

Batavia Downs hosts NYSS 2-year-old trotting colts Wednesday

by Tim Bojarski, for Batavia Downs

Batavia, NY --- Some \$110,000 in purse money is up for grabs in two divisions of New York Sire Stake action for freshman trotting colts and geldings on Wednesday night (Aug. 20) at Batavia Downs.

The fourth race has seven horses going postward in the first division for \$54,500. Royal Deceptor (RC Royalty-Art Of Deception) went wire-to-wire in his career debut at Buffalo Raceway in a sparkling time of 1:59.3, which set a new track record. That win at Buffalo makes him one of only two horses in the race to be victorious over a half-mile track.

He then won at Tioga before finishing third at Yonkers. After being scratched sick on Aug. 2, driver Michael McGivern elected to race the colt from behind in his third place finish in an Aug. 11 NYSS race at Monticello, rather than on the point like he had all year. Assuming he needed that start after his 17 day layoff, Royal Deceptor has a great chance to rebound here with his early speed from post five for trainer Cheryl McGivern.

Wings Of Royalty (RC Royalty-Sparkling Cider) has been spectacular on bigger tracks this year for trainer George Ducharme, but has had his challenges over the half-mile ovals. In his last four starts he has set two consecutive lifetime marks at Tioga Downs (1:57.4) and Vernon Downs (1:56) but in between has made breaks off the gate at Yonkers and Monticello Raceway. Regular driver Chris Lems will try to make him behave from the rail to get his third victory of the year.

Pier Ho Exotic ([Conway Hall](#)-Rose Run Exotic) has had just the opposite history. He made breaks at Tioga and Vernon but has a win at Buffalo Raceway in 2:01, a second at Yonkers and a fifth at Monticello after being parked out most of the mile. Pier Ho Exotic is the other horse in the race to win over a half-mile track and John Cummings Jr. will once again be on board from post two for trainer Megan Wilson.

The second \$55,500 division is carded as race eight and has eight starters. It also features a battle between the top points leaders for this sex and gait.

Gabe The Bear Dean ([Lucky Chucky](#)-Madam Hooch) had a flawless performance last week at Monticello Raceway when he went gate-to-wire in 1:58.4. The 4-3/4 length victory was his fourth in six starts and boosted his earnings to \$74,119 for the year. Trainer/driver Ray Schnittker will have to overcome post six in the full field of eight but has the gate speed to do it.

Mambo Blue Chip ([Lucky Chucky](#)-Flirty Two) has been nearly flawless for trainer Linda Toscano his last four starts, winning three and finishing second by only a half-length. Those victories helped him bank his \$68,169 for the year and leave him tied with Gabe The Bear Dean atop the NYSS leaderboard for 2-year-old trotting colts with 183 points. Mambo Blue Chip has Jeff Gregory aboard from the rail and that puts him in the perfect spot for his stalking style.

Insomniac ([Crazed](#)-Catch Some Z's) has a win and two seconds since coming into the Paul Kelley stable on July 19 and that includes a 1:56.4 lifetime mark at Vernon Downs. In his other two starts he was narrowly defeated by Wednesday's favorites, Gabe The Bear Dean

at Yonkers in 1:58.3 and Mambo Blue Chip at Monticello in 1:59.3. Jason Bartlett, who has driven Insomniac for most of the year is aboard again, looking to avenge those defeats.

There are also three divisions of the Excelsior series on the card with total purses amounting to \$38,000.

The most closely contested of those is the tenth race where Crashana ([Crazed](#)-Keystone Shana) is coming off back-to-back three length victories and is set to go against Lucky Budd ([Lucky Chucky](#)-Britt's Spirit) who also has back-to-back victories going into Wednesday night. Both horses scored their wins on the same nights at the same tracks, but raced in different divisions. They also both sport 1:57.3 lifetime marks at Vernon Downs.

Looking to play spoiler is Titanium ([Conway Hall](#)-Classic Yankee) who dropped into Excelsior action from the NYSS last week to collar his first win of the year at Monticello in 2:01.2, the same night Crashana and Lucky Budd raced and won. Facing these two for the first time and drawing inside them, Titanium will look to become the dominant trotter in this series.

Post time for the first race is 6:35 p.m.