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PRODUCTIVE TRIP FOR AIR FORCE WON

ARAPAHOE PARK QUARTER HORSE RECAP

Aurora, CO (June 5, 2016) – Air Force Won’s round trip earned him a berth to Quarter Horse racing’s championship evening. Air Force Won came from California to Colorado to win the Adequan Arapahoe Derby Challenge on Saturday and will now get to return to California to compete in the 2016 American Quarter Horse Association Challenge Championships at Los Alamitos Race Course. Air Force Won qualified for the 400-yard, \$200,000 Adequan Derby Challenge Championship on October 29 with a win in Saturday’s 400-yard, \$36,810 stake at Arapahoe Park.

Ridden by leading Arapahoe Park Quarter Horse jockey Ramiro Garcia for trainer Alejandro Chavez and owner Vences Quarter Horse, Air Force Won pulled away for a two-length victory in 19.679 seconds at 7-1 odds.

“That was the greatest feeling,” Garcia said about the big margin of victory. “You can see me smiling in the [win] picture because it feels so good that you’re getting away from everybody.”

Prior to Saturday, all eight of Air Force Won’s races had come at Los Alamitos.

“I actually thought it would be harder for him to run well here because of the altitude,” Garcia said. “Now the way he’s running, I think he should go back and give us the same run like today, if not even better, because we’re going down lower closer to sea level.”

Royal Quick Eagle was second, and May Be Fantastic SA took third. Three Olives N Smoke, the 2-5 favorite in the field of 10, stumbled at the start and finished fourth.

“When the gates came open, he fell on all fours to the ground,” jockey Joe Badilla Jr. said about Three Olives N Smoke. “He actually lost his footing before he left the gate, and he got up and still ran fourth. So it was a solid performance, but it won’t show that on paper.”

Three Olives N Smoke had been the fastest qualifier for Arapahoe Park’s Lucille Rowe Derby on Saturday, but his defection in favor of the Challenge race paved the way for Golondrino James and jockey Edwin Pena to capture the 350-yard, \$60,442 derby for Colorado-bred 3-year-olds. It was the third win in a row for the bay gelding trained by Miguel Pena and owned by Margarita Cardenas-Ramirez. Checkmyshoesout and jockey Daniel Valles had the early lead before being collared by

Golondrino James, similar to their meeting two weeks ago in a trial race for the Lucille Rowe Derby. The final time was 17.770 seconds.

In Sunday's 330-yard, \$78,505 Cherry Creek Futurity for Colorado-bred 2-year-olds, In Kuh Hoots scored a big upset at 23-1 odds. Trainer John Hammes saddled five of the nine runners, including fastest qualifier and 3-5 favorite Who You Know, but his In Kuh Hoots ridden by Alfredo Triana Jr. was able to best his stablemates. In Kuh Hoots, who is owned by breeders Lisa Beauprez, Thomas Bradbury and Thomas Bradbury Jr., won by three-quarters of a length in 17.074 seconds over Carvers Corona and Who You Know.

"He had a bad cut on his leg back in December, and it took him a long time to get healed up," Hammes said. "He broke the best and ran the best, and it showed today."