

## ROMAN HOLIDAY

He came to the shore in search of his first Grade I victory and, just as Point Given and War Emblem had before him, wound up providing trainer Bob Baffert with an impressive victory in Monmouth Park's centerpiece, the GI Haskell Invitational H. **Roman Ruler** (Fusaichi



**Roman Ruler guts out the win  
over Sun King**  
*Equi-Photo*

Pegasus), sent off the even-money pick by Monmouth's faithful off his win in the GI Dwyer S. at Belmont, overhauled the pacesetting **Sun King** (Charismatic) at the furlong grounds and outslugged that rival to the wire. "This was my most gratifying Haskell," said Baffert, who saddled Point Given to victory in 2001 and

War Emblem in 2002. "Roman Ruler had to prove he was that kind of horse--could he step up to win a Grade 1? It was his coming out party, to show that he could do it." *Haskell Coverage cont. p2*

### Sunday, Monmouth Park

**HASKELL INVITATIONAL H.-GI**, \$1,015,000, MTH, 8-7, 3yo, 1 1/8m, 1:49 4/5, ft.

1--▲**ROMAN RULER**, 119, c, 3, by [Fusaichi Pegasus](#)

1st Dam: **Silvery Swan**, by **Silver Deputy**

2nd Dam: **Sociable Duck**, by **Quack**

3rd Dam: **Unsociable**, by **Never Bend**

(\$500,000 yrl '03 KEESEP). O-Fog City Stable; B-Needham/Betz, Liberation Fm & Ashford Stud (KY); T-Bob Baffert; J-J D Bailey; \$600,000. Lifetime Record: 8-5-1-0, \$1,020,800. \*1/2 to El Corredor (Mr. Greeley), GISW, \$727,920; Silver Tornado (Maria's Mon), GSW, \$133,075.

2--**Sun King**, 119, c, 3, Charismatic--Clever But Costly, by Clever Trick. (\$400,000 yrl '03 KEEJAN).

O-Tracy Farmer; B-Cambridge Farm & James Daniel Conway (KY); T-Nicholas P Zito; \$200,000.

3--**Park Avenue Ball**, 118, c, 3, Citidancer--Road to the Ball, by Cahill Road. O-Char-Mari Stable; B-C J Hesse, Inc (NJ); T-James T Ryerson; \$115,000.

Margins: 1 1/4, 2, 1. Odds: 1.10, 3.80, 3.20.

Also Ran: Chekhov, Palladio, Papi Chullo, Joey P.

Scratched: Golden Man.

***Haskell Coverage cont.***

***A Promising Youngster...***

Purchased by Fog City Stable for \$500,000 at the 2003 Keeneland September sale, Roman Ruler lived up to advanced billing when he won his debut at Hollywood last June by four lengths as the 4-5 chalk. A compelling seven-length winner in Del Mar's Aug. 15 GII Best Pal S. in his second start, he found eventual champion Declan's Moon a neck too good in the GII Del Mar Futurity Sept. 8, but came back to win his two-turn bow, the Oct. 3 GII Norfolk S. at Santa Anita, by open lengths. That was enough to convince bettors to back him as the favorite for the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Lone Star Oct. 30. He failed to fire that day, however, running fifth to Wilko, and was put away for the winter following surgery to remove an undescended testicle.



*Benoit photo*