

ARTISTIC FELLA PAINTS MEADOWLANDS PACE MASTERPIECE

Thirty years after he first arrived at the Meadowlands, Hall of Famer Cat Manzi finally captured the track's signature event in 2007, and ironically, it was behind a colt that he given up on three months earlier.

Manzi had steered Artistic Fella to disappointing finishes in his first two starts of the year and, at the time, could not picture the \$13,000 yearling amounting to much on the stakes trail. He surrendered the drive and a few weeks later, Artistic Fella went on to win the \$225,000 Berry's Creek, with Ron Pierce at the lines. Trainer Steve Elliott asked Manzi to take the reins again when Pierce traveled to Canada to drive Total Truth in the North America Cup for trainer George Teague.

"This was like my destiny," Manzi noted. "I drove the horse a few months ago and couldn't do anything with him. Here, he fell back in my lap. Joe [owner Joe Alborano] said to give him another try. It was exciting. It feels like it was my destiny, it feels great."

After a 1:48.4 win in his Pace elimination, Artistic Fella was sent off the even-money favorite in the \$1 million final. Manzi hustled Artistic Fella to the lead before the half and he dug in for a length and a quarter victory in his second straight 1:48.4 mile. Manzi finally had his first Pace win at age 56.

"When they settled at the quarter and started to go slow, it set up perfect for me to move to the front," Manzi said. "I really thought it was about over once I did that. I just wanted to make sure he kept going, that was all. I did get after him a little to make sure he got it done. I felt great [in the stretch]."

Artistic Fella proved to be one of the best bargains in racing history. Owner Joseph Alborano purchased the son of Pacific Fella for \$13,000 as a yearling and he concluded the season with 11 wins and nearly \$950,000 in earnings.

1ST ELIMINATION - 7/8/06 - 1:49

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Perfect Union	David Miller	Jerry Silverman
2 Armbro Deuce	George Brennan	Blair Burgess
3 Total Truth	Ron Pierce	George Teague, Jr.
4 Dave Panlone	Dave Palone	Jim Arledge, Jr.
5 Shark Gesture	Brian Sears	Erv Miller

2ND ELIMINATION - 7/8/06 - 1:48⁴

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Artistic Fella	Cat Manzi	Steve Elliott
2 Real Mean Art	Yannick Gingras	John McDermott
3 Took Hanover	John Campbell	Noel Daley
4 My Boy David	David Miller	Homer Hochstetler
5 Western Ace	Ron Pierce	George Teague, Jr.

CONSOLATION - 7/15/06 - 1:50⁴

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Jereme's Jet	Tony Morgan	Tom Harmer
2 Fox Valley Appeal	Dave Palone	J. Smith
3 Western Guy	Andy Miller	J. Huff

\$1,000,000 FINAL - 7/15/06 - 1:48⁴

Horse	Driver	Trainer
1 Artistic Fella	Cat Manzi	Steve Elliott
2 My Boy David	Andy Miller	Homer Hochstetler
3 Armbro Deuce	George Brennan	Blair Burgess

2006

RACE 8	PACE	1 MILE	MEADOWLANDS PACE	\$1,000,000	Quarter times: 26 ³ , 53 ¹ , 1:21 ³ , 1:48 ⁴	TEMP	80-0	TRACK: FAST	OFF: 10:23						
3	Artistic Fella	3 4 ⁰³	1 1 ^{1/4}	1 3/4	1 1 ^{1/2}	1 1 ^{1/4}	27 ¹	1:48 ⁴	C. Manzi	Mutuels	(3)	4.00	2.80	2.80	*1.00
4	My Boy David	4 2 ^{1/4}	4 4 ^{1/4}	4 4 ³	4 4 ³	2 1 ^{1/4}	26 ⁴	1:49	A. Miller		(4)		12.40	6.60	34.60
6	Armbro Deuce	6 8 ^{07 1/2}	8 8 ⁰⁸	8 8 ^{00 4 1/2}	5 3 ^{1/4}	3 1 ^{1/4}	26 ³	1:49	G. Brennan		(6)			4.60	6.20
2	Perfect Union	2 3 ^{0 1 1/4}	2 2 ^{1/4}	3 3 ^{1/4}	3 3 ^{1/2}	4 1 ^{1/2}	27	1:49	D. Miller						13.30
1	Shark Gesture	1 5	5 5 ^{1/2}	7 7 ^{1/4}	8 8 ^{3/4}	5 4 ^{1/4}	27 ¹	1:49 ³	M. MacDonald						41.10
9	Dave Panlone	9 10 ^{9 1/4}	10 10 ¹⁰	10 10 ^{6 1/4}	9 9 ^{3/4}	6 4 ^{1/2}	26 ⁴	1:49 ³	D. Palone						80.60
8	Took Hanover	8 1 1 ^{1/4}	3 3 ^{2 3/4}	2 2 ^{0 3/4}	2 2 ^{1/2}	7 7 ^{5/8}	28	1:49 ⁴	J. Campbell						14.20
5	Total Truth	5 7 0 ^{6 1/4}	7 7 ⁰⁷	6 6 ⁰⁰	6 6 ^{3/4}	8 7	28	1:50 ¹	R. Pierce						2.80
7	Western Ace	7 6 0 ⁵	6 6 ^{05 1/4}	5 5 ⁰³	7 7 ^{1/2}	9 8	28 ¹	1:50 ²	B. Sears						10.20
10	Real Mean Art	10 9 0 ^{7 3/4}	9 9 ^{09 1/2}	9 9 ⁰⁶	10 10 ⁶	10 11	28 ¹	1:51	Y. Gingras						52.50

Winning Owners: Joseph Alborano
Winning Trainer: Steve Elliott

Exacta (3-4) 84.00
Trifecta (3-4-6) 222.70
Superfecta (3-4-6-2) 1,189.00