

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Draper Has Futurity, Derby Sweep

With Ruidoso Futurity Victory

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (June 8, 2008) – Just seconds after Jess Significant won the Grade 1, \$500,000 Ruidoso Futurity to give trainer Carl Draper and owners Manny and Javier Rodriguez a weekend futurity-derby sweep, Draper didn't want to talk about himself or his horses.

“I want every body to know that these brothers who own Jess Significant and Heartswideopen are the nicest people. They are good, hard-working people who are good to their families and good to everybody,” Draper said.

Then a few moments later, when the second- and third-place numbers were put up on the tote board, he said: “Come here. Look, they ran second, too.” Miss Lena Perry had rallied to prevail in a photo finish for second for the Rodriguez brothers. She is trained by Jose Efran Meraz.

The Rodriguez brothers of Las Vegas, Nevada also own 2007 champion two-year-old and champion two-year-old filly Heartswideopen, an impressive late-running winner of the Grade 1, \$388,000 Ruidoso Derby on Saturday afternoon. They race their horses under the ownership of their La Feliz Montana Ranch.

Jess Significant, a \$130,000 purchase from the Ruidoso Select Quarter Horse Sale, broke well from the fourth post position, but stablemate Misty Blue Mercedes was ahead while starting from the fifth post position.

“She broke perfect and ran a perfect race,” said winning jockey Bonifacio Perez.

There were issues before the start of the race when Jesstifiable, in the sixth post position, broke through the starting gate and was caught by the outrider. “She got a little scared when the horse broke through,” Perez said. “She leaned to the right and found some security there.

“Misty Blue Mercedes broke on top and I thought I was running for second. But she pinned her ears and came back to win.”

Jess Significant crossed the finish line three quarters of a length ahead of the late-running Miss Lena Perry and it was another neck back to Feature Ten in the field of nine juveniles. Misty Blue Mercedes faded to sixth place.

While Draper concedes that Jess Significant probably isn't in the class of Heartswideopen, their race records are now very similar. Last year, Heartswideopen won four of her first five starts with a sixth-place finish in the West Texas Futurity. She was the fastest qualifier to the Ruidoso Futurity and then won the Ruidoso Futurity.

Jess Significant was won four of her first five starts and was sixth in the West Texas Futurity. She was the fastest qualifier to the Ruidoso Futurity and has now won the Ruidoso Futurity.

A daughter of Mr Jess Perry and Significant Speed, Jess Significant earned her fastest qualifier status when she won the seventh of 12 Ruidoso Futurity trials in :17.666 for the 350 yards. She improved that time in the Ruidoso Futurity when she was timed in :17.454 while facing an 11-mile-per-hour headwind.

A year ago, Draper decided not to run Heartswideopen the Rainbow Futurity trials and waited for the All American Futurity trials. She raced to the fastest 440 yards - :20.921 – ever by a filly or mare in her All American Futurity trial and then won the All American Futurity to wrap up her two championship titles.

Draper may now run Jess Significant in the Rainbow Futurity trials on July 3 or wait until the All American Futurity trials on August 14.

Miss Lena Perry has a win in her Ruidoso Futurity trial and two seconds from three career starts. The \$65,000 Ruidoso Select Quarter Horse Yearling Sale purchase was ridden by Noe Garcia.

Third-place finisher Feature Ten was second in the West Texas Futurity for trainer Wes Giles. He has a win in his career debut and three consecutive second-place finishes.

The complete order of finish in the Ruidoso Futurity was Jess Significant, Miss Lena Perry, Feature Ten, Dashazoom, Lake View Dreams, Misty Blue Mercedes, Quik Brew, Winners, Version and Jesstifiable. Vrrroom was scratched before the day's racing program began.

In the \$18,400 Ruidoso Juvenile, R.D. and Shaun Hubbard's homebred PB And Crackers made a late rush after a tardy start to win his first race in his second career start.

He came into the Ruidoso Juvenile off a fourth-place effort in his Ruidoso Futurity trial.

The gelding by The Down Side and out of Zany Saltine finished an expanding neck ahead of Cashinginmydreams while The Sixy Side was another neck back in third.

Freddie Martinez rode PB And Crackers to the win in :17.789 for 350 yards. He is trained by six-time defending national training champion Paul Jones.