

Milton's Bettors Delight claims Little Brown Jug

Local colt outduels Real Desire for win

Locally-owned Bettors Delight won the duel with archrival and fellow Canadian Real Desire over the final quarter-mile to give driver Mike Lachance a record-tying fifth victory in Thursday's Little Brown Jug in Delaware, Ohio.

The three-year-old colt — owned by Hornby's John Grant — grabbed the lead from Four Starzz Shark after a brief tussle approaching the quarter, and held it until challenged by Real Desire past the half in :55.3.

The pair staged an epic third-quarter battle, with Bettors Delight — on the rail — refusing to yield to Real Desire on the outside. Bettors Delight stuck his head back in front around the final turn and then powered down the stretch to win by one-and-a-quarter lengths in 1:51.4.

"All the credit goes to (trainer) Scott McEneny and his groom Cory Crosta. They've done a heck of a job," Lachance said in the winner's circle.

Sr. Royals blanked by St. Thomas

Bishop Reding's senior football team hopes to implement more passing in its attack this year.

But week one efforts toward that end fell far short of the mark — as did hopes for a home-opening win against Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders.

The Royals had trouble executing at pivotal points during the rainy afternoon clash and were whitewashed 21-0.

Andrew Pepper threw a couple of interceptions — including one on his first throw of the season that was quickly converted into a touchdown — while his offensive counterparts seemed to lack cohesion when it was needed most.

However, veteran coach Joe Jurus didn't lay blame on his new quarterback — or for that matter anyone on the field.

"We've got some guys playing football for the first time and others who've switched positions, so our execution was a little off" BR's skipper explained.

"Now I've got to do a better job of play calling and getting these guys ready for games."

The Royals had a couple of big opportunities to breakout the shutout down the stretch — but were robbed when Dave Wynne's 42-yard field goal bounced wide after hitting the cross-bar and the opposing defense stopped them on the nine-yard line following a lengthy drive in the fourth quarter.

Said Jurus, "They (St. Thomas Aquinas) only had 70 more yards than we did, so it wasn't a total blowout."

BR's coach did see some positive things to build on — specifically solid efforts by returnees Mark Gribbon, Matt Ishoy and Ryan Taylor.

St. Thomas Aquinas scored on its second possession of the day and added two more majors in the third quarter to cement the victory.

The Royals — defending tier one champions — will look to square their record at Burlington Central Friday.

They return home to battle the traditionally powerful Nelson Lords Thursday, Oct. 4. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

"A month ago we thought his (Bettors Delight) career was over and it's taken a lot of teamwork and hard work to get him this good again."

Added McEneny, "He was huge, he didn't give an inch. This (win) is for my mom and dad (who both passed away this year). I'm stunned. It hasn't sunk in yet."

The victory, worth \$256,481 from a Jug-record purse of \$646,050, was Bettors Delight's eighth of the year. He also had four seconds in 13 starts for season earnings in excess of \$1.5 million.

Career-wise, he is at \$2,308,514. Earlier this summer, the Cams Card Shark colt

captured the \$1.1 million North America Cup at Woodbine.

Real Desire, trained by Blair Burgess for his wife Karin Olsson-Burgess and his father Robert Burgess of Campbellville and U.S.-based Brittany Farms and Perretti Farms, sent his 2001 earnings over the one-million dollar mark with the ultra-gutsy second-place finish.

Four Strazzz Shark, who was supplemented into the race at a fee of \$45,000 (U.S.), rounded out the top three.

Attending the 56th edition of the famed Little Brown Jug was a crowd of 52,025, up slightly from last year.



Driver Mike Lechance and locally-owned Bettors Delight

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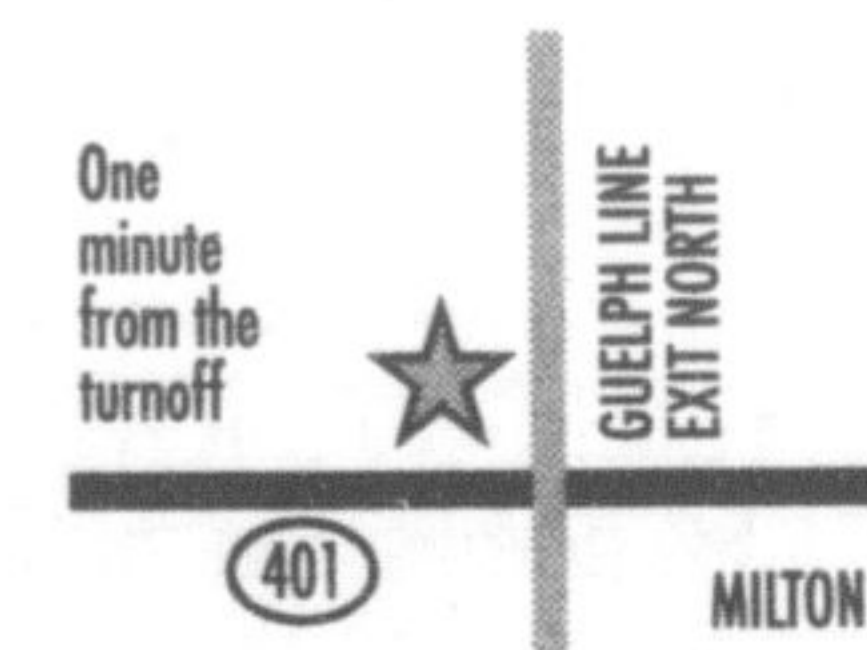
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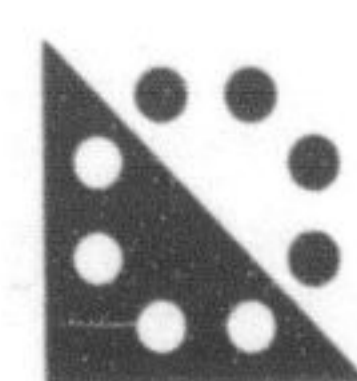
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