



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 18, 2009



Rock'n USA throws the first stone

In the battle Friday that pitted last year's Horse of the Year, Monsoon Rain, against Sprinter of the Year, Rock'n USA, it was the "rock" that threw the first stone.

Sitting three wide down the backstretch with Monsoon Rain and Turfway Park-invader Hurry Home Warren to his inside, Rock'n USA made short work of the field to win. Pulling away from the field in mid-turn, he galloped home to win easily. Trained by Tanya Lindsay, "The Rock" showed everyone they will need their best game June 6 for the \$v 30,000 Free Press Sprint.

Last year's Derby Trial winner, Mr. Exspeedient, sat behind the dueling trio and passed Monsoon Rain in deep stretch. Trained by Clint Willson, Mr. Exspeedient was a credible second but was not going to catch the winner.

Monsoon Rain, trained by Chad Torevell, had the advantage of the rail down the backstretch but could not keep up with the winner when he made his move on the turn. A game effort for the Horse of the Year could not hold off the fast closing Mr. Exspeedient and he had to settle for third.

Baze out until June 3

After winning three in a row Friday night, Gary Baze was injured when his mount in race five, Roman Anthem, threw him in the gate. A knee injury will keep him on the sidelines until June 3.

Baze has five wins in only two days of racing and was the leader in the standings going into holiday Monday racing. Three-time leading rider Alan Cuthbertson rode one winner on Saturday and one on Monday to tie the leader.

David Lopez picked up several mounts intended for Gary Baze including Roman Anthem who won easily. David Lopez is currently sitting in third behind Baze and Cuthbertson.



First steps on Derby Trail a secret

Secret Officer, trained by newcomer to Assiniboia Downs Don Schnell, made no secret that he's pointing to the Manitoba Derby when he won the Victoria Day feature for 3-year-olds. A prep for the Golden Boy Stakes on June 3, the race included several that have Manitoba Derby aspirations including Winnipeg Futurity winner Prayforthesoldiers.

Secret Officer went wire to wire in easy fashion winning by five lengths.

Polish Game, trained by Mel Davis, stumbled at the start but made up ground on the turn to finish second.

Trainer Tanya Lindsay's charge, Cooler Online, sat third down the backstretch behind Secret Officer and Tramontane. The Toronto invader got the best of Tramontane in mid-turn but was catching the winner and could not hold off Polish Game's late charge.