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AIR FORCE WON, BOUT TREE FIDDY, AND SHINER BLOND STEP UP ON ARAPAHOE'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEEKEND

Aurora, CO (July 10, 2016) – Air Force Won established himself as the commander-in-chief of Colorado's 3-year-old Quarter Horse division in Saturday's Rocky Mountain Derby at Arapahoe Park. Bout Tree Fiddy, whose name was inspired by a segment on *South Park*, ran the best race of his career in the state that inspired the TV show in Sunday's Rocky Mountain Futurity. And the strikingly colored palomino filly Shiner Blond punched a ticket to the American Quarter Horse Association Challenge Championships with a victory in Saturday's Merial Arapahoe Distaff Challenge on a big weekend of Quarter Horse stakes races at the Colorado track.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DERBY – AIR FORCE WON

Air Force Won, piloted by jockey Ramiro Garcia, won his second major derby race in Colorado in the Rocky Mountain Derby. Vences Quarter Horse's 3-year-old sorrel gelding scored by a head over Abeachindynasty in Saturday's 350-yard, \$99,150 stakes race in a time of 17.464 seconds. Air Force Won also captured the 400-yard, \$36,810 Adequan Arapahoe Derby Challenge on June 4 to earn a berth to the AQHA Challenge Championships in October at Los Alamitos Race Course. He is now three-for-three in Colorado since coming from California.

"This one was scary because everybody jumped ahead of me," Garcia said. "So I knew not to get desperate and get crazy on the whip on him. I gave him a few, and he did the job well. We just got to wait on him and wait on his gear because if you go too quick, he gives out. You just have to give him time, and he does the job."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FUTURITY – BOUT TREE FIDDY

Bout Tree Fiddy and jockey Russell Vicchrilli blasted out of the starting gates and left no doubt in a one-length victory in the 350-yard, \$117,780 Rocky Mountain Futurity. The 2-year-old brown gelding bred and owned by Rusty Allred and Pat Swan and trained by Swan's wife, Tomey, defeated Arapahoe Park's Cherry Creek Futurity winner, In Kuh Hoots, in a time of 17.387 seconds.

"It's a long process, but he's been an excellent student," Pat Swan said. "He becoming faster and faster. Today was his best race by far."

Allred also owned and Tomey Swan also trained 2013 Rocky Mountain Futurity winner Oh No U Didnt.

“We’ve been trying to get back here for three or four years, and it’s tough to win these futurities,” Allred said. “I feel like this horse is a little faster than ‘Oh No.’ If we can keep him sound, I think he has a great future.”

MERIAL ARAPAHOE DISTAFF CHALLENGE – SHINER BLOND

Shiner Blond, a uniquely colored 3-year-old palomino filly, earned a berth to the AQHA Challenge Championships at Los Alamitos Race Course in October by winning Saturday’s Merial Arapahoe Distaff Challenge in Colorado. Owned by breeders A and D Racing, trained by Zachary Quezada, and ridden by Raul Gutierrez, the Texas-bred filly won the 400-yard, \$25,740 regional final by 1 1/4 lengths in 19.870 seconds. Keepyourshirton and jockey Fernando Camacho were second, and Betrothen and jockey Eddie Aceves took third.

“She’s always been a class horse,” Gutierrez said. “She broke on the lead and just went on with it and was feeling good.”

Shiner Blond will try to join Spit Curl Diva from 2010 and Stoli Angel from 2014 as winners of Arapahoe Park regionals to capture Quarter Horse racing’s national distaff finals.

“Those finals are always tough, and they have the best horses in the nation,” Gutierrez said. “We’ll have to keep improving her and just get her happy and make her feel good and go compete.”