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HORSE RACING; Red Smith Victory To Yankee Affair

By STEVEN CRIST Published: June 03, 1990

It was beginning to look as if age was catching up with Yankee Affair.

The 8-year-old gelding, a winner of more than \$2 million, finished second in four of his last five starts. The last two times he raced, he simply came up empty in the stretch. Yesterday, a furlong from the wire at Belmont Park, he appeared to have too much ground to make up and seemed likely to settle for second again.

In the final 100 yards, though, Yankee Affair showed his experience rather than his age. In a thoroughly tough and professional performance, he wore down Phantom Breeze, a 4-year-old colt, and then held off Hodges Bay, a 5-year-old gelding, to win the \$117,600 Red Smith Handicap. It was his first stakes victory since the Turf Classic at Belmont last October.

"At 8 years old, he's just a little smarter, a little more professional," said Henry Carroll, his trainer and co-owner.

Green Barb Fades

Yankee Affair scored by three-quarters of a length over Hodges Bay while carrying top weight of 122 pounds, 6 more than the runner-up. Phantom Breeze, a son of Vision imported from Ireland, was a head back in third in his American stakes debut, and Green Barb faded to fourth after leading for seven furlongs.

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The winner paid \$3.80 for \$2 to win as the favorite and ran the mile and a quarter on the inner turf course in 2:00.35 under Jose Santos.

The Red Smith Handicap honors the memory of the sportswriter who wrote for The New York Herald-Tribune and later for The New York Times. Smith, a lifelong fan and friend of racing, died in 1982.

Yankee Affair, a Pennsylvania-bred son of Northern Fling, won for the 22d time in 51 career starts. He has earned \$2,229,746 for the Jujugen Stable, so named because its three owners - Jay Garsman, Morton Scheinman and Carroll - describe themselves as "two Jews and a Gentile."

Ten Keys Takes East

Yesterday's victory reestablished Yankee Affair as the top grass horse based in New York, but

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he will have to beat Ten Keys to regain his status as the top grass horse in the East. He finished second to Ten Keys at level weights in both the Elkhorn at Keeneland on April 14 and the Early Times at Churchill Downs on May 4.

Yesterday also marked the opening of the Belmont Horsefair, which will continue daily except Tuesday through June 10. The fair, featuring dozens of exhibitors' booths and daily performances at 10 A.M. by various breeds of horses, is free to the public. Those who arrive before 11 A.M. are permitted to stay for the races at no additional cost. More than 7,000 people were at Belmont by 11 yesterday.

The Belmont feature today is the Roseben Handicap, which drew just four older sprinters who will travel six furlongs. Dancing Spree, last year's Breeders' Cup Sprint winner, scared off more challengers and will carry top weight of 124 pounds against Mr. Nickerson (118), Born to Shop (117) and Domasca Dan (117).

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The advertisement features the McIntosh logo on the left with the tagline "LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE™". To the right, the text reads "LIVE YOUR MUSIC WITH THE MC601" in blue, followed by "Audio Advice | Charlotte, NC". On the far right is a photograph of the McIntosh MC601 audio component, which has a blue digital display and two large knobs.

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