

By Jim Moran

The pacer Cowboy Hanover, as well as drivers Lon Frocione and Stephen Oldford shared the limelight during Saturday night's 12-race program at Vernon Downs.

With trainer Rick Plano at controls, Cowboy Hanover converted a draft along journey into a 1:52.1 victory in Saturday's \$9,000 sixth race, the week's top Miracle Mile contest for representatives of the lateral gait.



The evening's fastest clocking resulted in the third Vernon victory, sixth season's score and 27th lifetime triumph for the 6-year-old son of Western Ideal-Castanet Hall, who is shared in ownership by Dave Haness and Maryann Plano (Rick's wife).

Frocione and Oldford each earned divisional tallies in Vernon's initial 2010 leg of the C.K.G. Billings Series for amateur drivers of trotters.

Frocione guided Dusty Diamond to a front-striding 1:59.1 victory for trainer Jessica Okusko, and owners Anthony Peters and Mark Vanko in Saturday's \$3,500 first race, while owner-trainer Oldford traveled to central New York from Michigan and steered Pierre Lavec to a fast-closing, 1:58 win in the \$3,500 third event.

Claude Huckabone, III collected three driving victories during the track's 57<sup>th</sup> program, while Plano and Chris Lems each piloted a pair of first-place finishers.

**DOWNS DOINGS**—Vernon has another barnstorming Billings leg scheduled for Saturday night, Sept. 25...The Downs will offer live racing Thursday-Saturday nights next week, first post 6:55, followed by a 1:15 matinee card on Monday (Labor Day), Sept. 6...Thursday's (Sept. 2) program will feature Vernon's leg of the Miss Versatility Series for veteran trotting mares...Additional information regarding the track's 2010 season and its casino can be obtained at [www.vernondowns.com](http://www.vernondowns.com).

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