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## **PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS**

### ***Jason Pascoe Juveniles Win Both Trials for Ontario Sires Stakes Futurity at Ajax Downs***



***First Cold Wave and Brian Bell won the fastest of two Trials for the OSS Futurity. Keepr of the Stars (right) and Helen Vanek won the second Trial: New Image Media photos***

**AJAX DOWNS, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25, 2021** - Robert Bailey's homebred 2-year-old **FIRST COLD WAVE** won the fastest of two time Trials for Ontario Sires Stakes Futurity over a fast Ajax Downs track on a hot summer afternoon.

Sixteen Ontario-sired juveniles took part in the 330-yard Trials with the 10 fastest 2-year-olds advancing to the **September 13 final worth \$60,000-added**.

First Cold Wave, a member of the first crop of the stallion Cold Hard Dash, had a perfect start from post eight in the second Trial and quickly grabbed the lead under jockey Brian Bell. The Jason Pascoe-trainee, the second choice of the public at 8 to 5, won by a length over a closing Night Leader, who had beaten him in the Aug. 4 Ontario Bred Futurity. Night Leader, owned by Scott Reid and John Wilson grabbed second over Kold Kinda Star, owned by Belinda Taggart and also by Cold Hard Dash, who was third.

The time for First Cold Wave's Trial, with an 11 mph tailwind, was 17.014 for a 92 speed index. It was the second win in three races for the copper-coloured gelding. He paid \$5.10 to win.

"Jason told me this guy is going to give me his all," said Bell. "He had a little issue with his leg that he hurt in his stall but Jason kept working on him. He thought he could run as fast as a 92 speed index and sure enough, he ran a 92 today."



The first Ontario Sires Stakes Futurity Trial was also won by a Pascoe 2-year-old, **KEEPR OF THE STARS**, a bay gelding owned and bred by Belinda Taggart. Fourth in the Ontario Bred Futurity behind Night Leader and First Cold Wave, Kepr of the Stars was behind the leaders early but closed ground to win by half a length in 17.132 for an 88 speed index. Ridden by Helen Vanek, the son of Star Fire Dash was the 5 to 2 third choice. Magic Flare, a filly by first-year sire Maryland Magic, held second by a neck over 9 to 5 favourite SW Snowmagicallykool.

Kepr of the Stars has won two of four starts and he paid \$7,50 to win. The 10 qualifiers for the Ontario Sires Stakes Futurity are listed below.

Also on the August 25 card, owner Rick Crispi, trainer Tom Dunlap and jockey Ramiro Castillo won three races. Castillo's three wins move him into a tie for leading rider with Ismael Mosquera, who won a pair Wednesday, at 15 wins. Cory Spataro has 14 wins.

Racing, and stakes action, continues next week, September 1, with the Trials for the top 3-year-old race of the season, the **Picov Derby**, worth \$50,000. First race post time is 1:30 p.m. Ajax Downs also announced that racing will **continue on Wednesdays through the end of the season, Nov. 3**, rather than switch to a Monday schedule which was scheduled to begin Sept. 13. The first race post time will change to 12:55 on Wednesday, September 15.

Follow Ajax Downs on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook or visit our website at [www.ajaxdowns.com](http://www.ajaxdowns.com) for more updates.

Video - Race 2, First Trial - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OC1RLeN16IQ>

Video - Race 3 - Second Trial - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7dTN18EsVw&t=564s>

### **TOP TEN QUALIFIERS for Sept. 13 Ontario Sires Stakes Futurity** **Horse Times Trainer Jockey Owner**

1	First Cold Wave	17.014	Pascoe Bell Bailey
2	Kepr of the Stars	17.132	Pascoe Vanek Taggart
3	Night Leader	17.176	Reid Scott Reid/Wilson
4	Magic Flare	17.206	Dunlap Castillo Crispi
5	SW Snowmagicallykool	17.229	Pascoe Mosqueira Kwiecien
6	Blazin Magician	17.249	Pascoe Moreno Kwiecien
7	Kold Kinda Star	17.362	Pascoe Mosqueira Taggart
8	Jezzabella	17.395	Wood DeSouza Bogar
9	Runawayslightsncaviar	17.568	Wood Phillips Bogar
10	Magic Diamond	17.993	5 Pascoe Vanek Kwiecien