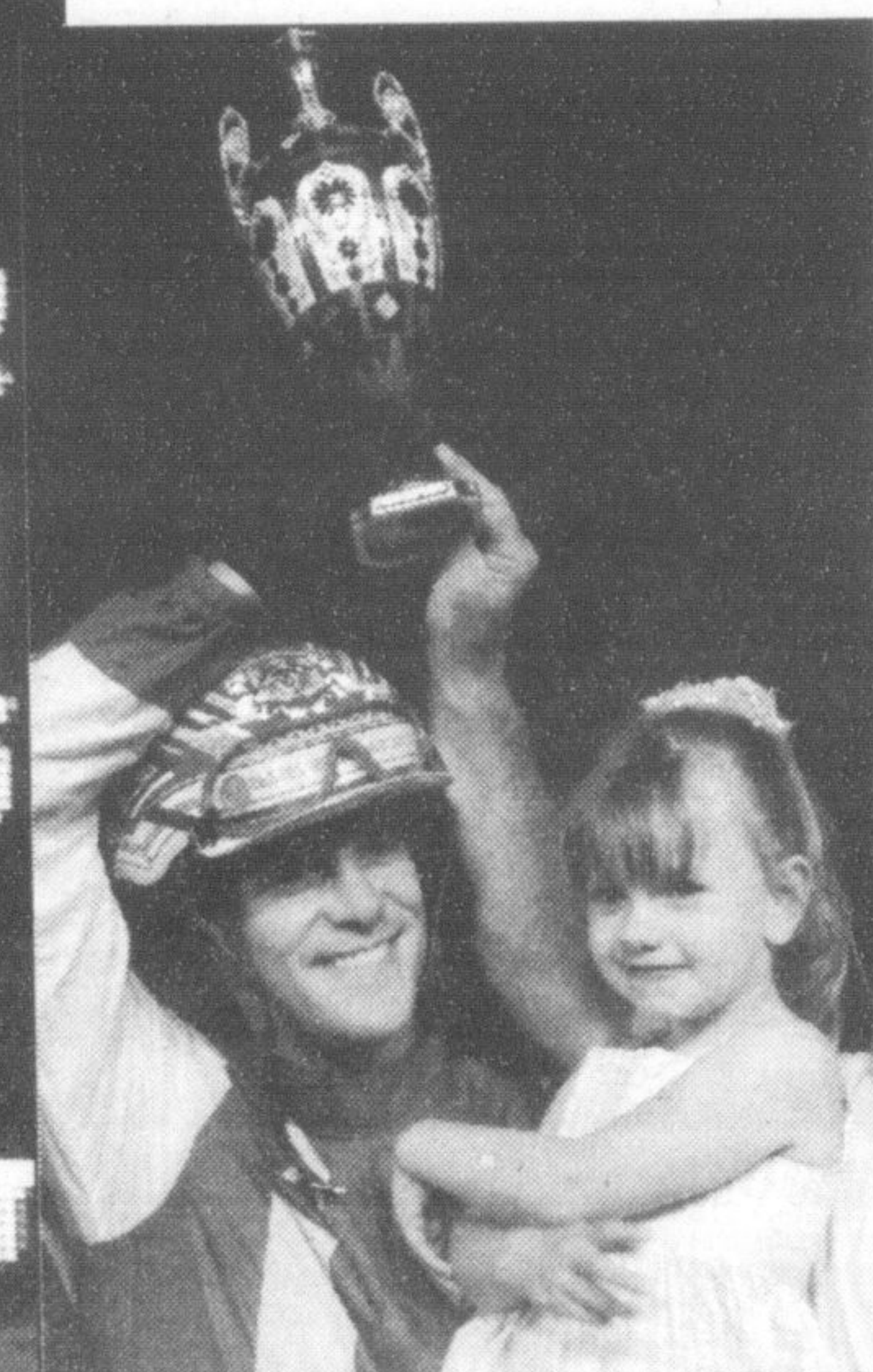


SPORTS

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FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR: At left, Jody Jamieson guides Tell All to victory in Saturday's North America Cup. Above, Jamieson gets some help hoisting the trophy over his head from four-year-old daughter Hailey.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Tell All powers way to North America Cup win

Fierce finish gives local colt the victory

By John Siscos
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Locally conditioned and driven Tell All said it loud and clear that he's going to be a force to be reckoned with among the continent's best three-year-old colt pacers, after an eye-catching victory in the \$1.5-million Pepsi North America Cup Saturday night at Mohawk.

Guided by Jody Jamieson in front of a capacity crowd, the Blair Burgess-trained son of Real Desire-Have No Secrets powered up first over to challenge leader Yankee Skyscaper as the three-quarters was reached in 1:23.2, then promptly blasted away down the stretch to win by two lengths in a career

best 1:50.3.

"I was out a little early but he was grabby and wanted to be out there," explained Jamieson, who along with Burgess celebrated his first win in the Cup — which was contested for the first time ever at Mohawk. "So I just moved him and let him sit.

"This horse has done everything I've ever asked of him. I asked him to pace coming out of the last turn and probably got a little over-anxious driving him to the wire. But he just jogged. He's an amazing horse. He just keeps going all the time. It's quite a thrill."

Burgess — who trained Glidemaster to Horse of the Year honours last season — has waited a long time to win the North America Cup in an illustrious conditioning career

which has also seen him train two Hambletonian winners.

Burgess trainees dropped two nose decisions in the Cup in two consecutive years in the late '80s, when both finals were raced at Greenwood Raceway.

Burgess also trained Tell All sire Real Desire, when he finished ninth to Bettors Delight in the 2001 Cup — one of his few disappointing efforts. Real Desire would rebound, though, in a stellar three-season campaign that culminated in Horse of the Year honours in 2002 and over \$3 million in career earnings.

"It goes a long way (to easing the pain of those Cup losses)," said the Campbellville conditioner. "Two seconds by a nose and a good third. This makes up for the old man. I liked the early parts of the trip. But I didn't think the track was really fast tonight. I

wonced a little bit when he had to come first over against (George) Brennan's horse, Yankee Skyscaper. I got a bit nervous, but he toughed it out and looked to be the most powerful at the end.

"The Meadowlands Pace (July 14) is the plan next. Take a two or three week rest. He's had 11 starts this year. That's plenty. He looks a lot like his father and acts like his father, but Real Desire made \$3 million. This horse has got a ways to go yet. He was good at two, three and four, but he (Tell All) is on his way. He's working in that direction."

Sent postward a close 2-1 favourite over Sutter Hanover, Tell All paid \$6.70 to win and pocketed \$750,000 for owners MY Desire Stable of Versailles, Kentucky for his sixth victory — and biggest — win of the season.

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