

## Raving Rocket Pulls Upset in Flag Officer

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The Flag Officer appeared to be the right spot for local return of Humor at Last and he went off as the heavy favorite, sent off at 2-5. But in the end it was Dare to Dream Stable's Raving Rocket who stole the race, leading every single jump.

Breaking well from the gate, Raving Rocket and jockey E.T. Baird coasted through early fractions of :24.89 for the opening quarter and :49.23 for the half. Sitting closest of all was Royal Flyer while Humor at Last settled in fourth and Win Me Over dropped out to the back of the pack.

In the turn, Raving Rocket still held the lead while Royal Flyer ranged up to challenge. Humor at Last was a bit wide and failed to respond when asked and Win Me Over was gearing up from the end. After three-quarters in 1:14.05, Raving Rocket had put away Royal Flyer and opened up the lead. Cruising under the wire, Raving Rocket stopped the clock in 1:49.15 for the 1 1/16 miles, winning by three-lengths over Win Me Over. Royal Flyer finished third while Humor at Last was a tiring fourth.

The win was the third for Raving Rocket and the first at a distance. The \$25,200 winner's share boosted his career earnings to \$67,350 for his owners and trainer Larry Rivelli.

Raving Rocket returned \$10.60, \$5.60 and \$6.80 to show. Win Me Over Returned \$4.40 and \$5.00 while Royal Flyer came back \$10.00 to show.

Jockey E.T. Baird rode a perfect race on Raving Rocket, "Larry (Rivelli) gave me orders to just let him run comfortably. It was unpredictable with so many horses in here never going long, he just had to find his spot. He got to the lead pretty easily. They never got to him."

Trainer Larry Rivelli was equally impressed, "We had to try him long. He hasn't been running as good as we thought he could. He had the pedigree for the distance. He ran a great race."

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