

Piedmont Fox Hounds Point to Point 3-26-2022

The Salem Course near Upperville, Virginia where the Piedmont Fox Hounds hold their point to point races is very popular with the horsemen. The combination of stone walls and post and rail fences is attractive to trainers, who have timber prospects that have hunted.

The biggest race on the card was the maiden timber race that had six starters. In the race Bon Nouvel Chasers II's Ya Ya Boy (McLane Hendriks) was rated off the pace for most of the race. He launched a rally in the final quarter mile and held off The Hundred Acre Field's Cracker Factory (Brett Owens) in the run in from the last fence to win by 1 ¼ lengths. Frank Bonsal, Jr.'s Profiteer (Eric Poretz) finished third.. The winning trainer, Julie Gomena hunts with Piedmont which made this victory very popular.

Entries were sparse in the rest of the timber races. \$30,000 in purse money at the Cheshire Point to Point on Sunday attracted many horses, who might have run at Piedmont. The first race to experience this decline in entries was the amateur and novice rider timber race whose three entries were combined with the lone horse from the foxhunters' race. This quartet was led by Carey Shefte's What a Charmer (Sam Cockburn). When he relinquished the lead and ultimately pulled up, EHB Racing's Huyana (Eric Poretz) took control. He never looked back and won by 3 lengths over Michael A. Smith's Le Chevalier (McLane Hendriks). Kinross Farm's Blackhall (Teddy Davies) came in third.

The next two races were combined to make a three-horse race. Upland Partners' Mystic Strike (Teddy Davies) from the Rokeby Challenge Cup ran with Peter A. & Sarah M. Jay's Be Counted (Elizabeth Scully) and Adlestrop Hill's Cocodimama (Chloe Hannum) from the lady rider race. This three-horse race was the most exciting race of the day. Be Counted led for most of the race, but Cocodimama took command in the final quarter mile and seemed on his way to victory. Be Counted found another gear and came flying to pass Cocodimama and win the lady's race by 2 lengths. Be Counted was trained by Todd Wyatt. In the Rokeby Challenge Cup Mystic Strike sat behind the ladies waiting to pounce. He closed with a rush and beat Be Counted by a neck. The Rokeby Challenge Cup went to Pennsylvania with trainer, Todd McKenna.

Six horses contested the open flat race that featured last year's winner of the Maryland Hunt Cup, Vintage Vinnie (Teddy Davies) out for a tightener. Vintage Vinnie finished second a neck behind Keystone Thoroughbred's Hard Strike, but he got a valuable race under his belt for his timber campaign. This result gave Todd McKenna and Elizabeth Scully their second wins. S. Rebecca Shepherd's Ahnaf (Colin Smith) was third.

The Virginia bred race was a match race between a winner, Pathfinder Racing's Gas Money (McLane Hendriks) and a maiden, Valvo Racing LLC's Lorinska (Eric Poretz). This race ran to form with Gas Money pulling away to win by 5 lengths. Neil Morris trained Gas Money.