Always Cam Takes Jugette In Straight Heats

Jay Wolf Assistant Publicity Director September 18, 2002

Always Cam and driver Eric Ledford captured the \$294,950 Jugette for three-year-old pacing fillies in straight heats Wednesday afternoon at the Delaware, Ohio County Fairgrounds.

Always Cam took the lead at the start of the second heat, controlled the pace and out sprinted the field to win by 3 1/4 lengths over Maureen Hanover (Luc Ouellette) and Lady Graceful (John Campbell) in 1:53 3/5. Second elimination winner, OK Corral Hanover (Randy Waples) jeopardized her chances at the start when she made a break in stride and was forced to play catch up. Waples summed up the costly break, "I lost her for a few steps, but I was going to lose here anyway. I think the first heat took too much out of her." "When OK Corral Hanover broke stride, that changed the complexion of the race. She was comfortable and easy to drive," noted Ledford, who captured his second Jugette title.

The daughter of Western Hanover has now scored nine victories in 15 seasonal starts for Cam Land LLC and trainer Bill Zendt.

In the first elimination, Dave Palone sent Modern Life quickly off of the gate. Roses For Sammie (George Brennan) and Lady Graceful (John Campbell) were parked at the quarter in :26 4/5. Lady Graceful took the lead just past the 3/8 pole. Always Cam and Eric Ledford were the first to pull at the half. Always Cam cleared the field before the pole and held off the late rally of Maureen Hanover (David Miller). "It wasn't an ideal trip, but that's what you expect from the seven hole. I had enough to win this heat, and hopefully she can come back in the next heat," noted Ledford. The winning time of 1:52 4/5 was just one fifth of a second off the stakes record held by Towner's Image (1993) and Eternal Camnation (2000). A tiring Lady Graceful held on for the show spot. Modern Life also advanced to the final.

The second elimination got off to an orderly start. OK Corral Hanover (Randall Waples) defended the rail and led the field to the quarter mile mark in :27. Mario Baillargeon sent Cam Swifty after the leader. OK Corral Hanover refused to yield,

parking the 1-2 favorite. OK Corral Hanover opened a 1 length lead over Always An Art (David Miller) through the three-quarters in 1:22 4/5. OK Corral Hanover held on for a two length victory over Always An Art in 1:53 3/5. Cam Swifty and Return To Me (Brett Miller) also moved on to the \$159,273 Jugette final.

Room And Board Takes Frosh OBC, Completes Crown Room And Board (Brett Miller) captured the third division of the Ohio Breeder's Championship for two-year-old colt pacers. The Nobleland Sam colt fired off the gate from post position #7 and led from gate to wire in 1:57. Room And Board earlier this season captured the \$100,000 Ohio Sires Stakes Championship and \$34,400 Ohio State Fair Stakes for owners Dennis Sheehan, Darby's Edge Stable and Joseph DiScala, Jr. First Foxy (Jeff Fout) and Scoobycantoo (Luc Ouellette) competed the top three.

Two Bills, driven by John Campbell, survived a five horse battle in the lane to score a one length victory in the first division. Casino Charlie (Dave Palone) and C'Mon Eman (Jamie Dunlap) completed the \$28,473.40 trifecta, a new Delaware County Fair record.

Medoland Big Sam (Jamie Dunlap) took the \$39,926 second division over Tricky Tradition (Brett Miller) in 1:58. The Medoland Sam colt is owned by Michael Medors, Donald Hoovler and Tina Sutermeister.

"Gator" Equals Track Mark

Striking Gator (Luc Ouellette) showed why he was a 1-9 favorite with a decisive victory in the third division of the Ohio Breeder's Championship for sophomore trotting colts. The Striking Sahbra gelding took control as the gate's wings folded and never was challenged in a ten and three-quarter length victory over Mickey's Message (William Irvine). The final time of 1:58 2/5 equaled the stakes and track record.

The 3-5 bettor's choice, Rocky Mountain Sun (Brett Miller) used a three wide move down the backstretch to collar Dunkster (Kurt Sugg) and the rest of the field in the first division of the Ohio Breeder's Championship for sophomore trotting colts in 1:58 3/5. The gelded son of Armbro Laser picked up his eighth seasonal win for The Rocky Mountain Stable of Mentor, Ohio.

Flatbush Hero took the second \$21,419 division in 1:59 4/5. The Striking Sahbra gelding was driven by David Miller for Amy S. Miller of Waseon, Ohio. A K A Willis (David Hawk) and V W Bug (Brett Miller) took the place and show spots.

A Confirmed Winner In The OBC

Confirmed Winner held off a late rush by Town Gazelle (James Pantaleano) to capture the \$14,600 OBC event for four and five-year-old pacers. Driven by Dayton native Eric Ledford, Confirmed Winner has now won \$64,629 on the season for the Zdravo Maria Stable of Yonkers, New York.