

OLDER HORSES SHINE IN BIGGEST STAKES OF THE YEAR

Maybe it was coming down from over a mile high in altitude to barely above sea level, but whatever it was, So Big Is Better and DC Willeys Song both looked much the best in their wins recently at Delaware Park.

On September 5, five mares lined up in the \$40,000 1 1/8 mile Buzz Brauning Arabiian Distaff H. (G1). All were local horses except DC Willeys Song, who was coming off a win in the Soaring Eagle Ranch Distaff S. (G3) at Arapahoe Park in Colorado. The 7-year-old mare was unhurried early, but made a sweeping, impressive move around the far turn swallowing her rivals with every stride. She pulled away from the rest of the field with ease under steady urging from rider Travis Wales. The battle was for second place

between pace setters Royal Richess and Jewell AA. It was Royal Richess who held the place spot by a half-length over Jewell AA with Charich and RB Big N Rich completing the field. The final time was 2:06.81 over a fast track.

Bred in Texas by Dan and Claudia Spears, DC Willeys Song (Doran SBFAR - Wibwilcca by Wilkolak) is owned by Jon and Krista Henningsgard and trained by Lynn Ashby. With this being her first grade 1 victory, DC Willeys Song's lifetime race record stands at 4/23(7-6-3)3-6, \$104,205.

So Big Is Better has been making a comeback, and at age 11, owner/trainer Mark Powell still had a lot of faith in the nearly white stallion. However, it was the 3-year-old standout F Sixteen who was instilled as the heavy favorite in the Delaware Park Arabian Classic H. (G1) run at 1 1/4 miles with a purse of \$50,000.

So Big Is Better stayed well off the pace and well off the rail on the sloppy race track. Through the final turn he was in the middle of the racetrack. Jockey Robert Paz rallied him to take the lead a furlong out and then drove clear to win by 3 lengths in a time of 2:21.85. Pacesetter Thess Is Awesome also stayed off the rail. He gave way on the far turn then came back to loom a solid thread in midstretch, but couldn't hold off the winner. RB Rich ran down rivals in deep stretch to gain the show spot. He was followed by Our Princess, Fearsome, RB Code, RB Brilliant and F Sixteen, who appeared not to like the off track.

So Big Is Better (Burning Sand x WW Mirror Image, by ZT Ali Baba) now has 28 wins from 64 starts and earnings approaching \$400,000. He was bred in Virginia by James and Dianne Morris. At age 11, So Big Is Better is the oldest horse of any racing breed to win a graded stakes in the United States.



DC Willeys Song ships in from Colorado to impressively win the Buzz Brauning Arabiian Distaff H. (G1). Photo copyright Hoofprints Inc.

THE INSIDE TRACK

YOUR GUIDE TO ARABIAN RACING
AT DELAWARE PARK

SEPTEMBER, 2015

DELAWARE PARK'S LEADING RUNNERS THROUGH 9/16/15

3 YEAR OLD COLTS AND GELDINGS

- 1 UPTOWN DANNYS BOY 4(3-1-0) \$24,500
- 2 RB MADJYK MAN 6(0-2-3) \$9,100
- 3 EASTER MAN BURNING 2(0-2-0)0-1 \$8,000
- 4 AMBUSH AA ALLEGRO 2(0-1-0) \$2,125
- 5 LEGACY AA TRI 2(0-0-0) \$725

3 YEAR OLD FILLIES AND MARES

- 1 JEWELL AA 4(2-1-1)1-1 \$25,400
- 2 RB BIG N RICH 3(1-1-0)0-1 \$11,200
- 3 RB ROYALE MADAME 1(1-0-0) \$6,000
- 4 LADY HAHA 3(0-0-2) \$3,400
- 5 MADGICALL 3(0-0-1)0-1 \$2,450

4 YEAR OLD COLTS AND GELDINGS

- 1 F SIXTEEN 4(3-0-0)1-0 \$31,625
- 2 DESERT HONOUR 7(2-1-0) \$17,400
- 3 FEARSOME 6(1-2-0) \$13,825
- 4 LAZUR HESS 6(0-0-4)0-1 \$9,855
- 5 FRONT ROWE 3(1-0-0) \$7,275

4 YEAR OLD FILLIES AND MARES

- 1 TAYLORS TOUCHOF CLASS 4(2-1-1)0-1 \$19,300
- 2 RB FRYNCH BROAD 1(1-0-0)1-0 \$18,000
- 3 CHARICH 5(1-0-2) \$12,500
- 4 ALL N ALL 1(0-1-0)0-1 \$6,000
- 5 THROUGHLEAP 3(0-1-0) \$5,050

OLDER HORSES

- 1 SO BIG IS BETTER 2(2-0-0)1-0 \$42,000
- 2 QUICK AND RICH 5(2-2-0) \$25,900
- 3 THESS IS AWESOME 4(0-2-0)0-1 \$15,205
- 4 A ONE 5(1-0-1) \$8,300
- 5 RB RICH 1(0-0-1)0-1 \$5,500

OLDER MARES

- 1 ROYAL RICHES 4(1-2-1)0-1 \$24,485
- 2 DC WILLEYS SONG 1(1-0-0)1-0 \$24,000
- 3 OUR PRINCESS 2(1-0-0) \$13,800
- 4 DHAAN 2(0-0-2) \$3,850
- 5 PICK ME 2(0-0-1) \$1,975

Statistics courtesy of the Arabian Jockey Club.



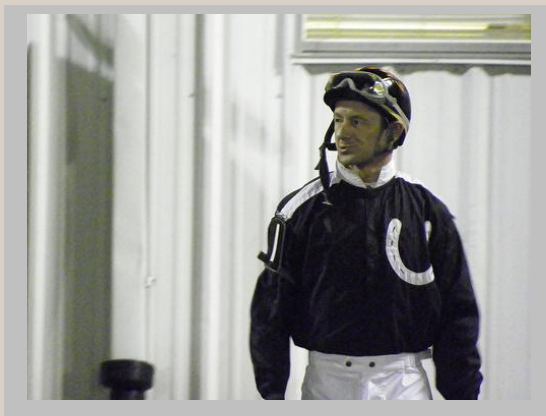
Fun Fact: Darley Champions Royal Atheena (pictured above) and Wibwilcca (pictured here) both raced against each other. Now their daughters Royal Richess and DC Willeys Song respectively are the top two leading older mares at Delaware Park.

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SEPTEMBER, 2015

WILLIAM HOLLICK CONTINUES RECOVERY



William Hollick, once a top Arabian jockey, continues to recover from injuries he suffered as a Delaware Park valet.

William Hollick, a valet at Delaware Park who was badly injured in a saddling accident last month, had surgery to repair a broken jaw, according to his wife, Kassi.

Hollick was at Christiana Medical Center in Newark, Delaware. In addition to the broken jaw, Hollick suffered broken ribs, a punctured lung, a broken collarbone, and broken teeth.

According to Kassi Hollick, a plate and screws will be used to stabilize his jaw. No other surgeries are currently scheduled, although they do have follow-up appointments with orthopedic and oral surgeons.

Current Delaware Park Track Statistics

*Current through September 17, 2015
Courtesy of the Arabian Jockey Club*

Races 26

Unique Starters 58

Starts 159

Unique Owners 27

Average Field Size 6

Stakes Races 5

Purses \$170,400 (average \$34,080)

Handle \$415,672 (average \$83,134)

Overnight Races 21

Purses \$266,750 (average \$12,702)

Handle \$1,616,061 (average \$76,955)

The Delaware Park meet runs through October 17. Arabians will continue to be offered two races per week for the best overnight purses in the country. The stakes schedule is complete for 2015.

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***So Big Is Better* charges down the middle of the track to win the Delaware Park Arabian Classic H. (G1) over *Thess Is Awesome* (pictured on the rail) and *RB Rich*. *So Big Is Better* went on to narrowly defeat *Paddy's Day* in the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan Arabian Cup S. (G2) on September 19 at Los Alamitos.**

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WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE RACES!

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