

Real Desire Has His Own Way of Showing Distaste For Post Position Six In Friday's Tattersalls Pace

By Tom White

October 4, 2001

Take a stroll by Real Desire's stall and he'll stick out his tongue at you. Maybe that's his way of saying that he doesn't care for the post positions he has had in recent battles with arch-rival Bettor's Delight.

Real Desire's trainer Blair Burgess probably had similar thoughts when his colt once again drew a post position far outside of Bettor's Delight for Friday's \$401,400 Tattersalls Pace at The Red Mile. "At least this shows that our draws are honest," said Burgess of Milton, Ontario.

Bettor's Delight also had the three hole in the recent Little Brown Jug and that was enough to beat Real Desire, who also started from post six in that race.

"I think The Red Mile has a definite front-end bias," added Burgess, "maybe not as bad as at Delaware (site of the Jug) but it definitely helps to be on the lead."

Bettor's Delight, the Tattersalls favorite at odds of 6-5, is expected to control the race. "We need someone to race with Bettor's Delight but most would rather follow him. I don't think anyone will take him on."

Real Desire, second choice in the field of 13 at odds of 7-5, will be driven by John Campbell. "I'm not about to tell John how to drive...he's the best," said Burgess, "but he'll have to challenge Bettor's Delight sometime during the race."

Bettor's Delight and Real Desire, the top pacing colts in 2000 and 2001, have met seven times with Bettor's Delight holding a commanding 6-1 edge. Bettor's Delight, driven by Michael Lachance and trained by Scott McEneny, defeated Real Desire twice at two. At three he has beaten Real Desire in the \$1,149,000 North America Cup, \$118,000 Simcoe and the elimination and final of the \$646,050 Little Brown Jug. Real Desire knocked off his top rival in the \$1,009,000 Meadowlands Pace.

Real Desire was bred by Leah Cheverie and Art Zubrod of Versailles and was a \$16,000 sales yearling; he has now earned \$1,523,213. The son of Life Sign is the fastest three-year-old of 2001 with a mark of 1:49. His dam Deadly Desire died earlier this year. He is owned by George Segal of Brittany Farms, Blair's father Robert Burgess, Bill Perretti of Perretti Farms, and Karin Olsson-Burgess, wife of the trainer.

Karin, from Malmo, Sweden, not only is Real Desire's caretaker, but she's the one who taught him to stick out his tongue and yawn "on command."

Mo Monet Hanover, Holiday Fest and CR Excalibur won divisions of Wednesday's \$249,000 Castleton Cup 2YO colt trot. Mo Monet Hanover won in 1:58.3 for his fourth career win in five outings; Holiday Fest took his division in 1:56.3 in only his second lifetime start; and CR Excalibur won his second straight Lexington stakes in 1:57.2.