



MONDAY REPORT

A weekly report from the National Steeplechase Association

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ice It, as cool as he could be, romps in Carolina Cup ratings handicap

What was Jack Fisher thinking?

Saturday's \$50,000 Carolina Cup attracted a field worthy of a graded stakes race, with five highweights among a field of eight heavyweight contenders in the ratings handicap for horses ranked 130 or lower in the National Steeplechase Association ratings.

Fisher trained two of the highweights, Sonny Via's Hinterland and DASH Stable's Ice It. The obvious question was: "Ice It?"

Let's put it this way. Ice It had shown every sign that he hated Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C. Absolutely hated it.

Perhaps the fourth time is the charm. Despite appearing half-asleep in the Carolina Cup's saddling paddock, Ice Up woke up on course under Jack Doyle and dominated the 85th Carolina Cup for a sparkling six-length victory.

The silvery Tapit gelding had first appeared at Springdale in the fall of 2015, during his three-year-old season. He was destined to be the National Steeplechase Association's three-year-old champion that year, but he never reached the finish line in the Raymond G. Woolfe Memorial.

He fell—on the flat—while bending the far turn on Springdale's spacious course.

Fisher kept Ice It away from Camden the following year and gave the gelding a second shot at Springdale in the 2017 Carolina Cup, then a novice stakes. Ice It showed absolutely nothing and finished sixth. To be sure, the Camden race set him up well for the Queen's Cup MPC 'Chase four weeks later, which Ice It won by a length over Show Court.

Ice It tried the Carolina Cup a second time last year, with the same result. He was sixth the whole way around in the novice stakes and finished more than 13 lengths behind Personal Start, who also started in the 2019 edition of Springdale's signature race.

Something of a wild child and known around the Fisher barn as "The Monkey," Ice It ran respectably the rest of the year and collected his first victory over fences since the 2017 Queen's Cup in last fall's Aflac Supreme Hurdle at the Steeplechase at Callaway in Georgia.

Ice It beat a nice horse, Gibralfaro, by a head



Tom Marks

DASH Stable's Ice It jumped a fence early in the Carolina Cup.

that November day, but the field in no way compared with the Carolina Cup field. Mark Buyck's Show Court had become a Grade 1 winner last year, and Magalen O. Bryant's Personal Start had added a Grade 2 victory. Wendy Hendriks' Surprising Soul was a Grade 3 winner, and Straylight Racing's Invocation was a rising star in the handicap ranks.

Ice It was unimpressed. Or so it seemed in the paddock, where he looked as though he needed a good night's rest. Perhaps he was just being cool about it all.

All that changed once Doyle was on his back and they headed for a finely groomed Springdale course, rated as good. Ice It's ears shot up as Doyle made the right-hand turn out of the chute and pointed his mount toward the start of the 2 3/8-mile race.

Doyle kept Ice It well back early as first Special Skills and then Personal Start established the pace. Ice It moved up on the second circuit of the Springdale course, grabbed the lead on the backstretch, and turned away challenges by Personal Start and Invocation before drawing

away in deep stretch.

Invocation finished second, two lengths clear of Personal Start. Surprising Soul finished fourth, 3½ lengths farther back. Hinterland was fifth, followed by Show Court.

The winner's circle provided a special moment for DASH Stable's Sheila Fisher, the trainer's wife, and her mother, Sheila J. Williams. DASH

Continued on Page 2

On the inside

Jack Fisher made a quick start to the 2019 racing season with back-to-back victories at the Carolina Cup Races2

Kathy Neilson and Sean McDermott combined forces for their third victories of the season.....3

Go Jump Racing!



Fisher begins his season with a Storm Team victory

Jack Fisher waited until the fourth week of the 2018 season to score his first victory. Not so this year.

After passing on Aiken Spring, the 12-time champion trainer won with his first starters of the new National Steeplechase Association season on Saturday. He won the Carolina Cup's \$35,000 allowance hurdle with Storm Team before taking the meet's signature \$50,000 Carolina Cup ratings handicap with Ice It.

Ridden with confidence by Jack Doyle, Storm Team went to the lead in the early going of the 2 1/8-mile race, shrugged off a challenge by Aiken maiden winner Soluble, and won going away by three lengths. He ran the distance in 3:47 on a Springdale course rated as good.

Fisher also accounted for the third- and fourth-place finishers, Whitman's Poetry and Cite.

Storm Team is owned by Sheila Williams, Fisher's mother-in-law, and the Northwoods Stable of Ann and Michael Hankin. The Candy Ride five-year-old scored a maiden victory at Foxfield Fall last year.

The dual victories gave the Fisher team the top spots by earnings. Fisher leads the trainer standings by purses, and Doyle has the same position on the jockeys' table by winnings. DASH Stable, owner of Whitman's Poetry and Ice It, is atop the owners' board after two weeks.



Tod Marks

Storm Team leads over the last in winning the \$35,000 allowance hurdle..

Ice It draws away to six-length Carolina Cup win

Continued from Page 1

Stable was formed in 2015, the partnership of Sheila Fisher and her father, Rufus Williams. DASH stood for Dad and Sheila.

Ice It was only their second horse to race, and he was their first winner and first champion. Rufus Williams died last Sept. 30, and Ice It's Carolina Cup win was a tribute to his memory for his wife of 61 years and his daughter.

Ice It is, to put it simply, one of the best-bred horses ever to race over fences. Tapit is a leading American stallion who was the champion sire in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Now standing at Gainesway Farm in Lexington, Ky., he was trained to a Wood Memorial (Gr. 1) victory by Michael Dickinson, who was a phenomenally successful steeplechase trainer in England before immigrating to the U.S.

Ice It's dam is Spice Island, a Tabasco Cat mare whose grandam was Belle de Jour, the dam of 1985 Kentucky Derby winner Spend a Buck, who was Horse of the Year. Spice Island foaled Ice Box, the 2010 Florida Derby (Gr. 1) winner.

Ice It was no Ice Box. Trained by Graham Motion, Ice It was unsuccessful on the flat before being acquired by DASH and beginning his career over fences.



Tod Marks

Ice It and jockey Jack Doyle were greeted after their Carolina Cup victory by Sheila Williams and her daughter, Sheila Fisher.

Carolina Cup Undercard



Tod Marks

Skylar McKenna, left, and Mell Boucher head out for the amateur apprentice flat race.

A notable apprentice flat race

An amateur apprentice flat race concluded the Carolina Cup card, and it contained, in a field of seven, five apprentice jockeys seeking their first flat wins. One of them is no longer carrying three bugs.

Eve Ledyard, a steeplechase owner and assistant to trainer Ricky Hendriks, had the mount on Rosbrian Farm's Teodoro for Hendriks, and they made most of the running before drawing away to an overwhelming 16¼-length victory.

To say with Teodoro was much the best may be an understatement, and he had reason to dominate. As recently as January, the five-year-old Irish-bred by Teofilo was competing in Fair Grounds stakes races. The Camden race was his seventh career win.

The amateur apprentice race was notable for

another couple reasons. Finishing second was trainer Jonathan Sheppard's Bet the Pot, ridden by Mell Boucher. Daughter of trainer Lilith Boucher and jockey Richard Boucher, the 16-year-old had made her first appearance under rules a week earlier at Aiken Spring.

Flying Elvis Stable's Wild Dynaformer finished third under Jason Ruch, another 10-pound apprentice. Kathy Neilson, currently leading the trainer standings by wins, put her daughter, Skylar McKenna, in the saddle for a fourth-place finish aboard Irv Naylor's Aquies.

The Carolina Cup's kickoff race, an open flat training race, was won by Apple Equipment's Winner Massagot, who fought off Jennifer Pitts' Broad Reach for the victory. Thomas Garner rode the winner for trainer Richard Valentine.

Aggressive wins for Neilson, McDermott

Trainer Kathy Neilson and jockey Sean McDermott combined forces for two wins at Aiken Spring, and they added another at the Carolina Cup on Saturday to retain their positions atop the standings by wins in their respective divisions.

Neilson saddled Irv Naylor's Aggressive in the \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle, and a strong move by McDermott entering the Springdale Race Course stretch assured a one-length victory in a field of nine.

Jacqueline Ohrstrom's Demonstration finished second under Thomas Garner, 4¼ lengths clear of Hudson River Farms' Snuggling. Boudinot Farms' Makkadangang was fourth, three-quarters of a length farther back in a field of nine.

Aggressive ran the 2 1/8-mile distance in 4:02 3/5 on Springdale turf rated as good.

Morning Star Farm's Shoreline made the early running with Makkadangang, while McDermott placed Aggressive near the back of the field as the leaders set a heady pace. Demonstration moved first on the leaders and took the lead after Snuggling appeared to stumble over the next-to-last fence.

Aggressive got aggressive on the final turn and was under a full head of steam on the inside heading for the last fence. Demonstration jumped the final obstacle in front, but Aggressive soon gained the lead and ground out the win over a game Demonstration, who is trained by Richard Valentine.

Neilson, who had the best season of her training career in 2018, stands alone atop the standings by wins and is second to Jack Fisher by purses. From four starts, she has three wins and a second. McDermott is tied with Jack Doyle for the top spot by jockey wins and is second to Doyle by purses.

Pamzine delivers maiden win for Boucher team

Team Boucher scored a victory the hard way at the Aiken Spring Steeplechase, when Mason Hardaway Lampton's Maccabee was elevated to the top spot on a disqualification in the maiden claiming hurdle.

Trainer Lilith Boucher and her husband, jockey Richard Boucher, notched a second maiden claiming victory on Saturday at the Carolina Cup when Pamzine finished a length ahead of Jonathan Sheppard's Hep Cat, who in turn was a neck ahead of Tiepolo, owned by the Petticoats Loose Stable of trainer Meriwether Morris.

Redmon Farm's Crosseyedcricket finished fourth in a field of seven.

Pamzine, owned by John C. Gregory, Marlou C. Gregory, and Why Not Racing, ran the 2 1/8-mile distance in 4:11 3/5 on turf rated as good.

A seven-year-old mare by Dunkirk, Pamzine was bred in Pennsylvania by Michael Moran and had three wins on the flat before missing the 2018 racing season and making her first start over fences at the Carolina Cup.

Prior to making her debut over fences, she had raced in the Mid-Atlantic region, principally

at Delaware Park, and had won for a \$16,000 claiming tag there in September 2017. She was seventh at Laurel Park in her final flat start.

In her jumps debut, Richard Boucher tipped her to the front on the first full circuit of the Springdale course and led over the last fence. Hepcat, always in striking position, challenged under Thomas Garner, and Sean McDermott had Tiepolo flying with a late charge.

But Pamzine shook off the attempts to catch her and established her winning margin in the final furlong.



Next Up

The Cup Runneth Over debuts at Springdale

The Carolina Cup Racing Association has decades of experience in putting on top-quality racing events, and Executive Director John Cushman's team readily pitched in to create The Cup Runneth Over, a second consecutive Saturday of racing at Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C., on April 6.

The Cup Runneth Over, a suggestion of National Steeplechase Association Director of Racing Bill Gallo Jr. after the Georgia Steeplechase canceled its April 6 meet on short notice, will offer another exciting day of racing in the horse country of South Carolina's Midlands.

First post time is 1:30 p.m.

"We are most grateful to the Carolina Cup Racing Association for its willingness to open the Springdale Race Course for a second day of racing and to provide an important opportunity to our horsemen," NSA President Guy

J. Torsilieri said. "Working together on a very short timeline, the NSA and the Carolina Cup Racing Association have taken a potentially negative development and turned it into a positive—a new, innovative community event."

Cushman, vice chairman of the Carolina Cup Racing Association, welcomed the opportunity to showcase jump racing for a second Saturday afternoon in his home community. "Truly in this case, the Cup runneth over," he said. "One week after the Carolina Cup, we will stage an event for the entire Camden community while supporting our steeplechase horsemen."

On Saturday's menu are five races that closely follow the program for the canceled Georgia Steeplechase. The emphasis will be on newcomers, with three races for maidens.

Entries will be taken today for a \$30,000 Sport of Kings maiden hurdle, a \$20,000 maiden hur-

dle limited to fillies and mares, and a \$15,000 maiden claiming hurdle. The program also will include a \$25,000 ratings handicap for horses rated at 115 or lower and a 1 1/4-mile training flat race. All hurdle races are at 2 1/8 miles.

Craig Braddick, the voice of Rillito Downs and the Steeplechase at Charleston, will call the races.

Preceding the afternoon's NSA-sanctioned races will be pony races beginning at 11:30 a.m. The races were suggested by NSA trainer Arch Kingsley Jr. at the request of his daughter, pony jockey Taylor Kingsley, and will be organized by U.S. Pony Racing and the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation.

The NSA races will live-streamed by the NSA Network. To watch The Cup Runneth Over, click the NSA Network Livestream button on the nationalsteeplechase.com home page.



STEEPLECHASE STANDINGS THROUGH MARCH 30

| OWNERS BY EARNINGS | | | | | | JOCKEYS BY WINS | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings | | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings |
| DASH Stable | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | \$33,500 | Jack Doyle | 7 | 3 | 0 | 2 | \$75,800 |
| Irvin S. Naylor | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 32,500 | Sean McDermott | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 66,900 |
| Katherine S. Neilson | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 24,300 | Richard Boucher | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 21,000 |
| Sheila J. Williams | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 21,000 | Thomas Garner | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7,400 |
| Morning Star Farm | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18,000 | Ross Geraghty | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 13,300 |
| Why Not Racing LLC | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12,000 | Michael Mitchell | 6 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 15,700 |
| Mason H. Lampton | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9,000 | Kieran Norris | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4,350 |
| Straylight Racing LLC | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9,000 | Barry Foley | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5,000 |
| Wendy Hendriks | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7,900 | Bernard Dalton | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6,550 |
| Mrs. G. L. Ohrstrom Jr. | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5,400 | Mark Watts | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,200 |

| TRAINERS BY WINS | | | | | | HORSES BY EARNINGS | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings | | Sts | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Earnings |
| Katherine S. Neilson | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | \$54,300 | Ice It | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | \$30,000 |
| Jack Fisher | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 58,250 | Soluble (Ger) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 24,300 |
| Lilith Boucher | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 21,000 | Storm Team | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 21,000 |
| Ricky Hendriks | 11 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 34,200 | Indigo Heart | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18,000 |
| Neil R. Morris | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10,350 | Aggressive (Ire) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18,000 |
| Richard L. Valentine | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10,400 | Change of View | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12,000 |
| Jonathan Sheppard | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5,000 | Pamzine | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12,000 |
| William Santoro | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9,000 | Maccabee | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9,000 |
| Julie Gomena | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5,950 | Invocation (Fr) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9,000 |
| Meriwether H. Morris | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3,600 | Demonstration (Ire) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5,400 |