

# The River Rises



## Northern Plains Futurity goes to Canterbury invader Misty River Dancer

By Ryan Roshau, NDHP Media Relations



*Misty River Dancer with Rusty Shaw up capture the richest race of the meet*

There were many competitive races at the North Dakota Horse Park this season but few lacked the depth of the \$16,245 Northern Plains Futurity. Not only was it the richest race of the meet but it also presented rich possibilities with all seven in the race considered to have a chance to take the \$8,123 winner's purse home.

But in the mid-afternoon sun at the final day of the racing season, a raging river ran through north Fargo.

Jerry Olson's **Misty River Dancer**, trained by Randy Weidner, turned in one of the most professional performances on record for a juvenile horse. Under Rusty Shaw and breaking from the four hole, Misty River Dancer broke sharp, just behind the early jump of JJs Special Sis, before she powerfully took command a quarter of a way into the 300 yard race. The South Dakota-bred ran with a determined focus and mighty strides leaving no doubt as to who was the best, scoring by one length the way a 8-5 favorite should.

JJs Special Sis, with Don Proctor aboard was second by a neck over the streaking longshot Luv That Cool Corona from the outside. Streak N Special was 1 1/4 lengths back in fourth. The winning time was 16.04 for the daughter of Its Royal Time.

"I was fine, I just hung on 'cause she's fast," Shaw said after the race. The strategy was simple, "Go fast and take all kinds of the chances," Shaw said.

Randy Weidner had taken some chances with the South Dakota-bred who broke her maiden at first asking on Kentucky Derby Day at Fort Pierre, beating the multiple-stakes performer Bhr Guys Flash Me. The tables were turned two weeks later in Aberdeen when the Bob Johnson-trainee got the best of her by a half length. The rubber match came in the Minnesota Breeders QH Futurity at Canterbury on June 29th and Misty River Dancer, despite ducking in, finished third, beaten a little over a half-length by Bhr Guys Flash Me and JJs Special Sis, both from the barn of Johnson.

It was from there that the Northern Plains Futurity became the goal and the goal was reached in emphatic fashion. The sorrel filly has now won \$15,712 in her career and earned an 83 Speed Index for her victory, a career high.

