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No fairy tale, Spoken Fur romps in Mother Goose

Amerman Racing Stables' Spoken Fur has officially added her name to trainer Bobby Frankel's ever-growing list of stars.

After failing to secure a maiden victory in her first four starts, Spoken Fur's easy win in the \$300,000 Mother Goose Stakes (G1) on Saturday at Belmont Park extended her win streak to four races. In Saturday's race for three-year-old fillies, she opened an eight-length victory in the stretch and cruised home, wrapped up late by jockey Jerry Bailey, with a 5 1/4-length win over runner-up Yell. Spoken Fur completed the 1 1/8-mile race in 1:50.41 over a fast track.

Even more impressive than the margin of victory for Spoken Fur was the fact that she was making her stakes debut. The daughter of Notebook broke her maiden in her fifth try at Keeneland Race Course on April 6 and followed that up with a pair of victories against allowance company at Churchill Downs.

"I had a feeling she'd run a good race and my guys have done a nice job with her," Frankel said. "It wasn't the toughest bunch of horses in the world, but she won nicely.

"I've got good owners who come up with the money [to buy horses]. She's worth a lot more now than what we bought her for."

Spoken Fur broke sharply from post two and rated comfortably in fourth while Roar Emotion cut fractions of :23.07 and :46.54 under pressure from Rhumb Line. After moving up to third at the six-furlong mark, Bailey swung Spoken Fur three wide past the tiring pacesetters coming around the final turn. The Hall of Fame jockey was merely a passenger from that point on as Spoken Fur coasted home.

"I was the beneficiary of a good trip," Bailey said. "Turning for home, I saw I had John Velazquez [on Yell] pinned and figured that was a good time to open up. She has a tremendous turn of foot. I'm pretty impressed."

Grade 2 winner Yell, the 1.45-to-1 favorite, rallied for second with Final Round three-quarters of a length behind in third.

"This was not our day; it was the winner's day," said Shug McGaughey, trainer of Yell. "She hasn't gotten as good a trip as I would have liked ...but she'll bounce back. I expect the Coaching Club [American Oaks (G1)] will be next."

With the first leg of the Triple Tiara in his pocket, Frankel said that Spoken Fur would make her next start in the second leg, the Coaching Club American Oaks at Belmont on July 19. The final leg of the Triple Tiara comes at Saratoga Race Course on August 16 in the \$750,000 Alabama Stakes (G1).

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Bred in Florida by George Smith and Dr. W.E. Johnston, Spoken Fur improved her record to four wins from eight starts. She has earned \$265,880. She is the lone winner of three foals to race out of the winning mare Siberian Fur, who is by Siberian Express.

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Spoken Fur Dominates CCA Oaks, Nears Triple Tiara Sweep

by Blood-Horse Staff

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Spoken Fur takes giant stride toward Triple Tiara with decisive win in CCA Oaks.

Photo: AP/NYRA Adam Coglianese

Spoken Fur and jockey Jerry Bailey turned in a dominating performance to easily capture the \$500,000 Coaching Club American Oaks (gr. I) at Belmont Park Saturday, collecting the second jewel in New York's Triple Tiara for owner Amerman Racing Stables.

Spoken Fur, who recorded her fifth consecutive victory, can win a \$2 million bonus by sweeping the 3-year-old filly series. The final race is the Alabama Stakes (gr. I) at Saratoga on Aug. 16.

Trained by Bobby Frankel, who took over training the gray/roan 3-year-old daughter of Notebook prior to her victory in the opening leg of the series, the Mother Goose (gr. I), Spoken Fur needed 2:31 to complete the 1 1/2-mile distance of the CCA Oaks. She defeated the slowly closing Fircroft by 3 1/2 lengths. Savedbythelight, also closing late, was third.

The 4-5 favorite settled in midpack after a tangled run into the first turn as Shapes And Shadows set quick fractions, considering the distance, of :22 4/5 for the opening quarter-mile, :46 2/5 for the half and 1:11 3/5 for six furlongs. Bailey brought Spoken Fur outside on the turn as second choice Yell took over the lead from the fading pacesetter. Spoken Fur quickly assumed control at the top of the stretch and opened up by eight lengths in the drive for home while Bailey cruised in with a hand ride.

George A. Smith and Dr. W.E. Johnston bred Spoken Fur, who is out of the dam Siberian Fur (Siberian Express).

She earned more \$300,000 for the victory, her fifth time in nine career tries. She more than doubled her career earnings to \$565,880.

Spoken Fur paid \$3.80, \$2.90 and \$2.20. Fircroft, who was ridden by Jean-Luc Samyn, returned \$8.30 and \$6. Savedbythelight, with Jose Santos in the irons, showed for \$4.40. The \$2 exacta was worth \$42.