

Batavia Downs hosts New York Sire Stakes Sunday

by Tim Bojarski, for Batavia Downs

Batavia, NY --- On Sunday afternoon (Aug. 31) the New York Sire Stakes 3-year-old pacing fillies come to town to compete for their cut of \$119,000 in purses.

The group is highlighted by Major Dancer ([Art Major](#)-Two Steppin' Sally), who is currently the fourth highest money earning 3-year-old pacing filly in North America with \$201,644 in the bank. She is a seven-time winner in 12 attempts and has only finished out of the money once this year.

She won the \$46,248 Town Pro stake at Mohawk Raceway earlier this year in her lifetime best time of 1:51.2 as well as an elimination of the Empire Breeders Classic at Tioga Downs in 1:51.4. She finished second in the \$244,875 final to Precocious Beauty in a 1:51.1 mile.

Major Dancer will be driven by Jonathan Drury for trainer Casie Coleman. She is listed as the 8-5 morning line favorite in the third \$39,900 NYSS division carded as the eighth race that also features A La Notte Hanover driven by Matt Kakaley and Table Talk with Jim Morrill Jr. at the lines.

A La Notte Hanover ([Art Major](#)-All Night Long) starts for the powerful Ron Burke stable and is a two-time winner in 2014. She won her last outing at Yonkers in NYSS action with an impressive 1:55, wire-to-wire victory that brought her bankroll up to \$87,733 for the year. She also competed in the Empire Breeders Classic and finished close despite having a lot of traffic to deal with in both of those races.

Table Talk ([Bettor's Delight](#)-Place At The Table) took an early season's mark of 1:51.4 at Mohawk and has competed in the \$420,900 Fan Hanover Stake and \$212,150 Mistletoe Shalee where she paced back-to-back 1:49 miles for driver Tim Tetrick. She has been plagued with some bad posts and a breaking issue of late but looks to be in a good spot here for trainer Brad Dalious.

In the first \$39,900 division carded as the fourth race, Ron Burke and Julie Miller have the one-two punch going to post. Burke sends out Jaded Dream and Miller counters with Just Add Vodka.

Jaded Dream ([If I Can Dream](#)-Jaded Gal) put forth a handy effort at Yonkers in her last, winning a NYSS leg there in 1:54.4. It was a welcome sight after a series of poor post draws and the resulting tough trips. She has three wins in 13 starts and \$62,586 in the bank. Matt Kakaley is back in the bike behind her for the first time since June 18.

Just Add Vodka ([Art Major](#)-Regal Wish) only has two wins this year but has been consistently in the money -- 13 out of 16 starts -- and that has made her \$74,283 for the year. Her mark of 1:55.3 was at Monticello but she has paced considerably faster than that in defeat on several occasions. Jim Morrill Jr., who has driven her several times over the summer, gets the assignment.

The second \$39,200 division, which goes as the seventh race, has three very tough competitors going postward and looks to be the most closely contested event. It features

the first, second and fourth leading points leaders for this sex and gait in the NYSS this year.

Blush Hanover ([Art Major](#)-Brissonte Hanover) currently tops the leaderboard and comes into this race sporting five 2014 wins for trainer Linda Toscano. She finished a strong third in the Empire Breeders Classic final after a very rough parked-out trip. She has a 1:52 mark at the Meadowlands and has only failed to hit the board once out of 14 starts this year. Her \$168,831 in earnings is tops in this field and she looks to add to that total in here with Jim Morrill Jr. at the helm.

Spreester ([American Ideal](#)-Rodeo Spree) is second in points despite also having recorded five victories. This filly can race on the front or from behind and that versatility makes her a formidable foe. Her \$115,080 in earnings is also second highest in the field and driver Jason Bartlett, who has driven this filly twice before with winning outcomes, opted to drive her Sunday for trainer Paul Zabielski after having been down to steer two horses in this race.

Medusa ([Bettor's Delight](#)-Mythical) ranks fourth in points among the group but is not that far behind the leaders. She has seven wins in 14 starts and \$102,723 stashed away. The Paul Kelley trainee has a lifetime mark of 1:51.2 at Vernon Downs and also had two good efforts in the Empire Breeders Classic races. Tioga Downs regular Aaron Byron gets the drive from Tim Tetrick, who had been at the lines for her last three starts.

Post time for Sunday's races is 1:15 p.m. Batavia Downs also has a special Labor Day matinee, 12-race card on tap for Monday (Sept. 1) with a 1:15 p.m. post.