

Sam-Son's Soaring Free sails to Atto Mile victory

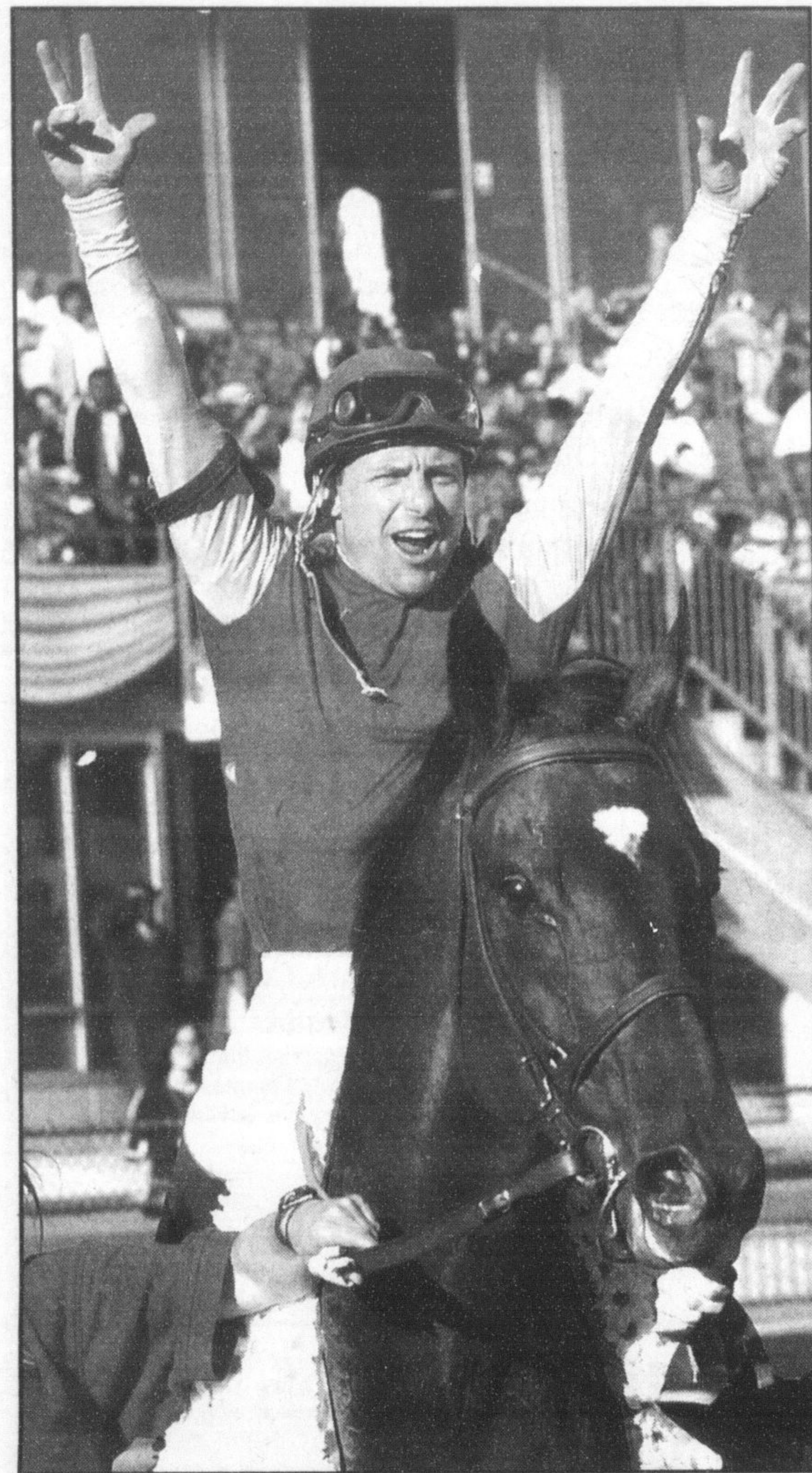


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Jockey Todd Kabel raises his arms in victory after capturing the \$1 million Atto Mile aboard Soaring Free.

Fends off late challenges to score three-quarter win

Locally-owned and trained Soaring Free flew to victory in Sunday's \$1 million Atto Mile at Woodbine — delivering a stakes record time of 1:32.72.

Sam-Son Farms' five-year-old homebred — nicknamed muffin, although anything but soft or a pushover — kept himself unbeaten on the Woodbine oval this year by holding off a late charging Perfect Soul and a tenacious Royal Regalia to prevail by three-quarters of a length.

Ridden to expert fashion by Woodbine's leading jockey Todd Kabel, Soaring Free improved on last season's second-place finish in the Atto, and with the victory booked passage to the October 30 Breeders' Cup Mile in Texas.

Grabbing the early lead and setting conservative fractions of 23.48 and 46.01 seconds, he turned back the challenge of Royal Regalia and then outdistanced Canadian champion Perfect Soul at the wire.

Soaring Free has won six of seven races this year and 13 of 21 overall.

Trainer Mark Frostad remarked that his triumphant horse — a son of Sam-Son homebred sire Smart Strike — is much more mature this year and seems both willing and able to adapt to the different situations that present themselves in high-stakes competition.

"This is a very good horse," said Frostad. Sunday marked the 29th stakes win of the year for Kabel, who now sits just three shy of the Canadian record, set by Avelino Gomez in 1966.

Fellow Sam-Son Farms entry Surging River, finished fourth.

Takter trotters turn back opposition for stakes sweep

Can it get any better for conditioner Jimmy Takter?

Hooking up with David Miller and a pair of Yankee Glide two-year-olds at Mohawk Monday evening, Takter saw his trotting pupils take both the \$495,300 Oakville Stakes and the \$464,900 Campbellville Stakes in convincing fashion.

Simply put, Solveig and Ken Warkentin were awesome on this night.

A \$48,000 (US) daughter of American Winner mare Exquisite Amanda, Solveig engineered a ferocious late kick in the third quarter of the Oakville Stakes and barreled past her fellow fillies for a six-length victory in 1:56.

It was a new lifetime record time for Solveig, and a new stakes record to boot.

Sitting just off the tempo in fourth through the early going, Solveig delivered a strong brush in



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the final turn and waved goodbye to the rest of the field as the stretch was met. Briefly racing three-high in the third panel, she grinded away and set her sights on the front.

Springing to a three-length lead at head stretch, the bay made her career-best performance look easy for Miller, as they recorded the decisive win.

Already a Champlain and Kentucky Sires Stakes champion, Solveig made it four consecutive wins with her Oakville Stakes triumph. Her bankroll currently sits at \$348,283 for owners Christina Takter, John Fielding and the

Anderberg Stable of Sweden, who have seen the bay race to four victories in six starts.

With a tough act to follow, Ken Warkentin stepped up to the plate and made his presence known in the Campbellville Stakes. Trotting to a 1:55.4 mark-lowering stakes and track record, the \$26,000 (US) bay out of the Tagliabue mare Jambo capped off yet another overwhelming night for Takter.

Sitting fifth and well off the lead at the opening quarter, Miller took Ken Warkentin to the lead at the half and then marched home to a convincing four-length win.

Along with fellow co-owners Christina Takter, John Fielding and Sweden's Windsor Stable, Maple Leaf's forward Tie Domi must have been thrilled with Ken Warkentin's performance — which shattered yet another Mohawk benchmark.

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