

Gallo Blue Chip in stakes and track record in winning Jug Preview at Scioto Downs

**By Anne Doolin, Publicity Director, Scioto Downs
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Columbus, OH --- Millionaire Gallo Blue Chip, the early favorite for the Little Brown Jug, looked every bit the part as he roared to a new all-age track record of 1:50 in his \$102,000 Jug Preview division on Saturday night at Scioto Downs. Two divisions of the Jug Preview, and eight \$100,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship Finals for 2- and 3-year-olds made for the richest night in Ohio racing history.

The total handle of \$1,456,797 shattered the previous best \$1,231,444, set in 1996 on Jug Preview Night. Attendance was 8,911.

Daniel Dube was in the sulky for trainer Mark Ford as Gallo Blue Chip posted his 11th victory in 17 season's starts, hiking his 2000 bankroll to \$1,615,802. The 1:50 clocking broke the all-age Scioto Downs standard of 1:503 set by Hoosier Favorite earlier this year. Among his victories this year were the two \$1 million events for sophomore pacers -- the North America Cup at Woodbine and the Meadowlands Pace.

Art Dot Com (Brett Miller) was the early leader, taking the field past the opening quarter in :26. He yielded to Southwind Halite, who tripped the half-mile timer in :531. But as the field straightened out on the backstretch, Gallo Blue Chip (who had to overcome post position nine) powered to the lead and reached the three-quarter pole in a time of 1:204.

From there the outcome was never in doubt as Gallo Blue Chip cruised to the wire and finished three and three-quarter lengths ahead of By A Length (Richard Silverman). Aces N' Sevens (Dave Hawk) grabbed the show money. "Even if he never makes another dime, he's been better than we could have ever expected," said trainer Mark Ford of the Magical Mike gelding, who is owned by Martin Scharf of Lawrence, New York. "With the victory and the track record, things couldn't have worked out better."

Nick Barbieri and Bob Bongiorno's I Scoot Hanover won a tight photo over Black Cloud Bill to win the \$100,000 first division of the Jug Preview in a lifetime best of 1:513. Ron Pierce was in the sulky for trainer Brett Pelling as the son of Jate Lobell won for the third time in eight season's starts, improving his 2000 bankroll to \$211,674 and taking his lifetime totals to \$585,269.

Regent Hall set the pace, taking the field past the opening quarter in :27 and the half in :554. I Scoot Hanover got away third, pulled off the rail heading to the half-mile marker, and then powered to the lead at the five-eighths mile marker. He took the field to the three-quarter pole in 1:23 and then had to hold off a valiant effort by Black Cloud Bill, who came flying down the passing lane only to fall a nose short. Camotion picked up the show check, a half length behind the winner.

"I wasn't sure where the finish line was," said driver Ron Pierce, "but I was hoping it was coming soon. This colt seems like he's getting better and better and should be all right at Delaware."