

Hurrikane Emperor, Gimpanzee win Graduate finals

July 12, 2020, by Ken Weingartner, USTA Media Relations Manager

To view a replay of Gimpanzee in the Graduate final click [here](#)

East Rutherford, NJ —

In the Graduate Series final for 4-year-old trotters, Gimpanzee (Sears) saw Reign Of Honor (David Miller) lead the field around the first turn but moved to the front at the quarter on his way to a 1:50.4 triumph for trainer Marcus Melander. Reign Of Honor, also trained by Melander, was second and Chin Chin Hall (Dunn) finished third. The winning margin was one length.

Gimpanzee, a son of Chapter Seven out of Steamy Windows, is 3-for-3 this year and has won 20 of 26 career races. A Dan Patch Award winner at age 2, the stallion has banked \$1.89 million for owners Courant Inc. and S R F Stable.

“Reign Of Honor finishing second from a bad post (10) was a little bit shocking that he was so fast behind the gate,” Melander said. “Gimpanzee was supposed to win, but finishing first and second, I’m very pleased.

“(Gimpanzee) is doing what he’s supposed to do. He’s going to go back next week for the Hambletonian Maturity, so it was nice to get a nice race on the lead. I was very happy with what I saw. The horse is getting more in form. Even though he’s been racing great, I can feel him getting sharper and sharper. It will be very exciting to continue racing with him.”

Earlier on the card, returning Dan Patch Award winner Tall Dark Stranger (Yannick Gingras) captured the lone elimination for the Meadowlands Pace in 1:48.1. Tall Dark Stranger, trained by Nancy Takter, won by a half-length over Captain Kirk. Papi Rob Hanover (Miller) was third.

The W.N. Reynolds Memorial divisions for 3-year-old male trotters were won by Jula Trix Treasure (Gingras) and Back Of The Neck (Scott Zeron), both from the stable of trainer Ake Svanstedt. Jula Trix Treasure, won in 1:51.2, with Beads (Jimmy Takter) second and EL Ideal (Andy Miller) third. Back Of The Neck (Zeron), won in 1:52 with Play Trix On Me (Miller) second and Maesteraemon (Sears) third.

The only Reynolds event for 3-year-old female trotters was won by Takter-trained and Gingras-driven Sorella in 1:50.2, the fastest mile of the season by a 3-year-old trotter. Panem was second followed by returning Dan Patch Award winner Ramona Hill in her 2020 debut.