

Real Desire

Real Desire Wins Holmes Division In Stakes Record 1:49; LCB Upsets Bettor's Delight In 1:50.1 At The Meadowlands; 2000 Holmes Winner Astreos Also Won Little Brown Jug

By Tom White John PawlakAugust 9, 2001

Real Desire and LCB won \$150,000 divisions of Saturday's Oliver Wendell Holmes stakes for 3-year-old pacing colts at The Meadowlands. Real Desire won by 9 1/4 lengths in 1:49 and LCB upset North America Cup champion Bettor's Delight in 1:50.1.

A year ago Astreos won a division of the Holmes in a stakes record 1:50.2 and went on to capture the Little Brown Jug. Since the Holmes was first raced in 1976, five winners have gone on to win the Little Brown Jug. Besides Astreos, they were Western Dreamer (1997), Magical Mike (1994), Goalie Jeff (1989) and Niatross (1980).

The 56th Little Brown Jug will be raced on Thursday afternoon, September 20th at the Delaware, Ohio County Fair. The expanded Delaware Grand Circuit (six afternoons) gets underway on Saturday, September 15th.

Real Desire, driven by John Campbell, trailed by 6 3/4 lengths early (at the first quarter) but swept to a 9 1/4 lengths victory in a new lifetime record and Meadowlands Pace standard.

"I didn't have to use him until the final turn," said Campbell. "He has great acceleration and he just exploded." Cardmaster Hanover finished second and stablemate Capitol Power third.

The victory pushed the Life Sign colt's earnings to \$1,095,368. He is owned by Brittany Farms, Robert Burgess, Peretti Farms and Karen Olsson-Burgess and trained by Blair Burgess.

LCB took an early lead, surrendered, and then retook-and held-in winning his division in 1:50.1.

The pace was set or prompted by the winner, who won for the fourth time in 10 starts for driver Luc Ouellette, trainer Monte Gelrod and owners Newman Racing Stable, d'Elegance Stable 1X, Sampson Street Stable and Adam Victor.

Second place finisher Bettor's Delight raced mid-pack before picking up live cover behind Southwind Balsam. Bettor's Delight rolled off that cover after being taken to the stretch, but could not close all the way on LCB. Running Start was third, just ahead of Quality Of Life.

"This is a pretty nice colt," said Ouellette. "I don't know if I've driven him right all the time. I know he likes to be near the front and raced good after the start."LCB will start in next week's Delvin Miller Adios at Ladbroke at The Meadows.