

By Jeff Rizzo

BATAVIA, NY – Race fans turned out to enjoy the first Wednesday of the meet at America's Oldest Lighted Harness Track, despite the inclement weather that began the night. This evening's feature event was the seventh race on the card, an open pace for fillies and mares with a purse of \$9,000.



Hitting the wire first in the seventh race, the feature race of the evening, was Southwind Prairie with Jim Mc Neight at the lines, pacing to the mile in 1:58 for her third win of the 2010 season. In for the place was Newberry Winner with Jamie Dunlap in the sulky to complete the \$26.20 exacta. Ray Fisher Jr. and Overseas Tour came in for the show. The fractions for the 6-horse field were 28.2, 58.4, and 1:28.3, respectively.

The mile began with Jennifers Major getting the trip, but switched the lead with Newberry Winner and fought to regain it just after the $\frac{1}{4}$ pole. Tom Agosti and Jennifers Major coasted in the lead through the clubhouse turn of the pay-off half but began to fade after the $\frac{3}{4}$ pole as Southwind Prairie and Jim Mc Neight took over on the final turn and through the final stretch to pose in the photo of this evening's feature contest. Southwind Prairie is a 6-year-old mare by Bettor's Delight. Karl T. Schoeffel of Evans City, PA owns her. Lisa Lederhouse is the trainer. The winning \$2 mutuel price was \$7.00.

The 2010 meet at America's Oldest Lighted Harness Track will continue this Friday and Saturday evenings. Be sure to come out this Saturday, July 31st, for the Batavia Downs Casino and New York Sire Stakes Glass Giveaway! The first 750 patrons to swipe their Player's Club Cards beginning at 5 PM will receive a ticket that is redeemable for a free glass after the 7th race!

Photo: *Paul White*