

All Bets Off wires field in Messenger Stakes

by Ken Weingartner, Harness Racing Communications

Yonkers, NY --- All Bets Off went to the front as soon as the gate opened and never was challenged on his way to winning Saturday's \$500,000 Messenger Stakes for 3-year-old pacers at Yonkers Raceway.



USTA/Mark Hall photo

All Bets Off and Matt Kakaley were 1:51.1 winners in the Messenger.

Driven by Matt Kakaley for trainer Ron Burke, All Bets Off ([Bettor's Delight](#)-Armbro Penelope) won by 2-3/4 lengths over Luck Be Withyou in 1:51.1, with McWicked third. The time was the fastest ever for a Messenger Stakes at Yonkers.

"I was leaving no matter what," Kakaley said. "I wasn't going to duck him. He can leave so quick, I just had him jammed up on the (starting gate) pretty good and he just sprinted out of there.

"He was rolling along and he had a good hold of me. He was in the bit and felt fresh, so I was pretty confident."

The Messenger is the third leg of the Pacing Triple Crown. Jimmy Takter's Lyons somewhere won the first jewel, the Cane Pace, and started the Messenger from post No. 3. Limelight Beach, who won the second leg of the Crown, the Little Brown Jug, did not enter the Messenger.

No Pan Intended is the last horse to win the Pacing Triple Crown, in 2003.

All Bets Off had raced only once since Sept. 13 prior to his Messenger elimination last week. He finished fourth in the elim, but rolled through fractions of :26.3, :55.1 and 1:23 to win the final.

"Ronnie said he was a horse that probably needed a little more work," Kakaley said. "He wasn't as good, he wasn't himself, last week and that's obvious. But I had all the faith in the world in Ronnie and his team. They always bring them ready to show up, and they showed up tonight."

All Bets Off has won 11 of 15 races this year and earned \$908,625. He is owned by Burke Racing, Frank Baldachino, The Panhellenic Stable, and Rosemary Shelswell.

The victory provided Kakaley with his first Triple Crown winner.

"It's huge," Kakaley said. "This is the biggest race I've won. This year has been a great year for me. Ronnie has been giving me a lot of opportunities and things have been going really well. So thanks to him."