



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - December 2017 -

In This Issue

Jersey-bred siblings sweep Meadowlands double

Longtime Monmouth Park executive Bob Kulina to retire

Scholarship for H.S. seniors interested in a career in agriculture or the sciences

Meadowlands concludes 2017 meet with huge gains

New Jersey-bred Incentive Awards for the 2017 Monmouth Park meet

Officers

President
Mildred Fleming

Vice President
Mike D'Antonio

Treasurer
Larry Fleming

Secretary
K.C. Nemutlu

Directors

Judith Batcha
Peter Freundlich
Todd Wilkinson

Jersey-Bred siblings sweep Meadowlands daily double

By Bill Finley

Have two New Jersey-breds out of the same mare ever swept the early daily double at a racetrack in the state? No one knows, but it's been done at least once.

The rare occurrence happened Sept. 29 at the Meadowlands with the first two offspring of the Phone Trick mare Basic Trick. Ataway Max, a 3-year-old gelding by Bluegrass Cat, won the first race on the card, worth \$21,000 for maiden claimers. Some 25 minutes later, his half-sister, the 4-year-old filly More Trix, won Race No. 2. More Trix is by Posse and her win came in a \$12,500 maiden claimer. The daily double payoff was \$34. Both were bred by Mildred Fleming, also a co-owner of each horse.

It was a good day, of course, for Fleming and her broodmare, but what she was most proud of was that she proved on the racetrack that New Jersey-breds are capable of pulling off something extraordinary. It didn't matter to her that the wins came at the maiden-claiming level. What mattered is one was in open company and that within less than half an hour two Jersey-breds showed they had the right stuff.

"I didn't want this story to get out to satisfy my own ego," said Fleming, who is president of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. "I wanted it known that a Jersey-

bred mare can produce two horses that can sweep a daily double. I want Jersey people to say, 'Look this can be done, we can do this.' I want the Jersey people to realize we can do this if we really do things right."

Basic Trick began her career in 2007 as a 3-year-old. The only thing that kept her from racing earlier was that she got caught up in a quarantine situation when another owner shipped some sick horses into her barn. She was never a star but she tried hard and stayed healthy. When she retired in 2011 she was a multiple allowance winner, with five wins in 38 starts, and earned \$238,130. Fleming believed her credentials were more than good enough to turn her into a broodmare.

"She has a mind of her own," Fleming said. "She still does as a broodmare and seems to be passing that on to her children. With her, it is her way or no way. I will say this much about her, she is a beautiful mare."

More Trix took 13 starts to break her maiden and Fleming believes some of her early struggles have to do with an accident she suffered as a 2-year-old when she almost lost an eye.

"I think the filly suffered through a lot of trauma with that incident and that she's never



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on..





EQUUPHOTO INC. (2)

Mildred Fleming's New Jersey-bred mare Basic Trick's first two offspring – Ataway Max (top) and More Trix – turned a Meadowlands' daily double in September.

gotten over it," Fleming said. "It has caused issues that have hurt her on the racetrack."

Of the two Meadowlands winners, Ataway Max appears to have more potential. Not only did he win at a higher claiming level, but he has turned into a different horse once put on the grass by trainer Pat McBurney.

"It took us some time to figure this horse out," she said. "Now that we have him running long and on the grass there's

been a major improvement. His win the other night took my breath away. I believe he will go through all his Jersey-bred conditions and I really believe he can do something in Jersey-bred stakes. Is he an open horse? I don't know that yet."

More Trix and Ataway Max are the only foals out of Basic Trick to have raced. Fleming has another, a 2-year-old named Pretti Tricki, who is nearing her debut. She, too, is by Posse and is therefore eligible to run in races in New York for horses sired by New York-based stallions. Fleming said she will point for those races.

The next in line is the yearling colt named Pal, who is by Honorable Dillon. This year the mare produced a colt by Micromanage. Fleming's other mare is the young New Jersey-bred Cee the Country, a daughter of Gold Token and earner of \$230,022 also with foals by Bluegrass Cat, Posse and Micromanage – her oldest is the 3-year-old filly Cee Maxine, a daughter of Posse.

Fleming's passion for the New Jersey-bred program is evident from the first syllable that leaves her mouth. It is why she is so proud of the accomplishment recorded by her Jersey-based mare and why she tries to attend every Thoroughbred race she can at the Meadowlands. For Thoroughbred racing, the Meadowlands can come across as a ghost town, but Fleming wants everyone to know what they are missing.

"I live 15 minutes away from the Meadowlands in Englewood Cliffs," she said. "They have a lovely room named Trotters for owners there and it's a terrific place to watch the races from. I wish Monmouth would build something similar to that for the owners and trainers."

With just two mares, Fleming is a small breeder but she plans on being a big voice for the Jersey breeding program. She's always thinking of something, like the Jersey Challenge program, which, in 2017, consisted of \$50,000 to be divided up among the connections of state-breds who were successful on the racetrack. She's also eased up on the breed-back rules, making it easier for the owners of mares to breed to out-of-state stallions. It's not unusual now to see New Jersey-breds running in races in other Mid-Atlantic states that are restricted to horses by sires from those states.

"If I didn't see any light at the end of the tunnel I wouldn't be doing this," she said. "I think we will get historical racing machines and I think we will get sports betting. We're going to get those things and it's going to make a huge difference. Then, we have to reach out to a new generation and show them what our sport is all about, how exciting it is."

Two Jersey-bred siblings winning back-to-back maiden claiming races may be a small step, but it is a step, and one Fleming is proud of. And maybe it's an omen, as well. After all, there are a lot of reasons to believe the Jersey-bred program is about to enjoy a renaissance.



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on..



THOROUGHbred BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / FAX: 732-542-8881 / EMAIL: INFO@NJBREDS.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

Longtime Monmouth Park executive Bob Kulina to retire

Robert J. "Bob" Kulina, president of Darby Development LLC, operators of Monmouth Park, announced his retirement from the racetrack effective Jan. 1, 2018.

"It has been my honor and privilege to be associated with Monmouth Park for nearly my entire life," said Kulina, who started in 1972 as the claims clerk. "From the beginning, this has always been my home away from home and my extended family. I thank everyone for their hard work and support over the years and appreciate their good wishes.

"The reality is that it's time to embark on the next chapter of my life and enjoy it with my wife Sue and my children and grandchildren. With the management team I've assembled, I know I leave Monmouth Park in good hands for many more generations to enjoy."

The son of a trainer, Bob Kulina grew up in the racing industry. A graduate of West Virginia's University of Charleston in 1971, Kulina worked as a racing official at various racetracks before being named Monmouth Park racing secretary in 1977.

During his tenure in the Monmouth Park racing office, Kulina developed the popular overnight stakes program,

which has become a standard in the industry. After 15 years as racing secretary, Kulina was named general manager/Thoroughbred racing at Monmouth in 1991. Soon thereafter he added that title at the Meadowlands and oversaw Thoroughbred operations for the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority racetracks until 2012. During that time he was instrumental in developing the Haskell Invitational into a race of national prominence and the next stop for 3-year-olds following the Triple Crown.

Upon the signing of a lease of Monmouth Park to the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association in 2012, Kulina was named president of Darby Development LLC, the management company for the racetrack.

"For the past six years, and decades before that, Bob has embodied everything that is good about Monmouth Park and horse racing in New Jersey," said Dennis Drazin, chairman and CEO of Darby. "Through his stewardship, Monmouth Park and our racing brand have enjoyed exponential growth and continue to be a premier destination for horsemen and racing fans. I thank him for his years of service to this industry and his dedication to ensure its success for many years to come."

Scholarship for H.S. seniors interested in a career in agriculture or the sciences

New Jersey residents who are in their senior year in high school this year and are planning a career in agriculture or science may apply for the New Jersey Agricultural Achievement Award. One winner will be selected and awarded a \$500 scholarship to encourage their pursuits.

The New Jersey Agricultural Achievement Award, sponsored by Dr. Amy Butewicz, a former New Jersey Equestrian of the Year, was started because of her desire to give back to the community. This scholarship is meant to assist its recipients in beginning their future in agriculture.

The qualifications for receiving this award include submitting an application, found at www.jerseyequine.nj.gov/agachievementapplform.pdf, and a resume, along with an essay answering the question, "How has your involvement within your respective nominating organization helped to shape your future career choice?"

In addition, a contestant is required to be a current, active member of an organization either on the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board and/or represented at the Youth Reception portion of the New Jersey State Agricultural Convention. Each organization on the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board and a participant of the State Agricultural Convention is able to nominate a maximum of two contestants.

The winner of the Agricultural Achievement Award must attend the annual New Jersey Bred Equine Breeders Award Luncheon, to be held Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, in Eastampton, and will read his or her essay to the attendees.

Please mail application, resume and essay by Jan. 10, 2018, to: NJDA, Attn: Lynn Mathews, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, New Jersey 08625

For questions, contact Lynn Mathews, 609-292-2888 or lynn.mathews@ag.state.nj.us.



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on..



THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / FAX: 732-542-8881 / EMAIL: INFO@NJBREDS.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

Meadowlands concludes 2017 meet with huge gains

The all turf Monmouth-at-Meadowlands meet came to a close Oct. 28 with huge gains in on-track and simulcast handle. Meet leaders were jockey Victor Lebron, and Jorge Navarro and John T. Toscano Jr. tied for top trainer.

Having run eight cards over the Big M lawn, on-track handle averaged \$151,422, an 82 percent increase over last year's average of \$83,230 when the track hosted 12 live programs. Average simulcast handle came in at \$1,343,628, a 36 percent jump from last year's average of \$988,797.

"The stars aligned for good weather and racing fans and horsemen really responded," said Dennis Drazin, chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, operators of the Monmouth-at-Meadowlands meet. "It's no secret that full fields and turf racing are a winning formula and we'll look to build on this season's success next year and for years to come."

Average field size this year was 9.93 compared to 9.03 in 2016. Lebron's eight victories earned him his first title in the Garden State. The trainer's race saw Navarro and Toscano each saddle three winners.

New Jersey-bred Incentive Awards for the 2017 Monmouth Park meet

(May 13-September 10)

Name	Breeder	Owner	Stallion	Total
Joe-Dan Farm Inc.	\$72,404.50	\$0.00	\$34,558.00	\$106,962.50
Colonial Farms	68,270.00	150.00	21,236.00	89,656.00
Patricia Generazio	28,560.00	2,998.00	18,261.00	49,819.00
Red Oak Stable	45,945.00	2,898.00	0.00	48,843.00
Bright View Farm Inc.	40,735.00	1,600.00	0.00	42,335.00
Quiet Winter Farm	30,769.00	5,533.00	0.00	36,302.00
Isabelle H. de Tomaso	21,560.00	11,560.00	0.00	33,120.00
Law Legacy Stables LLC	22,129.00	3,379.00	5,239.00	30,747.00
Carlo De Thomasi	19,750.00	0.00	10,100.00	29,850.00
Dianne Boyken	26,932.50	0.00	600.00	27,532.00
Holly Crest Farm	24,337.50	832.00	0.00	25,169.50
Rock Talk Farm	25,030.00	0.00	0.00	25,030.00
John Bowers Jr.	24,960.00	0.00	0.00	24,960.00
New Farm	20,000.00	3,600.00	0.00	23,600.00
Hope Jones & Isabelle de Tomaso	17,625.00	2,430.00	0.00	20,055.00



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on..



THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / FAX: 732-542-8881 / EMAIL: INFO@NJBREDS.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM