

By Mike Sardella

It was another strong night on a beautiful Thursday evening at the Spa in what has been a big season for Saratoga's leading driver Dan Cappello Jr. Cappello, who opened up a big driving lead at the start of the campaign, has seen his lead in the standings shrink as defending champ Frank Coppola Jr. has closed the gap significantly in the past few weeks. Cappello held a one win lead in the tight driver standings heading into Thursday but saw the lead grow immediately at the start of the night. Cappello thrived with the young horses on Thursday as he piloted trotters Special Eddie and One True Friend to their maiden scores within the first three races on the program.



Special Eddie did it the hard way as he had to come from last after making an early break in the race but powered down the stretch to draw away for the trotter's maiden score in 2:02.

One True Friend posted a 2:00.3 win in a minor upset. Cappello completed his hat trick with Crosswinds Rose, who graduated out of the non-winners of two races lifetime with a front running win in the night's sixth race. Cappello's lead stands at three as Coppola secured one victory on the Thursday card.

Live racing continues on Friday night at Saratoga with a first post time of 7:05pm.

Photo: [Dave Oxford](#)