

THOROUGHBRED TIMES TODAY[®]



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Cherokee Queen powers to clear victory in Suwannee River

Farnsworth Stables' Cherokee Queen, a multiple stakes winner, added a graded stakes victory to her résumé on Saturday when she took charge in the stretch for a two-length win in the \$150,000 Suwannee River Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream Park.

The six-year-old Cherokee Run mare, ridden by Alex Solis for the first time, dueled with Miss Blakely while racing near the rail just behind leader Persuading before angling out to seize command, covering 1½ miles in 1:46.62 on firm turf.

"I was saving all the ground and just tried to be patient," Solis said. "Around the quarter pole I asked her to go and she did her thing."



Bob Cogliamese photo

CHEROKEE QUEEN

Never Retreat rallied from eighth in the ten-horse field to take second, a half-length in front of Persuading.

The Suwannee River was the eighth victory from 27 starts for Cherokee Queen, who opened her fourth racing campaign with a close fourth-place finish in the Marshua's River Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream on January 9.

"She got a little too far back last time," winning trainer Marty Wolfson said. "She wants to sit close like she did today and when she won the Dr. James Penny [Memorial Handicap at Parx Racing on July 5]. She has a long fuse."

Out of the winning Virginia Rapids mare Virginia Bee, Cherokee Run increased her earnings to \$477,812.—*Ron Parker*

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