

Sophomore trotters headline Zweig Night at Vernon

by James Witherite, Vernon Downs racing media

Vernon, NY --- Bar Hopping and Trolley, the respective runners-up in a Stanley Dancer division and Earl Beal Memorial final, are set to square off in the \$300,000 main event of Sunday (July 24) evening's Dr. Harry M. Zweig Memorial at Vernon Downs.

Bar Hopping, one of three Jimmy Takter trainees to make the ninth-race main event, arrives at the Miracle Mile after chasing Marion Marauder to take second in a \$153,250 Dancer Memorial split at the Meadowlands on the Crawford Farms Meadowlands Pace undercard. While just a two-time winner in 16 career tries, the son of [Muscle Hill](#) has amassed nearly a quarter million dollars in career earnings and top-four placings in the Beal and Goodtimes stakes as well. Tim Tetrick is nominated to drive Bar Hopping once again for the partnership of Christina Takter, the Hatfield Stables, Marvin Katz, and Al Libfeld.

Among the eight 3-year-old colts and geldings Bar Hopping will square off against is the lightly raced but mighty impressive Trolley, a son of [Donato Hanover](#) from the Erv Miller stable. Prior to a respectable effort to make belated gains from last behind divisional standout Southwind Frank in his Dancer split, he sustained pursuit of that same rival in the \$500,000 Earl Beal Memorial at Pocono on July 2. In just six starts, Trolley has amassed more than \$173,000 in career earnings. Marcus Miller once again drives Trolley for Paymaq Racing, Leland Mathias, Greg Gillis, and Louis Willinger.

Pennsylvania Sire Stakes standouts Hititoutofthepark (Corey Callahan nominated) and Love Matters (Brett Miller), Ontario invader Blenheim (Chris Christoforou), and New York Sire Stakes contender Smalltownthrowdown (Dan Daley) are other notable entrants.

Trotting fillies contest a \$140,000 main event in race seven, with six of the nine entered mainly campaigning on the New York Sire Stakes circuit thus far this season -- including Empire Breeders Classic runner-up Swinging Royalty.

The marquee filly of the group is seven-time winner Womans Will (Andy Miller nominated), a dead-heat winner in a \$95,250 Delvin Miller Memorial division at the Meadowlands last week, sharing victory with Unica Steed in 1:54.2 after making all the pace. Julie Miller trains the [Donato Hanover](#) filly for Al Libfeld and Marvin Katz.

In addition to the Zweig events, 14 New York-sired 3-year-old pacing fillies will vie for a combined \$120,400 in twin Sire Stakes events. Multiple stakes winners American Ivy (Andy Miller) and Soft Idea (Jason Bartlett) square off in race five, while Time On My Hands (Bartlett) headlines the seventh race.

Post time for the 14-race Zweig card on Sunday evening is 6:45 p.m. (EDT).