

Mr Saratoga Peaking For Molson Pace

Monday, May 12, 2008 - by Frank Salive, for Western Fair Raceway

Trainer Marty Fine says it's getting tougher to contain his optimism about his charge Mr Saratoga as the top contenders picture becomes clearer with each passing week for the \$250,000 added Molson Pace at Western Fair Raceway on May 30th.

"The game plan is unfolding step-by-step for us" the 48 year old conditioner says. "He won Mohawk's four year old open on Saturday night, May 10th, in 1:52 after Jody Jamieson got him a really sensible half in 57.1. He's a better horse after a one or two week breather. It's been our game plan since he won the Cam Fella Series final at Woodbine on March 22nd to point him to the Molson Pace. About the only thing our camp hasn't finalized yet is whether it will be Jody Jamieson or Dan Clements that drives him in London. Perhaps we can talk Dan into coming back from Pompano if Jody has other commitments."

The four year old pacer's stats summary is impressive. In 2007 at age three he won 11 of 13 starts for \$82,000 in earnings which has been followed up by over \$110,000 banked already in his four year old campaign. His winter campaign at Woodbine saw him amass runner-up finishes in the finals of the Valedictory Series, the Willowdale Series, and the Ontario Boys Series.

"I scouted him a lot throughout last year at Georgian Downs and I still have no idea why he sold so reasonably to us for \$50,000 at Harrisburg last Fall" Fine offers. "It's true he hasn't yet raced against the calibre of horses that we might face in the Molson Pace. He's not at his best when cutting a mile or going first over and I don't want to overstate this...but when he's given some good cover to follow and tips out I think he can pace with any horse on the planet."

Ownership of Mr Saratoga is held by the Onlineharnessowner Com 7 group, a consortium of thirteen Ontario owners. Fine was asked what winning the Molson Pace would mean to his career.

"Winning that Cam Fella Final in March will likely be the top highlight of my life because Cam Fella's co-owner Norm Clements had been trying to win it for so long" the trainer says. "Norm is a principal of the Onlineharnessowner Com initiative and that win was like a dream come true for him and all of us. But beyond that to win the Molson Pace would be right up there with anything I could hope to win the rest of my career."

The eliminations for the Molson Pace on May 23rd if necessary will share the spotlight with the Ontario Sires Stakes Gold Series three year old filly pace eliminations. The finals for both will be on the 36th Molson Pace championship card at Western Fair on Friday, May 30th.

The 7th race \$18,400 Preferred Pace at Western Fair on the May 12th program has a pair of Molson Pace eligibles in the field. The 5-2 morning line favourite in post 3 is Daddy Mac, co-owned by Leda

Farms of Medfield, Maine and trainer Robert McIntosh Stables of Windsor, Ontario with Brad Forward declared to drive. In the same field starting from post 8 is Button Up for the Sure Gain Stables of Mitchell, Ontario, conditioner Mark Horner and driver Mike Horner.

Through June 30th post time at Western Fair each Monday and Tuesday afternoon is at 4:05 p.m. and each Friday night at 7:35 p.m.

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