



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lady Countdown blasts off in Chantilly



The countdown must have happened in the gate, since Lady Countdown shot out of there like a rocket.

Commanding the lead early, the beautiful grey almost white filly trained by Texan Charlie Smith led the field onto the main track before being challenged by both Muffins Star on the outside and Roman Anthem along the rail.

The team of three battled down the backstretch before Lady Countdown and jockey Rohan Singh went throttle up to shake off Muffins Star and Roman Anthem in mid turn.

The winner of last year's Debutante Stakes, Lady Countdown came into the Chantilly off a hard fought second at Lincoln, Nebraska in the Princess Stakes, where she got stuck behind horses until late in the stretch.

Will Lady Countdown follow in the footsteps of Charlie's other star Miss Missile? "We are going to give her a little break," said Smith, "she is a Louisiana-bred and there are a lot of sprints for her down there later."

Jakes Lady Luck, trained by Marvin Buffalo, sat in the back of the pack early down the backstretch watching the battle up front. At the top of the turn, jockey

Larren Delorme began to ask Jakes Lady Luck and she responded, making a powerful outside move through the turn.

Second at the top of the stretch, Jakes Lady Luck set her sights on Lady Countdown but couldn't catch the winner in the stretch and finished second.

Adventcia, the only Manitoba-bred in the race, could see them all from last down the backstretch and was still last coming into the stretch before rallying for third. Watch out for her in the R. C. Anderson to be run July 17. She will be a definite favourite against other Manitoba-bred fillies.

Champions Battled for the Free Press



It was Sprinter of the Year versus Horse of the Year for this year's Free Press Stakes with the nod going to Monsoon Rain. Horse of the Year in 2008, Monsoon Rain battled eye to eye and step for step with Rock'n USA – 2008 sprinter of the year – throughout the race.

Breaking a step behind Rock'n USA, Monsoon Rain moved up inside the early leader going on to the main track and the battle began. However it was Jockey Carlos Marquez and Monsoon Rain that were able to find another gear and pull away in late stretch to win.

After finishing second to "the Rock" in their last start, trainer Chad Torevell went back to the barn with the goal to not let that happen again. "We made a small equipment change and trained him a little more aggressively," said Torevell, "but the extra furlong probably helped as well."

Rock'n USA cannot be failed on effort, battling toe to toe for the entire race, the 2008 Sprinter of the Year trained by Tanya Lindsay, came just shy of their first stakes win.

No Reply, trained by Emile Corbel, sat in behind early leaders Rock'n USA, Monsoon Rain, and Mr Exspeedient, and was able to rally for third.

Trainer Torevell on a roll

Suffering through a slow start to his 2009 season, trainer Chad Torevell has shook the monkey loose in impressive fashion with two wins in two stakes races.

Winning Wednesday night's \$30,000 Golden Boy with TheGlow, Chad now looks to have one of the local favourites for this year's Manitoba Derby in his barn.

He followed that with a redemptive win by Monsoon Rain in the \$30,000 Free Press Stakes. The 2009 Horse of the Year rebounded from a disappointing second against Rock'n USA earlier this year with an impressive win and a glimpse of what could be for 2009.



Nice comeback Chad!

LaVerendrye pits two perfect fillies

Preservata has never lost a race at Assiniboia Downs and neither has Miss Missile, but one will have to put a check in the non-win column on Wednesday in the \$30,000 LaVerendrye Stakes.

Miss Missile, trained by Charlie Smith, has won a total of five stakes at the local track and racked up a perfect six for six race record. And with her front running style she hasn't even had some of the local sand in her face. Will she this time?

Perservata, out of the Clint Willson barn, was the impressive winner against older males in her last start at Assiniboia Downs. The west coast invader has gone three for three and will look for her first stakes win this Wednesday.

Defending champion, Polynesian Kitty, trained by Ardell Sayler, could also have something to say about this one, making the first stakes race of the year for older fillies and mares a must see on Wednesday.