



HOLLYWOOD
Casino
AT PENN NATIONAL RACE COURSE

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By John Scheinman

Rydilluc Rolls In Inaugural \$500,000 Penn Mile

Grantville, PA (Saturday, June 1, 2013) – The inaugural running of the \$500,000 Penn Mile at Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course proved the ideal place for Rydilluc to make his case for being the top 3-year-old turf horse in the country.

In a race that attracted some of the leading stables and jockeys in the country, Rydilluc ran comfortably behind 99-1 long shot Yougothtatgoinforu, moved to the lead on the far turn and sprinted home to win by three-quarters of a length. Charming Kitten, fresh off a run in the Kentucky Derby, finished second, three-quarters of a length back and a nose in front of Jack Milton.

The Penn Mile proved an instant success. All-sources wagering on the race alone came to \$1,139,478, far and away the largest single-race handle in the 40-year history of the track. The previous record was for the Pennsylvania Governor's Cup Handicap on August 1, 2009, which handled \$377,365.

After four races on the Saturday night card, the all-source handle already had reached \$2,281,425, surpassing the previous all-time best handle for a full race card, \$2,173,921, on December 26, 1998.

In the winners circle after the race, New York-based trainer Gary Contessa exuded excitement at the quality of his horse and having won the first Penn Mile.

"This absolutely ranks as one of my top two races of my career," said Contessa, who said his other finest moment came in the 1992 Ashland Stakes at Keeneland with Do It With Style. "I'm thrilled. It's the horse. It's the race. Penn National is going to be on the map because of this race. This is a great race, and the timing is great. Next year it will be graded for the next guy."

The first Penn Mile drew more than 50 nominations and attracted Rydilluc, winner of the Grade 3 Palm Beach Stakes, along with Noble Tune, a Grade 2 stakes winner, Grade 3 winner Jack Milton, and turf standout Charming Kitten among the field of eight.

When the gate opened, Yougoththatgoinforu spurted out to a length lead and set moderate opening fractions of 23.55 seconds for the first quarter-mile and 47.84 seconds for the half. Rydilluc, under Hall of Fame jockey Edgar Prado, found a comfortable spot on the outside, clear in second, followed by Pitch N Roll and Charming Kitten.

The pace quickened dramatically in the second half of the race. While Charming Kitten, trained by Todd Pletcher, rallied on the inside, and his stablemate, Jack Milton, rallied on the outside, Rydilluc cut through the final quarter-mile in 22.84 seconds, the final eighth in a sizzling 11.24 seconds.

No one was catching him.

The final time was 1:33.99, less than a second off the track record.

The winner, who went off as the 7-5 favorite, paid \$5.20 for a \$2 win bet.

"I think the horse is improving every time he runs," Prado said. "Today, as you see, he came home running against nice horses, and I'm very proud he's getting better and better. Gary's doing a super job with the horse."

Pitch N Roll finished fourth, followed by Noble Tune, Are You Kidding Me, Triple Cross and Yougoththatgoinforu.

The winner earned \$276,000 for owners Leonard Green, Harold Lerner, Jeff Massaro, Tammy Bobo, Sean Shay, Peter and Henry Baker, Bruce and Linda McConnell, and Jennifer Contessa. He improved his record to four wins from six starts.

Gary Contessa said Rydilluc likely will run next in the Grade 2, \$500,000 Virginia Derby next on July 13 at Colonial Downs.

"He just stamped himself as arguably the best 3-year-old turf horse right now, and we're going to stay there," Contessa said.

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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