

By Jim Moran

VERNON, NY—Cowboy Hanover rustled up a 1:52.3 victory in Saturday night's \$9,000 featured ninth race at Vernon Downs.

Competing in a persistent rain and over a “sloppy” track, Cowboy Hanover advanced from fifth to fourth while Waltrip Hanover paced the field to the three-quarter pole in 1:24.3. With Luke Plano driving, the oily-gaited 6-year-old gelding steamed home in a :27.2 final quarter to defeat the on-rushing Stettin Hanover by a nose. Waltrip Hanover finished 1-1/2 lengths back in third.



It was the second straight score in Vernon's Miracle Mile-2 class for the bay son of Western Ideal-Castanet Hall, who is shared in ownership by Maryann Plano and David Haness. As the wagering favorite, he paid \$4.20 to win.

It marked the fifth season's score and the 26th career victory for the California ship-in, who hiked his lifetime winnings to \$148,657.

Trainer Rick Plano also won the evening's first race with Sheldon Perry's pacer The Godfather to secure a conditioning double on the night.

Former Downs provisional driving champion Chris Lems collected four wins during Saturday's 11-race card. He finished first with the pacers Kiss Me Nice (1:55.4), Soldier Boy (1:53.3), How Forever Feels (1:53) and Joey P (1:54.2) to increase his victory credits to 42 after 41 programs.

DOWNS DOINGS—Vernon will offer life racing at 6:55 Thursday-Saturday nights next week...

Additional information regarding the track's 2010 season and its casino can be obtained at www.vernondowns.com.

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