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LADY JILA WINS THIRD STRAIGHT COLUMBINE STAKES AT ARAPAHOE PARK

Aurora, CO (July 26, 2015) – The term “horses for courses” fits perfectly for 8-year-old mare Lady Jila at Arapahoe Park. On Sunday, Lady Jila won the 1 1/16-mile, \$40,000 Columbine Stakes for fillies and mares for the third year in a row. Ridden by Mike Ziegler for trainer Sharlot Martinez and owner and breeder Michael Barro, the victory was Lady Jila’s seventh in a row at the Aurora, Colorado track.

“She’s right up there with one of the best female horses I’ve ridden,” said Ziegler, a jockey since 1987 who has been aboard Lady Jila for 11 of her 12 victories in 18 starts at Arapahoe Park for earnings of 185,428. “When you talk about ‘horse for course,’ she’s exactly that. I think it’s the combination of the surface and air that really pleases her.”

Lady Jila defeated Lady Contender by three lengths in 1:47.73 as the 7-5 favorite in the field of six. In one of the best rivalries in Colorado horse racing, Lady Jila and Lady Contender have raced against each other nine times since 2013, with Lady Jila finishing in front in seven races. Lady Contender was coming off the biggest victory in her career in the Front Range Stakes against male horses for jockey Karlo Lopez and trainer Stacey Rushton. Lady Contender was also runner-up in the Columbine in 2012 and 2014 and third in 2013.

In addition to the three Columbine Stakes victories, Lady Jila has also won the 2014 and 2015 Molly Brown Stakes at Arapahoe Park. The five stakes wins are even more remarkable considering that Lady Jila has risen from victories in \$5,000 claiming races at Arapahoe Park.

In Sunday’s other stakes races at Arapahoe Park, A. P. Wildcat sprung a 13-1 upset with a one-length score in his first stakes victory in the 1 1/16-mile, \$46,778 Mount Elbert for Colorado-breds. Kelly Bridges piloted A. P. Wildcat for trainer Kenneth “Butch” Gleason and owner Annette Bishop. Kid Rambo and jockey Dennis Collins won a photo finish in the 870-yard, \$12,050 Leo Beau Dash, a race he also captured in 2013. Rb Rich and jockey Erik McNeil pulled away by seven lengths in the 1 1/8-mile, \$13,500 Altitude Stakes Sponsored by Easy Care for Arabians, keying a one-two-three for trainer Elizabeth Brand over stablemates Rb Brilliant and Chndakasexpress.