

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs Week in Review

May 14-20, 2010

We had some sizzling action at the track this past week, highlighted by the first track record of the 2010 season. Let's take a look back at the best of the best for the week that was at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

PACER OF THE WEEK: DROP RED

So let's talk about that track record. I guess it's not surprising that it came courtesy of an Open Handicap pace on Saturday night, featuring 9 of the toughest pacers on the grounds. But it may have been somewhat surprising that it was Drop Red to do the trick, considering the import from The Meadowlands had won just once in 9 tries in 2010 coming into the race.

Then again, last year Drop Red, trained by Robert Horowitz, reeled in over \$368,000 as a 3-year-old. He found that form again and then some on Saturday with Kevin Sizer driving, outdueling favorite OK Braveheart to the line for a win in 1:50:1. That set the Pocono mark for 4-year-old stallions on the pace, which had been set last July by Sailing Cruise.

Other top pacers this week include: Broadway Jake (Anthony Morgan, Kirsten Proctor), who sizzled to his second straight win over the \$20,000 claimers on Friday night in 1:51:4; Bully McCool (George Napolitano Jr., Laura Shock), owner of two straight wins in the \$25,000 claiming ranks after a triumph on Saturday in 1:52; and Jealous Heart (Mike Simons, Kent Sherman), winner of three straight overall, including two in a row at Pocono after her win in a claiming pace on Wednesday night in 1:54:4.

TROTTER OF THE WEEK: AUGUST REVENUE

This mare from the barn of John Duer took on the boys in a condition trot on Friday night, and for the second straight week she came up a winner. With Mike Simons in the bike, she did it with an exclamation point this time around, winning in a scorching time of 1:54 by 9 ¾ lengths.

That's not too shabby considering that the group she faced was just a notch below the Open trotters. Don't be surprised if August Revenue, who seems to love the Pocono oval, takes a step up in class off of this excellent performance.

Honorable mention on the trotting side this week goes to: You're Next (George Napolitano Jr., Chris Carrubba), who moved up in class from the claimers to the Opens and captured the week's featured trot on Tuesday night in 1:55:1; P J Clark (Jim Morrill Jr., Laura Shock), who once again thrived from an inside post in sloppy conditions, winning his second straight condition trot in the muck Tuesday night in 1:56; and Malevich Hanover (George Napolitano Jr., Walter Carroll), winner of two straight \$15,000 claiming trots after his victory Tuesday in 1:57:2.

LONG SHOT OF THE WEEK: BROADWAY SHOWCASE

With Wade Ross serving as trainer and driver, this gelding scored in come-from-behind fashion in a condition trot on Tuesday night at 65-1, paying off \$133.80 on a \$2 win ticket.

DRIVER OF THE WEEK: KEVIN SIZER

Kevin had his best week of the season to date with four wins, including a double on Saturday that was highlighted by his track-record winning ride aboard Drop Red. Not one of those four winners came on a favorite.

TRAINER OF THE WEEK: LAURA SHOCK

The incredible balance in the training colony at Pocono makes Shock's 3 wins this week stand out. She picked up a consecutive training double on Tuesday night and has an over .400 UDRS in the season's first few months.

BREEDERS CROWN WATCH: SHARK GESTURE

This 7-year-old was briefly retired by his handlers at age 5, but has since returned to earn more than half of his \$2 million-plus in career purse money. He added another feather to this cap by defending his title in the \$200,000 Graduate final for aged pacers on Saturday night at The Meadowlands. George Brennan did the driving for trainer Larry Remmen, as Shark Gesture rolled to a front-running victory in 1:48:4.

That will do it for this week, but I'll see you at the track. Feel free to e-mail me at jbeviglia@mohegansunpocono.com.