

## The Veteran sets track record in NYSS at Saratoga

by Mike Sardella, for Saratoga Casino Hotel

**Saratoga Springs, NY ---** The Veteran (Muscle Mass-Tequila Summer) continued his monster sophomore season on Friday night (Aug. 10) at Saratoga Casino Hotel as the George Ducharme trainee not only prevailed in his \$89,950 division of the New York Sire Stakes but did so in track record-setting fashion.



*Melissa Simser-Iovino photo*

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With early speed in the race setting the table for a closer, The Veteran wound up moving three-wide with about three-eighths of a mile remaining in the stakes try. The talented sophomore overpowered his competitors before drawing away in the stretch to win by nine lengths in 1:54.3. The win time serves as a new track record for 3-year-old trotting colts, lowering the previous mark set almost two years ago to the day by Smalltownthrowdown (Dan Daley). The 1:54.3 clocking also matches the previous mark set by Tropical Storm Bi for the fastest time for any trotter at Saratoga in the 2018 season.

Zeron also piloted the winner of the other \$89,950 division of the NYSS on Friday as Linda Toscano's Helpisontheway ([Chapter Seven](#)-Porque) lived up to the hype at odds of 1-9.

Zeron moved the big favorite out to the early lead and the talented sophomore high-stepper cruised to an open-length romp in 1:55.1 for his fourth consecutive win and sixth in 10 seasonal tries. With the winnings from the Friday score, Helpisontheway now has earnings of more than \$200,000 in 2018.

Live racing continues on Saturday night at Saratoga while NYSS action returns to the Spa on Tuesday night when 2-year-old pacing colts and geldings take center stage. First post time each night this summer is set for 7:05 p.m.