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Jess My Moon Dominates

Bayer Legend New Mexico Derby

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (June 14, 2008) – Jess My Moon, bet down to 19-10 favoritism, dominated the Grade 3, \$47,970 Bayer Legend New Mexico Derby Challenge at Ruidoso Downs on Saturday afternoon.

Ridden by Freddie Martinez for the first time, Jess My Moon pulled away from his nine rivals for the length win over Panther Rio in :19.688 for 400 yards. Martinez took over the mount after Sam Thompson, who rode the colt to a third-place finish in the trials, was sidelined with a fractured foot.

It was another length back to 5-2 second choice Getting The Cash.

“The race went perfect. He broke on top and went on,” Martinez. “I galloped him in the morning and watched video of his trial race. The trial was his first start since the All American Derby trials [August 16] so I thought he would improve and we’d have a good shot.”

Jess My Moon, a son of Mr Jess Perry and 2001 champion two-year-old filly Your First Moon, was purchased for \$52,000 from Scoop Vessels’ Vessels Stallion Farm in the 2006 Los Alamitos Equine Sale by Billy Smith and Pat Guthrie. The Vessels Stallion Farm stands champion FDD Dynasty, who was raced by Smith, Guthrie and Vessels.

“It’s the same as FDD Dynasty,” Smith said. “Pat and I bought him at the sale and Scoop asked if he could buy back a piece of him.”

The victory gains the Mike Joiner-trained Jess My Moon eligibility to the Grade 1, \$200,000 Bayer Legend Derby Challenge Championship at Evangeline Downs in Lafayette, Louisiana on November 8.

In the meantime, Jess My Moon could point to the Grade 1, \$600,000 (est.) Rainbow Derby and the Grade 1, \$800,000 (est.) All American Derby at Ruidoso Downs. The Rainbow Derby trials are on July 4.

Runner-up Panther Rio, trained by Oscar Carrete for owner Norberto Lozoya, was overlooked at 10-1 odds despite winning the first of two trials. He was ridden by leading rider Ricky Ramirez.

Third-place finisher Gettin The Cash won the second trial with the fastest-qualifying time of :19.842. He was third in the West Texas Derby on April 5.