

Batavia Downs to offer claiming series

By Tim Bojarski for Batavia Downs

The 2016 Batavia Downs season will feature a new earning incentive for horsemen when the Claiming Championship Series will make its debut in July.

The point-based competition will be broken down by gait and claiming price and the accrual of points will be on a monthly basis. There is no nomination or entry fee to participate and the event will be conducted under the rules and regulations of the New York State Gaming Commission, the USTA and Batavia Downs.

Divisions will include \$4,000, \$5,000-\$6,000 and \$8,000-\$10,000 claimers on the pace and \$4,000-\$5,000 and \$7,500-\$10,000 claimers on the trot. Points will be awarded to the top-five finishers of each race.

The top eight horses from each class category making the final will be comprised of the top three point earners in August, (July 25 – August 31) and September, (September 1- 30) and the top two point earners in October, (October 1- 31). They will advance to the Claiming Championship Finals on November 12.

Once a new month starts, all the points earned will revert back to zero (with the exception of July, which will carry over into August).

The \$4,000 and \$4,000-\$5,000 categories will compete for \$15,000 in the final and all other categories will vie for \$20,000.

As is the case with all horses racing at Batavia Downs, horses entered in these races must have a current negative Coggins test, current proof of a rabies vaccination and a current health certificate. All owners, trainers and drivers must also have a current membership with the USTA.

Click here (<http://www.bataviadownsgaming.com/live-racing/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LRW-ClaimChampSeries-Fullpg-16-0778.pdf>) for complete rules or log onto www.bataviadownsgaming.com and click the "Live Racing" tab and then the "Horsemen" tab.