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Derby Runner Shows Class
With Free Spirit 'Cap Win

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (June 22, 2008) – R.D. Hubbard's Going Wild, who competed in the 2005 Kentucky Derby and Preakness, showed his considerable class by hanging on to win the \$50,000 Free Spirit Handicap on Sunday afternoon at Ruidoso Downs.

Going Wild, starting from the eighth post position in the nine-horse field, broke alertly and jockey Antonio Lopez Castanon placed the six-year-old stallion in a striking position outside of the two pacesetters.

The long-striding bay from the Bart Hone stable took the lead at the head of stretch and then tired in the final furlong of the six-furlong dash. Norgor Derby winner Chief Of Thestreet made a strong late bid in the final 100 yards, but was unable to catch Going Wild.

Going Wild won by a diminishing neck as the even-money favorite in a sharp 1:10 1/5 for the six furlongs. It was another two-and-three-quarter lengths back to third-place finisher Yonegwa, who held the early lead before fading.

"He handled the turn well, but never changed leads in the stretch," said Castanon.

Hone said that Going Wild has a slight hoof bruise and that the stallion has not completely adapted to the 7,000-foot altitude at Ruidoso Downs. "We've only had him a couple of weeks. We breezed him four furlongs and he got tired in the breeze. This race will help him," Hone said.

Going Wild made his first start in New Mexico in the Free Spirit after making all of his previous 30 starts at major track across the United States. The earner of nearly \$400,000 moved to the top of his division early in his three-year-old season with back-to-back wins in the San Miguel Stakes and the Sham Stakes at Santa Anita.

In the supporting \$110,848 Ruidoso Thoroughbred Sale Futurity for New Mexico-bred juveniles, High Ridge Runner made a big late charge to score an upset victory.

Owned by Fast Forward Racing and trained by Jimmie Claridge, High Ridge Runner closed from deep in the nine-horse field to get the win in the final stride as a 30-1 outsider. He was sent off as the longshot after finishing fifth in his Ruidoso Thoroughbred Sale Futurity trial, his career debut, and barely reaching the final field.

Finishing second was Batty Bull, a 36-1 outsider, who rallied from fifth on the turn. Masons World made a brief bid and then settled for third.

With Mark Villa aboard for the upset win, High Ridge Runner raced the five furlongs in 1:00 ²/₅ to earn \$55,426.

High Ridge Runner returned \$62.60, \$29.40 and \$13. Batty Bull paid \$35.20 and \$14.80 while Masons World was worth \$5.80 to show. With the two longest-priced horses in the race finishing one-two, the \$2 exacta paid \$2,442 and the \$2 trifecta returned \$4,460.