

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Quarter Horse Stakes

Top Sunday Ruidoso Downs Card

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (August 3, 2008) – Suzann Marney's homebred Man On The Move made a huge move in the last half of the \$350,824 Zia Derby to get his first stakes win in his first stakes appearance.

The Zia Derby was one of three Zia Festival quarter horse stakes on the Sunday program, joining the Zia Derby and the Zia Championship. The entire Zia Festival card on July 27 was cancelled due to the rain from the remnants of Hurricane Dolly and those three races were rescheduled for Sunday. Also on the Sunday program was the Ford New Mexico Juvenile Challenge.

Man On The Move, a son of the very successful freshman sire The Down Side, rallied on the outside of the track to defeat Victoria Hotpants, who finished second in her third futurity for New Mexico-breds.

The Mike Joiner-trained Man On The Move raced the 400 yards over a sloppy racing surface in :20.072 to win by a half length. Wild Wonder Child was a head behind Victoria Hotpants for third in the field of eight juveniles.

Man On The Move is a colt with a bright future after the Zia Futurity win, which came in just his third career start. He won his maiden in his career debut on June 1 and was then second in his Zia Futurity trial to Wild Wonder Child with the sixth-fastest qualifying time.

The Blane Wood-trained Victoria Hotpants was sent off as the strongly backed 2-1 second choice after finishing second in the Grade 1 New Mexican Spring Futurity and the Grade 2 Ruidoso Horse Sale Futurity. In each of those races she was defeated by stablemate Hearts Runaway, who passed on the Zia Futurity to point to the All American Futurity trials.

In the Grade 2, \$132,955 Zia Quarter Horse Derby, Jim Nebeker's Jess Ought To Flash burst to the lead from the inside post position and was never headed while posting the mild upset at 7-1 odds. The Blake Rust-trained gelding covered the 400 yards over a

sloppy racing surface in :19.820 to defeat the late-closing Blazin Zeena and A First Caller. It was a half length back to Blazin Zeena and another quarter length back to third-place finisher A First Caller.

While Jess Ought To Flash was overlooked in the wagering, he brought solid credentials into the Zia Derby for New Mexico-breds. Two starts earlier he was fourth against older horses in the Grade 3 New Mexico Breeders Handicap and came off a Zia Derby trial win with the third-fastest qualifying time of :19.840.

In the \$55,000 Zia Handicap, the sharp Leonas TR held off bids by 2006 All American Futurity runner-up Gun Battle and champion Gotta Get for his second-straight victory.

With Casey Lambert aboard, Leonas TR took the early lead in the 400-yard stakes and was able to prevail by a quarter of a length in :19.912 over Gun Battle on a sloppy racing surface. Gotta Get was a head behind Gun Battle in the field of nine older New Mexico-bred horses.

Trained by Aramado Orozco for owner Jose Angel Esparza, Leonas TR scored his fourth win from eight 2008 starts. He won the El Moro Cup in Arizona in April and came off a win in the Grade 2 Tom Smith Handicap at SunRay Handicap.

Gun Battle was sent off as the 2-1 favorite after finishing second or third in his previous six starts, including four stakes.

In the \$65,430 Ford New Mexico Juvenile Challenge, Red Oak Special and Amador Gold, the top-two qualifiers, crossed the finish line in that same position. The Heath Taylor-trained Red Oak Special defeated the Paul Jones-trained Amador Gold by a neck in :17.565 for 350 yards. Rio Fame finished third, another three quarters of a length back in the full field of two-year-olds.

Ridden by G.R. Carter Jr., Red Oak Special raced to his second-straight win after beginning his career with three off-the-board finishes. The Oak Tree Special son won his trial with the fastest-qualifying time of :17.520.

Two thoroughbred races were held on Sunday at Ruidoso Downs and then, after a half inch of rain, the final three thoroughbred races were cancelled. All five quarter horse races were contested. The Saturday Ruidoso Downs' card consisted of 10 quarter horse races.

Racing resumes on Thursday afternoon at Ruidoso Downs with the usual 1 p.m. first post time. There is free parking and free grandstand admission.

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