

## FORTY CARROTS AND ENG-AMER DAVANIT SPARKLE FRIDAY CARD

By Jim Moan

Prime performances by Forty Carrots, Eng-amer Davanti, Chuck Connor, Jr. and Howard Okusko, Jr. were highlights of Friday night's (July 3) nine-race program at Vernon Downs.

Forty Carrots became the track's initial 2-year-old winner of the season following a 1:56 pacing performance in Friday's first race.

Eng-amer Davanti came within 2/5ths of a second of the fastest trotting mile of Vernon's 56<sup>th</sup> season after a 1:54.1 triumph in the \$5,500 featured eighth event.

Connor, a former two-time Downs driving champion, recorded his initial triple of the local campaign, while Okusko, the track's current driving leader, raised his win total to 51 after securing his seventh hat trick of the meet.



Following a front-striding 1:58 qualifying score on June 26, Forty Carrots used similar tactics to chart his first official start in the victory column. Trainer Jim Bailey did the teaming for owners Richard Clair and Lance Gordon.

Having logged nine "2:00" tallies here for owner-trainer Tracy Brainard during the past two seasons, Eng-amer Davanti returned from Canada's Mohawk Raceway and

completed a career-fastest mile for Connor, that bettered his previous record by 1-3/5ths seconds.

Connor also finished first with the trotters Witness Perfection and Glory's Comer, while Okusko's tallies came behind Sweet Baby Jane, Tip The Tide and Cross Creek Whiz.

**DOWNS DOINGS**—Vernon will offer a nine-race Independence Day matinee card at 1:15 tomorrow (July 4)...The Downs will also present four Tuesday cards in July, the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, with each starting at 6 p.m...Additional information can be obtained at [www.vernondowns.com](http://www.vernondowns.com).

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