

NIHILATOR DESTROYS THE COMPETITION

The 1985 Meadowlands Pace turned into one of the most spectacular moments in harness racing history as heavily favored Nihilator rolled home to a stunning seven-and-a-quarter length victory over the best three-year-old pacing colts in the country.

The 1:50.3 final time equaled the world record for a race mile, but it was the explosive power with which Nihilator did it that had everyone gasping for breath.

In his Meadowlands Pace elimination a week earlier, Nihilator threw a bit of a scare into his admirers when longshot Anxious Robby actually passed him in mid-stretch before Nihilator fought back to win. Suddenly, a chink had appeared in the champion's armor and several rivals, including Marauder and stablemate Pershing Square, were given strong consideration by the press and racing public.

Nihilator answered his critics with a performance that resembled Secretariat's 31-length Belmont Stakes triumph in his Triple Crown season. Driver Bill O'Donnell put the rangy bay son of champion Niatross, a Pace winner in 1980, on the lead past the quarter and continued to pull away to the finish. His seven and a quarter victory stands as the biggest margin for a Meadowlands Pace winner.

Hall of Fame horseman Billy Haughton trained Nihilator for principal owner Lou Guida's Wall Street Stable. Nihilator was coupled with four other Guida/Haughton stablemates in the Meadowlands Pace. The five pacers wound up sweeping five of the top six finishing positions, resulting in a \$171,011.15 minus pool from an \$829,000 show pool. The Pace pool of \$1,168,010 established a harness racing industry record. The win payoff of \$2.20 was the lowest in Pace history.

1ST ELIMINATION - 7/12/85 - 1:53

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Marauder	Dick Richardson Jr.	Dick Richardson Jr.
2 Primus	John Campbell	Cooper/Lewis
3 Witsends Wizard	Ron Waples	Ron Waples
4 Pinocchio	Bill O'Donnell	Neal Shapiro

2ND ELIMINATION - 7/12/85 - 1:52³

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Nihilator	Bill O'Donnell	Miller/Haughton
2 Anxious Robby	Carmine Abbatiello	Alan Small
3 Chairmanoftheboard	John Campbell	Cooper/Lewis
4 Dignatarian	Ray Remmen	Jimmy Cruise Jr.

3RD ELIMINATION - 7/12/85 - 1:52³

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Pershing Square	Bill O'Donnell	Miller/Haughton
2 Handsome Sum	John Campbell	Robert Bencal
3 Forrest Skipper	Lucien Fontaine	Marc Fontaine
4 New Bret	Ben Webster	Howard Camden

CONSOLATION - 7/19/85 - 1:54

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Shannon Can	Bill O'Donnell	Fred Grant
2 The Denman	Herve Filion	Lou Meitinis
3 Town Council	Tom Haughton	Miller/Haughton

\$1,018,000 FINAL - 7/19/85 - 1:50³

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Nihilator	Bill O'Donnell	Miller/Haughton
2 Chairmanoftheboard	Ben Webster	Cooper/Lewis
3 Dignatarian	Buddy Gilmour	Jimmy Cruise Jr.

1985

RACE 7	1 MILE	MEADOWLANDS	PACE-FINAL	PURSE \$1,018,000	Quarter times 27 ⁴ , 56 ³ , 1:23 ³ , 1:50 ³	TRACK: FAST	OFF: 10:12
1 Nihilator	1	3	1	1 ⁴	1 ^{7/8}	1:50 ³	W. O'Donnell Mutuels (1) 2.20 2.10 2.10 e*.10
1b Chairmanoftheboard	3	2	5	6	3 ^{4/8}	2 ^{7/8}	B. Webster (1b) 2.10 2.10 e*.10
8 Dignatarian	12	7	8 ^o	7 ^{oo}	7 ⁸	3 ¹³	W. Gilmour (8) 2.10 19.80
1d Primus	7	5	4 ^o	3 ^o	4 ^{5/8}	4 ¹³	J. Campbell e*.10
1a Handsome Sum	2	6	6 ^o	4 ^{oo}	5 ^{6/8}	5 ^{13/8}	G. Sholty e*.10
1c Pershing Square	5	1	2	5 ^o	6 ^{7/8}	6 ^{13/8}	W. Haughton e*.10
7 Anxious Robby	11	4	3 ^o	2 ^o	2 ⁴	7 ¹⁴	C. Abbatiello 8.40
5 Marauder	9	12	10	10 ^o	10 ^{11/8}	8 ¹⁴	D. Richardson, Jr. 9.00
2 Witsends Wizard	4	8	9 ^o	9	9 ^{10/8}	9 ^{15/8}	R. Waples 47.80
3 Forrest Skipper	6	10	11 ^o	11 ^o	11 ^{13/8}	10 ^{18/8}	L. Fontaine 36.50
4 New Bret	8	9	7	8	8 ^{9/8}	11 ^{20/8}	W. Case, Jr. 69.00
6 Pinocchio	10	11 ^o	12	12	12 ^{19/8}	12 ^{23/8}	N. Shapiro Exacta (1-8) 39.80 38.30

Winning Owners: Wall Street Nihilator Syndicate
Winning Trainer: Don Miller (William Haughton Stable)