

# 'Yank' strong on Opening Day

BY MATT O'NEIL

The 2-year-old racing season in Kentucky got off to a quick start on Opening Day at Keeneland with the first race featuring a full field of juvenile colts.

One Good Yank took the contest and looked like a good thing doing it. After hopping a bit at the start, he rushed up and quickly gained command and was never seriously threatened. The son of Yankee Victor went off at 5-1 and ran the 4 1/2 furlongs in 52.05 seconds over a main track rated as good. One Good Yank is trained by Dale Romans for Jerry Crawford and is out of a daughter of the multiple juvenile stakes winner Mountain Cat.

The filly counterpart race was run as the opener on the Sunday card and was won by the favored Richwoman. She ran the 4 1/2 furlongs in 52.65 over a fast main track, in an exceptionally professional performance. She broke on top, but soon encountered pressure from Glory Nekia to her inside and Carson's Dane to her outside.

Richwoman shook off both rivals turning for home and drew off to an emphatic 7-length romp. A daughter of

## 2-YEAR-OLD RACES

2004 leading first crop sire Successful Appeal out of the Richman mare Richbabe, Richwoman carried the colors of Bill Heiligbrodt and is trained by Steve Asmussen. Heiligbrodt and Asmussen have teamed to win several baby races at the Spring Meet in recent years.

The first-crop sires of 2006 were represented by only three runners in the weekend's two juvenile races.

The best finish was by the Yonaguska filly Shesadreamcatcher, fourth on Sunday at nearly 7-1. Johann Star, the first runner by juvenile champion Johannesburg, was dismissed at 68-1 and finished ninth on Friday.

Paljo, a son of the first crop sire Abajo finished fourth in Friday's race for the Heiligbrodt-Asmussen combo. Heiligbrodt raced Abajo and then retired him to Louisiana after winning seven stakes and earning just over \$600,000. Heiligbrodt has supported the stallion with many of his own mares and Paljo is the first runner from what promises to be a precocious bunch of Abajo-sired homebreds.