



FROM ARAPAHOE PARK, AURORA, COLORADO

JONATHAN HOROWITZ : Twitter @jjhorowitz / (949) 246-7075 / jjhorowitz@gmail.com

AUGUST 11, 2013

## **NO SPIN KEEPS WHEELS GOING IN GATE-TO-WIRE WIN IN ARAPAHOE PARK CLASSIC**

No Spin went straight to the front and never looked back for a gate-to-wire victory in Sunday's 1 1/8-mile Arapahoe Park Classic. The purse for the marquee race of the meet for older horses was doubled from \$50,000 last year to \$100,000 this year, making it the richest running in the history of Arapahoe Park.

No Spin, a shipper from Iowa who was trained by Chris Hartman leading up to the Arapahoe Park Classic and saddled on Sunday by Colorado-based trainer Kerry Kemper, set swift fractions with jockey Kelly Bridges aboard of 22.12 seconds for the opening quarter-mile and 46.17 seconds for the opening half-mile.

"The horse shipped well, and he jogged well leading up to the race," Kemper said. "He got an easy lead and kept running. If he got an early lead he would definitely be the horse to outrun. He gets a big heart when he gets on the lead."

The 4-year-old bay gelding owned by the Black Gold Racing partnership of Leonard Balch and Ray Willis pulled away in the stretch for a 2 3/4-length win in a time of 1:50.48. Treacherous, the 2012 Colorado Derby winner, finished second for jockey Brian Theriot, trainer Owen Bringham, and owners Jeffrey and Chris Meyers. No It Ain't, with jockey Dennis Collins aboard for trainer Temple Rushton, was a further 1 1/4 lengths back in third. No Spin was sent off as the 7-1 fifth-choice in the field of 12.

"That was a heck of a race for him," Balch said. "When he went on the lead in 22 [seconds for the opening quarter] I thought that was too fast. When he slowed down a little with the half in 46, I thought that was a little better, but I was still a little worried. He just held on and had more left. Chris Hartman did a heck of a job getting him in shape for that race."

As a 2-year-old in 2011, No Spin competed against some of the top 2-year-olds in the country, including a sixth-place finish in the Grade 1 Champagne Stakes at Belmont Park. Since joining the barn of Hartman earlier this year, No Spin has returned to his winning ways in claiming and allowance-optional claiming races. The Arapahoe Park Classic represented No Spin's first stakes race in more than a year since the Arlington Classic Stakes at Arlington Park in May 2012.

"I think he has a lot more confidence now," Willis said. "For a while he had trouble and would get up in front and quit. But the last few races he just looks like a different horse."

"The horse is getting bigger and stronger," Hartman said. "That's one of the better races in his life."

Hezamazing, who was attempting to win the Arapahoe Park Classic for the second year in a row and the third time in the last four years, finished sixth for jockey Russell Vicchrilli and trainer Rick Houghton.

Red Lead, a stablemate of No Spin and the 3-1 favorite ridden by Ken Tohill, ran fourth after being trapped behind horses for most of the race.

“He hit a lot of traffic,” Kemper said. “He runs best in small fields when he is able to lay off them but couldn’t do that with 12 in there.”

No Spin and Red Lead were nominated for the Arapahoe Park Classic after the purse for the race was raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

“When they jumped the purse we decided to head that way,” Hartman said.

No Spin is scheduled to ship to Remington Park for his next race.