



The Jockey that Owned Kentucky Downs 2021 Meet—Joel Rosario

With the big summer meets over and the rest winding down, it first appears as though the sport is in a sort of doldrums. This certainly wasn't true the past two weeks when the much-anticipated Kentucky Downs meet happened. If you haven't caught on to this six-day event on the racing calendar, make a note to catch it next year. Why, you ask? How can any meet that short and located in some obscure area of Kentucky be any fun, you continue?

Sure, it's in a field somewhere near the Tennessee border, about 30 plus miles from Nashville. The course looks like someone plopped it down with no thought of a perfect oval. Its pear shape is unique to most tracks. There are those uphill and downhill portions to go along with the left and right moves. With just a grass course, the field sizes are large. With the purse sizes, those fields have horses from all over the country competing. With the reduced take-out, horse players have their full attention on it.

It has all the components the sport needs to draw all of its interests. The top owners, trainers and jockey go there for the chance of getting a portion of those purses. Where they can they run their charges for MSW purse sizes of \$135,000. Then there's the graded stakes, many of which equate to a million dollars in purse monies on the line. Some of the Grade 1s are the BC "Win and You're In" variety as well.

It is the ultimate handicappers challenge with those big fields running on a crazy course. Even the casual race fan can enjoy watching the equine athletes running in a venue that harkens to the days when the sport first started. British royalty competing on open fields to determine which of their Thoroughbreds was best.

Yes, it is sad that such a meet is so short, but then again too much of a good thing may have us never watching the modern-day form. Speaking of the modern style of racing, the fall meets are getting ready to commence. Last week, we explained how jockeys like Joel Rosario are to be followed in the many stakes races on the fall calendar. Need proof? Joel blew away his competition at this year's Kentucky Downs meet. With the focus of the owners and trainers on the meet don't be surprised if Joel garners some terrific mounts in the coming weeks.