



HOLLYWOOD
Casino
AT PENN NATIONAL RACE COURSE

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Ben's Cat Stalks and Pounces to Capture Inaugural 200k Fabulous Strike Handicap

Wednesday, November 21, 2012 (Grantville, PA) – Receiving a patient, well-timed ride from jockey Julian Pimentel, Ben's Cat registered a narrow victory over Immortal Eyes in the inaugural running of the \$200,000 Fabulous Strike Handicap at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course.

Owned and trained by the legendary King Leatherbury, Ben's Cat broke sharply and settled in fourth on the rail as the pacesetting duo of Philly Bound and Mega Rush ran the first quarter mile in 22.11.

As the field turned for home, Immortal Eyes moved up to take a narrow lead, Grade 1 winner Poseidon's Warrior mounted a bid on the far outside, and Ben's Cat remained behind the leaders waiting room to run.

Midway through the stretch, a hole opened on the inside and when asked by Pimentel, Ben's Cat responded and surged to defeat Immortal Eyes by a head, with Poseidon's Warrior finishing $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths back in third. Ben's Cat completed the six furlongs in 1:09.50.

"He was blocked the whole way around; he had nowhere to go," said Pimentel. "Once I hit the quarter pole and he found some room, he just took off. I had a ton of horse and luckily I found some room."

Sent off as the 5-1 fifth choice in the field of nine, Ben's Cat victory even surprised Leatherbury.

"I really didn't think he was going to win because he's basically a turf horse," said Leatherbury, who has won more than 6,350 races during his career. "There were some really tough horses in here; some of the top sprinters in the country. I was coming to pick up a piece of the purse, hopefully."

The win marked the 14th stakes score for Ben's Cat, a 6-year-old gelding by Parker's Storm Cat, with 11 of those victories coming on the turf including a win in the 2011 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup Handicap at Penn National. He has now earned \$1,357,290 with 19 wins in 29 career starts.

Five of his 14 stakes wins have come by a margin of a nose, head, or neck, a fact that is not lost on Leatherbury.

“He wins all these close races, which is good, but a little scary when you’re watching,” said Leatherbury. “He’s a remarkable horse, what can I say.”

Il Villano, the lone 3-year-old in the field, reported home fourth as the 2-1 favorite, 2 ½ lengths behind Poseidon’s Warrior. Braulio, Golddigger’s Boy, Sloane Ranger, Philly Bound, and Mega Rush completed the order of finish.

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course is a Penn National Gaming property that offers guests the most exciting and unique entertainment experience in Central Pennsylvania. The venue features more than 2,475 slot machines, 60 gaming tables, and a 16-table Poker room. Live thoroughbred and simulcast horse racing is offered year-round. An array of dining options are available including the award-winning Final Cut Steakhouse, winner of three consecutive Wine Spectator Awards of Excellence; Mountainview Dining, a 500-seat restaurant overlooking the one-mile racetrack; SkyBox Sports Bar, and the popular 350-seat Epic Buffet.

Penn National Race Course, located minutes from Hershey and Harrisburg, PA., opened on August 30, 1972, and has presented top-class live thoroughbred racing for more than 40 years. The original track was taken down in 2006 and the new Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, a fully-integrated gaming and racing facility, opened on February 12, 2008.

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