

Sam's Gift takes Scioto's 50th Anniversary feature

Columbus, Oh - Sam's Gift prevailed by a neck over Red Silk Sails in the Open Pace on Saturday as Scioto Downs celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

Both Sam's Gift and Red Silk Sails overtook pacesetter Tuffery N in the homestretch but Jeremy Smith got Sam's Gift to the wire first in 1:54.3. Tuffery N held on for third.

Sam's Gift was coming off two runner-up finishes in Scioto's Open for Smith and trainer-owner John Ackley of Washington Court House, Ohio. The gelded son of Nobleland Sam now has two wins in nine starts this season.

Driver Kyle Ater scored a three-bagger, winning the third, fourth, and fifth races after finished second and third, respectively, in the evening's first two races.

Popular Ohio horseman Sandy Beatty drove Thistricksforyou to victory in the tenth race. He was joined in the winner's circle by his son, Staff. Sgt. Adam Beatty, who has recently returned home from a tour of duty in Iraq. In the winner's circle, guest announcer Roger Huston interviewed Sandy Beatty and paid tribute to his son for his military service.

Racing resumes on Monday, Memorial Day, at Scioto with a special 1 p.m. post time.