

Connie's Hope hits for duo



Jack Coady/Coady Photography

Iowa State senior Patrick Lamoreaux Jr. (left) and retiree James Jarvis finished one-two at Prairie Meadows.

By NOEL MICHAELS

Prairie Meadows completed its four-person team for the fifth annual *Daily Racing Form*/NTRA National Handicapping Championship when Patrick Lamoreaux Jr. and James Jarvis captured the top two spots in the second of two qualifying tournaments at the Altoona, Iowa, track on Sept. 6. Lamoreaux and Jarvis will join two winners from Prairie's June contest, Mark Brumm and Suzanne Nadermann, at the national finals on Jan. 23-24 at Bally's-Las Vegas.

The one-day Prairie Meadows contest cost \$50 to enter and attracted a field of 67 for a total purse of \$3,350.

Lamoreaux, a senior at Iowa State University in Ames, compiled a contest-winning total of \$110.60 based on 15 mythical \$2 win-and-place bets on Prairie's live card plus additional races from Arlington, Del Mar, Louisiana Downs, and Mountaineer Park. In addition to the trip to Las Vegas, Lamoreaux earned the top prize of \$837.

Second place went to Jarvis, a retired company manager from Ames, who finished with \$103.80 – four dollars better than defending contest champion Tom Dougherty (\$99.80). Jarvis won \$670 and the trip to the NHC. Dougherty settled for third prize of \$502, and will be staying

home come January.

The key horse for both Lamoreaux and Jarvis was longshot *Connie's Hope*, who won and paid \$46.60 to win and \$23.20 to place in race 4 at Prairie Meadows.

For the victorious Lamoreaux, the trip to Las Vegas will be his first flight on a jet, and first trip to Nevada.

Lanyon wins at Monmouth

Ken Lanyon of Ocean, N.J., earned the \$15,000 top prize and qualified for the *DRF*/NTRA National Handicapping Championship with a win in the first Monmouth Handicapping Challenge, held on Aug. 30.

The one-day event cost \$200 to enter and drew a full field of 150 for a total purse of \$30,000. Each player began the contest with a \$200 real-money bankroll to bet on the races from Monmouth, Delaware, and Saratoga. Contestants had to bet at least \$20 win, place, or show on a minimum of 10 races. All winnings could be re-bet, and players kept whatever money they accumulated at the end of the contest.

Lanyon won the tournament with a top bankroll of \$4,077. He stood in 23rd place with one race to go in the contest, and then cashed a \$200 win bet on longshot *Jakey D* in race 11 at Saratoga. The \$39.20 payoff was enough to catapult Lanyon into first

place, well ahead of runner-up David Krosunger of Wallingford, Pa., who finished with \$2,368. Krosunger also qualified for the NHC.

Reno emulates NHC finals

The Reno Hilton race book held its third major handicapping tournament of the year on Sept. 6-7. The Reno Hilton September Shootout attracted a field of 177 entrants who paid \$500 to compete for a total purse of \$88,500. The format of the tournament was identical to the format of the National Handicapping Championship, with players making 15 mythical \$2 win-and-place wagers on each day of the two-day event.

The winner of the contest was Richard Prozanski of Huntington Beach, Calif., who compiled a bankroll of \$206.20 to earn first prize of \$35,400 and a trip to the NHC in Las Vegas. Second-, third-, and fourth-place finishers Filbea Arnould of Las Vegas (\$184.30), Mike Mayo of Richardson, Texas (\$172.90), and Doug Craft of Encinitas, Calif. (\$163.70) also qualified for the national finals.

The top four finishers of two earlier contests held at the Reno Hilton will also be headed to Las Vegas for the national finals for a total of 12 representatives at the NHC.

COMING UP NEXT...

Arlington Park Handicapping Challenge (Sept. 27)

Arlington hosts a one-day contest to determine its four qualifiers to the *DRF*/NTRA National Handicapping Championship. The contest is limited to just 200 entries and costs \$150 to enter (Twin Spires Club members pay only \$100). The entry fee includes admission to the track, *Daily Racing Forms*, programs, \$10 in food and beverage tickets, and admission to the Starting Gate Theater, where the contest is held. The purse is \$20,000.

The Arlington contest consists of win and place wagering on 12 races including six mandatory Arlington races and six optional races from a selection of four assigned simulcast tracks. Each contestant will have a starting bankroll of \$120, which will be divided into 12 different \$10 win or place wagers. Contestants have the option of playing the entire \$10 to win or to place, or may elect to divide their \$10 bet between both win and place (example: \$5 to win, \$5 to place) as long as the total bet per race is no less or no more than \$10. Bets can be made on different horses in the same race. Win prices are capped at 20-1 (\$42) and place prices are capped at 10-1 (\$22). The top four finishers qualify for the National Handicapping Championship.

★ **HOW TO WIN:** First and foremost, play your entire \$10 per race to win in each and every contest wager with the possible exception of strategic plays late in the day. Since six Arlington plays are mandatory, make sure you pick the best six races on the card in terms of field size and value offered. You'll have plenty of races to choose from for your remaining six bets, so make sure you choose wisely while keying on your strongest opinions at the highest possible odds.

★ **WHERE TO STAY:** By far the best place to stay when visiting Arlington is the Sheraton Chicago Northwest (847-394-2000), located right next to the track on Euclid Ave. The hotel offers courtesy van service to the track's front door. If you can't get a room at the Sheraton, try the Hyatt Regency Woodfield (847-605-1234) just five minutes from the track.

★ **WHERE TO EAT:** Located a furlong outside the stable gate, Jimmy D's (1718 W. Northwest Hwy.; 847-255-1340) is a popular spot for both horsemen and horseplayers. There's a limited menu but enough cold brews at the bar to keep fans coming back for more. If you just can't get enough racing action, Arlington Trackside OTB (2200 W. Euclid Ave.; 847-259-8400), located across Arlington's parking lot, offers a full menu catering to the night racing crowd. Intrepid travelers in search of finer fare can hit the road and head to Bob Chinn's Crabhouse in Wheeling (393 S. Milwaukee Ave.; 847-520-3633), or Maggiano's (1901 E. Woodfield Rd.; 847-240-5600) in Schaumburg.

★ **CONTACT INFO:** For more information, call (847) 385-7765.

Twin Spires Club NHC qualifiers (Saturday, Sept. 20, 27)

Twin Spires Club gives its members four separate opportunities throughout September to qualify for the National Handicapping Championship and earn additional prize money. All contests cost nothing to enter. Contestants are required to be members of the Twin Spires Club, but membership in the Club is free of charge. One *DRF*/NTRA qualifying spot will be available to the winner of each contest.

The contest is available to players at all Twin Spires Club locations including Arlington, Calder, Churchill, Ellis, and Hoosier racetracks, plus offtrack locations including Arlington Heights, Chicago, Rockford, Quad Cities, and Waukegan in Illinois, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Merrillville in Indiana, and Louisville, Ky.

★ **HOW TO WIN:** There will be about 800 entrants each week, so you'll probably need to go 5-for-5 (or at least 4-for-5) in order to win. In case of a tie, the tie-breaker will be a selection on a sixth and final race. You'll probably need to win that race, too.

★ **CONTACT INFO:** Call 502-638-3881 or visit the website at www.twinspiresclub.com.