



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **BIG WEEKEND FOR GARGAN AS SOCIETY MAN ROLLS IN \$395,000 MATT WINN**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, June 9, 2024)** – It was a big weekend for trainer **Danny Gargan**. One day after scoring a 17-1 upset in the \$2 million Belmont Stakes (Grade I) at Saratoga with **Dornoch**, his 3-year-old Society Man collected his first stakes win with a convincing 2 ½-length triumph at odds of 6-1 over 7-5 favorite **Who Dey** in Sunday's 27<sup>th</sup> running of the \$400,000 Matt Winn Stakes (Grade III) at Churchill Downs.

Society Man, the Wood Memorial (GII) runner-up who bounced back from his 16<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI), clocked 1 1/16 miles over a fast track in 1:42.33 under **Corey Lanerie** for owners **Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, West Paces Racing LLC, GMP Stables LLC** and **Carl F. and Yurie Pascarella**.

"I'm very grateful to Danny and his whole team for the opportunity to ride him," Lanerie said. "He and his team had a big weekend. I'm glad to have played a small part in it."

**Northern Flame** broke fastest from the gate and led the field of eight 3-year-olds into the first turn through an opening quarter mile in :24.20. Unsatisfied with a modest pace, Who Dey ascended to the front as the cast entered the backstretch with Society Man relaxed and well back of the leaders in seventh position. After a half-mile in :47.37, Society Man raced along the inside and commenced his rail rally around the far turn. As **Rocketeer** poked his head in front of Who Dey and a tiring **West Saratoga** at the head of the stretch, Lanerie tipped out Society Man three-wide with three-sixteenths of a mile to the finish and the gelding drove clear in the stretch for the hard-charging victory.

"He was on the bit and looked great in the paddock," Lanerie said. "I could tell he was ready to go. This was the first time I rode him but I was able to study his previous races on paper and the replays. Danny didn't give me any instructions on how to ride him. I was a little bit further back than I thought we'd be but around the three-eighths pole. I lowered my hands and he took me where I needed to be. I was able to get clear at the eighth-pole and he took off. He was fun to ride."

The victory was worth \$240,525 and improved Society Man's overall record to 2-1-1 with earnings of \$437,230 in seven starts.

"He's shown he's been able to do a couple of things in his career and has some different dimensions," Lanerie said. "The way he was able to relax today it showed me he doesn't have a problem with longer distances than this. Down the backside, as far as I was out of it, I got a little bit worried. When it was time to go, though, he was ready."

Society Man returned \$14.78, \$5.36 and \$3.58. Who Dey, ridden by **Brian Hernandez Jr.**, returned \$2.92 and \$2.28 and finished a nose in front of **Next Level** who paid \$4.48 to show at odds of 12-1 under **Jareth Loveberry**.

Rocketeer was another three-quarters of a length back in fourth, and was followed by **West Saratoga, Mighty Message, Northern Flame** and **Luna Tap. Nash** and **Scatify** were scratched.

Society Man is a gelded son of Good Magic out of the Colonel John mare You Cheated and was bred in Kentucky by **SF Bloodstock LLC**.

The Matt Winn is named in honor of the famed Churchill Downs president that served as the driving force in the development of the Downs and his beloved Kentucky Derby.

Following dark days on Monday and Tuesday, racing at Churchill Downs is scheduled to resume Wednesday with a nine-race card that begins at 12:45 p.m. ET.

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## EMERY EASILY WINS LESLIE'S LADY IN HAND RIDE

**Stonestreet Stable's Emery** swept past her four rivals around the turn and drew away in the stretch without being asked to easily win Sunday's third running of the \$170,450 Leslie's Lady Overnight Stakes at Churchill Downs by 3 ½ lengths over **Tambo**.

Ridden by **Tyler Gaffalione** and conditioned by **Brad Cox**, Emery ran seven furlongs over a fast track in 1:22.46 to collect her first career stakes win.

Moonlit Lady broke fastest from the gate and dictated the terms through a first quarter mile in :22.74 and a half-mile in :45.57 as Emery relaxed in last behind the closely bunched field of five 3-year-old fillies. Emery entered the turn in last and left the bend in front. She kicked past the leaders with a furlong to run under a hand ride.

"She's a very classy filly," Gaffalione said. "She traveled so nicely today and I was just trying to stay out of her way. Her ears were up down the lane and I had plenty of horse left."

Emery, the odds-on 4-5 favorite, rewarded her backers with payouts of \$3.78, \$2.70 and \$2.10. Tambo, ridden by **Jose Ortiz**, returned \$3.32 and \$2.40. **Legadema**, with **Martin Garcia** up, was another 2 ¾ lengths back in third and paid \$2.20 to show.

**Charlene's Dream** was fourth and **Moonlit Lady** was fifth. Blue Squall and Pink Lady Lu Sha were scratched.

With her victory worth \$107,200, Emery boosted her career earnings to \$256,298 from a record of 3-0-0 in four starts.

Emery is a daughter of More Than Ready out of the Street Sense mare Athena and was bred in Kentucky by **Mary K. Grum**.

The Leslie's Lady honors **Fred and Nancy Mitchell's** breed-shaping broodmare who produced 15 foals, of which nine became racehorses and seven were winners, including top sire **Into Mischief**, four-time champion **Beholder** and Grade I winner and sire **Mendelssohn**. The 2016 Broodmare of the Year passed away peacefully at age 26 on Jan. 24.

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## MATT WINN QUOTES

**Corey Lanerie (jockey, Society Man, winner):** "He was on the bit and looked great in the paddock. I could tell he was ready to go. This was the first time I rode him but I was able to study his previous races on paper and the replays. Danny (Gargan) didn't give me any instructions on how to ride him. I was a little bit further back than I thought we'd be but around the three-eighths pole. I lowered my hands and he took me where I needed to be. I was able to get clear at the eighth-pole and he took off. He was fun to ride. He's shown he's been able to do a couple of things in his career and has some different dimensions. The way he was able to relax today it showed me he doesn't have a problem with longer distances than this. Down the backside, as far as I was out of it, I got a little bit worried. When it was time to go, though, he was ready. I'm very grateful to Danny and his whole team for the opportunity to ride him. He and his team had a big weekend. I'm glad to have played a small part in it."

**Brian Hernandez Jr. (jockey, Who Dey, runner-up):** "Down the backside he was traveling really well and within himself. He took me to the spot between horses on the lead and was doing it on his own. When Tyler (Gaffalione, aboard Rocketeer) engaged us he dug in and tried to fight back against him. He ran a good race."

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### LESLIE'S LADY QUOTES

**Tyler Gaffalione (jockey, Emery, winner):** "She's a very classy filly. She traveled so nicely today and I was just trying to stay out of her way. Her ears were up down the lane and I had plenty of horse left."

**Trace Messina (assistant trainer, Emery, winner):** "She's a fairly easy filly to train and always does her job in the mornings. Tyler kept her out of trouble today and she traveled very easily around the turn. It was impressive seeing her draw away while under a hand ride in the stretch."

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### ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility and Race and Sports Book. [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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