

Way to Exit Roosevelt Is Following Del Insko

By Tony Sisti

Westbury—There's a new system for coming up with big winners in stakes races at Roosevelt Raceway—bet Del Insko. It paid off again last night as he hustled Arabesque (\$35.60) down the rail to post a three-quarter-length victory over Mon Lassie in the \$27,062 Lady Suffolk Trot for 3-year-old fillies.

A week ago last night, Insko drove Tarport Paul to a \$74.00 payoff over 1-5 Romeo Hanover in the \$29,321 Dan Patch Pace for 2-year-olds. But despite the difference in price, Tarport Paul had better credentials. Arabesque had to be considered quite an underlay on her dismal record. She went into the race with just one second and two thirds to show for 12 starts. She had gone off-stride and finished far up the track in several of these races.

Insko, the meeting's most successful driver, didn't know what to expect. "Tonight was the first time I ever saw her," he said on his return to the paddock. "But she certainly is a nice filly. I could make room for her in a hurry.

"I didn't get the drive until Sunday night and even then I wasn't really sure," he continued. "I was home (South Beloit, Ill.) asleep when her owner, a William Shehan, called me about 11:30 PM Sunday night to ask me to drive her in this race. I was half asleep when I talked to him and couldn't even remember what horse he was talking about the next morning. But things worked out pretty good, didn't they?"

Leader Bore Out

Never worse than third, Insko got his big break when Be Sweet, the 11-10 favorite, bore out through the stretch. He went right down the rail and just managed to make it, thanks to taking the short cut home. "I had a feeling that I would get an opening," Insko said. "That other filly (Be Sweet) bore out some going through the stretch the first time around and I was pretty sure she'd do it again."

The winner's share of \$13,531 raised Arabesque's earnings for the year to \$21,153. She trotted the mile in 2:07. Louanna Sampson finished third and Be Sweet a faltering fourth.

John Simpson Sr., who was fifth with Gifted Hanover, didn't do as well as expected. He's confident things will go better at the Harrisburg Sale which starts Monday in Harrisburg, Pa. Simpson makes a comfortable living training and driving, but he's also got a lucrative sideline as vice president and general manager of Hanover Shoe Farm. For the past month, he's been spending most of his time at the farm, the largest standard-bred nursery in the world, preparing 114 yearlings for the sale.

"It's a job that keeps me pretty busy," he said, "but I enjoy anything connected with working around horses. We show half of the yearlings every day at the Hanover (Pa.) Fair Grounds. And we've had most of the top trainers in the country up for a look several times. We send a plane down here to pick up trainers every morning and fly them back the same night."

The yearlings are led alongside a pony to give prospective owners an idea of how they move and their natural gait. "It gives you a good idea of what



Driver Del Insko
Happiness Is \$35.60 Winner

a yearling will do, especially trotting-bred colts and fillies," Simpson said. "But I still place a lot more emphasis on pedigree. You take a colt like Romeo Hanover (the nation's top 2-year old this season). He didn't do anything but jump up and down when we led him last year this time. But you know what he's done. His breeding made the difference."

Simpson isn't rooting for any record-breaking yearling prices despite his more than casual interest in the bidding. "I'd much rather see our top colts sell for a strong average of around \$50,000 or so than have one or two go for \$80,000 or \$90,000," he said with a smile. "When a man spends that much money, he's not very happy when he doesn't come up with a top colt. Real high-priced yearlings can make you more enemies than they're worth."

The Hanover consignment will include a large number of royally-bred youngsters, including 11 by the late Adios. "You won't get near any of our Adios unless you're willing to spend a lot of money," he predicted. "I'm sure they'll average better than \$25,000. He's only got two more crops coming up and they'll be in greater demand than ever."

One youngster certain to attract a lot of attention is Romulus Hanover, a full brother to Romeo Hanover, who sold for the bargain price of \$8,500 last year. "Romulus will bring more than his brother," Simpson said. "A lot of our other yearlings will bring more than usual, too. I don't think we've ever had a better consignment."

Roosevelt's winter meeting doesn't get underway until Jan. 3, but the first snow flakes started drifting down last night with the sixth race. George Sholtz promptly proved that he's a good winter driver by taking the race with City Lights (\$7.20) and the seventh with Creed Widower (\$13.60) to complete a quadruple. He won the second race with Innova-tion (\$3.40) and the third with My Kid (\$6.60).