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Wild About Marie Surprises in Franklin County

by Jason Shandler

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Wild About Marie and Robby Albarado upset the Buffalo Trace Franklin County Stakes.

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Photo: Mathea Kelley

Dawn and Ike Thrash's [Wild About Marie](#) pulled a 12-1 upset in the Keeneland feature Oct. 14, coming from off the pace to take the \$100,000 [Buffalo Trace Franklin County Stakes](#) by two lengths ([VIDEO](#)).

The 4-year-old filly by [Wildcat Heir](#) won for the third time this year, capturing the 5 1/2-furlong turf sprint in 1:03.01 on the firm going under Robby Albarado, who won three races during the afternoon. Jeffrey Thornbury trains the bay filly.

Wild About Marie was bred in Florida by Robert Dodd, Tonya Jurgens, and Dry Creek Stables. She is out of the Valid Wager mare Joyful Wager.

The winner raced in seventh in a field of 11 fillies and mares through the early stages, as [Bounding Bi](#) set the pace during a :21.50 opening quarter mile. Bounding Bi took the lead into the stretch after a half-mile in :44.77, but Wild About Marie, who angled out wide when entering the lane, rolled by the leader in mid-stretch en route to the victory.

[Supreme](#) came from well back to get second under Luis Garcia, one length in front of third-place [You Need Me](#), who was sent off at 6-1.

"She has been training super," Thornbury said. "You're only surprised in this kind of crowd; this was a contentious bunch. She ran great."

Wild About Marie won for the first time in five starts. Her last victory came in the Bienville Stakes at Fair Grounds in March. Overall, she improved to 5-3-4 from 20 lifetime starts and earnings of \$261,985.

She paid \$27.80, \$13.40, and \$9. The exacta (4-2) returned \$198.40 and the trifecta (4-2-5) was worth \$5,843.

Keeneland, which was playing extraordinarily fast, produced a track record earlier in the day—amazingly by a 2-year-old filly making her racing debut.

[Applauding](#), a chestnut filly by [Congrats](#) —Andria's Forest (by Forestry), shattered the six-furlong Polytrack record in race 6 by clocking 1:07.76 under Garrett Gomez—while being geared down at the wire. Owned by Ramona Bass, Applauding won by nine lengths after posting fractions of :21.78 and :44.02.

The previous track record was set in April 2007 by He Loves Me Not in 1:08.30.

Al Stall Jr. trains Applauding, who was bred in Florida by Brylynn Farm. She was bought for \$370,000 earlier this year at the Fasig-Tipton Florida select sale of 2-year-olds in training.

In the eighth race, the first Polytrack race after Applauding set the record, 3-year-old gelding [Stormy Going](#) ran 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:14.53, which was just one-fifth of a second slower than the track record.

The fast track may have had to do in part to the 30 mile-per-hour winds that were swirling in Lexington.

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