

**JUST GREAT GAMELY OVERCOMES A ROUGH TRIP TO REMAIN UNBEATEN
JUVENILE FILLY WINS \$100,000 DELAWARE RACE, NOW EARNER OF \$90,000
GREAT NOTION DAUGHTER LIKELY TO BE STRETCHED OUT AS A 3-YEAR-OLD**



Just Great, finishing on her own volition, staves off late run from rival to cement second victory from pair of races. Now winner of both her races this autumn in sprints at Delaware Park, she has the look of a middle-distance filly.

Just Great never had a straw in her path on debut when she trotted up the easiest kind of winner by nearly 14 lengths at Delaware Park. On Wednesday, back at the same stand, racing for twice the purse in a \$100,000 non-black-type stakes, things were markedly different for the Great Notion juvenile filly. She was victorious, remaining unbeaten in 2 starts as the earner of \$90,000, but had much more to overcome on this outing.

Super Fabulous, which at odds of 40 to 1 was the longest chance in the field of 7, skipped clear soon after the break to maintain a clear advantage to the furlong pole, obviously relishing the wet track, as she reeled off modest splits of :23, :47 and 1:00. (These paled in comparison to the fractions put up two races later in the male division of the Delaware Certified race of :22 2/5, :46 and :58 4/5.)

Irwin said “Everybody at the track soon realized that the inside was the worst place to be and that the winners were coming from the middle of the track. The pacesetter was put in the 3 hole as she carved out the fractions. Yet, there was Just Great, getting plenty of muck kicked right back in her innocent little face, as the only member of the cast to be racing inside.

“As often happens, especially in regional contests where big money is involved, every jockey in the race “rode” the favorite, and this was no different, as Just Great was pinned in down inside.

Rounding the bend into the lane, Rodriguez had seen enough of the rail and cut between the longshot

pacemaker and Halledeen's 6 to 1 mount Lucky Cougar. Once straightened out for the drive, Just Great warmed to the task, getting to the front and staying there in spite of a persistent challenge from the runner-up. [LINK](#)

Winning margin was a neck and Just Great was always doing just enough to keep runner-up Old Bay at bay. Final time was an extremely slow 1:13. The winner of the colt's race went in 1:11.31 and was trained by Capuano's father, the veteran conditioner Gary. Like Just Great he was dispatched at 2 to 5 odds. Rodriguez confirmed post race that he went down to the rail on purpose to educate the filly.

Irwin conferred with partner Gary Barber after the race and they agreed the filly should not be asked to come back in 18 days for the \$100,000 Maryland Million Lassie at Laurel sprinting 6 furlongs. There is the 7-furlong Maryland Championship the first week of December that could be considered, but given her rangy physical profile, the partners are more likely to give her a break and allow her to fill into her big frame.

