In The Arsenal wins Meadowlands Pace elimination.
by Ellen Harvey, Harness Racing Communications

In The Arsenal fired on all cylinders in the first elimination, going wire-to-wire to win by 1-1/2 lengths in 1:49.1.

Brian Sears took the son of American Ideal off the gate first to lead the field of seven to the quarter in :27.2. Artspeak pursued him to the :56.1 half and the 1:23.3 three quarters. Dude's The Man and driver Corey Callahan popped out from fourth along the rail just past the half to make a bid for the lead, but could not make up ground on the winner around the final turn. When the field turned for home, Sears had an unchallenged path to the wire for a spot in the $706,000 Pace on July 18.

Dealt A Winner (David Miller) closed stoutly from off the pace to be second and Dude’s The Man was third. Artspeak (Scott Zeron) and Revenge Shark (Tim Tetrick) got the final two spots for the final.

In The Arsenal is owned by White Birch Farm and In The Arsenal Racing. He's trained by Kelvin Harrison.

“A couple of weeks ago when I was in the two hole to Artspeak, sometimes he just gets a little uncomfortable,” said Sears of his preference for the lead. “When I can just let him do his thing on the front, he’s much better and the fact that I could get him (Artspeak) in behind me worked out much better tonight.

“He did everything he had to do and the easier we can make it, the better off we are. The horse has been good all year. He's a sweetheart. I have no complaints. Each week he comes out and he’s wringing his head, he’s feeling good and that's all you can ask.”

It will be trainer Kelvin Harrison’s first Meadowlands Pace start in 23 years when he was third with Direct Flight, favored over Western Hanover.

“He’s very competitive with anything on a mile track, but he’s really slick on a half mile and as you can see he can get around any track,” said Harrison. “After that quarter in 27.1 I knew they had to come and get him and I didn’t think they could him from there. He’s an easy keeper he doesn’t need to train hard. Just give him a week and stay nice and healthy and we’ll go from there.”

The draw for the $700,000 Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace, to be held July 18, is as follows:

Post -- Horse -- Morning Line Odds
1. Lyons Levi Lewis -- 30-1
2. Dude's The Man -- 30-1
3. Artspeak -- 6-1
4. Wiggle It Jiggleit -- 4-5
5. Rock N’ Roll World -- 50-1
6. In The Arsenal -- 3-1
7. Revenge Shark -- 30-1
8. Dealt A Winner -- 20-1
9. Wakizashi Hanover -- 4-1
10. Badiou Hanover -- 50-1