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Peppers Pride Explodes to 19th Consecutive Win

STORY BY ERIC ALWAN

The unbeaten racing star Peppers Pride exploded in mid-stretch to earn a record 19th consecutive victory in the \$125,000 New Mexico State Racing Commission Handicap at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino on Sunday.

Racing as the 4-5 favorite, Peppers Pride placed her unblemished 18-race streak on the line in the 6 furlong stakes race written for New Mexico-bred fillies and mares. Under jockey Carlos Madeira, the dynamic five-year-old mare responded with a bold move passing the quarter mile marker. The big favorite made up over 5-lengths on the front running Negotiablafections.

Peppers Pride tore through the stretch and engulfed Negotiablafections with over a furlong to go in the feature. With long sweeping strides, the New Mexico-bred legend rumbled to the finish line to win by an expansive five and three-quarter lengths. She and Madeira covered the 6 furlongs in a quick 1:09.54.

Madeira said in the winner's circle, "First, I would like to give thanks to Joseph Allen and Joel Marr. We had a great trip. She exploded late when I asked her. She gave me everything I could ever want." Madeira has been aboard Peppers Pride for all 19 of her career wins.

Peppers Pride has remained unbeaten dating back to her debut win at Ruidoso Downs on July 16, 2005. The durable bay mare holds the North American Thoroughbred

record for consecutive wins. Loyal backers of Peppers Pride received a generous \$3.80 to win considering her perfect record.

Winning trainer Joel Marr commented on Peppers Pride's possible retirement. "It going to be hard to decide after such a terrific race. I want to thank everybody who has supported her from the \$2 bettors, to the grooms and my family. She is the best horse I have ever touched."

New Mexico's wonder horse is owned by restaurateur Joseph Allen of Abilene, Texas. Peppers Pride earned \$75,000 pushing her lifetime earnings to \$1,066,085. She is the third New Mexico-bred racehorse to earn over \$1 million. Rocky Gulch was the first New Mexico-bred Thoroughbred to earn over \$1 million.

Negotiablafections ran a huge race for trainer Todd Fincher. The four-year-old bay filly sported a three-race win streak from Zia Park. She set a strong pace under jockey Alfredo Juarez, Jr. The duo led into the top of the stretch but could not hold off Peppers Pride. ■



New Mexico Horse Breeder