

# Eagle Speaker could be the 'claim of the year'

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, April 4, 1990—22

The Eagle has landed!

The Eagle in this case is harness horse Eagle Speaker and he's landed at Mohawk Raceway in Campbellville.

Eagle Speaker has been called the "claim of the year". Trainer-driver John Holmes snatched the four-year-old son of Conquered from the Fred Hoffman stable for \$22,500 on Jan. 15.

Saturday night at Mohawk the claiming (purchase price) tag on Eagle Speaker was \$62,500. The Eagle paced to a handy 1:55.8 winning effort over Kintyre and Armbro Fleming in a \$14,800 event.

"He's got lots of fire," said driver-trainer Holmes after the race. "He wants to win every race."

Since joining the Holmes' shedrow the Eagle has soared. He's had five starts including three wins, a second, a third and \$33,430 in purse earnings for owners Holmes and Lawrence Brooks.

Eagle Speaker is one of only a few horses owned by Brooks who became involved in the business only last year.

"I saw John driving horses at Flamborough and I was impressed with him. He was just starting out on the OJC circuit and I decided to start out with him."

"I thought he'd be a good \$25,000 claimer when I took him," said Holmes of Eagle Speaker. "He's had a few problems but he loves racing; he's very game."

Trainer Fred Hoffman purchased Eagle Speaker in the Canadian Mixed Standardbred Sale in the spring of 1989 for \$30,000 from Dr. John Hayes. Holmes admitted he'd had his eye on the Eagle at that time but the price went beyond his limit.

"I turned him out for three months when I got him," said Hoffman. "Eagle Sneakers" as he was nicknamed in the Hoffman shedrow started six times while under Hoffman's tutelage and earned \$12,438.

The Eagle has a noteworthy family tree. He was bred by Gaylord Hilander of Kentucky who owns and bred Indian Alert, two time winner of the Canadian Pacing Derby. His sire Conquered had a mark of 1:54.3 and won the Queen City Stakes in 1981, now known as the North America Cup. His grandfather is the great Albatross.

So the Eagle has been bred with speed in his backround. "The faster he goes, the better he is," says Holmes, "he doesn't get good-gaited until he goes fast."

## Jet Action speeds to win

Monday night at Mohawk trotter Jet Action high stepped his way to a lifetime best 1:57.8 mile for driver-owner Doug Brown and trainer Bill Robinson in a \$24,000 Junior Free For All event over A JS Speed and Dalrae Star.

Mike Saftic scored a hat trick on Tuesday night at the Campbellville oval. Saftic reined Me And The Boys to win a \$9,800 trot, returned in race five, an \$8,000 pace with the sophomore On The Road Again colt Imperial Seelster for his first lifetime win in 1:59.6 and rounded the night out in the last race, guiding Perfect Buck to a 1:58.5 win in an \$8,800 pacing event.

Also, on Tuesday, Dave Wall guided the four-year-old Crakers mare, Yankee Caroline to a 1:56.2 victory over



## Hoof Beat

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Facetious and Asreil in the \$17,500 fillies and mares open. It was her fifth win in ten starts, increasing her bankroll to \$57,085 for owners Richard Thompson and Louis Cascella of Hamilton.

The Balanced Image gelding Lennox continues to earn his way into the winner's circle. Doug Brown reined Lennox (named for former OJC track announcer Earl Lennox) for trainer Chris Christoforou to a 1:58.9 win, his fifth in nine starts in the \$13,000 conditioned trot.

The long and winding road to Greenwood Raceway's One Million Dollar North American Cup started at Mohawk, Greenwood's sister track on Friday night. A handful of the '87 prized sophomores who remain eligible to the lucrative event, Canada's richest harness race, were on hand to make their 1990 debut.

The three eligibles — Scoot Outa Reach, Centre Strip and Shipp's Expectation competed together in the third race, a \$9,800 conditioned event.

## Won by four lengths

Scoot Outa Reach paced to a breezy four-length win over Center Strip and Victimize, stopping the clock in 1:56.9 for driver Steve Condren. Tom Artandi is the local trainer for the U.S. invader for owner Arlene Traub of New York.

As a rookie, the son of Direct Scooter scored four wins in ten starts for \$67,410 in earnings and took a mark of 1:54.6 at The Meadowlands.

Pacer Quite A Sensation, now seven years old and winner of the 1986 North America Cup, paced to a 1:56.6 effort for driver Roger Mayotte and trainer Claire Porter in a \$14,200 event on Friday night.

Road To Vegas paced to a handy wire to wire two length win in 1:57.2 over Laurstar and Rideam in the first division, third leg of the Youthful Pacing Series on Sunday night. Minor Violation took the other division in 1:56.3 over General Trull and Cemetery Ridge. The \$35,800 Final of the Youthful Pacing Series for three year olds will swing in behind the starting gate on Sunday, Apr. 8.

Take a look does it again. The eight-year-old son of Most Happy Fella continues to enjoy success on the track as he paced to a season's best 1:55.6 effort over Concussion and Armbro Everest in the \$24,000 Free For All on Sunday night for trainer-driver Roger Mayotte.

It was the veteran campaigner's sixth win in ten starts this year and boosted his bank account to \$146,250 for owners Mabel Fraser, Phyllis Werriner and Early Bird Stables of Mississauga.



Photo by KATHY WADE

Eagle Speaker and trainer John Holmes have become a successful combination. Some people are touting Eagle Speaker at the "claim of the year." Since he was claimed Eagle Speaker has had three wins, a second and a third in five starts.

## Soccer playoffs surprise as Hi-5, Webs look to advance

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first half. Paul Bennion narrowed the gap just prior to the interval with an Oakville goal.

Griffin again scored in the second half to re-establish the two goal margin. Peter Ward crashed the mesh to count the fourth Milton Honda marker.

John Moynihan played a good game for Oakville in the defeat as did Colin Johnson with a superb display of ball control.

Acton Villa was pitted against the Youth Coaches and they managed to avenge their opening game loss with a 5-0 victory. David Entwistle, Peter Wright, and Paul Nolan were the scorers for Acton with Nolan counting three times. Manny Medeiros of the Coaches rifled a shot from center

in the first half which was just tipped away to prevent a goal.

In another Group Three match Hi-Five took on The Dickens and came out on top with a 2-1 victory. Louie DiPalma managed the only goal prior to half time which spotted Hi-Five to a 1-0 lead. Danilo Kozulic popped a second Hi-Five marker but Dave Debora bingled to narrow the gap to 2-1.

Tony Brynkus, the Hi-Five goalkeeper, played well and made a truly remarkable save as he timed a hard bouncing shot and pounced on it.

The final game of the day was a match up between Webs United and Youth Coaches. Webs needed only a tie to advance into a semifinal spot and they managed it with a 0-0 finish. Webs played a heavily defensive game to ensure themselves of the spot.

Only two opening round games remain. Milton Honda has to face Optimist Centre needing only a tie to advance past Oakville into the semifinal. Fearman's will take on The Dickens with only Fearman's having a chance to advance. Action resumes next week.

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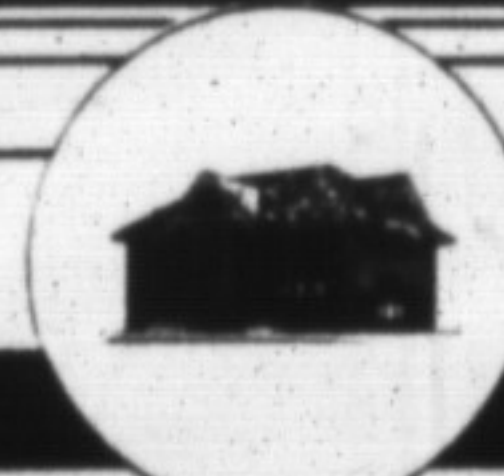
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