

## Batavia Downs to celebrate Breeders Crown Trot

**Batavia, NY** --- The saying goes it all comes down to the Breeders Crown and it did at Batavia Downs 20 years ago. Back on September 9, 1988, eleven of the best-aged trotting mares in the sport converged on Batavia, New York, to race for a record purse for Western New York standards of \$268,756 in the Breeders Crown Aged Mares Trot.



ARMBRO FLORI & LARRY WALKER

Former Downs President Barbara Samberg wanted the Breeders Crown as a tribute to the great trotting mare Proximity who attracted thousands of fans to the Downs in the late 40's.

At post time the favorite was Scenic Regal. Despite starting from post eight while the Armstrong Brothers duo of Armbro Fling and Armbro Flori were the second choices. Scenic Regal was coming off a second place finish to the great Mack Lobell at Yonkers in the Challenge Cup in her last start.

When the gates opened four horses tried for the top including both parts of the entry. Racing three wide around the clubhouse turn outside of stablemate Armbro Fling, Armbro Flori with Larry Walker were able to make the front at the quarter in :30 flat. Heading to the half in 59.4 and three-quarters in 1:29.3, Armbro Fling had a 1 1/4 length lead as the classy field made their final swing and headed for home. Free Token with Joe Pavia Jr. had moved into second

The field included the George Sholty-trained entry of Armbro Flori and millionaire Armbro Fling, 1987 Breeders Crown winner and divisional champ along with the aged trotting mare of 1987, Scenic Regal.

Top drivers in town included William O'Donnell, Ben Webster and Doug Brown.

The race was televised nationally on ESPN. Dave Johnson served as the host with Stan Bergstein and Kenny Rice the analysts.

while Scenic Regal and Harold Story had worked their way up to be third despite being three wide from the half.

Down the stretch Walker was able to guide a very tired Armbro Flori home first by a head over a fast closing Scenic Regal in a time of 1:59.3. Sarah Gal with Tom Strauss ended up third. Armbro Flori returned \$5.60 to win.

On Saturday night August 16, we take a stroll down memory lane by celebrating the 20-year anniversary of the biggest harness race ever held in Western New York by presenting Armbro Flori night. Footage of the race will be shown on the closed circuit monitors along with a special racing program. In addition Zweigle Hot Dogs and Sodas will be just 50-cents beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the paddock room.