

Loudoun Hunt Point to Point 4-24-2022

The Loudoun Hunt Point to Point races were run for the second year at Morven Park near Leesburg on Sunday April 24. A good crowd was treated to side saddle and pony races before the full card of hurdle and flat races.

In the side saddle race Cherry Blossom Farm LLC's Soul Approval (Devon Zebrovius) set the pace with Sarah Pembleton's Bird's the Word a close second. With a quarter mile to run Bird's the Word lost his rider and Julie Neff's Sky Babe started to rally. He went to the front, but Soul Approval had something left and came again to win the race.

Pony races for Junior riders were next. Trainer Betty McCue and ponies from her EHM Stables swept the three divisions. In the small race Yomar Ortiz, Jr. rode Lickety Split to win by 2 lengths over Cami Kern on Chris Kern's Mallory with Imogen Weaver's Olney Yes Ma'am (Skye Gammon) third. Yomar Ortiz, Jr. also won the race for medium ponies with Blueberry who came home first by 2 1/2 lengths over Nina McKenna's Fiona (Ellet Sharp). EHM Stables' Charleston (Tess Garadaghian) was third. Mini (Jaidyn Shore) took home the prize for finishing first in the large pony race by 3 1/2 lengths over EHM Stables' Bailey (James Wyatt) and Chris Kern's Goose (Carly Kern) was third.

The maiden hurdle race had enough entries to be run in two divisions. In the first Merriebelle Stable, LLC's Beat Le Bon (Connor Hankin) went to the front at once and held a commanding lead that widened to a quarter mile at the finish. Kate Dalton's Pull Rank (Bernard Dalton) beat Upland Flats Racing LLC's Machenbach (Parker Hendriks) in the race for second. Since the open race had only one entry after scratches the Stewards allowed Riverdee Stable's City Dreamer (Graham Watters) to school around with the maidens. When the flag dropped City Dreamer went to the front with Madaket Stables, CFC Stables & Paul and Molly Willis' Montmarte D'Ange (Parker Hendriks). He took the lead the second time around and won going away by 1 1/2 lengths. City Dreamer was second and Kate Dalton's Kenya Road (Bernard Dalton) was third.

Four flat races completed the day's racing action. PathFinder Racing's Gas Money (Graham Watters) had won the Virginia Bred, Sired or Certified Flat Race at Piedmont, and he would win the championship for that series by winning at Loudoun. Gordon C. Keys' Keys Discount (Dylan McDonagh) was also in pursuit of a second win and it appeared that he was going to get it in the final furlong. Gas Money wasn't ready to concede and was flying in the stretch to get up in the final yard to win by 1/2 length. Over Creek Stables LLC's Post War (Parker Hendriks) was third.

Eight horses went to the start of the next race seeking to win their first race on the flat. Rolling Tide LLC's Dothcantbedone (Sophie Henelius) led for most of the race, but when Buttonwood Farm's Baltimore Kid (Parker Hendriks) started to rally in the final furlong, the race was over. He beat Dothcantbedone by 2 lengths going away and Atlanta Hall Racing LLC and E Squared Stables' Sky Stylish (Paul Cawley) finished third. Red hot trainer Keri Brian got her second win.

Wendy W. Hendriks' owns and her son Ricky trains Embrace the Grind (Mikey Hamill) who won the open flat race. Embrace the Grind opened a commanding lead and coasted home alone 7 lengths before Atlanta Friends Racing's Historic Heart (Parker Hendriks), who rallied belatedly. Irvin S. Naylor's Belfast Banter (Barry Foley) was third.

The finale was the restricted young adult flat race that scratched down to just two runners. Shannon Hill Farm's Best Chance (Parker Hendriks) set the pace with Camille & Olivia deStanley's Big

Dave alongside. Best Chance went to the front the last time around and steadily pulled away to win by 20 lengths. This was Parker Hendriks third win and trainer, Neil Morris' second winner on the card.