

Return from 'Hell



Tuffernhell shows he still has something left with an upset win in the Dean Kutz

By Ryan Roshau, NDHP Media Relations

It was hard for those 1,800 in attendance not to get swept up in the hype that was focused on Alexassilvercharm.

The six year-old gray mare owned by Curt Rohweder's successful stable was the 2-5 favorite to capture the \$8,400 Dean Kutz Memorial with panache. Even the blanket of pink-hued prairie roses seemed destined to fit over the withers of the leading lady. Additionally, Leon Glasser, from the family that owned second choice Tuffernhell came to terms with the reality of the situation. "Our horse was not really in shape and we actually thought Alexassilvercharm would win it."

But as one veteran owner in the stand stated simply and accurately in the race's aftermath, "that's why they call it horse racing."

Horse Park fans were witnessed to that truth on Sunday afternoon as Tuffernhell, dismissed at odds of 9-2 made the most of every situation given to him and romped home by nearly 7 lengths. The aforementioned favorite did not break well and despite making steady progress throughout the race, could not overcome the leader and finished second.

"On the last curve that's when I saw he wasn't tiring so then I figured this cool day helped us out," Glasser said after the race. "A lot of things have to go right, and coming around the last turn is where I thought he had it."

Jockey Shaun Herman sure had the race in his hands as he guided the five year-old son of Category Five home in a time of 1:42.40. The chestnut gelding was an unimpressive fifth in a \$2,100 Claiming race against open company a week ago but his owner Karen Glasser never lost faith in his chances.

"I had a good feeling today about him and yet you're nervous about it and you're thinking oh God, just win and when you do win it's so exciting," Karen Glasser said. "I can't tell you how exciting it is."

And the Glasser's have felt that excitement in Fargo four times over. Tuffernhell won both the NDToba Derby and North Dakota Derby in 2012 and last summer he captured a \$3,000 Claiming race on the meet's final day. Four of his seven career wins have come over the Fargo track his earnings now exceed \$21,000 for his career.

Since his first start back in June or 2011 his trainer has been the colorful Jim Fleming. He like the Glassers are more known for their prowess with quarter horses but success is success and a horseman is a horseman.

"One thing I'll say about Jim is training in this part of the country is tough on these trainers. He works hard, takes care of the horses well," Leon Glasser said.

And if anyone has witnessed a winner's circle circus after a Fleming horse crosses the line first you know the passion runs deep. It's a passion that the Glassers felt should come rewarded. "After next weekend, Jim's done such a good job, he's the official owner we are giving him to him," Leon Glasser said. "I think he's going to retire him and you'll probably see him here as a pony horse."

A three-time stakes winner in Fargo living the good life parading future stars to the post? That's a scenario that will be tougher than hell to beat.

