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## **Guidry, Sunbean shine during Louisiana Legends Night program at Evangeline Downs**

Opelousas, Louisiana—Mark Guidry and Sunbean were the stars of the show on Louisiana Legends Night as the veteran rider won three of the eight stake races and five overall and Sunbean ascended to the top of the list for active Louisiana bred horses with a track record setting win in the Legends Mile for colts & geldings at Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino on Saturday, July 6.

Guidry, a 53-year-old Lafayette, La. native who is in the top twenty-five all-time in North America with more than 5,190 wins to his credit, started the night off with a win aboard Diva Dash (\$9.80) in the evening's first race, a \$40,000 overnight event. He then followed that up with three wins during the stakes portion of the program which included back-to-back wins for the owner/trainer combination of Dale Ladner & Brett Brinkman with Sittin at the Bar (\$4.60) in the \$100,000 Legends Night Ladies Sprint and Unitas (\$20.20) in the \$100,000 Legends Night Sprint. Guidry also captured the \$75,000 Legends Night Starter Stakes with Well's Gold (\$10.40) for trainer Ralph Irwin and owner Knights Prairie Racing before closing out the night's proceedings with a popular victory aboard Kisses for Carrots (\$2.80) in another \$40,000 overnight event. Guidry, who understandably was all smiles stated "This was a special night for me, to win five on a night like this is great, it is the biggest night of the year at Evangeline with really good racing and an enthusiastic crowd, and best of all my kids and grandkids were here to cheer me on."

Also sharing the spotlight this evening was Sunbean, who dominated the \$100,000 Legends Night Mile for colts & geldings with a track record performance under jockey Corey Lanerie. After encountering traffic problems in three consecutive Graded Stakes races, the newly gelded son of Brahms enjoyed a trouble free trip while shaving more than a half-second off the previous mark of 1:36.28 set by Ide Like a Double in the 2008 Evangeline Mile. Owned and bred in Louisiana by Evelyn Benoit's Brittlyn Stable, Inc. of Star Guitar fame, Sunbean stopped the teletimer in 1:35.75 on a track labeled fast. After the race winning jockey Corey Lanerie stated "I had never ridden him before so I wasn't exactly sure what to expect, but he broke smoothly and we had a trouble free trip stalking the leaders and when I asked him to go at the top of the stretch he responded and I stayed busy on him just to keep him focused and he felt real good and had plenty of gas in reserve. It's too early to say he's another Star Guitar (the recently retired 4-time Louisiana Bred Horse-of-the-Year who Lanerie regularly piloted the last few seasons of his career) but he certainly proved he's got a ton of ability and is on the right track." Making his first start for new trainer Ron Faucheux, Sunbean returned \$4.40 to his many backers for the victory as the 6/5 betting favorite. The win was his third stakes victory and fourth overall from just eight starts. With the \$60,000 first place check, he has now earned more than \$208,000.

In other action, the Tom Amoss trained Populist Politics (\$6.00) swept past Heavy On Themister at the top of the stretch, then held off the charge of Hud's Rebellion and Arkansas Martini to win the \$100,000 Legends Night Classic for three-year-olds and up. Ridden by Gerard Melancon, the five-year-old Don't Get Mad stallion earned \$60,000 for the victory and has now earned more than \$550,000 for owner Klaravich Stables Inc. The running time for the 1 and 1/16<sup>th</sup> miles was 1:43.83 and the winning margin was ½ of a length. There was an additional three stake races on the program with a purse of \$100,000 and they were captured by Mischievous Mama (\$9.20) in the Legends Night Fillies Mile, String King (\$4.20) in the Legends Turf, and Little Ms Protocol (\$3.60) in the Legends Distaff.

For more information contact Evangeline Downs at 337-594-3000.

