



Linscott Photos

# Rocknroll At Hoosier Park

Despite Starting In Second Tier, World Of Rocknroll Wins Hoosier Cup **By James Platz**

**A**nderson, Ind.—In the span of a few quick, powerful strides World Of Rocknroll and driver Ron Pierce separated themselves from the field Saturday evening, May 29, and rock-

eted to the wire to win the 14th edition of the \$500,000 Hoosier Cup in an impressive 1:50.3 display. The decision to ship to Hoosier Park Racing & Casino and forego the \$200,000 New Jersey Sire Stakes final

earlier in the day was a calculated risk for the World Of Rocknroll Stable, but it paid off handsomely on several levels. With the stakes season on the verge of hitting a fever pitch, the Rocknroll Hanover colt has established himself as a serious contender.

For Mike Gulotta, the Hoosier Cup victory was especially rewarding. His MJG Racing Stables Inc. teamed with Hill View Enterprises to campaign world champion mare Worldly Beauty before retiring her to broodmare duties. With an eye toward producing a foal with commercial appeal, the Artsplace mare was bred to first-year stallion Rocknroll Hanover during her third season. At the 2008 Harrisburg sale, World Of Rocknroll brought a final bid of just \$65,000.

In 11 starts as a two year old, World Of Rocknroll earned a lone victory and hit

## \$500,000 HOOSIER CUP

HORSE (DRIVER)	PP	1/4	1/2	3/4	STR.	FIN.	ODDS
<b>World Of Rocknroll</b> (R. Pierce)	12	9	7	6°	1 1/2	1/3	e*.90
<b>Allthatgltrsisgold</b> (D. Magee)	11	8°	8	5°	3 1/2	2/3	14.00
<b>Aracache Hanover</b> (J. Campbell)	6	1°	4	4	5/2 1/4	3/6	5.60
<b>I'm Gorgeous</b> (C. Callahan)	2	7	10	10°	6/4 1/4	4/6 1/4	10.90
<b>Foreign Officer</b> (Y. Gingras)	8	3°	2	3	4/3/4	5/8 3/4	e5.00
<b>Windfall Blue Chip</b> (P. Wrenn)	9	5°	1	1	2 1/2	6/9 1/2	e*.90
<b>Wayne The Lefty</b> (J. Dillander)	3	12	11°	11	8/4 1/2	7/13	e5.00
<b>Morgan Shark</b> (T. Seekman)	4	4	5°	9	7/4 1/4	8/15 1/4	19.50
<b>McMantle</b> (E. Goodell)	7	11°	9°	8°	9/6 1/2	9/18 1/2	e21.70
<b>Touch The Rock</b> (Tr. Tetric)	1	6°	3°	2°	10/7 1/4	10/20 1/4	103.10
<b>Perrito Caliente</b> (R. Macomber Jr.)	5	2	6	7	11/7 1/2	11/21	2.50
<b>Hare Force Two</b> (E. Hensley)	10	10	12	12	12/15 1/2	12/34	e21.70

Time—:26.2, :54.1, 1:22.2, 1:50.3; Fast; Win payoff—\$3.80

the board five more times for trainer Erv Miller, who co-owned the pacer with then assistant Tony Alagna and John Fodera. Earlier this year, Gulotta learned the colt was available for purchase.

"I got a call from Brett Pelling, who trained Rocknroll Hanover, and he had been watching the horse. He asked if we could get together and buy the horse," he commented. "He did reasonably well as a 2 year old without much racing luck. He became available, we bought him, and we're happy we did it."

According to the manager of World Of Rocknroll Stable, the sophomore was purchased for \$300,000 by a group that includes both local and international interests. The stable consists of Gulotta and his Deo Volente Farms LLC, David Mc Duffee, Fidencio Cervantez, New Zealand-based Cavalla Bloodstock Ltd. and Alabar Ltd., and Fodera, who kept his interest in the colt. Under new management this season, World Of Rocknroll was a perfect two for two at the Meadowlands entering the Hoosier Cup for trainer Richard "Nifty" Norman. The success has come as no surprise to Andy Willinger, partner with Gulotta in Deo Volente Farms.

"He went a lot of miles in under 1:53 last year, but he just never had the racing luck. He was always closing at the end of them; he'd finish sixth behind a wall of horses or whatever," said Willinger, one of the original owners of Lis Mara. "You can look back at his lines; he paced more sub 1:53 miles as a 2 year old to win only \$30,000 than probably any horse in history."

After winning an overnight April 30 in 1:52.4, World Of Rocknroll scored a narrow victory in New Jersey Sires Stakes action May 15, scoring a neck victory in 1:51.2. Eligible to the NJSS final, the partnership instead opted for Hoosier Park and a more lucrative payday.

"We came here because we're businessmen. Our objective is to make a profit, not to mention the fact that this horse is getting better and better and better," Gulotta explained. "This was a more appropriate stepping stone."

***"He went a lot of miles in under 1:53 last year, but he just never had the racing luck."***

***— Andy Willinger***

Intent on developing a stallion and proving the merits of Worldly Beauty as a broodmare, the royally-bred World Of Rocknroll rewarded the ownership group with a thrilling victory over a full field of sophomore colt pacers in Hoosier Park's richest harness race. Starting from the second tier in post 12, Pierce skillfully grabbed live cover racing off the

pace as the action was furious on the front.

"I was thinking it could either be real good or real bad," Pierce said of starting from the second tier. "I was just going to take things as they came. I ducked down second-over as they were mixing it up on the front and I had some live cover. I was very happy."

Perrito Caliente, Aracache Hanover and Foreign Officer each took turns on the lead as the field rolled through a :26.2

had company in the form of Allthatgltrsisgold, with the favorite in tow. Angling three-wide racing out of the turn to pass the tiring Touch The Rock, Allthatgltrsisgold took aim at the leader. But Pierce flipped four-wide and uncorked World Of Rocknroll and the colt responded with a rush, rocketing by the two challengers on his way to a lifetime best effort.

"I was standing up at the top of the lane and I could see the horse was loaded when he came by me," admitted Norman afterward. "You'll see on this track a lot of times a horse coming wide like that, it takes a long time to catch the leaders. But as soon as he tipped him out he caught them in two strides."

Pierce was just along for the ride at that point, winning by three lengths and collecting his second Hoosier Cup victory after winning with Dragon Again in 1999. Allthatgltrsisgold was followed by Aracache Hanover and John Campbell.



opening quarter, and by the time the group of colts flashed past the half (:54.1), Peter Wrenn had moved Windfall Blue Chip to the top. Pierce, however, had found a comfortable place behind Dave Magee and Allthatgltrsisgold.

"I kind of thought it would be a little bit wild. I thought there would be a lot of movement," Norman said of how the race unfolded. "I didn't think it would work out as good as it did, but Ronnie's a great man on a big job like that."

Reaching the three quarters in 1:22.2, Windfall Blue Chip had fought off the advance of Touch The Rock, but soon

"He blew by them," agreed Pierce.

Going into the race World Of Rocknroll had the next to lowest earnings in the field, which could have been a problem in the retooled Hoosier Cup, where eliminations were dropped in favor of the top 12 money earners. With the Hoosier Cup victory, World Of Rocknroll earned \$250,000 for his connections and cemented his future. Norman said the New Jersey Classic is next on the schedule for his charge, but the colt is not eligible to the \$1.5 million Pepsi North America Cup by design, allowing for a break before the \$1 million Meadowlands Pace.