



MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday night was three peat night



Brinello wins the Agassiz Stakes for the third year in a row - Photo by Gerry Hart

Not only did Brinello win his third straight Agassiz Stakes as expected but Thunder Sky was a major upset in the filly and mare version to win her third Distaff in four years. Both at an age where green pastures not racetracks are the norm, seven and eight year's old respectively.

Brinello quickly showed he is the best Manitoba-bred on the grounds with a brilliant wire to wire performance in the \$50,000 Agassiz Stakes, easily getting the best of the youngsters; Spying Eyes, Eight By Ten, both 4-year-olds, and One on One, a 3-year-old.

"This was the result we were hoping for," said Dr. Ross McKague owner and breeder, "he's losing a step getting older, and they are maturing. But he's a nice horse."

That makes three-in-a-row for Brinello, Dr. Ross McKague, trainer Carl Anderson, and jockey Mark Anderson in the Agassiz Stakes. Anyone for four?

Thunder Sky was the big surprise of the night. Going off at 12 to 1, the 8-year-old mare also captured her third Distaff. The winner in both 2006 and 2007, she finished fifth behind Manitoba-bred Horse of the Year Queen Tina in 2008.



Thunder Sky upsets in the Distaff to get her own three-peat – Photo by Gerry Hart

Masterfully guided by jockey Alan Cuthbertson from the back of the pack through horses, Thunder Sky, trained by Curtis Maxwell, blew by the pacesetter and post-time favourite Golden Strip in late stretch.

Queen Tina, winner of the 2008 Distaff, was able to rally for second and Golden Stripe held on for third.

Battling Babies on Saturday night

The re-introduction of the \$30,000 Osiris Stakes couldn't have asked for a better race. This year's Debutante winner, Ruby's Big Band, and Graduation Stakes winner Honorable Lady battled from start to finish.



Rubys' Big Band and Honorable Lady battle it out in the Osiris Stakes – Photo by Gerry Hart

Ruby's Big Band, trained by the ever-present Charlie Smith, commanded the lead early down the backstretch with Honorable Lady just to the outside.

Honorable Lady, trained by Clayton Gray, moved to match strides with the beautiful chestnut filly going into the turn and even got her nose in front turning for homem, causing Ruby's Big Band and jockey Mark Anderson to dig in and come out on top.

“These two fillies have put on a couple of really nice duels up here,” said Smith referring to the two stakes races where Ruby’s Big Band and Honorable Lady finished first and second, “and we have had the good fortune to prevail these two times.”

The Osiris Stakes capped off a fabulous night for trainer Charlie Smith and partner Terry Propps who finished first, second, and third in the early \$30,000 Jack Hardy Memorial.



Morsel leads the team home in Jack Hardy Memorial – Photo by Gerry Hart

Morsel, ridden by Larren Delorme, was the first of the team to cross the line with Lady Countdown and Enchanting giving the Smith/Propps team a perfect Saturday night.