



MEDIA RELEASE

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Dedication pays for Gray

Eight-time leading trainer, Clayton Gray has had a rough go of it lately. With a stable of 25 horses, there have been a couple of close calls at the wire, but Gray remained winless until Celtic Thane and his former gallop girl and now apprentice rider, Alyssa Harder won Saturday evening.

An ardent supporter of Harder, Gray has taken a large amount of criticism from owners, other trainers, bettors and even a few grooms for his decision to give the local Manitoba girl a chance to fulfill her dream to be a jockey.



Four seconds and four thirds in twenty-three starts, Harder has ridden the majority of those starts and now both have hit the winners column together. Harder won her first ever race two weeks ago.

"I have felt abused for trying to give this girl a chance," told Gray to several members of the group that sponsored the race, "Giving a shot to anyone local shouldn't be this hard."

Harder and her mount Celtic Thane sat last down the backstretch and shot through along the rail around the turn. Celtic Thane then came through between horses to take the lead in late stretch.

Atras saddles his first-ever winner

First year trainer Rob Atlas saddled his first-ever winner Daryamar in Saturday's feature race.

Daryamar, owned by Atlas and friend Myrna Dram, lead a field of classy older claimers from start to finish. Daryamar came into the race after a close fifth, beaten only two lengths, in his last start.

Rob Atlas has spent two years under the tutelage of legendary trainer Bert Blake. Congratulations Rob!

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