

Pye on Racing

2019 Ohio Fair Column

By Thom Pye



Paulding Powers up the 2019 Ohio Fair Season

For three days (June 10, 11, and 12) the fine folks of Paulding County finally had near pitch-perfect weather and horsemen were rewarded with an array of impressive miles over the half-mile oval.

With many of the juvenile trotters and pacers making their initial appearance in front of a crowd, it wasn't about the time but rather the performance beginning in the very first race on Monday when Johnny Kearns' two-year-old filly T Degenengold (by Pet Rock) with trainer/driver Jeff Nisonger dominated the OFRC field in 2:08.4h by 18 open lengths.

Ted Boschma of South Lyon, Michigan's Timestorm, a two-year-old trotting gelding by Stormin Norman, won by 31 ½ in 2:11.3h with trainer/driver Kent Hess in the sulky.

Herecomescharlie B (by Full Count) and 55-year-old breeder/owner/trainer/driver Dan Veneir of Pemberville, Ohio drew away from the rest of the OFRC two-year-old colt trotters in 2:12.4h by 13 and ¾ lengths.

22-year-old Pierce Henry got the seat behind owner/trainer Robert Brook's two-year-old filly McBrooke (by McArdle) and paced off to a

5-length win in 2:11h.

All these eye-poppers were done without a charted line in the book.

On Tuesday the hits just kept on coming as the Mike Conklin-trained Cousin Louie (by Big Bad John) glided to a mile in 2:07h by 9 over the other OFRC two-year-old pacing colts.

Several of the three-year-old colts had some tight and exciting finishes as a lot of them continued last year's form.

And a couple of the near-desperate punters finally got some of their money back.

"I didn't cash a ticket all day yesterday," bemoaned a two-dollar bettor who soon was chuckling a few races later after he picked several exactas in a row. "Who needs a 401K," he laughed as he counted his money, "when we can bet on harness racing!?" ...a classic (and I've heard a lot of 'em).

Wednesday's program had a few hard-fought and fast miles when The Le Van Stables Inc of Woodstock, Ohio's Rocking Megan L (by Pet Rock) with co-owner Hank Le Van rocked the three-year-old OFRC pacing fillies with a mile in 2:01.3h as Ron Randall's Officially My Way (by Art Official) took the second

division in 2:02.1h for Ed Greeno Jr. Suzanne Bates' I'm McCited (by McCardle) and Duke Sugg grabbed the 3rd OFRC division in 2:02.4h.

In a program highlighted by the Spring Haven Farm Ladies Driving Series - which was won by Emily Hay with her 7-year-old mare Royal Delta - it was fitting that one of the Text Trivia questions was "how many horses have a lady's name in ITS name?"

As the crowd leafed through the 10-race program someone noted "that'll keep them busy for a bit."

Fifteen seconds later, just as we leaned back triumphantly in the chair to relax for a minute, the correct number was texted in: 18. ...how in Hambletonian history do they do it?

This was the first... of the many enjoyable and fun Ohio Fairs.

See next page for photos and visit the OHHA Facebook page for even more photos:

OhioHarnessHorsemenAssociation



When the photo flashed after the Paulding County FFA Pace was over it was The Le Van Stables Inc. of Woodstock, Ohio's class 9-year-old by Stand Forever Hanky L standing in the Winners Circle for the 52nd time in his career. Truly a family affair, he is trained by Herb Le Van and driven by Hank Le Van as he paced the mile in 2:00.4h.



The Stars came out for the premier 2019 performance of the Racing With The Stars fan contest.



And they're off! Trainer/driver/owner Tommy and Andrea Householder of Delaware, Ohio's two-year-old filly Majors First Lady (by Major Stone) in the first race at the first Fair with her first lifetime start. She finished... third in the 2:08.4 mile.



The start of somethin' good: first race of the 2019 Ohio Fair Season at Pauldin'.