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Wood-trained Pair Runs One-Two

In Ruidoso QH Sale Futurity

RUIDOSODOWNS, New Mexico (June 15, 2008) – Trainer Blane Wood’s pair of Hearts Runaway and Victoria Hotpants finished one-two for the second time in a futurity in the Grade 2, \$180,969 Ruidoso Quarter Horse Sale Futurity on Sunday afternoon at Ruidoso Downs.

They also finished one-two in the \$130,000 New Mexican Spring Futurity at Sunland Park on April 13.

Hearts Runaway, in the first post position, did not get a good start while Victoria Hotpants, next door in the two hole, got away in quick order.

“He [Hearts Runaway] threw his head to the outside and got beat about half a length out of the gate,” winning jockey Ricky Ramirez said. “I really didn’t think we could catch the filly [Victoria Hotpants], but he dug in.”

Wood added: “He’s just faster than the filly. I loved the way he finished; loved it.”

The result was an expanding three-quarter-length victory by Hearts Runaway in :17.368 for the 350 yards.

“That’s a respectable time,” Wood said. “We’ll see how he comes out of the race before we make any plans.”

The gelding could continue to race against state-bred company by pointing to the Zia Futurity in late July. If he were to race against open company, then the focus would be on either the Rainbow Futurity in July or the All American Futurity on Labor Day, or both Grade 1 races. Two years ago, Wood finished second in the Zia Futurity with Mightys First Call and then raced her to a fourth-place finish in the All American Futurity.

The closing kick by Hearts Runaway indicates the added distances of the upcoming futurities, 400 and 440 yards, would be to his advantage.

Hearts Runaway, a son of Runaway Colors and Heart Stopping, is undefeated in four starts and has now earned more than \$250,000, a tidy profit on the \$20,000 purchase

price at the Ruidoso Quarter Horse Sale for owners Trena Morris, Mike Morris and R.B. Bouldin.

In the New Mexican Spring Futurity, Hearts Runaway had more of a challenge from Victoria Hotpants. In that 300-yard test, he prevailed by a neck with a late rally.

Victoria Hotpants now has two wins and the two seconds in futurities behind Hearts Runaway from four starts. The Dash Ta Fame daughter is owned by Victory Farms and was ridden by Cody Jensen for the first time.

Fastest qualifier Tall Order finished a neck behind Victoria Hotpants for third. The son of The Down Side is owned by Denis ad Julie Schoenhofer, and trained by Mike Joiner.