



PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS

Ajax Downs' Richest Race Headlines Closing Day



Ontario bred A SHADES OF COLD was one of two Trial winners for the \$93,870 Alex Picov Memorial Futurity. The final is on Wednesday, October 26, closing day of the 2022 Ajax Downs Quarter Horse season (photo courtesy Milena Kwiecien)

AJAX DOWNS, OCTOBER 24, 2022 - The richest Quarter Horse race in Canada is set for Wednesday, October 26 at Ajax Downs, closing day of the 2022 season. The **22nd running of the prestigious Alex Picov Memorial Futurity** for 2-year-olds offers a purse of \$93,870 and the 10 fastest qualifiers from two Trials on Oct. 5 will dash 400 yards.

The Picov Futurity is race 10 on a huge 11-race card that gets underway with a **first race post time of 12:45 p.m.**

The two Trials winners, **VALIANT CHICK INSNOW**, who had the slightly faster Trial time of 20.22 for a 90 speed index, and A SHADES OF COLD (20.31, 88 speed index) figure to duel for favoritism.

Valiant Chick Insnow, a filly bred in Oklahoma by Ajax Downs' leaning owner Milena Kwiecien of Burlington, ON is undefeated in two races since arriving in Ontario after five starts in the U.S. A daughter of top American stallion Valiant Hero, Valiant Chick Insnow, trained by Jason Pascoe, held off the closing charge of stablemate Snow Moose and jockey Brian Bell in her Trial win. J.B. Botello will once again partner the filly and the pair drew post position four.



A SHADES OF COLD, also trained by Pascoe, is the first horse bred by owner Amelie Aubut, who is from Pont Rouge, QC. The sorrel gelding won his career debut before finishing third in the Ontario Sires Futurity and second in the Bonus Futurity. In his Trial victory, the son of Ontario stallion Cold Hard Dash, owned in part by Aubut, pulled away from Maximize and favoured Firstprize Charlotte under regular rider Ismael Mosquera.

"What I was trying to do in the Trial was to teach him to finish strong," said Mosquera. "He was very steady and then he really picked it up the last 200 yards."

FIRSTPRIZE CHARLOTTE, an Ontario bred for Richard Wincikaby and trained by Michelle Woodley, is the only stakes winner in the field as she won the Ontario Sires Stakes Futurity on Aug. 17.

Tony Phillips, currently leading a tight race for top jockey, is confident Firstprize Charlotte can bounce back from her third-place finish in her Trial.

"It's a very tough field, but we'll have our rod and shield," said Phillips, who is popular for his rap-style interviews.

Phillips has 22 wins heading into the final race day and 241 QROOI points with Ramiro Castillo close behind with 19 wins and 228 points. Brian Bell, just two wins away from 750 career victories, has 17 wins this season and 226 points.

*Admission to Ajax Downs is always free and trackside picnic tables are a great place to enjoy the races. You can also watch and wager on the races at www.HPIBET.com and see the live stream of the day on the Ajax Downs Facebook page.

For more information visit www.ajaxdowns.com or check us out on social media, @AjaxDowns.

FIELD FOR THE 22nd ALEX PICOV MEMORIAL FUTURITY

Oct. 26, Race 10; Purse \$93,870. For Two Year Olds, 400 Yards.

PP	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	M/L
1	Heza Majestic Hero	J Scott	L Spada	12/1
2	Sw Anninilator	D Benitez	J Pascoe	10/1
3	Firstprize Charlotte	T Phillips	M Woodley	6/1
4	Valiant Chick	Insnow	J B Botello	J Pascoe 3/1
5	Francesca	R S Castillo	C McIntyre	8/1
6	Stanair	L Desouza	J Grice	15/1
7	A Shades of Cold	I Mosqueira	J Pascoe	4/1
8	Maximize	R Moreno	J Pascoe	8/1
9	Walkthruivory	D Benitez	J Pascoe	10/1
10	Snow Moose	B Bell	J Pascoe	7/2

Owners: 1 - Isaak Fehr ; 2 - Milena Kwiecien ; 3 - Richard Wincikaby ; 4 - Milena Kwiecien ; 5 - Big Dog Racing Stable ; 6 - Steve Hunter ; 7 - Amelie Aubut ; 8 - Belinda Taggart ; 9 - Kiowa Creek Performance Horses ; 10 - Milena Kwiecien

Breeders: 1 - Bryon Gardner; 2 - Sherry A Wingfield; 3 - Richard Wincikaby; 4 - Milena Kwiecien; 5 - Gene



Cox; 6 - Steve Hunter; 7 - Amelie Aubut; 8 - Guylaine Paquin; 9 - Kiowa Creek Perf Horses; 10 - Milena Kwiecien

Live Like The Gates Just Opened



**Live Quarter Horse Racing May to October
Wednesdays & One Sunday a Month &
Thanksgiving Monday**

Watch our website for all this seasons events www.ajaxdowns.com    

