

Records, exciting finishes mark Breeders Crown night

Harness-racing fans witnessed a championship showcase of the sport's best horses and horsemen — punctuated by track records and dramatic finishes — during the Cadillac Breeders Crown held at Mohawk Raceway last Friday night.

The four events, totalling \$1.4 million in purse money, represented the richest night in Canadian harness racing.

Fans couldn't have asked for a more exciting night as they watched a monster track-record mile by Lifetime Dream in the mare trot, a great duel between Swing Back and Shady Daisy in the mare pace, a spectacular win for Earl in the open trot and the coronation of Staying Together in the open pace.

Hollywood couldn't have written a better script for the \$330,675-mare trot. Lifetime Dream, a 5-year-old daughter of Worthy Bowl, who won't leave home without her travelling companion, Millie the goat, scored the richest pay day of her career for trainer-owner George Elliott of Clinton and breeder-owner Joe Dunsmore of Stratford.

Driver Paul McDonnell scored his third Breeders Crown victory as he guided Lifetime Dream to the 1:55.4 career best and track-record performance.

Lifetime Dream took over past the opening quarter and never looked back from that station. She managed to hold off one serious threat from favored Armbro Keepsake, who sustained a 54-hour trip (via horse trailer, ferry and airplane) from

HOOF BEAT

with KATHY WADE-VLAAR



Europe to Canada to compete in her third Breeders Crown. Keepsake had to settle for place money while La Troite closed for show.

The coveted victory was worth \$165,337 to the owners and that increased Lifetime Dream's bankroll to \$218,587 in her 17 season starts.

As expected, the \$330,675 mare pace shaped up as a two-horse battle between North America's two top mares, defending Crown champion Shady Daisy and rival Swing Back.

The race came down to the wire and it was Swing Back who usurped Shady from her throne, by just a nose, pacing to a track record 1:52.2 mile for driver Kelly Sheppard.

The victory was the 14th win in 34 starts on the year and the 84th race in two years for the iron-tough daughter of Nihilator. The win gives Swing Back \$304,777 on the year for owner Elena Cato of West Palm Beach, Fla.

Despite starting from post position nine in the second tier, Earl managed to trot to a 1:56 unchallenged length-and-a-quarter win in the \$396,810 open trot.

It was a savored victory for driver Chris Christoforou Jr., his father, trainer and co-owner Chris Sr. and

co-owner Irv Strofer's Banjo Farms, who were all very concerned about the post position Earl had drawn.

The win was the 11th on the year for the Balanced Image offspring and bumped his bank account to \$491,753.

Staying Together managed to keep it together as he held off a late challenge from hard-driving Bilateral in the final steps of the mile in the \$396,810 horse pace. Hall of famer Bill O'Donnell guided Staying Together to his coronation, which was the 20th win in 25 season starts, good for \$1,069,155 this year for owner Bob Hamather of Hensall, Ont.

Staying Together nosed out Bilateral in 1:51.1, just a tick off the track record, while Tough Hombre managed to get up for third.

The four-year-old gelded son of Panorama swept past pacesetter Cambest in the deep stretch to record his first Crown victory. But more importantly, give him leverage in the year-end balloting for Horse of the Year honors.

The win continued trainer Bob McIntosh's dominance of the horse-pace division, marking his third consecutive victory in this category. McIntosh trained '91 winner Camluck and sent Artsplace postward for the Breeders Crown win in the horse pace last year at Mohawk, enroute to Horse of the Year honors. A crowd of 8,553 attended Breeders Crown night and wagered \$2 million at Mohawk and OJC intertrack locations.

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E.C. DRURY at ALDERSHOT SJ
MM ROBINSON at BISHOP REDING SJ

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VOLLEYBALL
3:45 ACTON at MILTON J
BISHOP REDING at MM ROBINSON SJ

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

SENIOR FOOTBALL
6:30 GEORGETOWN at MILTON

JUNIOR GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY
3:00 BISHOP REDING at NOTRE DAME

MILTON JUNIOR B HOCKEY
8:00 STREETSVILLE at MILTON

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
3:45 ACTON at E.C. DRURY
BISHOP REDING at GEORGETOWN
MILTON at L.E.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VOLLEYBALL
3:45 E.C. DRURY at ACTON
GEORGETOWN at BISHOP REDING JS
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