for 250 yards, a 90 speed index.

Currently there are no spectators permitted at racetracks in Ontario due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the hope is that later in the summer, tracks can begin to bring in fans.

Racing continues at Ajax Downs Wednesday, June 24 with a first post of 12:55 p.m. You can watch races and replays at <http://www.ajaxdowns.com> and wager on the races through <http://www.hibet.com>.

Don't forget to follow Quarter Horse racing on our Twitter and Instagram feeds, @AjaxDowns.

To get involved in owning a share of your own Quarter Horse, contact the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario at <http://www.qrooi.com>.

Photo - HAD TO BE IVORY holds off SHES SIZZLING to win his comeback of 2020 under jockey Tony Phillips.

