

Awesome Light leaves his mark on Gold Eliminations

By SANDRA SNYDER

Special to The Champion

Awesome Light made his presence felt in the two-year-old pacing colt division with the quickest of three Gold Elimination wins at Flamboro Downs Sunday.

In just his third start the Albert Albert colt tossed off a 1:56.2 mile and jumped head first into one of the most competitive divisions in this year's Ontario Sires Stakes program.

Owned by Toronto's Karl Schmed and Dr. Peter Schoppel of Midhurst, Awesome Light earned his way into Sunday's contest with a 1:56.3 qualifying win on September 19. Pat Hudon drove the colt in his Sires Stakes debut and the duo benefited from a red hot early pace set by Armbr Vagarious.

Leaving from post seven Hudon and Awesome Light sat easily on the outside while Armbr Vagarious rocked through a :27.1 first quarter and followed it up with a :56.3 half. Rolling toward the three-quarter mark Hudon sent his charge after the lead and the pair never looked back, coasting home a length and three-quarters ahead of White Star Jo Jo and Rickards Ed. Favourite C.T. Rocket and Carl Jamieson had to settle for third.

After sweeping the two-year-old filly pace Gold Eliminations last Friday, Jamieson had to settle for just one appearance in the Flamboro Downs winner's circle on Sunday. The Jarvis resident hit in the first elimination with division leader Warrawee Caesar,

who went wire-to-wire around the Dundas half-mile in 1:58.

Owned by Edward Smith of Mississauga, Dr. Michael Wilson of Rockwood, Sam Ross of North York and Gerald Ross of Downsview, Warrawee Caesar boosted his season bankroll to \$232,594 with the win, his fifth. In 11 starts the Dexter Nukes son has finished no worse than third.

Ton Of Diamonds and Whispers Doro rounded out the top three spots in the fourth race.

Twin B Hotshot proved his performance in the last Gold Series was no accident with a 1:58.1 score in the sixth race.

The Run The Table colt and driver Randy Waples of Milton took control of the lead from R.J.'s Dexter at the top of the stretch and held off a charging Tyler A and Whole Lotta Class to score the half-length victory.

The Ted Jacobs trainee captured his OSS debut at Hiawatha Horse Park on September 2 and finished third in the September 9 Final. Sunday's win boosted the colt's record to two wins and two thirds in six starts for a bank balance of \$38,357.

St. Catharines resident Jacobs shares ownership on the colt with Scarborough's John Fielding.

Top three finishers from each elimination will return to Flamboro Downs on Sunday, October 1 for their second last \$100,000 Gold Final and the last OSS event on the Dundas oval's 2000 schedule.

French Panicure captures Stakes

By BRUCE MURRAY

Special to The Champion

Three stakes finals for the ladies were held at Mohawk Racetrack Saturday evening. The \$239,500 headliner was the 39th Milton Stakes for filly and mare pacers.

An incredible early pace was set by Pan Yankees (Paul MacDonell), who along with French Panicure and Galleria were a three-horse entry of Bob Glazer's Peter Pan Stables.

Pan Yankees paced to the opening split in :25.4, but despite the hot pace Miltonian Chris Christoforou had world champion Galleria up and challenging hard approaching the half-way mark and cleared it in a torturous :53.

She led past three quarters in 1:22.2, but midway down the stretch tired badly.

Driver Eric Ledford sent favourite French Panicure attacking at the top of the stretch, and when he asked the Life Sign four-year-old daughter, she responded and out-dueled classy veteran Sanabelle Island to win in 1:52.1.

"I was so far off the pace in the early going I wasn't sure what was going on up front," said Ledford.

"Then I landed fourth over which wasn't the place to be, but she overcame the trip. The time doesn't shot it, but it was a big effort from her tonight.

"She had to pace a pretty good last quarter to win the race."

The 17th victory of her career put French Panicure at \$997,902 in lifetime earnings for Glazer and trainer Chris Marino.

Sanabelle Island was second best with Steve Warrington driving, Longshot Lifetime Member in rein to Mario Baillargeon, rallied late to pick up the third prize.

Galleria finished seventh, marking the first time she has missed a cheque since late February.

French Panicure paid \$3.50 and became the eighth mare to win both the Roses Are Red and Milton Stakes in the same year.

She also became the first female pacer to break the 1:50 barrier in Canada, winning the Roses Are Red in 1:49.4 in later August at Woodbine.

Vince aims for better performance this time

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against teams from France, Sweden and the United States.

"We didn't do so hot last year, so we're hoping for a big improvement," said the local equestrian, whose career highlights include an appearance at this past spring's World Cup Final as well as earning alternate status for the 1999 Pan American Games.

While honoured to be named to the team for Washington, Vince has her eye on another Nations' Cup event — namely, the one at the Toronto Royal Horse Show in early November.

She debuted there last year and showed strongly in her country's gold medal victory — delivering two near flawless rounds which both counted toward the decisive win.

The promising show jumper hopes an impressive effort south of the border will convince the selection committee to grant her a return to the Royal.

Remarked Vince, "Anytime you get

to represent your country it's a great thing, but competing in front of the hometown crowd just can't be replaced."

However, playing the hometown favourite can't always guarantee success — and the young equestrian knows this only too well.

Back in July, Vince had a disastrous showing during one of the Olympic Selection Trials at nearby Hendervale.

And while she was a bit of a long shot to qualify even before this, the poor performance crushed her outside hopes for going to Sydney.

That heartbreaking effort was one of several hiccups she's gone through this year, which by and large hasn't measured up to her 1999 campaign.

"Things just haven't gone as well as last season. That's why I'm really looking to finish strongly in Washington and hopefully in Toronto," said Vince.

The Washington Nations' Cup is slated for October 29, with the Toronto Nations' Cup set for November 11.

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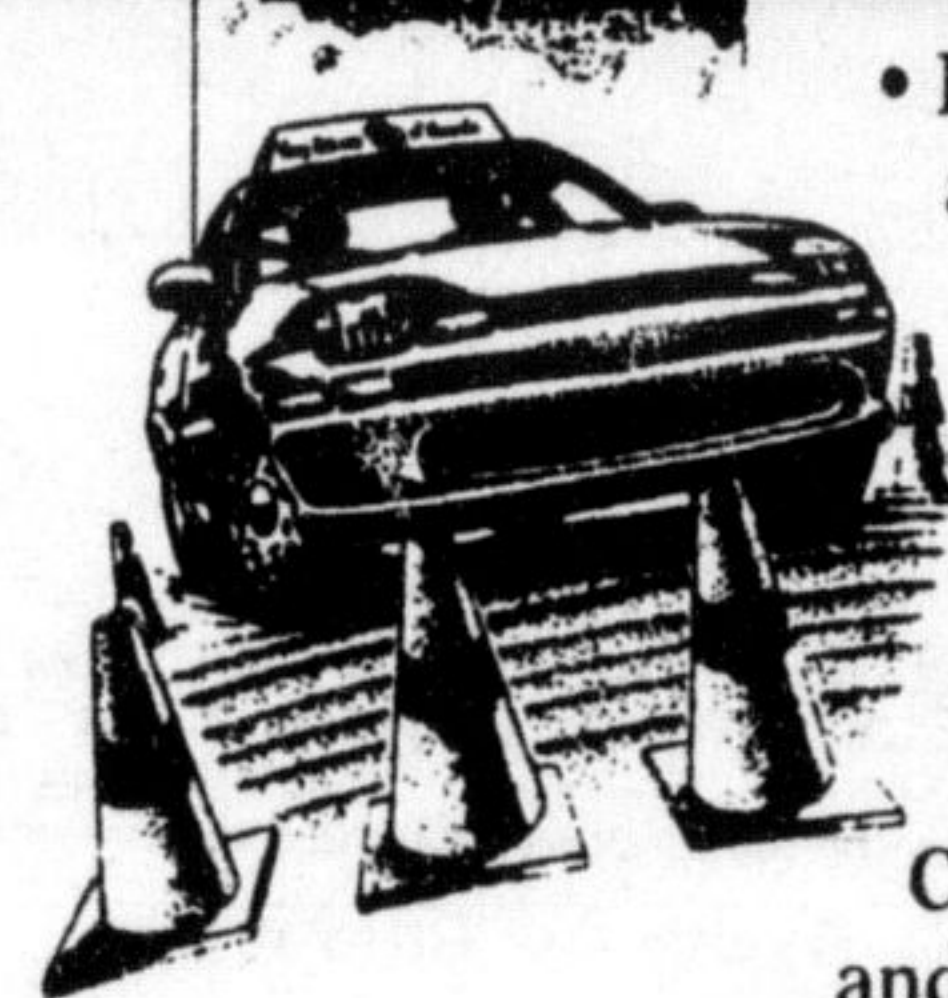
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'Canes open in fine style

Halton's AAA minor atoms have shown strongly through the initial stages of their 2000/01 season — in both tournament and league play.

The Hurricanes opened the year with a highly impressive effort at the annual Ajax/Pickering Tournament. There they reached the championship finals, but were doubled up by Brantford 4-2.

Halton goals came from Josh Brittain and Braeden Tate.

En route to the title match the rink rats went unbeaten with convincing wins over Quinte (4-0), Brantford (5-2) and Whitby (8-0) as well as a 1-1 tie against the host club.

Ryan Williams and Lucas Reid each earned a shutout at the tournament.

Then Halton engineered a 10-0 blowout over the unsuspecting Grey Bruce Highlanders Sunday.

Delivering the shutout in this one was Reid.

In recognition of

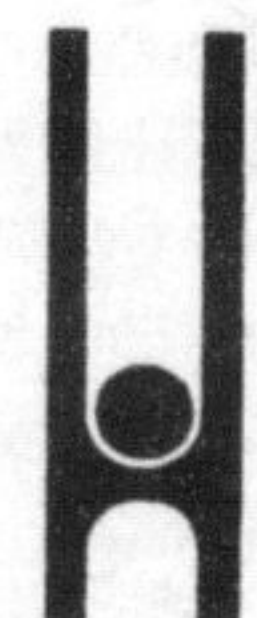
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