

A Family Affair



Ryan Roshau for *The Racing Journal*

They have been racing horses at Chippewa Downs since 1974 and until late July, they never ran one for a richer purse. The \$26,790 Northern Plains Futurity capped off what could arguably be considered the best meet in the track's history and it was fitting, therefore, with a nod to the mid-70's that the winners of the race kept it *All in the Family*.

Tiny's First Affair, a daughter of 2009 Northern Plains Futurity winner Little Love Affair, matched her dam's greatest career achievement for the same team of owners Leon & Karen Glasser and trainer Jim Fleming. The 350 yard race was never in doubt as the winner, a 6-1 outsider, benefitted from a clean break and took the lead from the start and held it by at least a ½ length throughout under jockey Shaun Herman. Mm Mr Doubtfire finished in second while Jennas Easy Eagle was third. The 6-5 favorite Jumpn Fool, the top qualifier in the Trials finished a non-threatening fourth.

The sorrel gelding finished a neck behind the runner-up in the Trials on July 11th. In June, Tinys First Affair finished third in the NDQHRA Futurity after breaking his maiden in the Trials for that race earlier in the meet. "We started thinking we had a good horse from the time he was born," Leon Glasser said following the race. "He is out of a mare we won this same race in 2009 at the Fargo Horse Park and Little Love Affair was a sister to the thoroughbred Tuffernhell who was a multiple stakes winner."



Futurity Star Tiny's First Affair

Fleming, who captured his second winner in this race, also felt the gelding had some talent after handling him for a few weeks last winter. "For all of us, his first out this year at Brown County was a bit of a disappointment and in the finals of the ND Bred Futurity he did not break well and ran a disappointing third, in the trials to the Northern Plains Futurity he had a bit of a cold so Jim just let him run without pushing him," Glasser said.

Most of the family horses run in the name of Leon's wife, Karen, and the Glasser-Fleming partnership has been highly successful, both on the track and off. "We make a good team," Leon Glasser gushed, "Jim is forever the optimist and I am forever the pessimist so we get along well and keep each other balanced."

North Dakota bred Tinys First Affair has won two of five career starts and \$17,292, clearly a standout earner at the Chippewa meet. He received a 79 speed index for this Futurity win.

And while paychecks and statistics drive the show, the Glassers fully understand the special connections that come from building a family legacy in the breeding shed and beyond. "When you are present the hour they are born and see them at least twice a day until the time they go into training, and you own the mother and owned the grandmother it gets pretty easy to become attached to the foals," Glasser said in a simple way that only horsemen can understand. "It sounds silly but they are like part of your family. "

*Pictures courtesy of Chippewa Downs