

## Miller and Miller Lead The Way at Illinois State Fair

Springfield, IL — The opening weekend of the Illinois State Fair Colt Stakes belonged to the father-son team of Erv and Marcus Miller, who once again showed their Springfield dominance. Erv sent out six winners during Friday's eliminations, all driven by Marcus, who closed the day with an impressive eight wins.

The afternoon began with the 2-year-old trotting fillies, split into two eliminations. Fox Valley Gimlet opened the stakes action in style, delivering a career-best 1:55 mile for trainer Erv Miller and driver Marcus Miller. Pony Chrome, Unhynged Cadeau, and Chromes Heather rounded out the qualifiers from the first division.

The second division went to Shady Maple Chick, trained by Tom Simmons and driven by Casey Leonard, who scored in 1:55.3. Fox Valley Cougar, Mysticalmagical, and Watch Me Zoom joined her in advancing. The final spot in next Thursday's \$35,000 championship will go to either Shady Maple Caddy or No Flies On Me following the draw.

Three divisions were contested for the 2-year-old pacing fillies, with the top three from each advancing to the final. Owner Mark Winship enjoyed a big afternoon, with two of his fillies taking their respective splits. Fox Valley Aruba gave Erv Miller another win in the first division, finishing ahead of Evening Slippers and Calico Sunset. In the second, Fox Valley Fastrak carried the Winship colors to victory over Variant and Talkflirtytome. The third went to Fox Valley Polaris, also for Winship, defeating Fox Valley Tamara and Dnt Touche Mymooss.

The 2-year-old trotting colts needed two divisions, with familiar names back in the winner's circle. Fox Valley Snapper took the first split for Erv Miller, joined in the final by Go Go Go Chrome, Fox Valley Sahbra, and Here Comes Bob. Zambony earned the draw spot. The second division went to Listentome Nelson for Tom Simmons, with Zoomster, Especial, and Twin Cedars Riley also advancing, and Lous Transportor securing the draw position.

Two divisions of the 2-year-old pacing colts produced more impressive winners. In A Minute delivered one of the fastest performances of the afternoon, stopping the clock in a blistering 1:51.2 for Marcus Miller. Sleazy Captain (Kyle Husted) finished a strong second, followed by Illinigameday and Dandy's Beach. Drill Baby Drill took the draw berth. The second division went to Fox Valley Onassis, who continued his winning streak in 1:53.1 over Incredible Stevie, Mighty Engine, and Laser Focused, with Nics Mj taking the draw spot.

The 3-year-old trotting fillies also raced in two divisions. What A Legacy took the first over Lous Avalon, Almost Home, and Lou Of I, while High Class Heidi drew into the final. The second went to Kay's In Charge, followed by Lous My Number, Gypsy Rose Lou, and Lous Night Vision, with ToughestoftheTough earning the draw berth.

In the 3-year-old trotting colt eliminations, Louise's Legacy captured the first division over Sunburnt Silverado, Frontier Macho, and Moon Face Baby, with Lous Beduino taking the draw spot. Mustang Danny took the second over Lous Magnum, Hopes De Vie, and DJs Midnight, while Shady Maple Becker secured the draw berth.

Thursday also featured a special milestone for driver Jamaica Patton, who recorded his 1,000th driving victory in front of the enthusiastic Springfield crowd with One Trip Chip.