



HOLLYWOOD
Casino
AT PENN NATIONAL RACE COURSE

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By John Scheinman

EASTER GIFT WINS \$250,000 MOUNTAINVIEW HANDICAP

Grantville, PA (Saturday, June 1) – A wide journey is the type of journey Easter Gift prefers, and that is exactly what he got Saturday night to win the second running of the \$250,000 Mountainview Handicap for 3-year-olds and up at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course.

Owned by Robert LaPenta, the 4-year-old son of Hard Spun tracked dueling leaders back in fifth place through the opening half-mile and then followed Norman Asbjornson to the front on the turn for home.

The two runners fought through the stretch before Easter Gift pulled away to win by 2 ¼ lengths. Norman Asbjornson finished second followed by Pants On Fire and favorite Macho Macho.

The winner, trained in New York by Chad Brown and ridden by Kendrick Carmouche, completed the 1 1/8-mile dirt race in 1:49.96 for the second stakes win of his career.

The Mountainview Handicap was the main supporting race for the inaugural \$500,000 Penn Mile, and the card shattered all wagering records in the 40-year history of the track.

“I got a perfect trip,” Carmouche said after the race. “The horse does a great job. His name is Easter Gift. It might not be Easter, but he gives a gift every time he runs.”

Easter Gift had won two of three starts since being transferred to Brown for his 4-year-old campaign, including a recent 3 ½-length score at PARX on April 16.

“We’ve been pointing to this spot since the day of his last race, so it’s nice when it comes together like that,” said John Panagot, racing manager for LaPenta. “This was his first real test against older horses, and, obviously, we were very pleased.”

The winner paid \$9.40 for a \$2 wager as the 3-1 third choice in a field of eight.

TIGHTEND TOUCHDOWN SCORES IN PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR’S CUP

Sprinting straight to the front from his inside post, Tigtend Touchdown ambushed an all-star cast of turf sprinters to score a devastating 5 ½-length victory in the 41st running of the \$150,000 Pennsylvania Governor's Cup Handicap for 3-year-olds and up.

Ridden by Javier Castellano for trainer Jason Servis, the 4-year-old gelded son of Pure Precision whistled five furlongs in 54.62 seconds, just one one-hundredth of a second off the track records set by Bop in 2002.

Multiple stakes winners Bridgetown and Ben's Cat finished second and third, respectively. Fourth-place finisher, Kyma, was disqualified and placed last for bearing out and interfering with Snow Leopard on the turn. The incident caused Ben's Cat, the 2-1 favorite, to lose ground before rallying for third.

"The horse is fast, really fast," said Henry Argueta, assistant to Servis. "He's got a lot of talent. He came out of the last race really good and we said let's go to this race, five-eighths, so we thought he was going to run huge and he did."

Tigtend Touchdown, owned by Mr. Amore Stable, scored for the ninth time in his 18-race career. He paid \$8.80 for a \$2 win bet as the 3-1 second choice in a field of 10. The \$81,000 winner's share pushed his lifetime earnings to \$301,545.

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 2,463 slot machines, 53 banked 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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