

Courageous Lady History



The Courageous Lady Pace, contested at Monticello Raceway as the Lady Catskill before moving to Northfield Park in 1990, annually assembles a premier group of three-year-old filly pacers. The race was renamed after one of the finest and most popular pacing fillies ever to compete at Northfield Park -- Courageous Lady.

The poignant story behind the Courageous Lady name revolves around the late Ruth Cohen of Mayfield Heights. In 1977, Julian Cohen, a Cleveland attorney and avid harness racing fan, paid \$35,000 for the two-year-old filly Courageous Lady as a gift to his sister Ruth, who had been diagnosed with cancer and given just two years to live. "We bought Courageous Lady midway through her two-year-old season and Ruth loved that horse," said Mr. Cohen, who himself passed away in 1992. "we followed her to all of her races. Ruth lived another eight years, primarily because of that horse."

Courageous Lady, an Ohio-sired daughter of Captains Courageous from the mare Painter Pam, earned \$418,256 between 1977 and 1981. She took a time-trial mark of 1:54.4 and twice equaled the 1:55.2 world race record of the famed Silk Stockings. Among her other illustrious accomplishments, Courageous Lady became the first Ohio Sires Stakes champion to defend her title. She won numerous stakes in the U.S. and Canada, setting multiple stakes and national season's standards.

As a broodmare, Courageous Lady produced two outstanding offspring prior to her untimely passing in 1989 at age 14. The filly Uptown Swell was a 1:54.2 performer with career earnings of \$728,135 and became an outstanding broodmare in her own right. Courageous Legacy, a Sonsam stallion, earned a 1:52.2 lifetime record while banking over \$183,000 for owner Julian Cohen.

Northfield Park is proud to honor Ruth Cohen and the great mare Courageous Lady with this race. The outstanding fields of distaff talent assembled annually for the Courageous Lady are a fitting tribute to two of racing's most memorable and courageous ladies.

