

Rawal pilots Manifold to Derby riches

Sunil Subbaiah| TNN | Jul 16, 2017, 10:36 PM IST

BENGALURU: [Neeraj Rawal](#) rode Manifold brilliantly to clinch the Kingfisher Ultra [Bangalore Derby](#) in style that had the massive turnout at the [Bangalore Turf Club](#) on Sunday entertained. With the country's best colts and fillies battling for top honours, the contest offered every bit of the thriller as Pesi Shroff-trained filly from Mumbai galloped past favourite Castlebridge in the final 50 metres to take home a total prize money of Rs 1.58 crore.

Jockey Rawal, who guided rank-outsider Tororosso to victory in the Bangalore Derby in January and repeated the feat at the Indian Turf Invitation Cup through Temerity in March, has now bagged all premier races in the city. For Shroff, it was his second Derby win in Bengaluru after his Set Alight clinched the Kingfisher Derby in 2008.

It was Castlebridge, ridden by P Trevor, that dominated most part of the race, staying clear of his rivals while Manifold did well to stay with the pack until the final corner of the 2000-metre track to set the stage for a

entered the home stretch following the leader but began to falter with over 400 metres to the finish.

It was then that the [Ameeta](#) Mehra-owned Manifold gained the grip over the race as she raced past a host of contenders, and with less than fifty metres to the finish, the filly dug into her reserves to edge past Castlebridge. She finished the race in two minutes 2.32 seconds. Castlebridge came second while Olympia Fields, ridden by S John, finished third. Kangra and Zenon came fourth and fifth respectively.

Rawal was over the moon after bagging the coveted prize. "It was a good run. I knew Turf Star and Kangra overtook me after a mile and I thought I had lost the race. But I stayed well on the course. Even while running second with 300 meters to the finish, I thought it was over. But Manifold gathered a lot of courage to pick up the pace and edge past Castlebridge," said an elated Rawal, who took home a winning purse of Rs 11,89,485.

"The season has been great so far for me as I won several classic races," added Rawal, who guided Manifold to Fillies Stakes Championship three weeks ago.

"She is a lovely horse. Despite tough competition from other horses, she battled her way to win the Derby. Neeraj (Rawal) also rode her brilliantly to keep the momentum going," said Shroff, who was richer by Rs 15,85,980. "When you are

me as I won all the big races. Apart from training a horse, I am blessed with a good team (from the syces to riders). It's a team effort that has given me all the success over the years. It was a pleasure training the filly," he added.

Manifold's owner Ameeta, who took home a whopping Rs 1,30,84,335, was delighted with her filly's triumph. "She ran her heart out. It was like a divine force riding her to victory," she said.

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