

NY-bred JL Cruze upsets Father Patrick in Graduate leg

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East Rutherford, NJ---With 13 horses entered into both the trotting and pacing division of the Graduate Series for 4-year-olds Saturday night (June 7) at Meadowlands Racetrack, each event was split into two divisions, worth \$56,250 each.



Lisa photos

JL Cruze (3) beat [Father Patrick](#) in a Graduate Series leg in 1:51, despite drifting in the stretch.

The big name on the program was [Father Patrick](#), last year's 3-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year with career earnings of more than \$2.5 million. Installed as a 1/5 morning-line favorite, [Father Patrick](#) went off as the 1/9 choice.

Driven by Yannick Gingras, he was gathered back off the gate as JL Cruze and David Miller were intent on the lead through an opening quarter of 26.4. As JL Cruze began to slow the pace down, [Father Patrick](#) launched his move and grabbed the lead going past the half-mile in 56.1. [Father Patrick](#) still led past three-quarters in 1:24.1 with JL Cruze in close pursuit.

As the field turned for home, JL Cruze ripped out of the pocket and Gingras called to his champion. JL Cruze began to drift out, but he was closing in on the favorite and despite drifting through the stretch, JL Cruze was able to get up in the shadow of the wire over [Father Patrick](#) in 1:51. Resolve was third.

"John (Campbell) actually talked to me the other day at [Harrah's Philadelphia] and he told me I'd like him," said Miller. "He showed tonight he can go with the Free For All trotters."

JL Cruze has now won 12 of 14 starts this season and has not lost a race since the second round of the Charles Singer Memorial in February. He is trained by Eric Ell and owned by Kenneth Wood, William Dittmar Jr. and Stephen Iaquina. The 1:51 clocking was a lifetime mark.