

Respectednbeloved prevails at Mohawk

Big finish does trick in Princess final

By JEFF RENTON

Special to The Champion

Steering clear of the chaos in the first turn, Respectednbeloved and Milton's Steve Condren wore down Armbro Berlin in deep stretch to capture the \$95,500 final of the Princess Series in 1:52.3 May 17 at Mohawk Racetrack.

As part of a two-horse entry that had emerged from trainer Joe Stutzman's stable, Respectednbeloved bested nine other sophomore pacing fillies and extended her winning streak to five in the process.

With Keith Oliver at her lines, Armbro Berlin finished second, while She's My Belle and fellow Miltonian Chris Christoforou rounded out the top three.

Whitesand Jewel finished fourth and Sheaporsche — the other half of the Stutzman connection — took fifth.

After a 1:54.1 victory in the opening leg, Respectednbeloved, a daughter of Dream Away and Armbro Penelope, found herself in a new barn when the big

dough was on the line.

Having left the equally-hot training compound of conditioner Brett Robinsonafter her triumphant preliminary test, the Armstrong Bros-bred filly missed the second leg and subsequently drew post eight for the final.

With Lyons Mandi making a break off of the gate, Respectednbeloved found herself in sixth by the time Armbro Bracken passed the quarter-mile pole in 27 seconds flat. It was in the vicinity of that marker that three of the contestants went off stride — disrupting the flow and placing Armbro Berlin and Oliver out front.

Sitting six lengths back in third as Oliver met the half-mile indicator in 56 seconds, Condren and Respectednbeloved began to chip away at the lead. Picking up steam while racing uncovered in a two-wide path, Condren and his game mount found themselves four lengths behind Armbro Berlin as she

reached the third quarter at 1:24.

With momentum on her side at the head of the lane, Respectednbeloved — owned by Milton's Canamerica Capital Corporation and Hyatt Holdings Inc — began to erase her one-length deficit.

After tussling in the late stages in a flash of green and gold, Condren overtook Oliver by a half-length in the mark-lowering mile.

"They added some equipment to her tonight, which made all the difference in the world because the way the race was going I had to check her three or four different times," said Condren. "I felt like I was in the Indianapolis 500 because everybody was crashing for the first half of the race.

"She was a lot better tonight. She showed a little lack of conditioning coming down the stretch because she has only raced a couple of times in the last six weeks, but she's a good filly and she got the job done."

Guttin' it out to the wire

Bishop Reding's Sarah Mitchell nears the finish line in the midgets girls 100m semifinal at Thursday's Halton/GHAC track and field championships in Burlington. She didn't quite qualify for the 100m — finishing sixth — but did advance to this week's South Regionals in St. Catharines with her midget girls 4x100m relay teammates Krista Ward, Lindsey Wernham and Christina Chimonides. The Royals were led by three-event qualifier Julie lantorno, who struck silver in both the senior girls long jump and the senior girls 200m — in which she set a new school record of 27 seconds flat. She also took fourth in the senior girls 400m. Also qualifying in individual competition were Mike Rego, Tim Mohr, Mike Rubino and Graham Sharp.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



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