

Bull Run Hunt Point to Point 5-3-2009

Normally the Bull Run Hunt Point to Point is a festive occasion with a country fair atmosphere and something for everyone. This year on Sunday, May 3 the rains came and doused many of the activities, but a hardy group was on hand in spite of the conditions. This group included the horsemen, who put on a good show.

Many of the Virginia Point to Point Circuit's championships had already been decided before the Bull Run races, but the awards for the leading trainer and leading novice rider over fences were still up for grabs. Entering this final day of competition Doug Fout held a ½ point advantage in the trainer's division over Dot Smithwick, and Billy Santoro was ahead of Jacob Roberts by 2 points in the novice rider division. The results at Bull Run could easily reverse these standings, and at the end of the day that's what happened.

Dot Smithwick had a big day winning three races – one on the flat and two over the timber course. These wins earned her the leading trainer title for the sixth time. The opener on the card was a flat race for novice riders, and the series leader Bruce Daley added to his point total with a walkover win on Gary Baker's Cozy Lane. There was more competition in the timber races as the two races attracted seven starters, the most ever at Bull Run.

The J. Carl Kincheloe Memorial is the meet's feature race, and three starters went to the post. Donna Rogers' Glide King set the early pace under Nick Carter, with Indian Run Farm's Endless Mountain (Jacob Roberts) and DMC Stable's Crimson Lode (Michael Cooney) close behind. As the field went down the backside the second time around, Jacob Roberts let out a notch on Endless Mountain, and he quickly took control. A furlong separated Endless Mountain and Glide King at the finish, and Crimson Lode pulled up. This result assured both Dot Smithwick and Jacob Roberts their championships.

The restricted maiden timber race drew a four horse field of non-winners, who had not started over timber prior to the first of the year. In fact this race was the first start for three of the runners, and their inexperience was evident. In the early going the lead changed several times, but with a quarter mile to run Donna Rogers' Big Breeze (Nick Carter) separated from the field and coasted home ten lengths before Rehilian Stable's First Effort (Sam Cockburn). Bisque D'Jour (Jacob Roberts) and Tumultuous (Darren O'Brien) were third and fourth. This was Nick Carter's second win and Dot Smithwick's third.

Warren Owens' Xoxoxo has been knocking on the door throughout the spring, and finally after five starts they let him in. Nick Carter sent him to the front immediately and the other two starters could not pose a serious threat as the winning margin was nine lengths.

A five horse field went to the start in the open flat race, but at the finish EMO Stable's Sweep Domino was all alone. With three furlongs to go Roddy MacKenzie asked Sweep Domino to accelerate. They quickly went out of sight but it was obvious who was going to be on top when they came into view at the head of the stretch. Sweep Domino was all alone at the head of the stretch and drew off to win by 12 lengths.

The draft horse race is a crowd pleaser as the participants are almost always members of Bull Run Hunt. Kathy Broaddus' Corian extended his undefeated streak to three by winning the light draft race under Sarah Frederick. Sam Cockburn on Lilyberry LLC's LB Ruby almost pulled off an upset, but Corian prevailed by a half length. In the heavy division Lani Newcomb's Granite was the defending champion, but Nicole Villers and Sessuela were in it to win it. They upset Sarah Frederick and Granite by five lengths.

Bull Run member, Scarlet Lovett has had a good year riding in junior races in Virginia and Maryland. She's won seven races and added two more wins by winning a walkover in the junior field masters chase with her Untamed Hero and by winning the quarter horse race on Fred and Christine Getty's Izzy's Clus Kid by 15 lengths over Lacey Heider and Al's Terminator. Al's Terminator stuck with Izzy's Clus Kid in the early going but bore out in the final furlong and was no match for the winner.