



‘Miracle’ weekend at PIGlico Downs

SchwartztenHOGGER edges PORKY Pig at the finish line in SQUEAKness, but the story of the weekend lies with little hog that nearly died in September

Yes, there was plenty of pig pomp and hog circumstance prior to the SQUEAKness - the second leg of the Triple Pig Crown series - on Saturday. And yes, the stars came back into alignment with Arnold SchwartztenHOGGER - the previous weekend’s favorite in the PIGtucky Derby – edging out PORKY Pig by half a pig nose in said SQUEAKness.

But, no, it wasn’t close to what fans were buzzing about as the last race of the weekend concluded Sunday afternoon with a little hog named Miracle capturing her third race...after not even starting the season on the race card and nearly dying in September.

The little hog – who appears to be half the size of all the others - was considered an “extra” just in case there was an injury, sickness or worse to any of the other competitors. When #100.7’s BACON Fitz (sponsored by Wally’s Drive In) came down with a bad case of the flu on Friday afternoon, he was scratched from the weekend and Miracle was inserted in his place. Miracle had, in fact, been on her own death bed in late September when she received a special antibiotic that not only cured her of her illness, but revived her spirits and endeared her to the other racing hogs.

“She’s half our size, like one of those toy pigs you see in the lady’s purses,” said MISS Piggy. “Anyway, for her to survive her illness and still be so happy-go-lucky...it’s inspirational. Us girl hogs have to stick together. I know all the other big boy hogs look after her like she’s their little sister.”

They certainly didn’t anticipate she’d offer much in the way of a challenge on the race track. Miracle didn’t even know she’d be racing on Friday and hadn’t been trained at all.

“She had hardly ever even been out of her pen, let alone in the racing chute,” explained race announcer Dennis ‘HOGmaster’ Riley. “It was almost a given for MIGGY and SUUUUbert (her race mates) that she would pose little challenge in their racing heats. I guess she changed our thinking.”

But not at first.

As Miracle waited for the racing chute to open in her first race, the tiny little hog turned herself around and was actually facing the wrong way. Once the chute opened, she trotted back to her pen without a care in the world, the crowd cheering for her like she was a rockstar, as MIGGY and SUUUUbert raced around the track.

“Just wanted to get back to the pen before MIGGY and Ben to get some food,” she snorted in the post-race press conference. “Those guys are pigs. Not much left for a little girl like me once they start hogging everything.”

Something changed in her second race. No, she didn’t win, but she came out of the chute the right way and again just trotted down the track, happy to hear the crowd chanting her name and cheering her on. She was last by a long ways, but she had completed an entire lap around the track.

“Felt good. Like a Sunday morning stroll,” she would say later. “Wasn’t as hungry by then. Figured I’d see what it was like out on that big grass track. Pretty. I liked it.”

Race number three for Miracle changed everything.

MIGGY and SUUUUbert exploded out of the chute. Miracle did her normal ‘easy-strolling’ trot and just followed. As MIGGY and SUUUUbert rounded the second turn, they stopped, apparently distracted by a couple fans eating hot dogs. Miracle just kept trotting and almost caught them, but they quickly regained their composure and continued around turn three and headed for the homestretch. Again, they suddenly stopped, this time as if they ran into a wall. Another person, this time with one of the hand dipped corn dogs you can get at the Farmer’s Grill. And Miracle just strolled right by, crossing the finish line in front of them by a few steps for her first victory. The crowd came unglued.

The tiny little pig went on to capture 2 of 3 races on Sunday, only this time, she actually didn’t trot. She was racing like she knew what she was doing.





“Unexplainable,” race announcer Riley bellowed, as she crossed the finish line on Sunday’s last race. “She truly is a miracle...”

And though SchwartzenHOGGER (sponsored by Anytime Fitness) did fulfill what was expected of him in capturing the high stakes SQUEAKness and putting himself in a position to win the TPC series overall, even he was a bit smitten with Miracle.

“I would have never believed it, unless I witnessed it with my own eyes,” SchwartzenHOGGER acknowledged. “She’s really the most unique little hog. I actually found myself snorting for her!”

In all, \$251 was donated/bet on the races this past weekend and 417 wagers were made. Total money raised so far is \$711 with 1012 wagers made. All proceeds go to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

In addition to the title sponsors – Anytime Fitness, Westside Pizza and Wally’s Drive In - several other sponsors are contributing cash and/or prizes to this event, including Applebee’s of Bonney Lake, Monster Energy Drink, Chic-Fil-A of Tacoma and Smith Bros. Dairy. In addition to the PIGtucky Derby and SQUEAKness, the racing hogs will complete the TPC series with The BOARmont Stakes this Saturday at 2 pm PDT.

Our 9 competitors include:

	<u>WINS</u>
1. <u>ANYTIME FITNESS Buckley/Orting Fitness Fanatics Competitors:</u>	
• #1 arnold SchwartzenHOGGER	12
• #2 jack LaLOIN	5
• #3 richard SOWmmons	2
2. <u>WESTSIDE PIZZA’S Famous Pigs Competitors</u>	
• #6 BABE	7
• #7 PORKY PIG	8
• #8 Miss PIGGY	4
3. <u>WHITE RIVER DRIVE IN’S Morning Radio DJ Competitors</u>	
• #99.9 This Little MIGGY (KISW morning show)	3
• #100.7 BACON Fitz (Wolf morning crew, Fitz in the Morning)	3
• # 106.1 Ben SUUUUbert (KISS morning crew, Jackie & Bender)	8

HOW IT WORKS:

On a small round track near the animal barn, several races will occur during the course of a weekend day. Prior to each racing session (3 races per session, 3 sessions per day), racing fans can make donations of \$1 (1 ticket), \$5 (6 tickets) or \$10 (15 tickets) and pick a pig they feel will win that race.

After someone donates, they will receive a numbered raffle ticket – they will keep half and put the other half in the slot of their “chosen” winner. At the end of the race, the announcer will draw a name from the “winning” pig’s slot, and that individual will win a prize from one of our sponsors. **ALL DONORS will earn a special “pignostication” pig nose for their contribution.** ALL DONATIONS will go to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

This past weekend, 323 betting/donation tickets were purchased and \$261 was raised over the course of those six races. Over the first two weekends of racing, there have been 604 betting/donation tickets purchased and \$460 raised . The unprecedented racing series has raised over \$22,000+ for St. Jude’s during its eight-year run.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, is the nation’s leading children’s cancer research and treatment hospital, and the only one that covers all of the costs for medicine, treatment, food, travel and lodging. Children come to St. Jude from across the country, and 85 cents of every dollar received supports research and treatment. Today Danny’s legacy continues to thrive through the commitment of his children Marlo, Terre and Tony Thomas, who work tirelessly to honor their father's promise that no child is ever turned away because of a family’s inability to pay.

Maris Farms, in its 16th year of operation at this current site, is located in scenic east Pierce County about 3 miles west of Buckley, Washington, at 25001 Sumner-Buckley Highway. It has been selling pumpkins for 19 years (first three years were at a different location). Check www.MarisFarms.com for more details.

