

July 12, 1977

ESCORT WINS FIRST PACE

The 1977 Meadowlands Pace produced high drama and an unheard of \$425,000 purse, the richest ever.

After BG's Bunny set a world record of 1:54 in coping his elimination, he had to be scratched lame from the final and never raced again. Escort came into the Pace on a roll after a maiden two-year-old campaign. Carl LeCause piloted the three-year-old to the mild upset over Nat Lobell and Crash as the three betting favorites all hit the board.

The very first Meadowlands Pace was the first of only two that saw the eliminations and final in the same night. It

also saw father and son in the same race, with Nat Lobell and driver Jack Kopas second while Jade Prince with John Kopas was seventh.

Big Towner, the only horse in the race who would go on to a million dollar career, was last for Del Insko. Del would later go on to capture racing's first \$2 million event with Land Grant three years later in the Wilson.

Escort and BG's Bunny went on to become prominent New Jersey sires, while the birth of the big money Meadowlands events was now officially underway.

1ST DIVISION - 7/12/77 - 1:55¹

	Horse	Driver	Trainer
1	Crash	William Haughton	Haughton/Willoughby
2	Escort	Carl LeCause	LeCause/Peigelbeck
3	Goose Filter	Jerry Graham	Jerry Graham
4	Nat Lobell	John Kopas	Jack Kopas
5	Big Towner	Del Insko	Lee Broglio

2ND DIVISION - 7/12/77 - 1:54

	Horse	Driver	Trainer
1	BG's Bunny	George Berkner	George Berkner
2	Jade Prince	Jack Kopas	Jack Kopas
3	Jazzy Spark	Ted Wing	James Crane
4	Mostly Cheer	Vernon Dancer	Dancer/Lamarre
5	Thorpe Messenger	Stanley Banks	Ron Perry

\$212,500 FINAL - 7/12/77 - 1:54⁴

	Horse	Driver	Trainer
1	Escort	Carl LeCause	LeCause/Peigelbeck
2	Nat Lobell	John Kopas	Jack Kopas
3	Crash	William Haughton	Haughton/Willoughby

1977

RACE 9	1 MILE	MEADOWLANDS PACE-FINAL	PURSE \$212,500	Quarter times	28 ¹ , 57 ¹ , 1:25 ¹ , 1:54 ⁴	TRACK: FAST	OFF: 12:12				
3	Escort	2 4 3 1	2 ¹ / ₂ 1 ¹	1:54 ⁴	C. LeCause	Mutuels (3)	10.20	4.00	3.40	4.10	
4	Nat Lobell	3 5 5 2 ^o	1 ^{hd} 2 ^{ns}	1:55	J. Kopas	(4)		3.20	2.80	*1.70	
2	Crash	1 3 1 ^o 3	4 ¹ / ₂ 3 ^{nk}	1:55	W. Haughton	(2)			3.60	3.30	
6	Jazzy Spark	5 6 6 4 ^o	3 ^{hd} 4 ¹ / ₂	1:55	T. Wing					24.60	
7	Mostly Cheer	6 7 7 6	5 ³ / ₄ 5 ³ / ₄	1:55 ²	V. Dancer					40.50	
9	Thorpe Messenger	8 9 9 9	6 ¹ 6 ^{nk}	1:55 ²	S. Banks					87.60	
8	Jade Prince	7 8 8 7 ^o	8 ¹ / ₂ 7 ^{nk}	1:55 ³	J. Kopas					5.40	
10	Goose Filter	9 2 ^o 2 3	4 ^{hd} 8 ¹ / ₂	1:56 ⁴	J. Graham					18.90	
5	Big Towner	4 1 ^o 4 8	9 9	1:57	D. Insko					6.30	

Scratched: B G's Bunny
 Winning Owner: Mann, Bernard & Rosalind
 Winning Trainer: Carl LeCause