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# Turf Classic Won By Yankee Affair

By STEVEN CRIST  
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Yankee Affair and Sewickley repeated recent Grade I victories by winning major stakes races at Belmont Park yesterday to make strong cases for themselves as divisional champions.

Yankee Affair, a 7-year-old gelding who won the Man o' War at Belmont on Sept. 23, scored a half-length victory over El Senor to win the \$654,250 Turf Classic yesterday under Jose Santos. Those two victories, as well as his triumph in the United Nations Handicap in July, give Yankee Affair as many credentials as anyone to be named the nation's top grass horse.

Half an hour earlier, Sewickley, who beat Once Wild by a length in the Fall Highweight Handicap on Sept. 16, beat that same rival by a 1 1/4 lengths this time to win the \$225,200 Vosburgh Stakes. Going After the Eclipse

Sewickley, who has gotten little respect and was inexplicably dispatched as the longest shot in the field yesterday at 6-to-1, is now the early favorite to be named the nation's champion sprinter.

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Both will try to win Eclipse Awards as divisional champions without contesting the Breeders' Cup races Nov. 4. Yankee Affair might be the favorite in the \$2 million Turf and Sewickley would be the choice in the \$1 million Sprint, but neither horse was nominated to the series at birth.

Neither horse's owner is eager to pay the exorbitant supplemental fees of 12 to 20 percent of the total purse for those races, especially since the winner of a cup race gets only 45 percent of the purse.

So Yankee Affair may run in either the Rothman's International at Woodbine or the Washington D.C. International, both Oct. 22. Sewickley will try to nail down the sprint title in the N.Y.R.A. Mile at Aqueduct on Oct. 21.

Yankee Affair, a son of Northern Fling and the Debbysman mare My Malchem, paid \$3.40 for \$2 to win as the heavy favorite in the Turf Classic and ran the mile and a half in 2:27.27. Owned by the Ju Ju Gen Stable and trained by Henry Carroll, Yankee Affair has won 20 of 45 career starts and earned over \$1,830,466. Learning to Relax

Fijar Tango went right to the lead yesterday and led Nediym and Ninety Years Young through fractions of 23.49, 47.91, 1:12.63 and 1:37.25. Yankee Affair made his bid on the outside

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entering the stretch turn, got past Fijar Tango at the top of the stretch, and opened a 2 1/2-length lead with a furlong to go.

El Senor, who failed to handle a soft course in the Man o' War, fired his best shot yesterday and made a strong late bid, but fell half a length short of catching the winner.

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