

# Always B Miki breaks world record

*By Ray Cotolo, for The Red Mile*

LEXINGTON, KY— Making his move for the top midway down the backstretch, Always B Miki set fast fractions before driver David Miller implored him through the stretch, advancing to win the \$138,000 Allerage Farms Open Pace in an all-time record mile of 1:46.

Always B Miki got away third as Shamballa was sent to the lead through a :26.1 opening quarter. David Miller showed Always B Miki the whip and he rushed first over to claim command to the half, timed in :52.2. He continued his sprint around the far turn, passing three-quarters in 1:19.4 before being chased home by Shamballa and All Bets Off in the stretch.

A five-year-old horse by Always A Virgin out of the Artsplace mare Artstopper, Always B Miki won his 27<sup>th</sup> race in 50 starts, earning \$2,296,368 for owners Bluewood Stable, Roll The Dice Stable and Christina Takter. He is trained by Jimmy Takter and paid \$2.10 to win.

“It’s a moment I’m never going to forget,” Jimmy Takter said. “You don’t get horses like this for long, and it’s definitely emotional to be around him. I can’t wait to see him as a stallion. His personality and everything about him will be well-received through the sport. He’s not the easiest horse because he had a lot of injuries, but what this horse overcame every single day nobody else did.

“He has the Breeders Crown and TVG Final; those are the only two races left for him.”

“I really thought the three-quarters was maybe a little too slow,” David Miller said. “But like I’ve said: he’s an incredible horse and does incredible things. I couldn’t be happier with him.”

Circling by Frost Damage Blues and Lady Shadow as they battled around the far turn, Prairie Sweetheart advanced to the front and defeated her older rivals to win the \$112,500 Allerage Farms Filly & Mare Pace in 1:49.1.

Lady Shadow set the pace, going fractions of :26.4 and :54.4 before receiving pressure from Frost Damage Blues, pulling first over from fourth, into the far turn. The two matched strides through a 1:22.2 third-quarter before Frost Damage Blues took the top. Lady Shadow retreated at the pylons while Prairie Sweetheart moved three wide, powering by Frost Damage Blues at the eighth pole. Prairie Sweetheart finished in front of Bedroomconfessions and Venus Delight, who stormed down the center of the track to finish second and third respectively.

Prairie Sweetheart, a three-year-old filly by Royal Millennium out of the Masterman mare Taylors Lady, remained undefeated in 12 starts with her lifetime-best win. She has earned \$155,024 for owner Let It Ride Stables Inc. and trainer Ross Croghan. Driven by Matt Kakaley, she paid \$14.80 to win.

“We recently purchased her,” Ross Croghan said. “I got a call from a friend of mine up at Pocono, and he said ‘I just saw a filly that looked fantastic.’ I watched the replay, and I had to

agree with him, so I watched her again the next week, and the next week, and I just thought this filly has something special.

“We actually purchased her the day before I was going to leave for the [Little Brown] Jug. I was going to be away for a month and I didn’t want to be away from her for that amount of time, so I brought her with me.

“We gave her a qualifier here last week just to see how she was and Matty [Kakaley] said she was super and that there were two seconds up her sleeve if he ever wanted to use it,” Croghan also said. “I spoke to the owners, and they’re both here enjoying the week in Lexington, so they opted to pop up with the supplement and watch the race, and it worked out in our favor.”

Flanagan Memory fanned off cover and trotted down the center of the track to take the \$101,000 Allerage Farms Open Trot in 1:51.2.

Jl Cruze was sent to the lead, clearing early race-leader Muscial Rhythm through a :27.2 opening quarter. After a :55 half, Jl Cruze braced the challenge of Obrigado into the far turn. They were stride for stride after a :21.4 third-quarter before Jl Cruze reemerged to the lead. Crazy Wow, tracking Obrigado from second over, edged three wide and trotted by Jl Cruze to take the lead before Flanagan Memory and Brian Sears rushed down the course to grab command. Crazy Wow took second, while Jl Cruze held third.

A six-year-old horse by Kadabra out of the Yankee Glide mare Classy Stacy, Flanagan Memory won his 18<sup>th</sup> race in 65 tries, compiling \$1,163,070 for owners Liette Flanagan and trainer Rene Dion. He paid \$5.00 to win.

“I was real happy to be third over,” Brian Sears said. “I was just hoping Mark [MacDonald on Obrigado] went out a little bit and didn’t wait too long for Ake [Svanstedt on Centurion Atm] to make a decision. This horse loves to finish up in the last quarter, so we were in a good position.”

“He has gotten better and better through the years. I was fortunate to drive him a year ago and win the [John] Cashman at the Meadowlands. He was a little disappointing in Canada a couple of weeks ago [in the Maple Leaf Trot], but I’m glad we’re going in on a positive note; we have the International Trot coming up.”