

Colonial Downs August 2, 2020

The steeplechase season at Colonial Downs started August 2 with three maiden hurdle races. Two of these were for colts and geldings and the third was a maiden race for fillies and mares.

In the first race Irvin S. Naylor's A Silent Player had never raced under rules or at the point to points. He was a true maiden, but he was in the hands of all time leading trainer, Jonathan Sheppard. No one prepares a horse as well as Sheppard; so it was not a surprise when he won in a hotly contested race.. A Silent Player, Fearnought Farm LLC's Princeville (Barry Foley) and Woodslane Farm's Lunaire (Michael Mitchell) all three were closing well after being off the early pace. These horses were tightly bunched in the stretch, but A Silent Player prevailed in a driving finish by 1 ¾ lengths over Princeville with Lunaire fading to third after leading entering the stretch.

When the flag dropped in the second race owner/trainer Allison Fulmer's The Happy Giant dwelt at the start and was well off the pace near the tail end of the field. He overcame the slow start and was making up serious ground around the last turn. He came flying down the stretch and scored a neck over Hurricana Farm's Sherkali, who had led into the stretch. Riverdee Stable's Lemonade Thursday (Michael Mitchell) closed well and was only beaten by a neck for second.

A field of nine fillies and mares contested the third race, which was won by Beverly R. Steinman's Go as You Please (Barry Foley). She stalked the early leader, Flying Elvis Stable's Over to You (Archie MacAuley) the first time around. She took command around the final turn and won driving by 3 1/4 lengths. She held off Jonathan Sheppard's Penitence (Gerard Galligan), who rallied to be second and Bonnie Rye Stable's Flametta (Ross Geraghty) closed well to be third.