

North America Cup contenders start to emerge

With less than six weeks until the eliminations for the North America Cup go postward, the picture is starting to come into focus as to who the major contenders could be for Cup X.

Scheduled for Saturday, June 26, the One Million Dollar North America Cup is Canada's richest harness race and annually attracts the best sophomores in the sport.

The road to this lucrative sporting event includes a few stake engagements both on the Ontario Jockey Club circuit and out of the country between now and June 19, the date of the elimination events.

Colts like Presidential Ball, Vine Street, Rlyadh and Fiddlers Fun are off to a solid start for their sophomore year and all are nominated to The Cup.

Saturday night, Tony Chiaravalle's Presidential Ball paced to a world record (on a five-eighths mile track) 1:50.3 victory in the \$197,472 Miller Memorial Final at Rosecroft Raceway in Maryland. Driven by Jack Moiseyev for trainer Bill Robinson, the victory was only his second start on the year.

The three-year-old son of Cam Fella defeated Vine Street who was unbeaten in six season starts (11 lifetime starts) prior to the

HOOF BEAT

with KATHY WADE-VLAAR



Miller, and took command of the nine-horse field past the half.

Presidential Ball was North America's leading two-year-old pacing colt of 1992 after winning nine races, including the Metro Stakes at Mohawk and earning more than \$799,000.

Both Presidential Ball and Vine Street are eligible to the North America Cup.

Meanwhile at Mohawk, the first leg of the Mohawk Pacing Series presented some unprecedented speed miles on Sunday night.

In the fastest of three \$15,000 divisions, Fiddlers Fun (a NAC eligible) from the Bob McIntosh stable made his OJC debut a winning one as he scored a career best and track record (for three-year-olds) 1:52.2 neck victory over Ritchies Imperial and Bunnys First.

Fiddlers Fun controlled the mile every step of the way for driver Steve Condren, setting fractions of :27.3, :56.2 and 1:24.3 enroute to his sparkling victory.

"He felt so good, I wasn't going to let anyone go," explained Condren, "we weren't going for a track record; we just had a promoter." (referring to Ritchies Imperial).

Chapter and Verse won the first Mohawk division for trainer Bill Robinson and driver Bill Gale in a lifetime best 1:53.4.

Crisis Situation took the third Mohawk division in a life's best 1:53.3 for driver Doug Brown and trainer Joe Stutzman.

The second leg of the Mohawk Series goes postward May 15 and the final will swing in behind the starting gate Sunday, May 23.

Along with the Mohawk Pacing Series, North America Cup eligibles will prep in The New Jersey Pacing Classic (The Meadowlands, May 29) and the Burlington (Greenwood, June 12). Final sustaining payments for the North America Cup are due May 15.

At The Meadowlands

Staying Together scored a 1:51.1 victory in the \$175,500 final of The Graduate Pacing Series at The Meadowlands Saturday night.

The four-year-old gelded son of Panorama was driven by Bill O'Donnell for trainer Bob McIntosh and owner Bob Hamather of Hensall, Ontario. It was his seventh win in nine season starts and the victory increased his bankroll to \$239,000 on the year.

Coming up

CHWO and Earl Warren host a special Seniors' Night at Mohawk on Tuesday, May 18. Seniors 60 and over will receive free general admission, free preferred parking and free program.

There will be a special dinner in the Sport's that night. For \$15, fans will receive a buffet dinner as well as free general admission and program. The dinner is open to all racing fans, not just seniors.

There will also be entertainment, prize draws, race presentations by CHWO personalities and more. For more information on this special event call 854-2255 and ask for the publicity office.

Sunday, May 23 is Mohawk's annual Family Fireworks Extravaganza. Races start early at 7:01 p.m. There's entertainment all night long for children and the fireworks show starts after the races.



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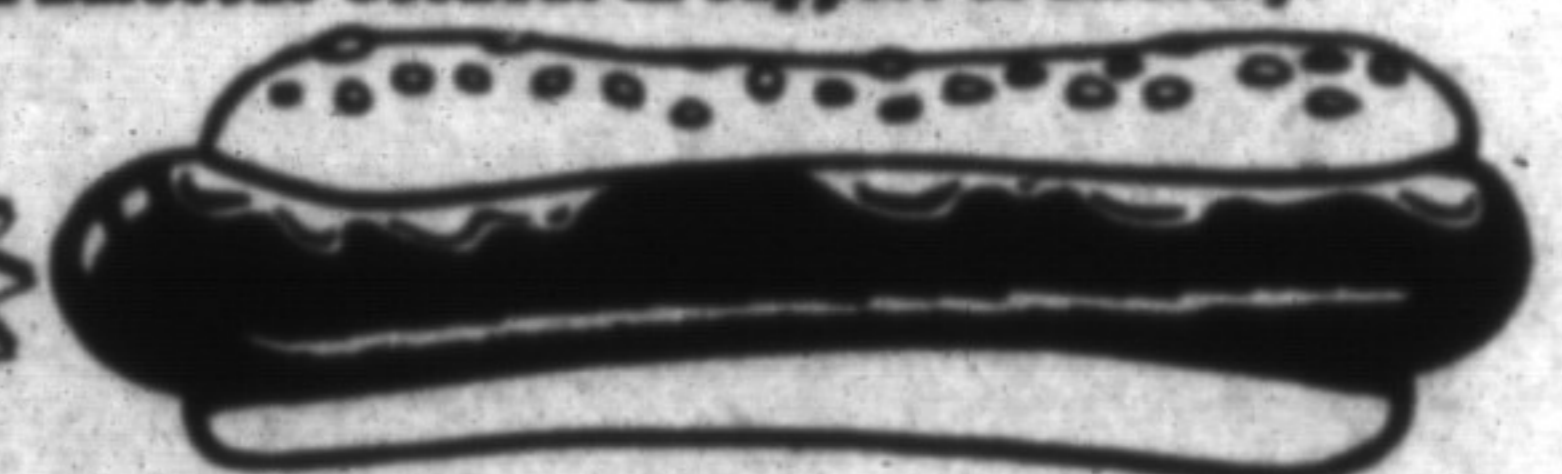
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