

Pye on Racing

2019 Ohio Fair Column

By Thom Pye

In motion at Marion

The grand Veterans Memorial Building that overlooks the Fairgrounds was built in 1950 and has stood witness to some fast miles around the half-mile oval but on Monday, July 1st it was one for the record book in the George "Tom" Criswell FFA pace.

J. Duke Sugg got the seat behind Ervin S. Wickey's Over Friskie, a Mervin Schmucker-trained 7-year-old gelding by Feelin Friskie, and sat patiently as Tommy Householder sent his Moonwards Hanover homeward as they clipped off a half in :58... and then Duke tipped out to wing by the $\frac{3}{4}$'s in 1:26.3. Announcer Ayres Ratliff called out "we might have a new track record!" as the lifetime winner of \$101,335 did what he had to do and opened up by 8 lengths to win for fun in a track-record equaling time of 1:58.3h.

And the crowd showed their appreciation with a nice round of applause as Moonwards held on for 2nd while Dalecroft Big Guy (Charles Bolen) got up for the show spot. That would be the first of a driving double for Suggs who also take the \$2,629)FRC three-year-old trot with Norman and Susan Robbins' Dontyouforgetit filly Lady's Image.

Pierce Henry would secure a driving double as well, first with the Jeff Miller-trained Blooming Sunflower in 2:02.3h as the three-year-old filly by Rockin Amadeus would best Im McCited (Sugg) and Olive Another (Mc Ilmurray) and then come back with Double EE Meadows' Bad Baby sitter (by Manofmanymissions) in the three-year-old OFRC filly trot.

Cam McCown grabbed three for the day including making it "three-in-a-row in Ohio" for Terry Todd Milhoan and Heather Kay Wilder's TK's Lexi Lee as the 3-year-old filly by Dejarmbro win by $9\frac{1}{2}$ lengths over Forbid Me Not (Pierce Henry) and Dejarming Lady (Art Mc Ilmurray) as she took a new lifetime mark of 2:06h for trainer Jessica McCown.



Winchester Bay Acres Inc's Cruisingatmidnight (by Big Bad John) and McCown took the \$3,585 division for two-year-old pacing filly in 2:04.1h by $9\frac{3}{4}$ lengths over Emblynette (Beau Brown) and McBrooke (Pierce Henry) as the Edward Telle pupil earned a new lifetime tab.

And it was no small feat as 77-year-old Charles Little was victorious with Joyce Wagner and his Big Bad Jenn (by Big Bad John) in the OFRC three-year-old filly pace. Little has been part-time in the stirrups since 1977, when Governor Skipper won the Little Brown Jug... not *really* that long ago.

Atlantic Star, the three-year-old filly by Cheyenne Rei, found her winning ways again as she clipped off a gutsy mile in 2:00.4h for trainer Sandra Hennessey and driver Ed Hennessey by $6\frac{3}{4}$ lengths over Vintage Gal (Cam McCown) and Toobigformybritches (John Moody) and reigned supreme as the RWTS's Best Bet of the Day. ? What?

On Tuesday, July 2nd Art Mc Il Murray had a driving double with Gerald Mijal's Tanner J as the three-year-old Believeincruiser gelding toured the half-miler in 2:02h for trainer Steve Novak.

Mc Ilmurray would take the next race with Jiu Jitsu, the Mike Sweeney-trained Wishing Well two-year-old gelding in 2:10.2h over Luckey Stormin (Josh Slater) and Enforce The Law, teamed by owner/trainer/driver Joseph Kramp of Northfield.

Beau Brown rattled off a hat trick with Jennifer K. Brown's two-year-old McArdle gelding Dig Danny Dig in 2:04.3h; Terry Tackett's Big Bad Monster, a three-year-old colt by Big Bad John, in 2:04.2h and the Mike Conklin-trainee Cousin Louie (Big Bad John) in 2:05.3h as the two-year-old colt is now 2 for 2 in his juvenile season.

Cousin Louis was already part of a Text Trivia question at Paulding (how many horses racing today have a relative in its name?) and when asked about

the tag his proud owners (Conklin, Matlack, & Davenport) said that “we wanted to name him “Big Louie” but that name was already taken... we always have called him “Louie” – why I don’t know – but since there are four cousins from Delaware, Ohio that own him he got the tab of Cousin Louie.” If the sharp-looking youngster keeps it up he might be known as our *rich* Cousin Louie!

Cam McCown continued his winning way as he had double on the day starting with Setit And Forgetit (by Dontyouforgetit) in the three-year-old OFRC colt trot then Ron Steck, Wall Bros Stable, J. Miller, and R. Miller’s Trumps Wall in 2:03 as the three-year-old McCardle gelding topped Winchester Walley (Pierce Henry) and Medoland Cooper with Chris Presley... and also was the RWTS Best Bet of the Day. Shut

up!

Pierce Henry would take the “Big Jon” Townsend FFA Trot with Walberg and Earley’s Mr Protab in 2:06.1h by 5.

And then in the 2019 Marion season finale, B.J. Roberts would take Gallivant, the Chris Beaver trained gelding by Triumphant Caviar, to the wire in 2:06.2h by six in the OFRC three-year-old trot.

Our final Text Trivia winner of the day, Mercedes Wilson of Danville, correctly guessed “Beaver” to “who is the trainer with the most wins in today’s program?”

The Pride of Radnor, Ohio has 56 victories already this year... make that 57.



Left:

Duke Sugg got the seat aboard Ervin Wickey’s Over Friskie and powered away by 8 as they equaled the all-age track pacing record of 1:58.3h at Marion.

Bottom:

We’ve got a CAVALRY charge coming for home in the three-year-old colt pace! Big Bad Monster (Beau Brown) held Skyway Artistic (Harrison Le Van) and Friday Night Blues (Chris Presley) off by a head in 2:04.2h.

Photos by Thom Pye

