Shakopee, Minn. -- Mr. Jagermeister easily won the $100,000 Minnesota Derby by 10 lengths Saturday at Canterbury Park. The 3-year-old Minnesota bred colt immediately took command of the 1 mile 70 yard race heading into the first turn and was never seriously challenged by the six opponents. Jockey Leandro Goncalves placed Mr. Jagermeister, who was trying a route of ground for the first time, well out from the rail and hand rode him to victory, finishing in 1:40.37, returning $3.20 as the betting favorite. Mr. Jagermeister, who has won six of 11 lifetime starts and $263,975 in purses, is trained by Valorie Lund who co-owns him with Kristen Boice and Leslie Cummings.

Lund explained why Goncalves opted to race well wide throughout. “If someone decided to send [for the lead] early, we’d let them,” she said. “The plan was to stay out and keep our horse relaxed.”

Cinco Star and jockey Orlando Mojica made one attempt to test the winner on the backstretch but could not match strides. They maintained second place with Twoko Bay finishing third, another 3 3/4 lengths back.

One race earlier, Firstmate and leading jockey Ry Eikleberry won the $100,000 Minnesota Oaks by 4 1/2 lengths. The filly covered the 1 mile and 70 yards in 1:44.60 and paid $6.00. She is trained by Joe Sharp for owners Barry and Joni Butzow.
“She didn’t like the sealed track last time,” Sharp’s assistant Cody Rosin explained of her third-place finish in the Frances Genter Stakes. “We were hoping for a fast track today. We knew if she ran to the way she trained, this would be the result.”

Earlier on the 11-race card, 2-year-old Dame Plata won the $50,000 Minnesota Thoroughbred Association Sales Graduate Futurity at odds of 1 to 5, beating Notte Oscura by 2 1/4 lengths in 58.34 seconds for the five furlongs. Jareth Loveberry was aboard for trainer Francisco Bravo and owners Ann Sachdev and Lori Bravo. The winner returned $2.40.

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