

PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS

RACING NOTES

By Kevin Decker
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Reagan's Flame Captures 18th Masters Stakes (Gr II)

Reagan's Flame has never been one to get to the party early. The graded stakes winner likes to let others take the spotlight early, but when it comes crunch time in the late run for the wire, she puts in her best moves. Her patient style was the perfect fit on a perfect weather night at Presque Isle Downs as she closed willingly to win the 18th running of the \$300,000 guaranteed Presque Isle Masters Stakes (Gr II) for fillies and mares three-years-old and up at six and a half furlongs over the fast Tapeta surface.

Bet down as the even money favorite under trainer Saffie Joseph, Jr., jockey Edgard Zayas was able to allow his charge to get away fourth behind early chargers Paris Carver (jockey Paco Lopez), Lovely Emma (Israel Rodriguez) and local entrant Mitole Magic (Gaddiel Martinez) from the Randall Russell operation. As that trio battled for early supremacy, Zayas put Reagan's Flame down to the rail to save ground while getting a bird's eye view of all of the action from fourth.

"Saffie did a great job getting her ready. We were able to let them go early which really helped us," said jockey Edgard Zayas.

After an opening quarter of 22 and 3/5 seconds, Paris Carver opened up a length and a half lead on Mitole Magic while Lovely Emma started to give ground early and would no longer be a factor after the field headed into the turn.

As the field made their way to the half in 44 4/5 seconds, Mitole Magic drew on even terms with Paris Carver. Meanwhile, Pondering (Pietro Moran) started to gear up and attempt to join the leaders from third. The move would not work for her as she was unable to keep up her forward momentum coming off the turn. While all this was happening, Reagan's Flame continued to save ground, but not for lack of jockey Zayas wanting to go.

"When we were going around the turn, we lost a little bit of footing. Once we straighten out in the stretch, we were in good shape," said Zayas.

His point was proven. In the stretch, instead of staying along the rail, Zayas moved Reagan's Flame into the four path to overtake the battling Mitole's Magic and Paris Carver in mid stretch. Les Reys (FR) (Axel Concepcion) then had a path along the rail to try to challenge the top three.

Making the move to the outside proved pivotal for Reagan's Flame. Zayas said, "As soon as she got into the clear, she was full of run and energy."

In the end, Reagan's Flame won willingly by 3/4 of a length.

While Paris Carver was no match for the winner late, she was able to repel the fading Mitole's Magic to hold second for trainer Jorge Delgado. Trainer Miguel Clement's Les Reys (FR) got third, and Sea Runner (Antonio Gallardo) for trainer William Morey operation closed willingly to garner fourth. Running time for the race was 1:14 3/5.

Reagan's Flame has won two straight races. She came into the Master's off a three plus length win in the seven furlong Seaway Stakes (Gr III Can) at Woodbine near Toronto over their Tapeta surface.

The five-year-old mare by Flameaway out of the Mizzen Mast mare Mizzen Donald was bred in Kentucky by Jason Hall Herschel Martindale, and Stephen Mott. She is owned by St. Elias Stable, BAG Racing Stable LLC, Turf Express Racing, inc., and Watkins Diamond Stable, LLC.

Overall she has four wins in six starts in 2026, with nine wins in 24 lifetime start. It is her first victory going six and a half furlongs, and fourth tally in five tries over synthetic surfaces, three of those in stakes races.