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PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO  
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### **New Surface Yields Winning Results for Neoequos**

Neoequos has experienced quite a lot in his first three race seasons. Although only four, the Neolithic colt out of the Brimstone mare Bold Birdie has raced at nine different tracks prior to Friday. He has experienced the highest of highs of racing in competing in the 2025 Kentucky Derby gaining entry into it thanks to a couple of third place efforts in the Fountain of Youth (Gr.II) and Florida Derby (Gr.I), both at Gulfstream Park. He has a stakes win at Monmouth Park in New Jersey and a win in his lone turf try in the Sunshine Millions Turf Stakes this past January at Gulfstream.

He has routed and sprinted with varying success. He has went all out for the lead early and also been taken back early for a late charge. Even though Neoequos has four wins in 17 starts and banked in excess of \$650-thousand coming into Friday and a resume filled with dirt, turf, sprints, and route races, he still had yet to try synthetic racing for trainer Saffie Joseph, Jr.

Friday night, Neoequos would get that opportunity of racing on Tapeta in the 17th running of the \$150,000 guaranteed Presque Isle Mile at one 1/16 mile for three-year-olds and up.

Also in the field of six was defending race winner Encino with trainer Brad Cox. Plus starting was the second place finisher to Encino in last year's race, Grounded, out of local trainer Scooter Davis's operation, one of two Davis entered into the race with the other He's A Mess.

Grounded's game is speed. He loves to go for the early lead and failed to disappoint by taking a two-length advantage under jockey Rosario Montanez. Neoequos (jockey Paco Lopez) took chase from second from his outside post position. Local longshot Fortune

Seller (Gaddiel Martinez) was a length further back in third early and Encino (Axel Concepcion) at 70 cents on the dollar odds in fourth as the leader set a pedestrian opening quarter time of 25 seconds.

The order did not change in the next quarter but the pace did. The half went by with a mark of 48 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub> seconds. Coming off the turn past the three quarter mile time of 1:12, the action started.

Neoequos started to make his move at the top of the stretch, decisively going by Grounded early in the stretch. Encino tried to come up the rail to get by Grounded, but was unable to do so. The win by Neoequos was by a strong four <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lengths over Grounded in 1:41.2. Encino was third while losing a photo for place by a nose. He's A Mess (Antonio Gallardo) was another length and a half back in fourth at the end.

"We got a perfect break," said jockey Paco Lopez of Neoequos's start. "We were able to just follow, then make our move and he just went. He sure made it look easy."

For Neoequos, that start at the tenth track of his career proved he has an affinity for synthetic surfaces and also proving his versatility now with wins on all three surfaces, sprinting and going a route of ground.

Neoequos was bred by Helen Barbazon, Joseph Barbazon, and Matalona Thoroughbreds, LLC and is owned by C2 Racing Stable, Ian Parsons, Shining Stables LLC, Stefania Farms LLC, Ken T Reimer, Paul Braverman, and Timothy Pinch.

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In other stakes action Friday night at Presque Isle Downs:

Bossy Bossy won for the third consecutive time to start his career in capturing the \$100,000 guaranteed Fitz Dixon Jr. Memorial Stakes for two-year-olds at six and a half furlongs. He won by five lengths under jockey Israel Rodriguez over Kevin Rice trainer Uncle Kef with jockey Addiel Ayala and Pretty Boy Bubba, conditioned by Alice Beckman with Jose Bracho board. Juan Arriagada owns the son of Maclean's Music out of the Lemon Drop Kid mare Family Friend and was bred by MKW Racing and Breeding LLC.

In the \$100,000 guaranteed Presque Isle Debutante Stakes for two-year-old fillies at six and a half furlongs, Our Sweet Belle with jockey Angel Rodriguez was placed the winner via disqualification over Almighty One (Gaddiel Martinez), who was placed second following interference in the stretch. Stewards made the placing following contact in the stretch between the two with a nose separating them at the finish. Chef's Kiss was two plus lengths back in third for trainer Juan Arriagada. Brandon Kulp trains the Cairo Prince filly out of the Competitive Edge mare Our Sweet Girl. Her owner Matthew T Groff bred her in Pennsylvania.

In the inaugural \$75,000 guaranteed Power by Far Stakes for three-year-olds and upward Registered Pennsylvania breds going six and a half furlongs, trainer Scooter Davis's John Dutton wired the field as the favorite with jockey Rosario Montanez aboard. Wow What Party (Paco Lopez) was over a length back in second for trainer James Lawrence II while The Boy's Warrior was another half-length back in third for the combination of trainer Scooter Davis and Taylor Kingsley. John Dutton is a six-year-old Eastwood gelding out of the Graydar mare Reconsider. He is owned by Long Shot racing Stable LLC and was bred by Town and Country Horse Farms LLC in the Keystone State.

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