

Kiwi pacer wins first US start in Scioto Open

Odds-on favorite Classic Cullen N went to the front at the start of the feature at Scioto Downs on Saturday night and shook off all challengers to win by five lengths in 1:53.1 for driver Jeff Nisonger.

It was the 7-year-old New Zealand import's first start in the United States. He had recently won a qualifier at Scioto in 1:54.4.

On Saturday night, the son of Christian Cullen won a duel for the lead over Gerald N Sam as they blazed through an opening quarter in 26.1. Gerald N Sam, sent off at 3-1odds, was left on the outside after the fast early fractions and later faded badly.

Classic Cullen N drew off to a nine-length lead entering the stretch and was eased to the wire well ahead of Thunder Cruise, who rallied from well back for driver Chris Page. Caramel Dumping was third.

The winner is owned by Joseph V. Muscara of Huntingdon Valley, Pa. and is trained by Virgil Morgan, Jr.

Driver Jeremy Smith won four races at Scioto on Saturday night while Chris Page scored a driving triple.