



PRESS RELEASE - AJAX DOWNS

Race for the United Way Day, Pumpkin Giveaway and 50th Alex Picov Memorial Championship, Thanksgiving Monday at Ajax Downs



Three-year-olds Sour Candy (9) and Snow Moose (8) square off in the \$49,230 Alex Picov Memorial Championship on Thanksgiving Monday. New Image Media/Clive Cohen photo

AJAX DOWNS, OCTOBER 6, 2023 - Ajax Downs is hosting its annual Race for the United Way Day and pumpkin giveaway for kids this Thanksgiving Monday, October 9, complete with 8 exciting Quarter Horse races. Headlining the on-track action is the 50th running of the prestigious Alex Picov Memorial Championship for 3-year-olds and upward.

All proceeds from a silent auction and 50-50 draw will go to the United Way of Durham Region. Fans on track will also receive a free gift with program purchase and the outsiders and track ponies will be dressed up for Halloween. 🎃

The **\$49,230 Alex Picov Memorial Championship** could go a long way to solidifying Ajax Downs' Horse of the Year honours as 3-year-olds **SOUR CANDY** and **SNOW MOOSE** meet up once again while tackling top older horses **FIRST COLD WAVE** and **HAD TO BE RELENTLESS**. The race is at 440 yards, a distance only First Cold Wave has attempted.

Both Sour Candy, owned by Craig Spada and Rick Crispi and trained by Lauren Spada, and Snow Moose, owned by Milena Kwiecien and trained by Jason Pascoe, have 36 Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario (QROO)



points, more than any other horse that raced this year at Ajax Downs. Sour Candy has a record of 8 starts and 6 wins including a neck victory on Sept. 13 in the \$53,000 Picov Derby. Snow Moose was third that day.

Alexis Sanchez rides Sour Candy, who will start from post 5.

Snow Moose (post 2) has 5 wins in 12 races and won the QROOI Derby and Ontario Bred Derby this year. JB Botello takes over from regular rider Brian Bell.

First Cold Wave won the Ontario Sires Stakes Maturity for older horses on Sept. 3 for owner and breeder Robert Bailey. Brian Bell gets the mount. Had to Be Relentless is stakes placed this year for Carol and Jaime Robertson and he is seeking his first stakes win. Josh Scott will ride.

The Championship field is completed by the fillies **VALIANT CHICK INSNOW**, who is stakes placed this year, and **QUEEN CHARLOTTE**, a three-time winner for James Bogar this year.

***The Jockey Race Tightens! BRIAN BELL's** 2 wins at Ajax Downs on Oct. 4 grabbed him enough QROOI points to sneak into the lead again for **champion jockey of the year**. Bell has 216 points and a meet-leading 24 wins, and is trying to fend off JB Botello, who is in the midst of the best year of his career with 214 points, while crafty veteran Ramiro Castillo has 211 points. Come out to the track and watch them duke it out!

First race post time on Monday is 12:55 p.m. and parking and admission are always free. Watch and wager on the races trackside at our picnic tables or on-line at www.HPIBet.com. For more information, visit www.ajaxdowns.com.

MONDAY OCTOBER 9 2023

RACE DAY FOR UNITED WAY!

FIRST RACE AT 12:55PM

All proceeds going to the
United Way
Durham Region

SILENT AUCTION
OCULUS QUEST 2,
PLAYSTATION 5 BUNDLE,
GIFT CARDS, AIR FRYER, APPLE WATCH,
JEWELLERY, LUMBER DONATION,
BREAD FOR A YEAR FROM CORE BREAD
AND MUCH MORE!

50/50 DRAW

FIRST 200 KIDS GET A PUMPKIN TO DECORATE!

PUMPKINS DONATED BY CANADIAN
PROGRESS CLUB OF DURHAM SOUTH

GIFT WITH THE PURCHASE OF AN AJAX DOWNS PROGRAM!

www.ajaxdowns.com - 50 Alexander's Crossing