

Discipline Wins Stakes Division

Mr. Fitz Half Right on Phipps' Misses

By Pete Axthelm

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SARATOGA SPRINGS.

The old man was sitting on a deck chair under the red and white canopy near the Saratoga paddock entrance. His crutches lay on the grass by his feet. People kept coming over to say hello and his old, twisted neck made it hard for him to look up at them. This didn't bother him a bit.

"Saratoga always has been a transfusion for the sport of racing," said Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons. "Now I think it's a transfusion for me. I feel just fine."

Mr. Fitz, who is 91 and has been retired two years, had a fine time all afternoon, talking to his old friends and watching the horses in the paddock. "This is a good spot for me to sit," he said. "I can see everything and I stay out of the way."

It was Mr. Fitz' first visit to Saratoga this year. He's been coming for 71 years as a jockey and then as the country's premier trainer for some 40 years. Yesterday he was just a fan and he was rooting hard for two horses. "Mrs. Phipps came all the way up from New York to see her fillies run," he said. "It would be just grand to see them both win."

Mr. Fitz got the Phipps family into racing 40 years ago. Bill Winfrey is training for them now and had some strong moral support yesterday. Mrs. Henry Carnegie Phipps' Wheatley Stable had a three-year-old filly entered in each \$30,000 division of the Test Stakes and Mr. Fitz liked their chances.

"Mrs. Phipps is such a wonderful sportswoman," he said. "She had some bad luck early this year but now she's got these two nice fillies and I think they might both win."

Mr. Fitz was half right. Discipline, the Wheatley filly in the first division, won by a head. But Queen Empress, 3-5 favorite in the second half of the Stakes, finished second to Mrs. Richard C. duPont's Cestrum.

The first division of the stake was nicely set up for the stretch-running Discipline. In the walking ring before the race, trainer Ed Neloy talked about his 6-5 favorite in the race, Valiant Queen. "This is a filly that has got to run all she wants," he said. "When you take a hold on her, she'll get beaten."

A few yards away, trainer Jim Conway said, "You can't get cute with a filly like Candalita. You've just got to let her go to the front and run as far as she can. So she and Valiant Queen will probably knock each other out and set is up for some come-from-behind horse."

Candalita and Valiant Queen did just that. They ran head and head for the first half mile of the seven furlong race, while Jockey Walter Blum held Discipline fifth on the outside. Candalita was the first to give up the fight and Valiant Queen opened up a two-lengths lead on the turn.

Blum got Discipline rolling at the head of the stretch and she took the lead near the eighth pole. Then Larry Adams moved William Haggin Perry's Terentia from far back. He passed Valiant Queen near the sixteenth pole and just missed catching Discipline at the wire.

"Discipline didn't get tired," Blum said later. "But she

tends to slow up when she gets in front. When she saw the other horse come alongside, she started running well again." She ran well enough to pick up the winners share of \$13,454, and pay her backers at \$6.80.

Queen Empress' defeat in the second division of The Test again emphasized the disadvantage of racing along the rail at Saratoga. Breaking from the post position, Queen Empress raced close to the pace all the way. Cestrum, with Sammy Boulmetis riding, was also close up but running on the outside.

On the turn, Braulio Baeza urged Queen Empress past the pace-setting Cohasset but he was unable to swing out to the firmer racing surface on the outside. Boulmetis kept his filly wide and he had the strongest horse in the stretch. Cestrum drew away to win by a length-and-one-half. Queen Empress held on for second, one-half length in front of the fast-closing Ground Control.

Cestrum was winning the first stakes of her life and she paid \$28.80. Queen Empress was the 16th straight favorite to lost on the tiring Saratoga track and before the day was over, the streak reached 18. Only five favorites have managed to win in the four days of racing here.

Statistics like these didn't concern Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons. After the stakes race he was still smiling. He pushed hi straw hat down on hi head ad laughed. "A firt and a second, that's not too bad. Anyway, it's been a wonderful day. I'll be out here a lot more, if the weather's OK. I wish everybody felt as good as I do—only not quite so damn old."