

\$320,000 NYSS consolations at Batavia on Friday

by Tim Bojarski, for Batavia Downs

Batavia, NY --- The horses that missed the cut for the \$1.8 million up for grabs in the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) Night of Champions finals will convene at Batavia Downs on Friday evening (Sept. 21) to compete for the \$320,000 in purse money available in the NYSS consolation races. There are eight divisions that will go for \$40,000 each and the first is non-betting with a 5:20 p.m. post time. Then NYSS events are carded in race one, two, three, five, six seven and 10. Post time for the first betting race is 6 p.m.

Supergirl Riley (Muscle Mass-Crown Laurel) is the early 6-5 favorite in the 3-year-old filly trot and comes in as the highest money earner competing in any of the consolations tonight with \$221,589 on her card.

Supergirl Riley appears to be at the top of her game after winning the \$180,000 Zweig Memorial at Vernon Downs in a lifetime best 1:54.3 over a sloppy track. She then matched that mark last week, winning a \$50,000 Kentucky Sire Stake race at the Red Mile. And not to be overlooked was her start at Yonkers Raceway in the Hudson Trot final where she finished second by a nose in 1:53.1 to Plunge Blue Chip. Supergirl Riley is one of six entries for trainer Erv Miller in these consolations and Marcus Miller will be in the bike as usual.

I'm The Muscle (Muscle Mass-Lady Bling) headlines the 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings and a quick look at the form explains why he's 8-5 morning line. After joining the Rene Allard Stable in July, I'm The Muscle rattled off five straight wins, the last of which was a four length romp in 1:55.2 at Batavia Downs in the rain. In his last start at Yonkers he finished third behind Yonkers Trot winner Six Pack and the top point-getter for this division Helpisontheway. This race would have to be considered class relief after that start and he should take advantage of that with Jason Bartlett up for the drive once again.

The 3-year-old colt and gelding pacers should be a very interesting race as all eight of the starters competed at Batavia Downs two weeks ago in the final leg of their division this year. Ideal Feeling ([American Ideal](#)-Feelinglikeastar) won his split by six lengths in 1:52 after toying with the field the whole mile. He has since won again in an overnight at Tioga Downs in 1:52.2 by three lengths. He has faced Courtly Choice twice this year and knows what it takes to be the best. Jason Bartlett is back up and drew post three at 2-1 for trainer Mike Deters.

Topville Olympian ([American Ideal](#)-Our Sophia) went off the heavy favorite here last time and started out the mile with a quick :55.3 half. But he faltered late and his failure to get any points knocked him out of the NYSS final and into this consolation. If he regains the form he had in the \$500,000 Messenger final at Yonkers and most of the races before that, he will be a major player in this race. Trainer Chris Oakes has Tyler Buter up and they are rated as 3-1 morning line.

Mach N Cheese ([Betterthancheddar](#)-Mach You And Me) was a winner in his Batavia outing, taking a 1:53.4 lifetime mark in the process. Jersey Jim ([Artiscape](#)-Jersey Pearl) scratched from that Batavia start but has since finished third at Saratoga in an overnight in 1:51.3 and Cheese Melt ([Betterthancheddar](#)-B So Lucky) comes in off a tightener at Harrah's Philadelphia where he ran away in 1:51.1, which was a new lifetime mark.

The early Pick-5 wager (which runs from race one through race five) includes four of the NYSS consolation events and has a guaranteed pool of \$3,000 for Friday. It is part of the

USTA Strategic Wagering pool and race pages can be downloaded for free from Trackmaster and the USTA through this link. (<http://handicapping.ustrotting.com>)

The Batavia Downs early Pick-5 on Friday is also the USTA Play of the Day on the Harness Racing Fan Zone.