

July 19, 2008

ART OFFICIAL UPSETS 'BEACH' IN WORLD RECORD PACE MILE

Art Official pulled off the biggest upset in the stake's history as he snapped Somebeachsomewhere's perfect record in the 2008 Meadowlands Pace.

Canada's powerhouse Somebeachsomewhere entered the race a perfect 10-for-10, but was forced to settle for second as Art Official jetted to a then-world record 1:47. Art Official took command early and parked Bullville Powerful on the backstretch, forcing Somebeachsomewhere three-wide to make the lead in a 51.4 half. The 1-9 favorite led the field to the three-quarter pole in 1:19 before Art Official popped out of the pocket and surged by for a neck victory. At the time, Art Official's clocking was the fastest mile in history for a 3-year-old pacer. Somebeachsomewhere would later surpass that feat, equaling Holborn Hanover's 1:46.4 record as the fastest race mile of all time at The Red Mile.

"I didn't decide until the gate to let him loose," said Art Official's driver, Ron Pierce. "I didn't want Somebeachsomewhere to get away and someone had to take it to him. I tipped Art Official and he started pacing hard. The question was then to catch Somebeachsomewhere.

"I feel mixed emotions because he is a great colt," Pierce said of handing Somebeachsomewhere his first defeat, "but I had to do my job. The value of my colt just skyrocketed."

The loss would be the only blemish on Somebeachsomewhere's record. He closed out the season with 14 wins in 15 starts and the title of Horse of the Year.

"I've got to give Art Official all the credit in the world," said his driver, Paul Macdonell. "He parked horses past the half in :51 and was still around at the wire to live and tell about it. I still had a lot of horse. I figured he'd get me to the wire in a pretty remarkable time and he did, but he got caught right at the end."

Art Official tore a muscle in his left front leg in October, costing him the rest of the 2008 season and a highly anticipated rematch against Somebeachsomewhere in the Breeders Crown at the Meadowlands. At the time of injury, Art Official had won eight of his last nine races for trainer Joe Seekman and James Jesk's Sawgrass Farms, with the only setback being a third-place finish in the Little Brown Jug. He ended his sophomore campaign with 13 total wins and a bankroll of \$1.5 million.

1ST ELIMINATION - 7/12/08 - 1:48³

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Somebeachsomewhere	Paul MacDonnell	Brent MacGrath
2 Art Official	Ron Pierce	Joe Seekman
3 Badlands Nitro	Brian Sears	George Teague, Jr.
4 Mucho Sleazy	David Miller	Ken Rucker

2ND ELIMINATION - 7/12/08 - 1:50²

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Share The Delight	John Campbell	Linda Toscano
2 Tiz A Masterpiece	Andy Miller	Blair Burgess
3 Dontloseyourdayjob	Eric Goodell	Monte Gelrod

3RD ELIMINATION - 7/12/08 - 1:49⁴

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Sand Shooter	Tim Tetrick	Jim Arledge, Jr.
2 Bullville Powerul	Yannick Gingras	Stephen Crevani
3 Atocia	Brian Sears	Peter Kleinhans

\$1,000,000 FINAL - 7/19/08 - 1:47

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Art Official	Ron Pierce	Joe Seekman
2 Somebeachsomewhere	Paul MacDonnell	Brent MacGrath
3 Share The Delight	John Campbell	Linda Toscano

2008

RACE 8	PACE	1 MILE	MEADOWLANDS PACE	\$1,000,000	Quarter times: 26, 51 ⁴ , 1:19 ¹ , 1:47	TEMP. 89-0	TRACK: FAST	OFF: 10:21
6	Art Official	6 1 st hd	3 rd 2 ^{1/2}	2 ^{1/2} 1 ^{nk}	27 ³ 1:47	R Pierce	Mutels [6] 25.80	4.80 3.20 11.90
2	Somebeachsomewhere	2 4 ^{2/2}	1 ^{ons} 1 ^{1/2}	1 ^{3/4} 2 ^{nk}	27 ⁴ 1:47	P MacDonnell	[2] 2.10	2.10 .10
1	Share The Delight	1 5 ^{2/4}	5 ^{4/4} 4 ^{4/4}	4 ⁵ 3 ^{5/4}	28 ⁰ 1:48	J Campbell	[1] 5.00	5.00 25.70
5	Mucho Sleazy	5 2 nd	4 ^{1/4} 3 ^{3/4}	3 ^{4/4} 4 ⁶	28 ² 1:48 ¹	D Miller		54.50
3	Sand Shooter	3 6 ^{4/4}	6 ⁷ 5 ^{6/5/4}	5 ^{6/4} 5 ^{3/4}	27 ⁴ 1:48 ¹	T Tetrick		20.30
10	Tiz A Masterpiece	9 9 ^{10/4}	9 ¹² 9 ⁹	8 ^{9/4} 6 ^{3/4}	27 ¹ 1:48 ¹	A Miller		60.80
9	Badlands Nitro	8 7 ^{6/4}	7 ⁹ 7 ^{97/4}	6 ^{8/4} 7 ^{8/4}	28 ¹ 1:48 ⁴	B Sears		10.40
4	Atocia	4 8 ^{8/4}	8 ^{10/4} 8 ^{9/8/4}	7 ⁹ 8 ^{9/4}	27 ⁴ 1:48 ⁴	J Morrill Jr.		43.70
7	Bullville Powerful	7 3 ¹	2 ^{ons} 6 ^{5/4}	9 ^{12/4} 9 ²³	31 ¹ 1:51 ³	Y Gingras		14.90

Winning Owners: Sawgrass Farms LLC
Winning Trainer: Joe Seekman

Exacta (6-2) 77.20
Trifecta (6-2-1) 258.00