



MARVELOUS MARIO OPENS GAP IN HASTINGS JOCKEY STANDINGS

Vancouver, B.C. (May 21/08) – Mario Gutierrez has packed a lot of action into the first nine days of racing at Hastings Racecourse.

Last year's top jockey with 134 wins and \$1.7 million in purses, the 21-year-old Gutierrez is on course to successfully defend his title after the first month of the 2008 thoroughbred season. In 62 starts, Mario has been in the winner's circle 21 times for earnings of \$296,942. Other than Gutierrez, only veteran riders Frank Fuentes and Richard Hamel have hit double figures in the win column this year, each with 10.

Gutierrez has the luxury of being the jockey of choice for leading trainer Troy Taylor and owners Glen Todd and Patrick Kinsella. Taylor leads the trainers standings with 15 wins.

Mario was marvelous last Saturday with five winners, including Dancing Allstar in the Emerald Downs Stakes. It was his third stakes win of the young season, having previously ridden Holy Nova in the Brighthouse Belles and True Metropolitan in the George Royal. The only other stakes race to this point was won by Fernando Perez on Peaceful Turzia in last Sunday's Jim Coleman Province. Paying \$17.10 to win, Peaceful Turzia broke the string of favourites winning this year's stakes races for the Todd/Kinsella connection that includes Troy Taylor's training talents.

B R Remark knocked off favoured Sir Gallovic in a star-studded \$25,000 allowance on Victoria Day. Trained by Brian Giesbrecht and ridden by Keveh Nicholls, B R Remark was in elite company that included the likes of Lord Nelson, Spaghetti Mouse, Ookashada, Bad Sneakers and Forceful Intention. It was comparable to watching an all-star game in any other sport.

Racing resumes Saturday and Sunday with 1:25 p.m. starting times.

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