

SONSAM SOARS HOME FOR SHOLTY

Sonsam, starting from post 10, put on one of the most breathtaking efforts ever seen on the racetrack, and he did it in full view of a packed house in the \$750,000 Meadowlands Pace of 1979.

George Sholty piloted the son of Albatross three-deep past the half, continued on that way, opened up in the stretch and never looked back. Hot Hitter, a special horse in his own right, would finish second and then be voted the top three-year-old of the season.

That made it two straight years that the three-year-old divisional champion was in the Pace, but did not win it.

Abercrombie, second in the 1978 Pace, went on to garner year-end honors.

Sometimes an erratic performer on the track, Sonsam had a fancy winning percentage when he minded his manners, taking 22 of 31 career races. Sonsam's winning time of 1:53.2 was a stakes and world record, and owner Barry Epstein had every reason to be proud after this outstanding effort. Fifth place went to Genghis Khan, who would later roll into the annals of the great older pacers, with an outstanding 1982 season for Eddie Cobb.

Hazel Hanover, a daughter of then 31 old stallion Tar Heel, finished sixth and remains the last filly to compete in the Meadowlands Pace Final.

1ST ELIMINATION - 7/13/79 - 1:56²

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Happy Motoring	Bill Popfinger	Popfinger/Jacobs
2 Tijuana Taxi	Jim Miller	Jim Miller
3 Maple Lanes Strike	Brent Davies	J. Hillman
4 Most Happy Collins	Mario Baillargeon	Gilles Baillargeon
5 Genghis Khan	Brian Gath	Edward Cobb

2ND ELIMINATION - 7/13/79 - 1:54²

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Hot Hitter	Herve Filion	Lou Meittinis
2 Sonsam	George Sholty	Sholty/Levy
3 Nate Hanover	Mike Guitard	R. Moreau
4 Hazel Hanover	Bill Herman	Simpson/Herman
5 Ladino Hanover	Joe O'Brien	O'Brien/Burrows

CONSOLATION - 7/19/79

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Shank Hanover	Carl Allen	Carl Allen
2 Viking Fury	Herve Filion	Lou Meittinis
3 Crackers	William Haughton	Haughton/Thomas

\$750,000 FINAL - 7/19/79 - 1:53²

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Sonsam	George Sholty	Sholty/Levy
2 Hot Hitter	Herve Filion	Lou Meittinis
3 Tijuana Taxi	Jim Miller	Jim Miller

1979

RACE 6	1 MILE	MEADOWLANDS PACE-FINAL	PURSE \$750,000	Quarter times 27 ⁴ , 57, 1:25 ⁴ , 1:53 ²	TRACK: FAST	OFF: 10:25
10 Sonsam	10	9 ^o 6 ^o 1 ^{oo} 1 ² 1 ^{3/4}	1:53 ²	G. Sholty	4.40 3.00	2.80 *1.20
8 Hot Hitter	8	5 ^o 1 ^o 3 2 ^{1/4} 2 ^{3/4}	1:54	Her. Filion	(8)	3.20 2.80
2.50						
1 Tijuana Taxi	1	3 2 5 3 ^{3/4} 3 ^{1/2}	1:54 ⁴	J. Miller	(1)	4.20 8.70
5 Happy Motoring	5	7 ^o 3 ^o 4 ^o 4 ^{1/2} 4 ^{hd}	1:55	W. Popfinger		3.60
7 Genghis Khan	7	8 10 7 ^o 7 ² 5 ^{3/4}	1:55	B. Gath		32.80
4 Hazel Hanover	4	1 ^o 4 8 6 ^{hd} 6 ²	1:55 ¹	W. Herman		34.50
6 Maple Lanes Strike	6	2 5 2 ^{oo} 5 ^{3/4} 7 ²	1:55 ³	B. Davies		30.30
11 Mostest Yankee	2	6 9 10 9 ^{3/4} 8 ^{2/2}	1:56	C. Abbatiello		32.60
3 Most Happy Collins	3	4 7 6 ^o 8 ¹ 9 ⁵	1:56 ²	M. Baillargeon		39.00
9 Nate Hanover	9	10 8 ^o 9 x10 10	1:57 ²	M. Guitard	Exacta (10-8)	73.70

Scratched: Ladino Hanover
 Winning Owner: Sonsam Stable
 Winning Trainer: Sandy Levy (George Sholty Stable)