



NEWSLETTER

RIDEAU CARLETON ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE



TRACK TALK - FEBRUARY 2012

LATE SURGE PROPELS COVILLE TO CHALLENGE WIN

by Norm Borg

Up-and-coming reinsmen Todd Budd and Cody Henry gave veteran driver Darrell Coville a run for his money in this year's Rookie Vs. Champ Driver Challenge during a frigid -18 degree Sunday evening at Rideau Carleton Raceway, but a late surge awarded Coville the challenge title and trophy.

The challenge pitted the pair of rookie drivers up against the 57-year-old Coville over the course of a full 15-race card in a battle for the most points based on placings. Originally, the showdown was to take place between Coville and 2011 Coville Cup Senior Division winner Budd, however, this year the NCRHHA also afforded the Junior Division winner Henry the opportunity to compete in the challenge. Both Budd and Henry had won three races apiece to capture their respective Coville Cup divisions last August before advancing to Sunday's challenge.

While 21-year-old Henry and 25-year-old Budd earned one victory each during the Rookie Vs. Champ Challenge, Coville secured this year's title with three wins.

Henry kicked off the card with a victory aboard the Ben Paquette-trained Pans Dire Aurevoir to take the early lead in the point standings. The reinsman, who hails from the well-known Ontario harness racing Henry clan, split horses down the stretch to score the 2:00.1, one and three-quarter length triumph with the popular three-year-old gelding, who broke his maiden for his new connections while making his first start since early August 2011.

Coville then countered with the Gary McDonald-conditioned Lindys Dynasty, who rallied three-wide around the final turn off cover for a 17-1 upset in the second race. The six-year-old trotter won by a length and a half in 2:04.3.

Henry and Coville battled back and forth for the lead while picking up points for top five finishes

early on.

The trailing Budd, son of noted trainer Bill Budd, later got into the action with the streaking Arch Villain, who battled with the early leader before kicking away down the stretch for the three length tally in 1:58.1 in the seventh race. The favoured five-year-old gelding notched his fourth win in a row for trainer John MacMillan.

By the midway point, Henry held the lead with 107 points while Budd tied up the competition with Coville in second, each sporting 80 points apiece.

Coville, who managed to avoid injury when his eighth race mount lost his footing behind the gate and pulled up, pushed ahead in the standings with another victory in the 11th race behind the lightly raced five-year-old trotter Mcsween. The Robert Chamberland trainee swept to command after the opening quarter and turned back the first over attacker to win in 2:02.2 by one and a quarter lengths.

Coville sealed the deal with one more triumph in the finale aboard the Michael Armstrong-conditioned EC Speedy Jet. The grey eight-year-old gelding zipped up the pylons down the stretch to score the mild 9-1 upset in 2:00.2 by two lengths.

Budd managed to edge ahead of Henry for runner-up honours during the final half of the program.



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
PORT DE RETOUR GARANTI





RESERVATIONS
613-822-2211



\$9.99
THURSDAY



\$9.99
BUFFET & LIVE RACING
Limited Time Offers!

Happy Valentine's Day

*Special Valentine's Buffet
Tuesday February 14
Only \$19.99*

613-822-2211

Reservations

FREE*
Lobster
Fridays



*One free lobster with each buffet purchase.
Additional lobsters \$5.99 each + tax.
Limited Time Offers!

THANK YOU FOR ENJOYING OUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE & ALLOWING US TO BE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY; IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR ARTICLES PLEASE CONTACT GROUPS@RCR.NET

6:45pm Daily; plus 12:45 & 9:45pm Weekends





END TAILS

MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM YOUR HUMBLE HANDICAPPER

BY NORM BORG

Good guys finish first.

Good guys like Gord Brown who last month set a new career milestone of 3,500 driving victories!

Good guys like John Macmillan who, as director of the National Capital Region Harness Horse Association (NCRHHA), gives unselfishly of his time. John was my co host for Rookies vs. The Champ night and his training experience along with handicapping insights were invaluable to the broadcast.

Happy Birthday RCR! The Big Five-Oh

50 year ago, a new track opened on what was once a farmer's

field. Despite the struggles Rideau Carleton Raceway has survived and thrived. As one who derives his livelihood from this grand dame of harness racing, I offer a huge "THANK YOU" to those founders that persevered.

BTW Look for a retrospective on the life of Rideau in the March issue of Trot Magazine.

San Pail-No Brainer

By the time this newsletter arrives at your door, the amazing San Pail will have received the O'Brien award

for Horse of the Year. Was there any doubt?

Tid Bit: San Pails only appearance at Rideau Carleton Raceway was on September 21st, 2007 in an OSS Gold event in which he finished 5th.

"The Pail" is, at the time of writing, around \$2,000 shy of surpassing the \$ 3 Million dollar mark in lifetime earnings. Is there any doubt?

Is there any better argument for keeping the stars on the track past age 3? I doubt it!



Todd Budd




























Darryl Coville



Cody Henry

Rookie Vs. Champ Driver Challenge Participants

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p>  <p>Live Racing Post time 6:30 pm Family Sunday</p> <p>INDUSTRY NIGHT</p>	<p>6 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>7 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>8 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Live Racing at 6:30 pm</p> <p>\$9.99 *</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Lobster Friday*</p>	<p>11 Seafood & Prime Dibs Buffet</p> <p>WING NIGHT</p>
<p>12</p>  <p>Live Racing Post time 6:30 pm Family Sunday</p> <p>Chinese New Year's Show</p>	<p>13 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>14 Special</p> <p>Valentine's Day Dinner Buffet (\$19.99)</p>	<p>15 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Live Racing at 6:30 pm</p> <p>\$9.99 *</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Lobster Friday*</p>	<p>18 Seafood & Prime Dibs Buffet</p> <p>WING NIGHT</p> <p>BIG TIME PRO WRESTLING SHOW</p>
<p>19</p>  <p>Live Racing Post time 6:30 pm Family Sunday</p>	<p>20 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>21 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>22 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Live Racing at 6:30 pm</p> <p>Nepaan Night</p> <p>\$9.99 *</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Lobster Friday*</p>	<p>25 Seafood & Prime Dibs Buffet</p> <p>Ottawa Kennel Club Sanction Match</p> <p>WING NIGHT</p> 
<p>26</p>  <p>Live Racing Post time 6:30 pm Family Sunday</p>	<p>27 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>28 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>29 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>*Limited Time Offer, may end without notice.</p>		
			<p>1 \$9.99</p>  <p>Dinner Buffet</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Live Racing at 6:30 pm</p> <p>Dinner Ward Fight</p> <p>\$9.99 *</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Lobster Friday*</p>	<p>4 Seafood & Prime Dibs Buffet</p> <p>WING NIGHT</p> 