

# SPORTS



## Hoofbeat Artsplace kicks off Fall opener

By Kathy Wade Vlaar

World champion Artsplace cruised to a 1:52.2 unchallenged victory in Mohawk's \$28,000 Free For All pace Sunday night at Mohawk to kick off the fall meet in fine fashion.

The speedy mile came effortlessly to the four year old son of Abercrombie who is the sport's fastest race-timed standard bred with a record of 1:49.2, which was posted in a leg of The Driscoll at The Meadowlands earlier this year.

Driven by John Campbell, harness racing's one-hundred-million-dollar man, Artsplace took over past an opening :27.1 quarter, paced a :56.4 half, a 1:24.4 three quarters before stopping the clock in 1:52.2, five lengths better than runner-up Swat Ya.

The win extended Artsplace's undefeated streak to 12 and boosts his season's bankroll to \$594,875 for owners George Segal and Brian Monieson of Chicago.

"This horse is special because he's raced at such a high level for three years. He's just unbelievable", said Campbell.

Campbell has been Artsplace's regular driver in all three seasons since his freshman campaign, which will be remembered most for his 1:51.1 world record triumph in The Breeders Crown at Pompano.

Artsplace's most notable characteristic, according to Campbell, is his durability. "He's not a super quick horse; there are lots of horses who are faster than him for an eighth of a mile, but through the entire mile, Art will outpace them. He's the best pacer I've driven".

Although The Breeders Crown eluded the pair last year, Campbell's hopeful that Art will

become a two-time winner of this championship event on October 9, when Mohawk Raceway hosts the \$360,000 Breeders Crown for aged pacing horses.

The Simcoe Stakes for sophomore pacers and The Champlain Stakes for freshman pacers also highlighted Mohawk's opening card, the first night of Grand Circuit action.

Ragtime Band, an Albert colt, paced a wire-to-wire 1:56.3 win for driver Dave Wall and trainer Steve Bush in the first Champlain division.

Mike Lachance teamed up with Native Born, a son of Nihilator, in the second \$70,976 Champlain division for a 1:55 victory.

Bonnie and Clyde took over for a :58.1 half for driver John Campbell enroute to a six length 1:55 win in the third \$70,976 Champlain division for trainer Ken Seeber, while Greenwood track record holder (freshman pacing colts - 1:55.2) Low Life continued his winning way with a neck 1:57 decision for driver Ron Waples and trainer Pierre Touchette.

In Simcoe Stakes action, Chrysos and Doug Brown teamed up for a 1:54 head victory in the first \$82,135 Simcoe division.

Driven By Design regained his winning form with a 1:53.4 gate-to-wire effort for John Campbell in the third \$82,135 Simcoe division.

Bilateral paced to a 1:54 victory for driver Doug Brown, trainer Rene Laarman, and owner Bob Grand in a \$16,000 conditioned paced for his twelfth season's win.

Racing takes place at Mohawk Fridays through Tuesdays, with a 7:30 p.m. post time each night.



Mohawk Raceway opened with a bang last Saturday night with "Ragtime Band" winning the first race. Here (left to right) are Band's groom, driver Dave Wall, Halton Hills This Week Publisher Ken Bellamy presenting the Champlain Stakes trophy to Steve Brush as owners Robert and Mrs. Key along with John Glesmann look on.

## Raiders facing busy pre-season schedule

There's no substitute for games, and the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders will definitely have their share in the next few days.

The Central Ontario Junior A hockey club will play three exhibition games in the space of five days.

But that's fine for Raiders coach Charlie Hanman because the three-game stretch will give him a good chance to assess the players he currently has in camp.

"It will give us a good look at those players who are sitting on the fence right now," Hanman said.

The Raiders were in Guelph on Friday night, and host the Hamilton Kilty Bs tonight, starting at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Georgetown faces off against Guelph at the Alcott Arena.

The Raiders close out their exhibition schedule Sept. 22 in Guelph before opening the Central League regular season hosting the Burlington Cougars on Sept. 26.

Hanman will once again be on the lookout for defensive help. The Raiders' blueline corps is a concern

to Hanman, with only Steve Weishar as the lone returnee.

The return of Heinrick Wingenroth would also go a long way towards helping the Raiders' blueline concerns. But currently Wingenroth isn't sure whether he wants to play this season.

"That's an area we're going to have to strengthen," Hanman said. "We've got to have some Junior A experience back there and somewhere down the line we're going to have to get it."

The trio of games will also provide Hanman with his first look at

starting goaltender Jason Sirota, the former Raider who returned this year after playing Tier II hockey in B.C. last year. Sirota didn't dress for last weekend's home-and-home set with the Markham Waxers.

"We've got to start getting Jason ready," Hanman said. "I expect he'll play half of both weekend games anyway."

The Raiders also bolstered their roster by two, signing forwards Dan Colacito and Jonathan Levack. Colacito played briefly last year with the Raiders before leaving just before the playoffs.

## Georgetown team reaches CNE final

Georgetown's Thunder ball hockey team fell short of winning the provincial Three-on-Three street hockey title last week at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The four-man team, made up of Kevin Binsell, Kyle Hotham, Ryan LaRose and Graham McCulloch, qualified for the CNE event in the 8-9 year-old class after winning a regional event in Burlington.

Hotham's overtime goal paced Georgetown to a 4-3 win over

Burlington Blazers. Then Hotham, McCulloch and Binsell lead a strong offensive barrage in front of great goaltending from LaRose to defeat Mississauga Destroyers 7-2.

That pitted Georgetown against Toronto's 4 R's in semifinal action, with the Thunder winning the wide-open contest 8-6.

Georgetown then took on Streetsville Tigers in the final, but finished on the short end of a 4-3 decision.

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