

Fireyourguns wires Tioga Open foes

By James Witherite

Nichols, N.Y. -- Western New York pacing stalwart Fireyourguns (\$3.70) made his 2016 debut at Tioga Downs a winning one, blazing a :26.4 third quarter up the backstretch en route to a 1:51 pillar-to-post win in the featured \$11,000 Open Pace on Memorial Day (May 30).



Aaron Byron sent the 7-year-old American Ideal gelding to a clear lead, forcing last week's Open winner Nitro Seelster (Tom Jackson) into the pocket before controlling fractions of :27, :56.1, and 1:23. After his dynamic third-quarter blitz, Fireyourguns worked clear by three lengths at head-stretch and left his rivals fully extended in pursuit. Meanwhile, Byron only mildly

encouraged Fireyourguns to keep to task, winning comfortably by a diminishing length. Nitro Seelster held second from Knocking Around (John Cummings, Jr.), who sustained first-over gains off the far turn to take third.

Trainer Terence McClory co-owns Fireyourguns with Jennifer and Robert Lowe.

The win was one of three for Byron on the nine-race card, who also swept the early double with Major Player (\$3.50, 1:54.1) and Andreios Kardia (\$10.20, 1:52.4).

The 50¢ Pick 5 was hit, returning \$153.00 with no winner in the sequence longer than 4.1-1. By contrast, the corresponding win parlay would have returned \$66.19 on every 50¢ staked.

Racing returns to Tioga Downs on Friday (June 3) evening, with first post at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time.