

# DAYTIME STARS

## Louisiana Premier Stakes 2021 By Chad Cooper • Photos by Coady Photography

The 18th running of Delta Downs' biggest race program of the season Feb. 10 looked somewhat different than in years past. For the first time in the history of Louisiana Premier Night, the 10-race all-Louisiana bred stakes event took place during the daytime hours because of two hurricanes last summer that destroyed the infield lights. The only lights were the top four-legged stars that shined bright in the unusually warm February afternoon in Vinton competing for \$805,000 in total purse money. Jockey Gerard Melancon, who is chasing 5,000 career wins, won three stakes on the day as did Diego Saenz. Total handle was \$2,486,033, up from \$2.2 million last year.

### Louisiana Premier Championship \$125,000 • One mile and one sixteenth • Four Year Olds and Upward

## UNDERPRESSURE

Birdstone – Charming Colleen, by Charismatic

Breeder: James McIngvale • Owner: Mallory Richard • Trainer: Chris Richard • Jockey: Gerard Melancon



Pressure can burst a pipe or make a diamond. Underpressure is a diamond. The 7-year-old son of Birdstone who won his first stakes race in 2017 at Delta Downs in the Premier Night Prince, successfully

defended the \$125,000 Louisiana Premier Championship with consecutive wins in the track's biggest race of the season.

“Pressure is just a special horse,” said winning

trainer Chris Richard. “He came into this race training really well and Gerard (Melancon) is a professional rider and sits perfect with him.”

Double Star went straight to the front and led the entire field of eight by more than a length with jockey Jose Guerrero settings fractions of 23.88, 48.36 and 1:13.82. Melancon and Underpressure sat comfortably 8 lengths behind the leader and saved ground around the first turn at the rail.

As the field reached the backstretch, the defending champion picked up his pace and began to pick off horses. Melancon piloted the champ through traffic then angled out to go five-wide at the far turn and set his sights on the leader Double Star. With a 1/16 of a mile to go, Underpressure (\$4.80) drove past the front runner and proved to be the best with a 3/4-length victory in 1:46.60.

“Chris told me to be sure to get a good break

because he is a little lazy out of the gate,” said Melancon. “He also reminded me that Underpressure likes to come around the horses and that’s what we did. He is a smart horse. If the pace is slow, he will be up front. If it’s fast, he knows to be further back. We had a pretty swift pace today and we sat 6-8 lengths back. He has been a super horse for Chris and Mallory and those kinds of special horses are hard to find.”

Underpressure won for the 14th time (eighth stakes win and sixth with Melancon in the saddle) in 40 starts and is nearly the \$1 million earnings mark at \$838,182.

Winning owner Mallory Richard loves her horse. “He is everyone’s favorite horse in the barn,” she said. “You can give him peppermints and just love on him. He is such a happy horse. What a class act.”

The final order of finish was Underpressure, Double Star, Jimi’s a Star, Grand Luwegee, Pound for Pound, Cabo’s Rumor, Nippy Red and Social Afleet.

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## Louisiana Premier Distaff

\$100,000 • One mile • Four Year Olds and Up Fillies and Mares

### QUICKFAST N AHURRY

Closing Argument – Wynning Ride, by Candy Ride (ARG)

Breeder: Carrol J. Castille • Owner: Whispering Oaks Farm LLC • Trainer: Steve Flint • Jockey: Gerard Melancon



**D**rama in the Distaff at Delta Downs. Louisiana Premier Day didn’t go without a little controversy. Connections of Quikfast N Ahurry had to patiently wait out a jockey’s objection in order to obtain her first stakes victory.

The daughter of Closing Argument stayed close to the pace set by Sarah’s Passion during the one-mile venture, then veteran rider Gerard Melancon strategically moved up on the outside around the far turn and dueled with Saints N Muskets to prevail by less than a length to win the \$100,000 Louisiana Premier Distaff in 1:41.12.

Jockey Joe Stokes, of Saints N Muskets, claimed foul that Melancon and Quikfast N Ahurry

impeded the two, which kept them from winning. The stewards took several minutes to review race footage, but disallowed the objection.

“My horse did lug in, but not enough to cause any issues,” said Melancon. “My horse was way better today.”

The final order of finish was Quikfast N Ahurry, Saints N Muskets, Snowball, Net a Bear, She’s Gone d’Wild, Miss Charlie

Sioux, Sebs Princess, Sarah’s Passion, Smok’n Rita and My Little Jen.

Trainer Steve Flint said, “It’s horse racing. Both fillies are good horses. This isn’t her favorite track, but we had to take a chance because the purse money was too good to pass. Gerard did a great job with her.”

Flint described Quikfast N Ahurry (\$12) as a “hard luck filly” who has consistently has endured

bad racing luck. “She flipped in the paddock at the Fair Grounds last year before the Crescent City Oaks and still managed to finish second.”

Whispering Oaks Farm LLC saw their filly improve to 5-12 with earnings of \$194,600.

She has since competed in the \$60,000 Red Camelia Stakes at the Fair Grounds on March 6, but finished last due to a troubled trip.

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## Louisiana Premier Starlet

**\$100,000 • 1 mile • Three Year Old Fillies**

# AUSTRALASIA

**Sky Kingdom – Ayala Stand, by Tiznow**

**Breeder: J. Adcock & Hume Wornall • Owner: Jean Etienne Dubois • Trainer: Brad Cox • Jockey: Diego Saenz**



Australasia was a \$130,000 purchase by owner Jean Etienne Dubois at the Ocala Breeders’ Sale, and after just three races, the 3-year-old filly has already passed her sale price. The daughter of Sky Kingdom has been nothing short of perfect in her three-race career.

Australasia was much the best in the \$100,000 Louisiana Premier Starlet and got stronger as the race went on to score by 7-1/4 lengths to cover one mile in 1:39.45 for trainer Brad Cox.

“She is super easy to ride,” said rider Diego Saenz. “She has a lot of

talent. End of story.”

Entering the gate at 1-5 odds, Australasia went head-to-head with Eileen Alexandra with fractions of 23.71 and 49.25 before she began to distance herself from her rivals to cruise along the bullring without a hiccup.

“Like Diego said, she does it pretty easy,” said Ricky Giannini, an assistant trainer for Brad Cox. “She won her maiden by nearly nine lengths then had big win in the Louisiana Jewel Stakes here at Delta back in January.”

Giannini added that the filly will next head to the Crescent City Oaks at the Fair Grounds, and, if all goes well, would then likely test some “deep waters”.

Australasia (\$2.60) is now 3-3 with a career bankroll of \$133,200.

The final order of finish was Australasia, Eileen Alexandra, Winning Romance, Cilla, Lil Eva Jane and K R Lucky Day.

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## Louisiana Premier Prince

\$100,000 • 1 mile • Three Year Olds

# STANDING PERFECT

Half Ours – Stand by for News, by Majesticperfection

Breeder: Roger C. Rashall • Owner: Respect the Valleys, LLC • Trainer: Lee Thomas • Jockey: Ashley Broussard

Trainer Lee Thomas said his jockey Ashley Broussard “made a clutch move” around the first turn to save a lot of ground, which was a bold move that helped her and Standing Perfect win a gritty Louisiana Premier Prince.

“It looked as if we were going to go wide, but she made an impressive move to get the horse in a better position,” said Thomas. “That move likely won us the race.”

Front runner G’wildcat broke out on top in the field of seven with modest fractions of 23.79 and 48.48. As the field reached the first turn, Standing Perfect, was wide in post 7, but angled in to save a lot of ground to keep within a length of the leaders.

As G’wildcat faltered up front, Jimmy Two Times, the other speed, stuck a head in front at the three-quarter pole when Broussard swung four-wide to the outside and rallied passed a game Jimmy Two Times to win by less than a length.

The son of Half Ours covered the



mile in 1:41.21 and won for the third time in four outs for total purse earnings of \$138,500.

“This race was more competitive than his last start in Louisiana Legacy back in January,” added Thomas. “There wasn’t much speed in that race so Ashley took him to the front and never looked back. “The Prince was more of a challenge and I couldn’t be happier.”

Thomas added that Standing Perfect (\$6.40) would likely head to the Fair Grounds and compete in the Crescent City Derby.

Final order of finish was Standing Perfect, Jimmy Two Times, Wise Verdict, Drewhustle, G’wildcat, Sarah’s Vision and Wise Anchor.

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## Louisiana Premier Night Sprint

\$100,000 • 5 furlongs • Four Year Olds and Up

# NO PAROLE

Violence – Plus One, by Bluegrass Cat

Breeder: Coteau Grove Farms • Owner: Maggi Moss & Greg Tramotin • Trainer: Tom Amoss • Jockey: Diego Saenz

No Parole dominated in last year’s Louisiana Premier Prince leading gate-to-wire to win by nearly 10 lengths at Delta Downs. After dipping his toes in several Triple Crown prep races, the 4-year-old son of Violence returned home to Louisiana to rediscover the dominance he once

had and win the Louisiana Premier Sprint.

“He was great from start to finish,” said winning trainer Tom Amoss. “Diego (Saenz) did a great job with him and I couldn’t be more excited.”

Saenz wasted no time when the gates opened. No Parole was

shipped to the front and never looked back. Though his lead wasn’t as big as it was the last time the colt was in Vinton, he kept his challenger’s at bay with swift times of 22.11 and 44.93. It appeared that Bertie’s Galaxy would be a legit rival as the two reached the stretch drive, but No Parole said “no mas”



and dug in to drive clear and win by 3 lengths to cover 5 furlongs in an impressive 57.37.

“We had no problems,” said Saenz, who rode the colt for the first time in his career. “He is a really fast horse with talent. He was fun to ride.”

No Parole (\$2.20) improved to 6-9 for co-owners Maggi Moss and Greg Tramontin with a bank roll of \$375,866. “I’ll let Maggie and Greg decide what’s next,” added Amoss.

The final order of finish was No Parole, Bertie’s Galaxy, Double Barrel Man, X Clown, Priceless, Laughingsaintssong and Hooray Austin.

## Louisiana Premier Matron

\$100,000 • 5 furlongs • Four Year Olds and Up Fillies and Mares

# SOUTHERN BEAUTY

Calibrachoa – Isn’t She Gorgeous, by Yes It’s True

Breeder: J. Adcock & Montgomery Equine Center • Owner: Allied Racing Stable, LLC • Trainer: Bret Calhoun

Jockey: Diego Saenz

Jockey Diego Saenz fits 4-year-old filly Southern Beauty like a glove. Two peas in a pod. Saenz and the daughter of Calibrachoa are a perfect 5-for-5 after impressive run in the \$100,000 LAPD Matron.

“She always runs good for me,” said Saenz. “She is impressive and was full of run.”

The stakes race for older fillies and mares was hotly contested from the start. Most of the field battled for the early lead and none of the eight were able to sustain it for more than a quarter. Fractions of the 5-furlong race were 22.26 and 46.47.

Southern Beauty (\$5.20) stayed within striking distance then moved four-wide around the final turn and found another gear to explode past four runners to win by 2 3/4-lengths in 59.10. The Allied Racing Stable, LLC filly now has five wins in

eight outs for \$143,024.

The final order of finish was Southern Beauty, Miss Pat’s Girl, Our Lost Love, Mr. Al’s Gal, The Complete Court, Forty Nine Model, Schiff’s Corner and Silver Squall.

“She ran a big race today,” said

Jay Severs, who has been an assistant trainer for Bret Calhoun for more than 20 years. “Her and Diego work well together and it was nice to see her get her first stakes win in this type of race.”



**Louisiana Premier Gentlemen Starter**  
\$50,000 • One mile and one sixteenth • Four Year Olds and Up

**GREELEY'S DEALER**

**Greeley's Galaxy – Fancy Dealer, by Barberstown**

**Breeder: Margie K. Averett**

**Owner: End Zone Athletics, Inc.**

**Trainer: Karl Broberg • Jockey: Gerard Melancon**

Greeley's Dealer entered the Louisiana Premier Gentlemen Starter on a 0-for-7 winless streak. Owner/trainer Karl Broberg has mastered the art of claiming a horse and moving him up in conditions only to find success, which is exactly what happened in the final stakes race of the program.

Broberg's second entry, the 5-1 Guitarzan, was fractious in the gates, yet quickly went to the front setting early course fractions of 23.55 and 47.98 then stopped. Multiple horses vied to take control of the route race including Outofthisgalaxy, who took over

around the far turn and appeared to reach the finish line first. Then came Greeley's Dealer.

In true Gerard Melancon fashion, the pair made a bid three-wide to rally and drive clear of Outofthisgalaxy by 1 1/2 lengths in 1:47.89.

"Greeley's Dealer had a great stalking trip," said Melancon. "I was much closer to the pace than I thought I'd be, but he was doing it all on his own."

Melancon said he had one bit of instruction in the paddock from Broberg, "Ride him like Chris Richard told me to ride



Underpressure." It worked out.

The final order of finish was Greeley's Dealer, Outofthisgalaxy, Much Class, Purim King, Lucky Inferno, Krafty Boy, Liam Skye, Johnnysjourney and Guitarzan.

Greeley's Dealer (\$16.20) improved to 11-41 with a bankroll of \$253,635. Greeley's Dealer has since changed barns after he was claimed for \$5,000 on Feb. 22 at Delta Downs by trainer Eduardo Ramirez and owner Sandy Badaeux.

**Louisiana Premier Ladies Starter**

\$50,000 • One mile • Four Year Olds and Up Fillies and Mares

**KRIS T.**

**Mass Media – Day's Sunset, by Kris S.**

**Breeder: Ernie Wells • Owner: Joe Alfredo Castillo • Trainer: Juan Larrosa • Jockey: Eguard Tejera**

Joe Alfredo Castillo decided to take a chance on Kris T. by claiming the mare for \$5,000 last year at Evangeline Downs. What a decision it was. Castillo moved the daughter of Mass Media to the barn of Juan Larrosa and has won six consecutive races this season, all at Delta Downs, including the \$50,000 LAPD Ladies Starter.

"She is very easy to ride," said jockey Eguard Tejera. "She does a lot of stuff right. The only thing I had to do was be a little outside because she doesn't like horses to the outside of her."

In a short field of six, Kris T. left



the gate as the heavy betting favorite at even-money odds and dueled with 13-1 longshot Memory Magic through a half mile. Once Tejera was able to get her head in front, Kris T. found another gear

and left her rivals behind to cover one mile in 1:41.09 win by nearly four lengths of Memory Magic, who was no match.

"This mare keeps getting better and better," said Larrosa. "Not much else to say. She is a good race horse."

Kris T. (\$4.20) improved to 10-for-28 with earnings of \$176,245.

The final order of finish Kris T., Memory Magic, Blue Suade Guitar, Nana's Joy, Star Gaze and Yonna She Goes.

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**Louisiana Premier Bon Temps Starter**  
**\$40,000 • 5 Furlongs • Four Year Olds and Up Fillies and Mares**

**WILD MALLORY**

**Greeley's Galaxy – Wild Bertie, by Wild Rush**

**Breeder: Margie K. Averett • Owner: Gerald L. Averett Jr. • Trainer: Ronnie Averett • Jockey: Diego Saenz**

Wild Mallory put up an impressive 59.00 5-furlong time in her seasonal debut at Delta Downs last November, which was her first race in more than 16 months; a state-bred allowance race that she won by more than two lengths. It was only a matter of time before she would achieve black-type status.

“She loves this track,” said trainer Ronnie Averett. “Her first race was a win here at Delta Downs and she became a stakes winner here at Delta. That’s pretty cool.”

The 6-year-old daughter of Greeley’s Galaxy led from gate-to-wire to win the \$40,000 Louisiana



Premier Bon Temps Starter, but not without a little drama. Up more than 4 lengths down the stretch, jockey Diego Saenz dropped his whip as Diva’s Ransom loomed yet held on to win by 1-1/2 lengths in a time of 59.39.

“It was a little warm and I was

sweaty,” said Saenz. “I slipped in my reigns, but lucky enough to be close to the wire and get the win.”

Wild Mallory (\$10.80) shot out of the gate on top then set fractions of 22.23, 46.11 and built a comfortable lead. She was never threatened until late in the race.

The mare has won 4 of 11 starts (4 of 6 at Delta Downs) with career earnings of \$90,535 for owner Gerald L. Averett, Jr.

The final order of finish was Wild Mallory, Diva’s Ransom, Grillin, Have No Fear, Mi Copa Rebosa, Lady Rad, She’s Seventeen, Andthebandplayedon and Starbuck Luck.

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**Louisiana Premier Ragin Cajun Starter**  
**\$40,000 • 5 Furlongs • Four Year Olds and Upwards**

**MADelyn’S WILD MAX**

**My Friend Max – Wild Bertie, by Wild Rush**

**Breeder: Gerald L. Averett • Owner: End Zone Athletics Inc.**  
**Trainer: Karl Broberg • Jockey: Timothy Thornton**

Madelyn’s Wild Max is a popular fellow. The 10-year-old son of My Friend Max has been claimed multiple times throughout his 80-race career including several stops in the barn of Karl Broberg. Thanks to a massive come-from-behind effort, Madelyn’s Wild Max is a stakes winner.

Skylas Gold led the full field of 10 through the 3/8-pole with a rapid 22.11 fraction before stopping. The 2-1 favorite Man Camp and others then battled for the lead when jockey Timothy Thornton and the son of My Friend Max began to rally wide from last to neck out

Whacudposbylygowrng at the wire in 59.16.

“I knew it was going to be a fast pace, so I waited,” said Thornton. “I was tracking the 9 horse (Whacudposbylygowrng) around the turn. I was lucky enough to out-kick him.”

Broberg said post-race that he claimed this horse specifically for the Ragin Cajun Starter. “I’ve had this horse a few times and I knew this race had a bunch of speed. When the horse his happy, he loves to run from behind and today he way happy. We gave him some time and we got paid.”



The final order of finish was Madelyn’s Wild Max (\$12.40), Whacudposbylygowrng, Aw Shucks, Halfmoon Reef, Cheers to Berti, Successful Ryker, Alluring Actor, Man Camp, Bayou Bode and Skylas Gold.

Since the race, Madelyn’s Wild Max has gone on to win two more races at Delta Downs – Allowance Optional Claiming on Feb. 22 and Claiming \$4,000 on March 2. The 10-year-old gelded runner is 20-80 for lifetime earnings of \$379,858.