

Travel...Zoom...Repeat



Streakin Zoomer breaks 400 yard track record in the \$15,000 AQHA Bonus Challenge



Streakin Zoomer, a star in the Reliance Ranches LLC brigade
Photo Courtesy Reliance Ranches LLC

Reliance Ranches Streakin Zoomer withheld a furious charge from stablemate Jess A Sign to triumph in the \$15,000 AQHA Bonus Challenge. In the process, Streakin Zoomer set a new track record, covering the 400 yards in :20.00 and earned a Speed Index rating of 104. Bob Johnson's Hastobealeader finished 1¼ lengths back in third completing a trifecta for the Canterbury Park ship-ins. The previous record of :20.187 seconds was set five years ago by Tom Maher's No Temper Here.

Reliance Ranch LLC owners were in Fargo the prior weekend promoting their *Racing Free* initiative, but were back in Guthrie, Oklahoma awaiting word on the race. "We were patiently waiting for Ed (Hardy) to call us." Leslie McKinney of Reliance Ranch LLC said. "When we heard the result we were just so tickled because we've had both horses for several years. Many have tried to make offers for them over the years and we've always said no so this means a lot to us."

By winning the Challenge, Streakin Zoomer backed up his bravado following last year's three length score when the race was run at 440 yards. The gelding stopped the clock in 22.100 last year and earned a 98 Speed Index for the effort. As was the case this year, a ship-in from Shakopee proved to be the difference maker.

Ed Ross Hardy conditions both the winning five year-old Louisiana bred by Shazoom as well as the runner-up for Reliance Ranches LLC. McKinney elaborated how Hardy fits well within their national footprint. "We really like his training style and his ethics," McKinney said. "You want to put the horses in a place where they can succeed and Ed takes them up north to the tracks like Canterbury, Prairie Meadows and now Fargo where he finds the right place for them."

The \$7,500 winner's check pushed Streakin Zoomer's earnings over the \$50k mark as he now stands at \$57,920. He has won six races in 22 starts.

And this latest start made for an all-around great experience for Reliance Ranches in Fargo. "We love running at smaller tracks like Fargo," McKinney said. "We had amazing support with *Racing Free* when we were there last weekend and I wish we could have been a part of seeing the race...I am sure the crowd would have been very excited right there with us."

And for the ownership group, a stakes win and track record in Fargo have only scratched the surface of what is to come in a busy summer racing season. The group has Trials of the All-American Futurity and Derby at Ruidoso Downs later this month.

"I see Fargo's future aligning a lot with what we've experienced with Reliance and *Racing Free*," McKinney said. "It took us quite a few years before we qualified for a stakes race and with *Racing Free* you have to keep working at it and be ready for the slow times but with the attendance and handle you have a good thing going here in Fargo; it is only going to get stronger."



Danielle Bryan (left) and Leslie McKinney (right) of Reliance Ranches LLC have experienced thrills at the track before
Photo Courtesy Relianceranches.com

