

# Wilfong Eyes First Super Night Title With Kendyl

by Tom Krish

She may have limited exposure to top level competition. Kendyl, a precocious freshman filly, may have the driving services of the 20 year-old Kyle Wilfong who is looking for his first Super Night win. It is a daunting task that she faces in the \$184,000 Orange and Blue Filly pace but Kendyl, a Homer Hochstetler pupil, comes into the race off a sparkling victory in the elimination. A Sportsmaster filly, Kendyl has a 5-2-2-0 record and will bring fresh legs into the richly endowed final. If you find Homer Hochstetler's name in the trainer's column, there is every reason to entertain a high optimism level.

Homer Hochstetler trains Kendyl for his wife, Connie, a member of the illustrious Ackerman clan. The Hochstetlers have a tremendous record with trotters but are equally proficient with the pacing class. The laconic Homer sounded hopeful but tempered it with respect for the opposition. "I have been in this business long enough. Every filly in the Orange Blue field is my danger. There is a girl named Kendyl and she is in the school my son goes to. Kendyl has a sister called Chandler. So, there is a Chandler and there's a Kendyl and the latter is now a contender in a Super Night Stakes event," Homer said.

Kendyl tracked Sleazy Does It, the odds on favorite in last week's elimination, and edged ahead in the final strides to win in 1:55. The winning margin was a length and a quarter. "I believe my filly has to go 1:53.4 to 1:54.1 to win the big race. She can find that extra and is peaking right now," trainer Hochstetler went on.

"The Orange and Blue has been the target and I am thrilled we are there. My son, Matthew Douglas, qualified Kendyl. Kyle Wilfong liked her the first time he drove her and gets along with her

fabulously well. I cannot be happier. I skipped the downstate races to keep her fresh. Kendyl reminds me of Sportsfancy, a filly that I trained," Homer concluded.

The only dull race Kendyl has had in her five-outing career came on September 4. Forced to go first up, she weakened to be fourth and was 11 lengths behind the winner. Overlooked at 10 to 1 last Saturday, Kendyl made the most of a stalking trip and in the process, advertised her claims to 'leading contender' status in the prestigious Orange and Blue.

I caught up with Kyle Wilfong. "I am 20 years old. This is my first regular year as a professional driver. I have about 100 winners and am happy in terms of where I am. I had a Super Night drive last year in one of the smaller races. Kendyl gives me the opportunity to be part of a major event." Kyle commented.

"Kendyl is a 'feel good' filly. She felt great in the elimination. Yes, we got a good trip but she took off when asked. There is more to come. She has to go faster to win but I have no doubt in my mind she can," Wilfong continued.

Will driver Wilfong be nervous on the big stage? "It is another race and that is how I want to look at it. From the first time I drove her, I have had a special feeling about her. She has come through for me."

Kendyl was a promising second in her debut in early August. She fulfilled that debut promise when breaking the duck in impressive fashion in mid-August. In her third start, Kendyl had the lead before the halfway point, looked like a winner mid-stretch and knuckled under.

Can Kendyl deliver and give Kyle Wilfong a winning debut in his Super Night debut?

## ORANGE AND BLUE ICF 2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Year	Horse (Driver)	Time
1981	Petite Skipper (Richard Schroeder)	2:02
1982	Mi T. Model (Dave Magee)	2:00.2
1983	Missel Renvaeh (Lavern Hostetler)	2:00.1
1984	Don's Dancer (Jim Dolbee)	2:00.2
1985	Annie's Surprise (Mark O'Mara)	1:58.2
1986	Stepatune (Ron Marsh)	1:59.4
1987	Fox Valley Jana (Ron Marsh)	2:00.1
1988	Bret's Baby (Walter Paisley)	1:58.1
1989	Fox Valley Redhot (James Crebs)	1:58.2
1990	Plum Peachy (Walter Paisley)	1:56.2
1991	Panic Attack (Dave Magee)	1:56.3
1992	Incredashell (Jim Curran)	1:55.2
1993	Broadway Commodity (Dave Magee)	1:56.4
1994	Fox Valley Jetta (Dave Magee)	1:57
1995	Diamond Sweetie (Dave Magee)	1:54.3
1996	Fox Valley Memory (Dave Magee)	1:55.4
1997	Ohyouprettything (Joe Anderson)	1:55.2
1998	Juxtaposition (Sam Widger)	1:53.2
1999	Incredible Tillie (Andy Miller)	1:53.1
2000	Cyber Wave (Sam Widger)	1:52.3
2001	Oneinamilliongirl (Eric Ledford)	1:53
2002	Dreams Made Real (Tony Morgan)	1:52.3
2003	Aries Conquest (Andy Miller)	1:53.2
2004	Sounds of Silence (Dave Magee)	1:53
2005	My Metallica (Tony Morgan)	1:52.3
2006	Orgami Rose (Sam Widger)	1:53.3
2007	Kelly's Keepsake (Andy Miller)	1:53.2
2008	Fox Valley Topaz (Mike Oosting)	1:52.2*
2009	Fox Valley Oracle (Tyler Buter)	1:53
2010	Fox Valley Touche (Dale Hiteman)	1:53

\*Stakes Record

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# Orange & Blue Should be a Shoot-Out!

by Tom Krish

Trainer Erv Miller is double-handed in the \$241,000 Orange and Blue for two year-old colts and geldings. Fans will have a hard time separating Crime Of Passion and Zall Good. In 2009, Erv and his son, Marcus Miller combined to win the Orange and Blue with Power Of A Moment. It was an encore in 2010 when Dutch Richman emerged victorious. As we near the 23rd edition of Super Night, a hat trick for the Miller team is very much in the cards.

Crime Of Passion, winner of five races from eight starts, comes into the big race on the wings of a three-race win streak. Held up in the elimination, the roan Armbro Mackintosh gelding charged to the front at the eighth pole and then went clear. It was a 1:53 mile and was a confidence-booster for Saturday's rich final. Two races later, Zall Good, another Erv Miller trainee, made it all in the other Orange And Blue elimination. The winning driver was Brandon Simpson. Will Marcus Miller face a dilemma? How many times have we seen harness drivers and thoroughbred jockeys compelled to choose between equally strong contenders in a high profile contest? After all, Marcus will be seeking his third consecutive win in the Orange And Blue and one would expect that he will ponder long and hard. No such thing happened.

The 22 year-old Marcus Miller gave a philosophical answer. "Yes, they are hard to set apart. It was in Du Quoin that I had to make a choice. I leaned toward Crime Of Passion. I do not know how to explain the decision. It was visceral. I have been right so far."

I spoke to Erv Miller. "Marcus will drive Crime Of Passion. There's little to choose between them. They should both race well. Crime Of Passion

is a more experienced horse than Dutch Richman who had only three races when going into the Orange and Blue last year."

"I could not get Brandon Simpson for Zall Good. He will be behind Peachy's Pistol. I am asking Eric Carlson to drive Zall Good," Erv Miller explained.

Leland Mathias, part owner of Crime Of Passion, had a share in the 2009 and 2010 Orange And Blue winners. "It will be a special thing if Crime Of Passion can come through. Mr. Mathias has been a longtime owner in my barn. He never puts any pressure on me. It is indeed a pleasure to train for an owner like him. Making it three in a row with Mr. Mathias in the winning team will be the icing on the cake," trainer Miller stated.

Crime Of Passion won the Governor's Cup in Du Quoin and made such an impression in the elimination that there is every reason to believe that he will be the favorite. Marcus Miller's presence in the sulky is another factor that will weigh heavily in the minds of the fans.

Zall Good, a Yankee Skyscraper colt out of Fox Valley Estella, a Sportsmaster mare, has made four visits to the winner's circle in five trips post-ward. The sole blemish came in Du Quoin's Governor's Cup. Eric Carlson, the short time he has been plying his trade in Chicago, has distinguished himself.

Peachy's Pistol, a serious contender, has won seven times in nine starts. The Incredible Finale freshman gelding holds the distinction of finishing twice ahead of Crime Of Passion, once in July and the other time in August. Brushing off a two-race losing streak, Peachy's Pistol, trained by Nick Giberson and driven by Brandon Simpson, won his

## ORANGE AND BLUE ICF 2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

Year	Horse (Driver)	Time
1976	Goose Filter (Jerry Graham)	2:01
1977	Flaming H. (Jim Dolbee)	2:00.4
1978	Winter Wiz (Wayne Plowman)	2:01.2
1979	Wiekier's Del (Delvin L. Insko)	2:01.1
1980	Poco Perry (Stanley Banks)	2:01.1
1981	Yates Eagle (Dan Shetler)	1:58.2
1982	Whata Woody (Jim Curran)	1:59.4
1983	Black Shadow (Dwight Banks)	1:58.2
1984	Skipper's Strike (Fred Finn, Jr.)	2:00.2
1985	Incredible Finale (William O'Donnell)	1:56.3
1986	Perfect Mohawk (Greg Lance)	1:59
1987	Master Mohawk (Ron Marsh)	1:58.1
1988	Apache Arrow (Tom Harmer)	1:57.4
1989	Gosox (Lavern Hostetler)	1:57.2
1990	Dancer's Ideal (Brent Holland)	1:57.2
1991	Wicked Brew (Homer Hochstetler)	1:56.2
1992	Bragg Door (Tom Simmons)	1:56.1
1993	Arrogant Rich (Neil Coleman)	1:55.1
1994	Gene's Prize (Dave Magee)	1:56.1
1995	Bingo Johnnie (Joe Anderson)	1:54.1
1996	Garfunkel (Dale Hiteman)	1:55.4
1997	Big Tom (Joe Anderson)	1:53.3
1998	Fox Valley Admiral (Joe Anderson)	1:53
1999	Ascot Brandy (Andy Miller)	1:52.4
2000	Rattle And Rock (Ryan Anderson)	1:53.2
2001	Mini Me (Dave Magee)	1:52
2002	Honest Lawyer (Tom Simmons)	1:53.2
2003	Chevie Winner (Dale Hiteman)	1:54
2004	Team Hutch (Eric Ledford)	1:51.4
2005	Fox Valley Tribal (Tim Tetrick)	1:51.2
2006	Home Bed Advantage (Ryan Anderson)	1:51
2007	Froggy Turner (Dave Magee)	1:52.1
2008	Enzo The Baker (Dave Magee)	1:52.1
2009	Power of a Moment (Marcus Miller)	1:50.4*
2010	Dutch Richman (Marcus Miller)	1:52.1

\*Stakes Record

elimination in great style. He may get overlooked in all the excitement generated by the Erv Miller duo but he is a player whose chances deserve careful examination.

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# Dutch Richman Looking for Back to Back Super Night Scores

by Tom Krish

Dutch Richman was making only his fourth career start when he won the 2010 Orange And Blue. Three wins in four starts gave the Erv Miller charge a 75% strike rate. The Richness Hanover sophomore returned to the races in 2011. As Dutch Richman goes for a Super Night encore in the Pete Langley Memorial, the numbers show seven wins from 14 outings. It is a 50% strike rate. Let not the lower strike rate prompt you to think that Dutch Richman has been less effective this year.

The 2011 numbers are the result of testing the waters in the ultra-tough Canadian three year-old division. Dutch Richman may not have enjoyed the success that his connections may have hoped for but he was able to raise his game now and then and be competitive. As the Springfield stakes came in August, Dutch Richman had won six races and was on his way to becoming the top dog in the sophomore category. Then came a rude awakening. A demanding 10 post and a trouble-filled trip took their toll in an August 13 stakes. Four days later, another loss followed. On September 3, a third consecutive loss was recorded on a surface rendered sloppy by incessant rain at Balmoral Park. In the Pete Langley Memorial elimination last Saturday, though the betting public made him the post time favorite, Dutch Richman was a generous 3/2.

Marcus Miller had no choice but to let Dutch Richman race in the 'hold up' mode. The lead changed hands in the first quarter and He's So Hot had charged to the front around the three-eighth point. First up before the half and gaining ground steadily, Dutch Richman challenged He's So Hot as Rockin Rumble was mounting a serious challenge using the open stretch. With a furlong to go, it was a three-way fight. In the waning yards, Marcus Miller was able to coax Dutch Richman to produce that 'extra' that is the hallmark of horses who possess an abundance of winning spirit. It was a 1:52 mile and Dutch Richman won by one half length. He's So Hot, glorious in defeat, managed to stay ahead of Rockin Rumble for the runner-up berth.

Let us hear what Marcus Miller has to say. "There were dehydration issues downstate. When we came to Chicago, they had not been resolved. The slop two races back was another factor. I knew that Dutch Richman would bounce back. You do not like to come first over in a major elimination but more often than not, you do things that are absolutely necessary. I

was confident that I would get the job done turning for home. He (Dutch Richman) found more when I asked him."

There is no question that Dutch Richman will be on song in The Pete Langley Memorial. A win tonight will set Dutch Richman up for a three-peat in the Tony Maurello in 2012 and emulate the feat that Big Tom accomplished.

Erv Miller is articulate and has a concise answer to even the most perplexing question. "That elimination win was confidence-restoring. The things that bothered Dutch Richman are not a concern any more. He came out of the elimination well and I am pleased with the way he is coming

up. Last year, he won the Orange And Blue in his fourth start. He's bigger, stronger and a lot mature now."

He was caught close to home in the elimination but He's So Hot lives to fight another day (evening) and it may be this evening. Due credit must be placed at He's So Hot's door for beating Dutch Richman twice this year. He has been in the vanguard of the sophomore division all year long. The clever Roger Welch knows how to get horses ready for the big races. Given the separation they enjoy from their adversaries, Dutch Richman and He's So Hot ought to dominate the finish of the Pete Langley Memorial.

## PETE LANGLEY MEMORIAL ICF 3-YEAR-OLD PACE

Year	Horse (Driver)	Time	Year	Horse (Driver)	Time
1970**	Doc's Jerry (Ken James)	2:08.3	1990	Gosox (Lavern Hostetler)	1:55
	Apple Customer (Russell Valles Key)	2:08.4	1991	Rana Diablo (George Kramer)	1:55.4
1971**	Mingo K. (Glen Kidwell)	2:09.4	1992	Wicked Brew (Doug Larsen)	1:55
	Poco Pilot (Jim Perrin)	2:09.1	1993	Broadway Circle (Daryl Busse)	1:54.3
1972	Away Amigo (Joe Marsh, Jr.)	2:04	1994	Without Reproach (Dave Magee)	1:55
1973	Robb Ranger (Jim Curran)	2:07.3	1995	Light Of The Moon (Andy Miller)	1:54.1
1974	Taurus Bomber (Connel Willis)	1:59.3	1996	Broadway Spirit (Dale Hiteman)	1:54.3
1975	Frosty Arden (Joe Marsh, Jr.)	2:00.1	1997	Hooked Ona Feeling (Joe Anderson)	1:52
1976	Time Breaker (Jim Dolbee)	2:00.3	1998	Big Tom (Joe Anderson)	1:51.4
1977	Cookie Snatcher (Eric Thorgren)	2:03	1999	Masterofhisdomain (Joe Anderson)	1:52
1978	Prairie Walnut (Daryl Busse)	1:59	2000	Andy's Golden Boy (Tony Morgan)	1:52.2
1979	Prairie Badger (Daryl Busse)	2:01.1	2001	Rattle And Rock (Ryan Anderson)	1:52.4
1980	Lucky Tut (Glen Kidwell)	2:00	2002	No Hassle (Dave Magee)	1:52
1981	Coffee Dan (Dan Shetler)	1:58	2003	Winchester's Best (Ron Marsh)	1:51.2
1982	Whizzer R. White (Dave Magee)	2:00.1	2004	Fox Valley Gallant (Eric Ledford)	1:51.1
1983	Pepper's Skipper (Jim Dolbee)	1:56.3	2005	Team Hutch (Eric Ledford)	1:51.1
1984	Missel Renvaeh (Lavern Hostetler)	1:57.3	2006	My Boy David (Andy Miller)	1:49.3*
1985	Hothead (Mike Borys)	1:56.1	2007	All Is Saidanddone (Andy Miller)	1:52.3
1986	Spensive (Doug Larsen)	1:55.4	2008	Mucho Sleazy (Mike Oosting)	1:50
1987	Perfect Mohawk (Dave Magee)	1:54.3	2009	Park Lane Deputy (Dale Hiteman)	1:51.3
1988	Steady Wizz (Dave Magee)	1:56.3	2010	Ima Bonasera (Dave Magee)	1:49.3*
1989	Son Of A Cup (Lavern Hostetler)	1:56.2			

\* Stakes Record

\*\*Raced in two divisions 1970 and 1971.

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# Fit & Fresh, Fox Valley Praline Dangerous in Grandma Ann

by Tom Krish

Trainer Kristopher Reynolds may have been thrust into the limelight as his Fox Valley Praline goes postward in the \$159,000 Grandma Ann Pace, a stakes event for sophomore fillies. It may appear that Reynolds lacks the experience to compete with more seasoned conditioners. The fact that Kris is the son of James Reynolds, a name Chicago fans ought to be familiar with, is a stature-enhancing consideration. In a conversation with me, Kris exuded confidence and spoke with precision and clarity.

Fox Valley Praline raced only two times in her freshman year. She made a winning debut. In her next start, she suffered what looked like a career-ending injury. Nursed back to good health for her three year-old campaign, Fox Valley Praline made an auspicious start with a victory in nw1/2 competition on July 20. Returning a week later, the Sportsmaster filly got an encore as the even money favorite. Having more on her plate in her next venture, the Kris Reynolds trainee paced into insurmountable trouble and finished fourth. Then came a hat trick that culminated in a going-away score in a division of the Grandma Ann elimination. Away alertly but parked to the first quarter, Fox Valley Praline took the two hole. Driver John Roberts, fully aware that he had the best filly in the race, was out and rolling coming into the lane. With a furlong to go, Fox Valley Praline led by two lengths and all Roberts had to do was keep her focused. It was a 1:52 mile and a splendid time.

A win in two starts as a two year-old raises the unavoidable question-did something go wrong with the filly and if so, what?

"We got her at the Walker sale. She was plagued by injury last year. A scar in her right front leg bothered her a great deal. She was sore and

endured a lot of pain. She won in her debut off an encouraging qualifier. Disaster struck in the next start. She broke her right hind pastern. Screws were inserted. Her freshman campaign came to a screeching halt," trainer Reynolds explained.

Reluctant to state how fast the winner needs to go to win the Grandma Ann, Kris Reynolds, however, had this to say. "My filly has a lot more to offer. I will be tickled pink if we can go 1:51 and change and win the big race. She has been doing it all easily."

John Roberts has formed a formidable partnership with Fox Valley Praline. "I have been driving for 12 years. I have driven around 500 winners. This year has been very productive. I have won free for all races but yet to win a stakes. Super Night gives me a great chance to win one," Roberts began.

"I have driven Fox Valley Praline as hard as I have driven any other horse and she gives me more every time. She is very good now and all the credit goes to Kris Reynolds. I have been leaving with her and she has been doing what I want her to and more. The one loss this year was a case of poor racing luck. I don't think she needs to be on or near the lead. She can be equally effective racing off the pace. The one point in my favor is that Fox Valley Praline has not been travelling and figures to be fighting fit."

I asked Roberts how confident he is. "My confidence level is high, very high indeed. I have no question that my filly will be equal to the task. All she needs is a clean trip. I am the one who'll be under pressure. I have to deliver and I have a willing partner."

Mystical MJ, from the Erv Miller yard, has won five races in a row. She did just enough to justify favoritism in her elimination. She is likely to be entrusted with the public purse. Maybe, Dominic Polito will say, "we'll leave it to the judge," as the horses flash past the wire in the Grandma Ann.

## GRANDMA ANN ICF 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Year	Horse (Driver)	Time
1975**	Lady Kingston (Daryl Busse)	2:01.2
1976***	Lady Kingston (Daryl Busse)	2:04.3
1977***	Egyptian Grande (Dan Shetler)	1:59.1
1978***	Egyptian Grande (Dan Shetler)	1:59.2
1979	Ozanna (Jack Hankins)	2:03.1
1980	Grandpa's Melanie (Walter Paisley)	2:02
1981	Rush Creek Havens (Gary Leonard)	1:58.1
1982	Poco Lady (Stanley Banks)	1:58.1
1983	Desperate Lady (Jim Curran)	1:57.3
1984	Jeanie's Puff (Stanley Banks)	1:58.4
1985	S. S. Strike (Dave Magee)	1:58
1986	Annie's Surprise (Mark O'Mara)	1:58.2
1987	Royal Reverie (Walter Paisley)	1:57.1
1988	Pan Fried (Marc Aubin)	1:56.4
1989	Lady At Work (Lavern Hostetler)	1:58.1
1990	R. J. Society (Dave Magee)	1:57
1991	Plum Peachy (Walter Paisley)	1:56.1
1992	She's My Bobo Too (Art Gregory)	1:56.2
1993	Ideal Angel (Ron Marsh)	1:54.1
1994	Fox Valley Ruffles (Ron Marsh)	1:55.4
1995	Ideal Lil (Neil Coleman)	1:55.3
1996	Our Last Kiss (Tony Morgan)	1:56.3
1997	Fox Valley Memory (Dave Magee)	1:52.4
1998	Ohyouprettything (Joe Anderson)	1:52
1999	Our Golden Promise (Joe Anderson)	1:53
2000	Apple Of My Eye (Eric Ledford)	1:53.1
2001	Determination Plus (Dave Magee)	1:53
2002	Fox Valley Leota (Donald Eash)	1:52.3
2003	Loyal Opposition (Andy Miller)	1:51.2
2004	Undeniably You (Dave Magee)	1:51.3
2005	Brianna Joy (Eric Ledford)	1:51.1
2006	Street Dancer (Dale Hiteman)	1:52.1
2007	Sportsfancy (Ryan Anderson)	1:51.1
2008	Townes Party Girl (Dave Magee)	1:51.4
2009	Fox Valley Topaz (Mike Oosting)	1:51.4
2010	Mystical Victress (Marcus Miller)	1:50.4*

\* Stakes Record

\*\*Fillies and mares, open.

\*\*\*Fillies and mares, Illinois bred.

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# Fox Valley Arrow Pointing towards win in Su Mac Lad Stake

by Tom Krish

Trainer Nelson Willis had won the American National Trot (for three year-old males) with GJ Photo Victory in late August and that stakes success had given the Photo Color gelding three wins in a row. On Sunday, September 11, GJ Photo Victory was in a conditioned event and was withdrawn because of an injury. Sunday's race would have served as a tune up for tonight's \$100,000 Su Mac Lad. The injury has not gone away and GJ Photo Victory will not be able to answer the starter's call in the big race. With GJ Photo Victory's exit, the \$100,000 Su Mac Lad for sophomore trotting colts and geldings has an open look.

Based on current form, Fox Valley Arrow, from Joel Smith's yard, may be fancied in the Su Mac Lad. A progeny of International Chip, Fox Valley Arrow has impressive numbers. He was 1-1-1 from 12 starts for earnings of \$19,155 last year. As a sophomore he has elevated his game to compile a record of 3-5-3 from 16 outings. He has bankrolled \$40,383. There is something more heartening than the statistics. After winning a nw2/3 event, Fox Valley Arrow came up with a dull effort in a Springfield contest on August 13. It was a let down. However, an opportunity presented itself on August 27. The scene was the Du Quoin State Fair. The race was the Pronto Don. Fox Valley Arrow was the half money favorite. It was a decisive win and the mile came in 1:55.4. Casey Leonard was in the sulky. It was first class redemption. Confidence had been regained. Now the Su Mac Lad beckons.

I chatted with Casey Leonard who has been

Fox Valley Arrow's driver on a regular basis. "I expected a big race on August 13 at Springfield. The starting gate was placed awkwardly and he got warm when we were let go. A bad step or two took away his enthusiasm. He could not get going. Look at the Pronto Don at Du Quoin. Fox Valley Arrow was in his elements," Casey explained.

Has Fox Valley Arrow been getting better every start and is he coming up right for Saturday's race? "He is strong, very strong. He does not get tired easily. I admit he may not be as quick as some of the other three year-olds but he can keep trotting. He is solid. I think his Du Quoin race was outstanding. I am confident about our chances in the Su Mac Lad."

There is also Powerful Charger from Gerald Hansen's stable. A winner of \$117,273 as a freshman with seven wins from 13 starts, Powerful Charger was expected to do better as a sophomore. Despite earning \$19,120 in 2011, Powerful Charger has won once in eight races. He needs to raise his game but he is capable of doing it.

Powerful Tom may have a chance if a thing or two goes wrong with the fancied contenders. A winner of only two races in 2010, Powerful Tom has won seven times from 13 starts this year. He was a drawing-away winner in a Du Quoin stakes. There is a lot that he has to find but he is showing all the positive signs.

With infusion of money in recent weeks, harness racing in Illinois is having a new lease on life. Super Night showcases our top horses, drivers and jockeys. As the 23rd edition comes up, there is hope on the horizon. There are exciting days ahead for all of us.

## SU MAC LAD ICF 3-YEAR-OLD TROT

Year	Purse	Horse (Driver)	Time
1977	\$34,050	Ellen J. Irish (Bill Roseboom)	2:07.1
1978	34,700	Prince Azos (Stan Banks)	2:04.2
1979	38,200	Echo Empire (Ken Rutherford)	2:07.4
1980	36,500	The Last Empire (Ken Rutherford)	2:04.3
1981	75,200	Cardinal Hick (Ken Rutherford)	2:02.3
1982	90,300	Iggy Magoo (Connel Willis)	2:02.2
1983	71,300	Riparound (Walter Paisley)	2:02.2
1984	60,500	Brotherly A (Dan Shetler)	2:02.3
1985	60,500	Jr's Chip (Walter Paisley)	2:00.2
1986	61,400	Brandenburg (Dave Magee)	2:00.1
1987	84,500	f-Gambi's Sugar (Walter Paisley)	2:02
1988	129,000	Spec's Boy, Greg Lance	2:00
1989	135,000	Mystical Bull (Doug Hamilton)	2:01.4
1990	125,000	Gambi's Speeder (Ron Marsh)	2:01.1
1991	125,000	Federal Arsenal (Dave Magee)	1:59.4
1992	130,000	Desert Prowler (Daryl Busse)	1:58
1993	100,000	Fox Valley Anabell (Dave Magee)	1:59.2
1994	110,000	Champion On Ice (Dave Magee)	1:56.3
1995	104,000	f-Sorce Ann (Dave Magee)	2:00.2
1996	95,600	Spitfire Ranger (Per Henriksen)	1:58.3
1997	94,000	Mike's A Mystery (Homer Hochstetler)	1:59.1
1998	100,000	Nutty Buddy (Homer Hochstetler)	1:58.1
1999	107,900	Million Dollar Bye (Joe Anderson)	1:57.2
2000	112,000	Plesac (Jim Curran)	1:55.2
2001	107,000	Hochauer (Tony Morgan)	1:57.4
2001	100,000	Sherrie's Kim (Tim Tetrick)	1:59.2
2003	100,000	Abra (Mike Oosting)	1:58.4
2004	108,000	Customize (Dave Magee)	1:56.2
2005	105,000	Sherrie's Delight (Tony Morgan)	1:55.3
2006	115,000	Litigator (Ryan Anderson)	1:56
2007	100,000	Before He Cheats (Jason Dillander)	1:55
2008	120,000	Maxter (Brent Holland)	1:56.4
2009	105,000	Dr. McDreamy (Homer Hochstetler)	1:54.4*
2010	105,000	Powerful Speed (Todd Warren)	1:55.3

\* Stakes Record  
(f) indicates filly.

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# Track Record Holder the One to Beat in Lorna Propes Stake

by Tom Krish

There is an overwhelming favorite in the Lorna Propes Pace. I will go so far as to say that Mystical Victress jumps off the page. The \$122,000 Lorna Propes is for mares who are four and older. To students of Super Night history, let me say that the Lorna Propes Stakes was once called the Ann Vonian Pace.

It is another chapter in the voluminous Erv Miller-Marcus Miller success story. By Sportmaster out of Speakheravalentine, a Jenna's Beach Boy mare, Mystical Victress has a record that will bring a smile to the face of the most sardonic of training characters. In 2010, her sophomore campaign, Mystical Victress won 10 times from 18 starts for earnings of \$171,668. The Erv Miller trainee has been no less spectacular in 2011. She has made seven visits to the winner's circle in 12 trips postward and has made \$79,614. She has won at Springfield, Indiana Downs and at Balmoral Park. Her travels have not diminished her appetite for winning.

A paragraph about the Lorna Propes elimination that Mystical Victress won last Sunday. She was bet to the exclusion of her rivals and was 30 cents on the dollar. Third and second and in striking range, the Sportsmaster mare thundered to the top at the eighth pole and won by three lengths. The time was a sparkling 1:50. That was a Balmoral Park track record for four year-old mares and it was a heartening precursor to tonight's final.

Mystical Victress won the Grandma Ann last year. A Lorne Propes crown will be another

feather in her already heavily-feathered cap. There is no doubt that the odds on Mystical Victress will be in deep 'odds on' territory.

Marcus Miller chooses his words carefully. The 22 year-old is measured in his responses. "Mystical Victress is exceptional. She can do anything you want. You put her on the lead. You want to come off the pace and she will be ready. She is going one better every start. In her recent wins, I knew I had the best horse and drove accordingly. Here's the key to Mystical Victress. I'll let you in on it. She does not like to get beat," said Miller.

"I have had three Super Night winners. This is my third year of professional driving and the most productive. I have driven around 1,100 winners in my career. I have two chances to get repeat wins. Dutch Richman won the Orange Blue last year and has a big chance in the Pete Langley Memorial this year. Mystical Victress took the 2010 Grandma Ann and is the leading contender in Saturday's Lorna Propes. I am looking forward to a Super Night," Marcus said.

Erv Miller has an opinion or two about his prize pupil. "Yes, she is stronger and she is older. She is showing a lot of maturity. There is more willingness to listen to the driver. When it comes to taking care of her, she is very easy to train. That 1:50 mile in the elimination, there may be a faster time in the final. She can do more if it's necessary. I cannot be more pleased."

Mystical Marker Farms and Peggy Hood, longtime supporters of harness racing in Illinois, jointly own Mystical Victress. The

four year-old mare has done everything asked of her so far. An Illinois-bred winning a major event on Super Night should be a matter of immense gratification to any Illinois-based owner. Given the dominance she has enjoyed in her division, it is easy to make a strong case for her in the Lorna Propes. I will sum it up by saying that I will not oppose her.

## LORNA PROPEs

(Formerly Ann Vonian Stake)

### ICF FILLIES & MARES PACE

Year	Horse (Driver)	Time
1989	Dinero Two (Lavern Hostetler)	1:56.4
1990	Sure Foot Kristi (Merv Chupp)	1:57.3
1991	Jerrah Bell (Lemoine Svendsen)	1:55.2
1992	Beware Of Lady (Lavern Hostetler)	1:55.2
1993	Semalu (Lavern Hostetler)	1:55.1
1994	Ideal Angel (Dave Magee)	1:55
1995	Jamie R. (Tom Harmer)	1:56
1996	Sharon Mak (Dan Knox)	1:56.4
1997	Shady Veil (Jim Curran)	1:53.1
1998	Shady Veil (Randy Jacobs)	1:52.4
1999	Kgbrina Willowbee (Tim Curtin)	1:53.1
2000	Rain Dance Kim (Dave Magee)	1:53.1
2001	Incredible Tillie (Dave Magee)	1:52.1
2002	Long Island Lolita (Tony Morgan)	1:52
2003	Parklane Powerful (Ron Marsh)	1:52
2004	Parklane Powerful (Ron Marsh)	1:51.1
2005	Loyal Opposition (Andy Miller)	1:49.4*
2006	Loyal Opposition (Andy Miller)	1:51.3
2007	Bow Wow Wine (Brandon Simpson)	1:52
2008	Martha Maxine (Andy Miller)	1:50.1
2009	Ms. Maggie (Andy Miller)	1:49.4*
2010	Native Hotspur (Mike Oosting)	1:50.2

\*Stakes Record

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# Zumba Mouse Looks to Scurry by Foes in Lady Ann Reed

by Tom Krish

Three year-old trotting fillies take center stage in the \$103,000 Lady Ann Reed and if her victory in the elimination last Sunday is any criterion, Zumba Mouse, an Erv Miller pupil, is likely to be accorded the favorite's role. Trainer Erv Miller made a rare appearance as a driver and the Armbro Tropicana filly was at the helm from the start. A 58 half was an advantage that Zumba Mouse, the 9/10 chalk, would not relinquish en route to a 1:56.3 victory. The winning margin was one length.

Unraced as a freshman, Zumba Mouse has made 11 starts in 2011. She has won six races for a \$49,350 bankroll. Zumba Mouse has gone off stride twice in her last four trips to the gate and that should make her connections and supporters pause and think. On August 18 at Springfield, much to the chagrin of those who had made her a 3/10 favorite, Zumba Mouse broke leaving to take herself out of the reckoning. A 2/5 choice on August 18 again at Springfield, the three year-old filly quickly erased the painful memory of her loss. She won in splendid isolation in a time of 1:57.2. Then came a stakes event at the Du Quoin State Fair. With Marcus Miller at the controls, Zumba Mouse was bet down to 7/10 in the 11-trotter field. She was about four lengths off the lead with a quarter to go and went off stride. She finished 11th and last. In the Lady Ann Reed elimination, enthusiasm was restrained by reality and Zumba Mouse was available at 9/10. When the dust settled, Zumba Mouse had behaved in exemplary fashion and had come away victorious.

Erv Miller spoke. "Young trotting fillies are always a cause for concern. I wanted to reassure myself that she would go into the Lady Ann Reed final with no problems. Yes, I like to give my driving skills a test now and then. The elimination served two purposes. I satisfied myself that I will have a fit filly for the big race. The race gave me the confidence I can hold my own in a competitive situation. In Saturday's final, I am turning over the lines to Marcus. I will play only the training role." "There is no doubting her ability. If she gets a flat mile, she will have a big chance," Miller stated.

There were two Lady Ann Reed elimination divisions last Sunday. Fox Valley Ruffian, trained by Randy Tuftie, won the other division. Kyle Husted charged to the lead and trotted on to win readily. That was the fourth win this year for the Vaporize filly. After being winless in 11 starts as a freshman in 2010, Fox Valley Ruffian has been in the top three 12 times in 14 starts. These are some great numbers. She has a propensity for leaving and is peaking at the right time if her win in Sunday's elimination is any indication.

With Marcus Miller, Kyle Wilfong, Casey Leonard and Kyle Husted handling some of the better fancied contenders, the 23rd edition of Super Night may be heralding the changing of the guard. The complexion of Chicago's driving colony has changed dramatically. The old names pop up here and there but for the most part, the new generation is in control. Marcus Miller is winning races at a feverish clip. He is already over the 1,000 mark in his career.

Can Zumba Mouse roar and give impetus

to the Miller juggernaut? Will Fox Valley Ruffian come up with another big mile to show who the boss is in the sophomore filly trotting division? Let the Lady Ann Reed give us the answers.

## LADY ANN REED ICF 3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

Year	Purse	Horse (Driver)	Time
1984	\$31,000	Par Baby (Sterling Buch)	2:02
1985	40,000	Velvet Jade (Gary Leonard)	2:02.2
1986	52,400	Kentucky Winna (Merle Finn)	2:03.3
1987	56,500	Steel Gaited (Brian Pelling)	2:00.4
1988	121,000	Jano Rose (Tom Graham)	2:04
1989	110,000	Blubelle (Dave Magee)	2:05.4
1990	117,900	Jo Belle (Dave Magee)	2:03.1
1991	114,100	Miss Speedway (Jerry Sowash)	2:01
1992	112,000	Talk About Good (Dave Magee)	2:00.1
1993	111,500	Never Tire Me (Neil Coleman)	1:59.4
1994	106,000	Fox Valley Evita (Dave Magee)	2:02.1
1995	102,500	Sorce Ann (Dave Magee)	1:59.3
1996	91,000	**Gumcorner Gal (Connel Willis)	2:02.4
1997	90,000	Cardinal Lexie (Dave Magee)	1:59.4
1998	95,000	Aunt Fernie, Connel Willis	1:59.3
1999	105,900	Look At Those Eyes (Neil Coleman)	1:58.2
2000	111,900	Silent Wings (Doug Hamilton)	1:58.3
2001	100,000	Vivacious Victory (Dale Hiteman)	1:57.1
2002	104,000	Smokey Bear, Dave Magee	1:57.3
2003	100,000	Southern Victoriak (Art Gregory)	1:57.3
2004	115,000	Fox Valley Flan (Andy Miller)	1:55*
2005	105,000	Victor's Pursuit (Dave Magee)	1:55.3
2006	117,000	Hi-Tri (Lavern Hostetler)	1:57
2007	100,000	Star Swagger (Dale Hiteman)	1:57.4
2008	120,000	My Birthday (Jamaica Patton)	1:57.2
2009	115,000	Miss Vickie (Brandon Simpson)	1:56.2
2010	100,000	Southern Maebelle (B. Carpenter)	1:57.2

\* Stakes Record

\*\* -Finished second, placed first.

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# Well To Do Guru Seeks to Maintain Dominance in Aged Ranks

by Tom Krish

Well To Do Guru is a seven year-old. The Richess Hanover gelding who is out of a Guru mare, Guru's Girl, is the pride of the Terry Leonard stable. A look at his numbers will make it abundantly clear that Well To Do Guru is a 'well to do' horse. The James P Gorman-owned gelding has made 114 starts. He has won 27 times, been second 27 times and has taken the third spot 20 times. The bankroll stands at \$453,708. The Tony Maurello Pace, once known as the Dan Patch, is for horses three years-old and up and carries a \$120,000 purse. There is a deserving favorite in the Tony Maurello and it is the venerable Well To Do Guru.

"This year probably has been his best year. It is not finished yet. He has been consistent. His numbers are remarkable. It has been wonderful taking care of him. He is not a nervous horse. His temperament is what makes him special. As a baby, he had a breaking problem. Talking of physical problems, he has had some on and off but nothing serious enough to affect his racing. We have had a schedule that has not imposed a burden on him," Terry Leonard told me.

In 17 starts in 2011, Well To Do Guru has won eight races. In the Illinois-bred ranks, the Terry Leonard ward has been unstoppable. On August 26, two races back, Well To Do Guru was the 10 to 2 favorite in Maywood Park's Egyptian Stake. Hitting the front and setting fast fractions, Well To Do Guru came home a four-length winner. In the Maurello elimination on

September 10, the second favorite at 9/5 when pitted against Power Of A Moment, the 2009 Orange And Blue (colts and geldings) champion, Well To Do Guru took charge as the gate opened. A 27.3 first quarter was followed by a 57.1 half. That was the breather that Casey Leonard must have been praying for. Racing past the three-quarter mark in 1:24.4, Well To Do Guru stayed on to win by two comfortable lengths in 1:51.

"We'll race him as long as he stays healthy and races competitively. Nothing is set in stone. Mr Gorman's willingness to sit through difficult times has made my job easy. He makes the decisions and I do the training. Casey, my son, understands Well To Do Guru very well and it has been a great partnership," Terry Leonard averred.

I want you, the fans, to know what Casey Leonard thinks. "Well To Do Guru has tremendous speed. He is an easy horse to drive," Casey began.

I asked Casey why, in recent races, he has elected to set the fractions. "At one time, he was quite effective racing off the pace. In the recent past, he has been dominant in his division. I realized I needed to use his speed to advantage. Everything has worked out well. I won the elimination easily in 1:51. Yes, we could go faster in the final. If necessary, I'll be quite prepared to rally from behind. If I win, this will be my first win in a major Super Night event."

Doubletrouble, winner of the Tony

Maurello Pace in 2010, is back to defend his title. After trying the greener pastures out East, Doubletrouble, Brian Carpenter up, won his elimination in taking style.

Power Of A Moment headed the beaten brigade in Well To Do Guru's elimination and should be fitter for tonight's big test. The well-travelled four year-old carries the Miller banner.

Is there a chink in Well To Do Guru's armor? Can Power Of A Moment find more and turn the tables? Will Doubletrouble be able to make a successful defense? We will find out.

## TONY MAURELLO

(Formerly the Dan Patch)

### ICF 3-YEAR-OLDS AND UP

Year	Horse (Driver)	Time
1989	Eight Twenty Three (Dave Magee)	1:55.3
1990	Buck And Wing (Walter Paisley)	1:56.1
1991	Dirty Deeds (Dale Hiteman)	1:54
1992	Favorite Society (Ron Marsh)	1:54.3
1993	Ruffian Dancer (Dave Maxwell)	1:53.4
1994	Broadway Jazz (Joe Marsh, Jr)	1:53.4
1995	Broadway Preview (Tony Morgan)	1:54.1
1996	Broadway Preview (Tony Morgan)	1:53.3
1997	Sjoken In The Hole (Dave Magee)	1:53.2
1998	Fox Valley Arsenic (Brent Holland)	1:51.2
1999	Big Tom (Joe Anderson)	1:50
2000	Pause To Admire (Brent Holland)	1:51
2001	Masterofhisdomain (Dave Magee)	1:51.4
2002	Ideal Towne (Brent Holland)	1:50.2
2003	Ideal Towne (Brent Holland)	1:50
2004	Taser Gun (Andy Miller)	1:50.2
2005	King Johnny (Tim Tetrick)	1:51
2006	King Johnny (Tim Tetrick)	1:50.1
2007	King Johnny (Tim Tetrick)	1:50
2008	Booze Cruzin (Sam Widger)	1:49.2*
2009	Mucho Sleazy (Andy Miller)	1:49.3
2010	Doubletrouble (Brian Carpenter)	1:50.1

\*Stakes Record

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