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Fred And Ginger captures 2010 Max C. Hempt Memorial Pace

Fred And Ginger established a new stakes record Saturday (May 22) at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in winning the \$300,000 Max C. Hempt Memorial Pace for three-year-old open colts and geldings pacers.

Driven by Dave Palone and trained by Ron Burke, Fred And Ginger stopped the timer in 1:49.4 in winning by a neck over a hard-closing Pang Shui (Jim Morrill Jr.)

"I felt confident and pretty comfortable after the second quarter breather," said Palone in the winner's circle following the race. "I really did. My horse is not the best in the turns but certainly was the best in the race."

Fred And Ginger, a three-year-old Real Artist colt out of Graceful Motion by Beach Towel, now has won three of five starts this season with one second place finish and one third-place finish. The 2010 Hempt victor is owned by H. Taylor and R. Feldman and E. Gold, all of Pennsylvania, and J. Silva of Long Beach, N.Y.

"This is a great horse," said Taylor in the winner's circle. His sister was a great horse and Dave did a great job for us tonight."

Palone seized the lead right from the get go, taking the nine-horse field to the opening panel in 26.3, half in 55.2 and three-quarters in 1:22.

Following Fred And Ginger were Shark's Legacy (Joe Pavia Jr.), sitting in the pocket throughout the mile with Pang Shui (Jim Morrill Jr.) in the third spot.

Morrill Jr. and Pang Shui put on a late charge up the passing lane (Pocono Pike) to lose by a neck with Shark's Legacy three and three-quarters of a length back of the Hempt winner.

The 1:49.4 bested the old stakes record of Badlands Nitro (Brian Sears) of 1:50 established in May of 2008. This also was a new life mark for Fred And Ginger.

Shadow Play (David Miller) owns the all-time pacing three-year-old colt mark at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs with a time of 1:48.2. That mark came in August of 2008 in an Adios elimination race. The Northeastern Pennsylvania track hosted the Adios that year because of on-going construction at the Pittsburgh area plant.

One More Laugh(Tim Tetrick), second-half of an entry with Fred And Ginger, went on two nasty breaks in the race and never threatened.

Winner paid \$2.10 and \$2.10 and there was no show wagering in the race.