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Tricky Dust Begins Title Defense With Fine Loom Handicap Win

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (May 26, 2008) – Joan Dale Hubbard’s Tricky Dust took an exciting step towards his third straight distance horse of the meet title by winning the \$40,000 Fine Loom Handicap on Monday afternoon at Ruidoso Downs.

As the even-money favorite, Tricky Dust raced the 870 yards in :45.410 under Freddie Martinez. The eight-year-old Tricky Dust, carrying highweight of 127 pounds, finished a length and a quarter ahead of No Scrubs. It was then more than five lengths back to third-place finisher La Especial Corona.

“No Scrubs [just outside of Tricky Dust in the six hole] broke well and tricky didn’t break as well as he can,” Martinez said. “It was just a quick decision as the race developed to let him relax. We went three-wide on the turn and went on with it. It worked out really well.”

Tricky Dust won two 870-yard stakes at Ruidoso Downs in 2006 and then matched that feat last year to earn the distance horse of the meet titles each year. He’ll now be pointed at the Master Salls Handicap on July 26 and the Brigand Handicap on August 30, according to Lisa Saumell, who manages the Paul Jones training operation.

Tricky Dust will then target the Grade 1, \$75,000 Red Cell Distance Challenge on November 8 at Evangeline Downs. He earned an invitation by winning the Red Cell New Mexico Distance Challenge on March 30.

The venerable 8-year-old gelding has started 34 times and returned with 14 wins, four seconds and two thirds and has earned \$354,248.

As the even-money favorite, Tricky Dust returned \$4.00, \$2.80 and \$2.80. No Scrubs paid \$5.40 and \$4.00 while La Especial Corona was worth \$4.60 to show.

