

Big Red Mike Cruises to a Royal Victory



It has been run 150 times previously. In fact it is the longest running stakes race in Canada tracing its beginnings back to 1860 when Queen Victoria forwarded 50 guineas to the winning connections of a horse called Don Juan. It is the 1st and most prestigious leg of the Canadian Triple Crown for Thoroughbreds. But July 4th 2010 was special even by Queens Plate standards. On this day a packed Woodbine racetrack endured very warm temperatures to see Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II present the Queen's Plate trophy to the winning horse's connections.

Despite having won the Plate Trial, the Terra farms bred Big Red Mike went off as the 3rd choice of the betters. This day however belonged to Big Red Mike with jockey Eurico Rosa da Silva aboard. Setting the pace from the beginning, "Mike" held off challenges from Hotep and Roan Inish to win by one and a half lengths. The triumphant winning jockey was joined in the winners circle by breeder and owners Dom & Frank Romeo and co-trainers Nick and Martha Gonzalez who had the thrill of meeting Her Majesty the Queen.

Nick and Martha Gonzalez are used to the winners circle but winning the Plate and meeting the Queen was a thrill they will not soon forget. "I'm still trying to take in what has happened to us" Nick told Dan Irwin and Vern Avery of Brooks Feeds who congratulated him on the win.

Nick was very quick to share the credit with wife and co-trainer Martha and son Nick Jr. Nick quickly pointed out that "It's a team effort and every one plays a part including the Vet, the farrier, the grooms and the feed supplier." As for his feeding program Nick had this to say. ***"I was encouraged to try a Brooks feed after talking to another trainer. Since then my horses have blossomed, mainly on Pro Sport Plus and we've had our best years ever. Our success speaks for itself that the feeding program works. I'm very happy with Brooks Feeds.*** We train 70 plus horses between Woodbine and Fort Erie. The terrific service we get from ***Bob Peatling's Triple Crown Feeds*** at Woodbine and ***Peter Martin of Minor Bros.*** at Fort Erie is very important to us."

The mill staff at the Brooks plant in Port Perry sent Nick and Martha a video hurrah to show how proud they are of the Plate win. As Nick said "it's a team effort" and that certainly applies to Brooks Feeds as well. The mill staff, the sales and administration staff, and the hard working members of Triple Crown Feeds and Minor Bros. all extend our congratulations to the owners, trainers and other connections of ***Big Red Mike.***



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