

Dancing With The Stars

By Gordon Waterstone



Two-year-old filly pacer Silveresque continues to be part of a string of top performers produced by the mare Escrow Danser, winning this Elite division at Saginaw July 10 in 1:57.4. (Sarah DiPonio Photo)

JUDY Ekstrand and Ron Cole's Pebble Creek Farm has certainly refuted the adage that you can go to the well once too often. The pair have bred their mare Escrow Danser several times over the past 10 years—most often to Admirals Galley—and have always found success.

Escrow Danser never made it to the races but the now 21-year-old broodmare has become arguably one of the most productive dams ever in the state of Michigan. In a rare accomplishment, Escrow Danser produced two winners in the Elite Series contested at Saginaw Harness Raceway Sunday evening, July 10: Silveresque and Klondike Kid.

Both the 2-year-old filly Silveresque and the 3-year-old colt pacer Klondike Kid were sired by Admirals Galley. It is a breeding that Ekstrand simply says "is a good cross," and one that earlier produced the mare Blizzard Babe p, 1:54.1f (\$557,184). And to show there is no favoritism in Escrow Danser, she has also produced the Cams Catch gelding Babe's Bro p, 1:54.3f (\$103,662) and Withallprobability p, 1:49.2 (\$223,750), the third fastest performer by sire Keystone Raider.

On Sunday, Carl Putnam directed the gray-colored Silveresque to a career-best 1:57.4 victory in her \$15,980 Elite division, an effort followed one race later by a 1:54.1 effort by Klondike Kid and driver Eric Goodell in a \$15,980 split.

Silveresque was the \$32,500 sale top-per at a yearling sale managed by Pebble Creek Farm. She was purchased by Wayne and Jean Carter, with Wayne doing the training. After a fourth-place finish in her qualifying debut, Silveresque went the pari-mutuel route, winning a maiden contest at Saginaw on July 1 in 2:00. She lowered that mark by more than two seconds in the opening round of four Elite Series legs for 2 year olds.

As for Klondike Kid, he set a Saginaw track record for his division with his victory. With Goodell driving, Klondike Kid left, yielded the front to Itchy and driver Vince Copeland, then wore that one down in the stretch to win by three-quarters of a length.

The win was the third straight for the gray colt after coming up empty in his first five starts of the year. Last year he had seven wins in 11 attempts, includ-

ing victories in the Wolverine Futurity at Holland and the Spartan Futurity in Midland.

Trained by Marie St. Charles, Klondike Kid is owned by Larry Lyle's LRL Racing.

Ekstrand said Escrow Danser currently has a weanling full sister to Silveresque and Klondike Kid at her side, and she is back in foal—to who else but Admirals Galley.

Another big effort was posted Sunday by The Lighter Side, who is now a perfect three for three in his career after capturing the \$15,700 Elite Series division for 2-year-old colt and gelding pacers. After romping by 2 1/4 and 8 3/4 lengths in his first two baby races, respectively, The Lighter Side scored in this contest by 1 1/2 lengths, lowering his mark to 1:57 and setting a national season's mark in the process.

"He's a nice colt. He's trained good and has an awesome gait," said winning trainer-driver Mike Micallef about the gelded son of Browning Blue Chip-Ayr Dragon. "I trained him in 2:02, last half in :58 at Windsor Raceway before I qualified him."

Micallef said he purchased The Lighter Side at a yearling sale for \$5,500 for owner Bob Battiatia from breeder Thomas Cole.

"Bob had a Browning Blue Chip filly last year and he wanted another Browning Blue Chip," he said. "I told him if he didn't want to buy him I was going to buy him." ■

ELITE SERIES WINNERS

2FT	Bumblebzbetty-Boop (Perfect Spiral)	2:04.4
2FT	Premium Vintage (Super Vintage)	2:04.4
2CT	Edon Road Rocky (Jolie's Cha-Ching)	2:01.4
2CT	Emery Ho (Well Directed)	2:03
2FP	Silveresque (Admirals Galley)	1:57.4
2CP	The Lighter Side (Browning Blue Chip)	1:57
3FT	Small Favors (Keystone Nordic)	1:58
3CT	Just Walter (Darvin)	1:58.4
3FP	Dayzee Dukes (Admirals Galley)	1:56.3
3CP	Klondike Kid (Admirals Galley)	1:54.1