



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - October 2024 -

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## 2025 Board of Trustees Nominating Committee

The nominating committee of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey invites members of the Association to submit nominations for consideration in developing its slate of nominees for the 2025 Board of Trustees. The committee is accepting candidates for President and six members to serve on the Board of Trustees. Please read section 4.2 of the TBA bylaws below to determine if you are eligible to serve on the Board.

Trustees must be residents of the State of New Jersey and breeder members of the TBANJ in good standing who have made payment of their dues on or before May 1 of the year in which they are nominated to election to the board.

Incumbent and prospective members of the Board of Trustees, including the President, must have their current membership dues paid on or before May 1 and own controlling interest (more than 50 percent) in at least one broodmare or stallion domiciled in the State of New Jersey. That broodmare must have a registered New Jersey-bred foal or be pronounced in foal in each of the years

that the incumbent and prospective members of the Board of Trustees serve on the board. If the mare fails to conceive when bred or is unfit to breed due to health reasons, the incumbent or prospective member of the Board of Trustees must file a letter from a veterinarian certifying that the mare failed to conceive or the reason why the mare is unfit to breed.

If the incumbent and prospective member is a stallion owner, said stallion must be a registered stallion in the year in which the incumbent and prospective members serve on the board. Additionally, incumbent, and prospective members of the Board of Trustees shall file qualifications as breeder members, in writing, to the TBANJ office prior to filing application for election and prior to the first meeting each January.

If you are interested in nominating a member in good standing, please contact a member of the nominating committee no later than Friday, Oct. 4, 2024. Nominating committee members are: Cameron Beatty (732) 966-5804, Mike D'Antonio (201) 317-2432, and Karen Wilkin (732) 685-6466.



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## Riding Pretty impressive in Eleven North Handicap

**T**rainer Eddie Owens Jr. had a trio of highlights to choose from after the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival at Monmouth Park Aug. 25, with Sea Streak winning the Charles Hesse III Handicap, Riding Pretty taking the Eleven North Handicap and Rock the Rainbow, a 2-year-old filly who won her debut by 18 lengths.

He opted for the Holly Crest Farm homebred, Riding Pretty, as his stable star of the day.

“For me today, Riding Pretty was the most impressive,” he said. “She hadn’t sprinted since she was 2 years old. So that was impressive. The filly [Rock the Rainbow] I knew would run well. I didn’t know she would win by that but I knew

she was ready. But Riding Pretty was the most impressive of the three winners for me today.”

Riding Pretty, usually a solid closer, dueled with Bel Pensiero for most of the stretch of the 6-furlong Eleven North Handicap for fillies and mares, 3 and up, finally pulling away for a 1-length victory. Bel Pensiero was  $7\frac{3}{4}$  lengths better than Beach Daze in third.

The winning time was 1:10.34.

It marked the 4-year-old filly’s first time sprinting in her past 18 starts, since the 5-furlong Colleen in July 2022.

“I blew her out in :34 on Thursday to make sure I had enough speed in her,” said Owens. “I was just hoping she didn’t fall too far behind early. But being a race

where there wasn’t a lot of speed I knew they were not going in 21 [seconds] for the first quarter so I expected her to be a little closer than normal.

“There was really only one speed horse. When we didn’t shake her [Bel Pensiero] at the top of the stretch I was a little worried because that other filly is a good one. Jairo timed it just right. I knew we were going to have run by Bel Pensiero and it was better that we fought her from the top of the stretch than the sixteenth pole to the wire. I don’t know if we would have won if he waited.”

Riding Pretty won the Smart N Classy Handicap June 2 against fellow New Jersey-breds by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lengths going 1 mile for her other stakes win this year.



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## Smithwick's Spice as good as ever winning the Select Stakes

New Jersey-bred Smithwick's Spice, coming in off a win against Delaware-certified allowance foes, pulled off a 25-1 upset in the \$100,000 Select Stakes against open company at Monmouth Park Aug. 18. He battled for the early lead with Xy Speed, wrestled control and pulled clear in the stretch, and was all out to hold off the late surges of favorites Nothing Better and Senbei to prevail by a nose. He's now a two-time stakes winner on the year, having previously won the Leinster Turf Dash in February at Tampa Bay Downs. The New Spice Stable homebred gelding is trained by Doug Nunn and was ridden by Jorge Gonzalez.

"I knew he would have to move up a little to win this and he did," said his trainer. In the race he won at Delaware in the start before this, the fractions were :25 and :49.2 to the half, so the race didn't take much out of him. That was 7½ furlongs, and I thought he would be even better at 5½ furlongs as fit as he is now.

"I really thought going in that we were the speed," continued Dunn. "But he didn't break sharply and kind of had to rush up to get the lead. But he had just enough left. He's as good as he has ever been right now and that's saying something for an 8-year-old."

"The idea was to go right to the lead but my horse did not break well," said

Gonzalez. "But then he really picked it up and went right after [Xy Speed]. It just took him longer to make the lead than I thought.

"He was at his best today. But I was a little worried late. I saw horses on both sides of me right as we hit the finish line, but I knew he poked his nose in front. I have ridden him before, so I know him. This is the best he has been for me."

Smithwick's Spice (Frost Giant—Spicy McHaggis, by Good and Tough), also winner of the Joey P. Handicap in 2022, has reached the winner's circle in 12 of his 46 starts while earning \$640,367.



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## Sea Streak resilient in Charles Hesse III Handicap

**H**olly Crest Farm homebred Sea Streak overcame a slow start, was wide early and then had enough left to score a 1½-length victory over 9-year-old veteran Amatteroftime in the \$125,000 Charles Hesse III Handicap, the second stakes on the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival card Aug. 25.

The winning time for 1¼ miles was 1:45.39.

Sea Streak was coming off a fifth-place finish, getting nosed out for fourth, in the Grade 1 NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes July 20.

“I was a little worried [in the Hesse]. He got too far back. But he was the best horse,” said trainer Eddie Owens. “He lost a shoe. We don’t know when, but Jairo Rendon said in the stretch he was getting in a little bit. I don’t know if that affected them. He outclassed them today.”

Sea Streak recorded his third victory from 10 career starts, with seven of those on-the-board finishes. Owens said the 3-year-old gelded son of Sea Wizard will now get a prolonged rest.

Though appearing a bit sluggish at times, Sea Streak flashed some of the

form that saw him win the Long Branch Stakes at Monmouth Park May 11 by 7¼ lengths.

No Cents, who battled Sea Streak for the early part of the stretch, was third.

“I wanted to be right there with him but it got a little crowded, so I decided to take him back a bit and let the pressure go away,” said Rendon. “I took him outside where he would be relaxed. He lost a shoe, maybe out the gate because he jumped to the inside at the start. I’m not exactly sure when it happened. But he was good enough in here.”



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