CANTERBURY PARK

1100 Canterbury Road

Shakopee, MN 55379

Canterbury's Season Concludes with MN Festival Day

Eikleberry rides four winners; leading trainer Robertson saddles five

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Shakopee, MN -- Canterbury Park's live racing season concluded Sunday with the 17th renewal of the Minnesota Festival of Champions, a day exclusively for horses bred in the state. Jockey Ry Eikleberry, unable to ride since a spill Thursday evening, returned to the saddle today to win four races: the $18,240 Minnesota Quarter Horse Futurity, the $50,000 Minnesota Distaff Classic, the $50,000 Distaff Sprint, and the $50,000 Classic Championship.

"It would have been iffy had this been a regular race day. I'm still pretty sore," Eikleberry, 21, said. "But this is where the money is, so I had to ride."

Eikleberry and Seis It Fast won the $18,250 Minnesota Quarter Horse Futurity for owners Bob and Julie Petersen of Cokato, MN. The 2-year-old won all five starts at Canterbury this summer for leading quarter horse trainer Edward Ross Hardy and was named Horse of the Year. Seis It Fast paid $2.20 to win.

Sasha's Fierce beat prohibitive favorite Chick Fight by five lengths in the $50,000 Distaff Classic Championship. Eikleberry tracked the favorite in the early going and then took command in the stretch. Sasha's Fierce is owned by Astar Lindquist Stable of Hastings, MN and is trained by Gary Scherer. She paid $11.60 to win.

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Defending champion Bella Notte was never challenged in the $50,000 Distaff Sprint as she went gate to wire to win by 4 ½ lengths. Owned by Art and Gretchen Eaton of Randolph, MN, the 6-year-old mare paid $3.00. She is trained by Mac Robertson. This was the first of five Festival Day wins for Canterbury's leading thoroughbred trainer.

Eikleberry's fourth win, the Minnesota Classic Championship, came aboard Suddenly Silver, also owned by the Eaton's and trained by Robertson. The 6-year-old gelding led the entire race, winning by five lengths and returning $4.20.

Nine-year-old Sir Tricky won the final race of his career when he captured the $35,000 Turf Championship for the second time. Seth Martinez rode the veteran with patient confidence, passing two rivals in deep stretch to win by one length. Sir Tricky is owned by Joni and Barry Butzow of Eden Prairie, MN and trained by Robertson. Sir Tricky paid $3.80.

Robertson won the $55,000 Northern Lights Debutante with favorite Espirt de Bleu. Owned and bred by Jeff and Deb Hilger's Bleu Valley Farm, the undefeated 2-year-old filly was ridden by Dean Butler. This is the second Debutante win for the Stillwater breeders. Esprit de Bleu paid $3.20.

Butler won a stretch battle aboard Nomorewineforeddie in the $50,000 Sprint Championship, defeating defending champion Bizet by a half length. The 4-year-old is owned by Anthony Didier of David City, NE and trained by Bruce Riecken. The $2.00 win mutuel was $4.60.

Canterbury Hall of Fame trainer Bernell Rhone would not be shut out on Festival Day. He ran first and second in the $55,000 Northern Lights Futurity with Black Tie Benny and Samendra. Those two dueled to the stretch before David Cardoso and Black Tie Benny pulled away to win by 7 ¼ lengths. Owned by Barbara Rehbein of Floral City, FL, the 2-year-old colt by City Place returned $11.20.

Six It Up won by 1 ¾ lengths in the $18,200 Minnesota Quarter Horse Derby. Owned by Steven Pribyl of Buffalo, MN, the 3-year-old filly has now won four consecutive races. Six It Up is trained by Brent Clay and was ridden by Thomas Wellington. As the wagering favorite, she returned $3.20.

Two allowance turf races were run to complete the 11-race card. Robertson won his fifth of the day with Tubby Time and Martinez. The final race of the season went to Scherer, his second win on the day, and jockey Derek Bell when Recording Contract surged at the wire. Owned by Cam Casby of Shakopee, MN, the 4-year-old filly paid $5.00.

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Canterbury's 62-day meet showed an increase in attendance of 6.88% compared to 2009, with an average of 5,859 and a total of 363,244. Handle on live racing, including money wagered on track and wagers imported from out of state sites decreased 7.8%.

2010 Divisional Champions

- Horse of the Year- Seis It Fast (owner: Robert and Julie Petersen; trainer: Ed Ross Hardy)
- Older Filly or Mare – Bella Notte (owner: Art and Gretchen Eaton; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Three-Year-Old Colt or Gelding –Stachys (owner: Al and Bill Ulwelling; trainer: Michael Biehler)
- Three-Year-Old Filly – Hunter's Tiger Paw (owner: Joel and Kris Zamzow; trainer: Cory Jensen)
- Two-Year-Old – Seis It Fast (owner: Robert and Julie Petersen; trainer: Ed Ross Hardy)
- Sprinter – Moralist (owner: Miracle Logistics Inc.; trainer: Tammy Domenosky)
- Claimer – Lucky Skat (owner: Valene Farms; trainer: Gary Scherer)
- Grass Horse – Sir Tricky (owner: Joni and Barry Butzow; trainer: Mac Robertson)
- Quarter Horse – Seis It Fast (owner: Robert and Julie Petersen; trainer: Ed Ross Hardy)
- Older Horse - Moralist (owner: Miracle Logistics Inc.; trainer: Tammy Domenosky)

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