

PRESS RELEASE

DELTA DOWNS®
RACETRACK ♦ CASINO ♦ HOTEL

2717 DELTA DOWNS DRIVE, VINTON, LA 70668
WWW.DELTADOWNS.COM | 800-589-7441

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026
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THE KING MARFA WINS DRAMATIC \$270,810 FIRECRACKER FUTURITY AT DELTA DOWNS

- AJ BIG CASH STAKES CLAIM TO THE \$149,670 FIRECRACKER DERBY -

VINTON, LA. – As America was celebrating its 250th birthday on Saturday, a crowd of enthusiastic race fans gathered at Delta Downs for an exciting 10-race program that included the two richest open-bred stakes races of the season. Highlighting the card was the \$270,810 Firecracker Futurity (G2) and the \$149,670 Firecracker Derby (G3).

The Firecracker Futurity was won in dramatic fashion by Alfonso Rangel's The King Marfa under jockey J. R. Ramirez. The ultra-game athlete dueled furiously with race favorite Mucho Man Lady before hitting the finish line just a head in front of his game rival. Longshot Jess Diamonds R Wild rallied on the outside of the track to finish third, another half-length behind the runner-up.

The King Marfa stopped the timer in 17.710 seconds for 350 yards, which resulted in a speed index of 93.

The King Marfa has now won twice from five career trips to the starting gate. He bagged \$140,875 for his effort in the Firecracker race and now has a lifetime bankroll of \$160,604.

Bred in Oklahoma by Bella Vista Farms LLC and trained by Santiago Villaseca, The King Marfa is a bay gelding by The Marfa Lights, out of the Bv Travelin Soldier mare Bv Heavenly.

Sent to the gate at odds of 6-1, The King Marfa paid \$14.40 to win, \$4.80 to place and \$3.60 to show. Mucho Man Lady was worth \$2.80 to place and \$2.20 to show. Jess Diamonds R Wild returned \$7 to show.

The Firecracker Derby turned into a runaway by Aj Big Cash (\$12.80) as the talented runner took command in the 350-yard test for 3-year-olds and won going away by 1-1/14 lengths over runner-up Syms Sin Tacha. Fastest qualifier Shiny Cowgirl checked in third, another head behind the top pair. Aj Big Cash was ridden by Francisco Calderon who got a leg up from trainer Vivian Hill. Jimmy Dean Harrel and Ryan Terry own Aj Big Cash.

Aj Big Cash covered the distance over a fast racetrack in a time of 17.502 seconds. The time equaled a speed index of 99.

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The win by Aj Big Cash was the fourth of his 13-race career. He had a chance to win the Old South Derby earlier in the season as he entered the race as the fastest qualifier but had trouble at the start and finished last. His win in the Firecracker Derby put \$77,858 into his bankroll, which now stands at \$100,917.

Bred in Oklahoma by Ranco El Cabresto Inc. Aj Big Cash is a 2-year-old sorrel gelding by Apollitical Jess, out of the Teller Cartel mare Teller Baja.

Delta Downs will race live next Thursday through Saturday, July 9-11. The Saturday program is Louisiana Showcase Night featuring the season's richest race, the \$602,705 Lee Berwick Futurity (RG1). First post time each night is set for 6:15pm.

For more information about the season visit the track's website at www.deltadowns.com/race. Fans can also follow the track through social media on Facebook and Twitter.

[Delta Downs Racetrack Casino Hotel](#), a property of [Boyd Gaming Corporation](#), is the premier racing and gaming entertainment venue in Vinton, LA. Delta Downs features a six-furlong oval track, 15,000 square feet of casino space and more than 1,500 of the most popular slot machines. Amenities include two restaurants, chart-topping entertainment at the Delta Event Center and the Delta Downs Sportsbook.

Delta Downs is located in Vinton, Louisiana, on Delta Downs Drive. From Lake Charles, take Exit 7 and from Texas, take Exit 4.