

Yes Mickey posts major upset in Zweig Memorial

by Ray Cotolo, for Vernon Downs

Vernon, NY --- Sitting off a contested front, Yes Mickey snuck up the pylons to edge past 6-5 favorite Ariana G and upset at 34-1 in the \$320,000 Dr. Harry Zweig Memorial on Friday (Aug. 18) at Vernon Downs.

Long Tom grabbed the front from Yes Mickey before a :26.4 first quarter. Ariana G, sitting third, edged outside and brushed to the lead off a :55.1 half. Devious Man, behind International Moni stalled first over, loomed wide and trotted towards Ariana G's wheel, pressuring the leader through a 1:23.3 third-quarter while Long Tom drifted off the rail, giving room to Yes Mickey.

Yes Mickey gradually approached the leader up the inside, getting his nose in front within the final sixteenth and edging away to win by a neck over Ariana G in a lifetime-best effort of 1:51.2. Devious Man finished third and International Moni finished fourth.

A 3-year-old gelding by [Muscle Hill](#) from the Pine Chip mare My Favorite Chip, Yes Mickey won his second race in ten starts, earning \$223,087 for owner Mellby Gard Inc. Trained and driven by Ake Svanstedt, he paid \$71.00 to win.

"He's a very nice trotter, but it has been hard for him to win races -- he always finishes second -- but today was the right race to win," Svanstedt said. "He was very good the whole race and when I (got) free on the inside, he did it easy."

Svanstedt completed a sweep of the Zweig finals when Evelyn shook loose off a pocket trip to win the \$135,000 Filly final in 1:54.1.

Sitting behind a tempo of :27, :57, and 1:25.4 set by Feed Your Head and pressure from Sunshine Delight parked first-over, Evelyn managed to weave through the dueling leaders midway through the stretch to win by a length over Sunshine Delight, with Feed Your Head faltering to third and Glitzey Gal recovering from an early break to take fourth.

Racing for owners Ake Svanstedt Inc., Little E LLC, Borje Nasstrom, and Silva Stable 45, Evelyn won her fourth race in 20 starts, pushing her career earnings to \$192,166. Driven by Andy Miller, she paid \$16.00 to win.

"I felt really good except I was a little claustrophobic looking for a little room," Andy Miller said. "She felt really good, I was just kind of waiting, biding my time to get a little room there, and when she got room, she took off."



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New York-sired freshman colt pacers competed on the undercard of the Zweig Memorial, competing in three \$37,266 New York Sires Stakes divisions as well as two splits of the Excelsior A and B Series.

Lagging off a hot pace set by Courtly Choice, Hitman Hill struck around the far turn, brushing to a two length lead over Keystone Tenacious and Topville Olympian, rallying late in a 1:50.4 mile in the first NYSS division. Owned by Tom Hill and North Fork Racing Stable, trained by Chris Oakes, and driven by Brett Miller, he paid \$12.80 to win.

Casual Cool took the second NYSS split after taking the lead before the half, winning in 1:52.2 over Paprike Blue Chip and I Soar Him First. Owned by Kenneth Jacobs, trained by Linda Toscano, and driven by Jason Bartlett, he paid \$6.70 to win.

Mr Profeta snagged the final NYSS division, sitting off a slow pace set by odds-on favorite Jimtastic and rallying to a 1:54 score over American Vision and My Delight. Owned by Anatolia Farm LLC, trained by Roland Mallar, and driven by Scott Zeron, he paid \$14.00.

Rockapelo, by [Rock N Roll Heaven](#) from the Camluck mare Capelo Rose, won his division of the Excelsior A Series, going wire-to-wire in 1:53.1, while Prophet Blue Chip, a gelding by [Rock N Roll Heaven](#) out of the Artsplace mare Weeping Wannabe, won off a pocket ride in 1:55.3.

Rockapelo, owned by Enviro Stables LTD, trained by Linda Toscano, and driven by Jason Bartlett, paid \$5.80 to win. Prophet Blue Chip, competing for trainer David Dziengiel with partners Robert Sholes and Edward Davis, was driven by Andy Miller and paid \$16.80 to win.

Brinks Job, by [Roll With Joe](#) from the [American Ideal](#) mare Exclamation, and Buckeyes Brat, by Quick Pulse Mindale out of the Real Artist mare Artists Jewels, won their Excelsior B divisions going wire-to-wire, doing so in 1:54 and 1:54.1, respectively. Brinks Job, paying \$3.60, races for owner Rick Berks, is trained by Michael Deters, and was driven by Brett Miller. Buckeyes Brat, returning \$6.20, is owned by trainer Lawrence La Page and was driven by Jason Bartlett.

Live racing at Vernon Downs resumes Saturday (Aug. 19) with a 13-race program that kicks off at 6:45 p.m. (EDT).