

By Mike Sardella

The first Sunday matinee of the season at Saratoga Gaming and Raceway gave fans a springtime feeling. A sunny afternoon filled with live harness racing action for the first time in almost three months. The matinee was comprised mostly of pacing mares and was highlighted by the \$15,500 fillies and mares open.



Yonkers invader Twin Oaks Tess came to town to make her local debut and she was all business. An earner of over \$40,000 this year previous to Sunday, the Scott Blackler trainee appeared to be in great position against a group of opponents who were all making their seasonal debuts. Jason Bartlett, who was in town to pilot the five year old mare, put the favorite right on the lead and they would never look back. Twin Oaks Tess went wire to wire to record an in-hand length and a half win.

The victory, which came in 1:55.4, was the third of the year for Twin Oaks Tess and second on the afternoon's program for Bartlett. Fox Valley Sage (Ralph Anderson) finished second while Princess Michi (Mike Micallef) earned the show spot.

Live racing resumes next weekend at Saratoga on Friday night and continues all day and night Saturday with a double header and concludes with a Sunday matinee. First post for the evening programs is 7:05pm while afternoon action kicks off at 12:45pm every weekend.

Photo credit: [Dave Oxford](#)