



West Virginia

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

December 2021

West Virginia Breeders Classics XXXV

Monarchy's in athletics often fail a transference of talents into secondary sports or subsidiary commercial enterprises.

However, West Virginia's native son, Sam Huff, NFL Hall of Fame legend and founder of the West Virginia Breeders Classics, made significant contributions to both kingdoms he reigned over and could be touted as savior to the racing/breeding industries in his beloved Mountain State.

The 35th edition of Sam Huff and Carol Holden's inspirational production, held Oct. 9 at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, boasted some of the states most distinguished horses, while witnessing record-breaking human performances.

With \$1 million in purses on the line, the evening highlighted Charles Town regulars, owner David Raim (5 wins with 5 starters), trainer Jeff Runco (7 wins on the card) and jockey Arnaldo Bocachica (winner of 8 out 9 races).

WEST VIRGINIA BREEDERS CLASSIC

Muad'dib entered the \$300,000 guaranteed Classic with an unblemished record, however questions lingered as to his ability to go an unfamiliar 1½ mile distance over the iconic three-quarter mile oval.

Competing on the crisp fall night, the son of Fiber Sonde out

of Holy Pow Wow, bred by John D McKee, left those in attendance with a performance they'll recall for years.

Racing unimpeded in the two-path throughout much of the race, Muad'dib bellied down once into the stretch and left no questions as to his divisional superiority.

The colossal 4-year-old gelding, with proven form and untapped potential, takes over as big man on campus in the Runco stable, as post-race news revealed third place finisher North Atlantic (\$719,454) was hanging-up his racing plates for retirement.

Owned by David Raim, trained by Jeff Runco and ridden by Arnaldo Bocachica, Muad'dib passed his ultimate test on the star-studded night.

WEST VIRGINIA 'CAVADA' BREEDERS CLASSIC

Star of Night, a 4-year-old daughter of Creative Cause out of Splendiferous Moon, broke a tad flat from post position 10, fortuitously sat off a ruinous pace and as choreographed chaos unfolded around her, accelerated late to prevail by three-quarters of a length under a brilliant ride by Arnaldo Bocachica.

Last year's WVTBA Horse of the Year, and now back-to-back Cavada winner, is rapidly becoming a folk hero in the Charles Town distaff family.

Bred by Heinz J. Steinmann and racing in his Huntertown Farm LLC colors, the gray/roan filly trained by Jeff Runco always seems to find another gear when tested, reminiscent of a quality individual.

WEST VIRGINIA DASH FOR CASH BREEDERS CLASSIC

Hypothesis has an overall mark of 22-10-5-1, with earnings of \$313, 023.

Anecdotal opinion asserts, with nine wins and three seconds at 4½ furlongs, that should remain his preferred distance.

Bred by Francis W. Daniel III and owned by Jill Daniel, the 4-year-old son of Algorithms out of Ideal Thoughts is conditioned by master horsewoman Crystal Pickett.

The intramural speed squabble boasted rivals Laughing Cat, Golden Key and Aaron's Tap.

The bay gelding, who is now a two-time Breeders Classic winner (having taken the Moscarelli Memorial Breeders Classic at 2) was handled by Eclipse Award winner Jose Montano.

WEST VIRGINIA TRIPLE CROWN NUTRITION BREEDERS CLASSIC

The Sky is Falling entered Breeders Classics night as a bit of a wild card, and certainly appeared overlooked by the betting public, going off at odds

of 9-1, the third choice behind 1-5 favorite Fancy Her Up.

After a compelling debut in September, the daughter of Cupid and the Half Ours mare Miss Henny Penny tossed in a clunker behind winner Fancy Her Up in the Rachel's Turn Stakes when compromised at the break.

In the speed-rich Triple Crown Nutrition, the David Raim-owned Jeff Runco trainee rebounded from her lackluster effort and burst on the scene late to complete her crime-level mutuel payout (\$20.60).

Catherine K. Jennings and Scott Mallory earned a berth on the dais of accomplishments by breeding the winners of two races on the "Night of Champions," with Door Buster yet to come.

WEST VIRGINIA VINCENT MOSCARELLI MEMORIAL BREEDERS CLASSIC

Run to Daylight crystallized the division leadership with a career best Beyer figure while continuing a flawless 2-year-old campaign.

Cranked up by trainer Jeff Runco for his best effort to date, the son of Runhappy—with the physique of a deity—mastered being impeded leaving the starting gate to loop the field and win under wraps.

The bay gelding out of Daylight's Coming was bred by James F. Miller.

Owned by David Raim and ridden by Arnaldo Bocachica, Run to Daylight stood out in the paddock presentation, a space reserved for the privileged in appearance.

WEST VIRGINIA TOURISM OFFICE BREEDERS CLASSIC

Door Buster, fresh from a nail-biter in the Sylvia Bishop Memorial in August when racing room wasn't secured until the top of the lane, has blossomed into a winning machine since the addition of blinkers.

The 3-year-old daughter of Speighster out of Miss Henny Penny is owned by Jay Reese and conditioned by Ollie Figgins III.

Door Buster is 5-of-8 with the hood on, bankrolling over \$192,000.

Bred by Catherine K. Jennings and Scott Mallory, the bay filly was handled by jockey Arnaldo Bocachica, subbing for the injured Denis Araujo.

WEST VIRGINIA LOTTERY BREEDERS CLASSIC

Social Chic has quietly assumed a leadership role in the 3-year-old male category through tenacity and consistency.

The son of Upstart out of Tres Chic has never finished off the board in 11 starts for owner Smart Angle LLP.

As the racing season winds down, successive stakes wins are a tribute to a genuine pillar of the West Virginia breeding community, James F. Miller.

Trained by Jeff Runco, the rail-skimming ride was courtesy of triumphant jockey Arnaldo Bocachica.

WEST VIRGINIA 'ONION JUICE' BREEDERS CLASSIC

Penguin Power had only three starts in 2021 before his Onion Juice effort and many loyal fans

doubted the sprinter's ability to successfully defend his reigning title (2019-2020 victor) in that contest.

The son of Fiber Sonde out of Aye Robbin still had one undiscovered gem lurking in his 6-year-old body, and it embodied this year's Breeders Classic theme, "excitement right out of the gate."

Owned by David Raim and trained by Jeff Runco, the chestnut gelding was born and raised at John and Cyndy McKee's Beau Ridge Farm.

WEST VIRGINIA ROGER RAMEY BREEDERS CLASSIC DISTAFF

Stowe Angel has been a handicapping puzzle ever since she dominated males in last year's Robert Leavitt Memorial Stakes.

Having never run farther than 7 furlongs, the daughter of Warrior's Reward out of Lido Lady bred by Newbourne Farm could have withered on the vine. Instead the David Raim-owned runner showed major stamina and coasted home by 6¾ lengths going 1½ miles.

Prepared by trainer Jeff Runco, Stowe Angel was the icing on the cake on a night of unbelievable achievements for Raim, Runco and Bocachica, who experienced the rides of a lifetime.

The modern world poses new challenges daily to our sport, but the West Virginia Breeders Classics has met the demands and continues to be more than up to the task!

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Mailing address: P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-6868 • Fax: (304) 724-7870 • Web site: www.wvtba.net

Office location: 202 East Liberty St., Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours: 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

John Funkhouser, *President*
Dennis Bybee, *Secretary*

Javier Contreras, *Vice-President*
Clissy Funkhouser, *Treasurer*

Directors: Nancy Camp, Leslie Cromer, Dennis Finger, Karen Freer,
Judy Grams, Diana McClure, Sandra Witherow