

## HAMBO AMATEUR TROTS TO OFFENBERG; WHITNEY & DONNELLY

For years now the Meadowlands has presented races for amateur drivers on the Wednesday prior to the racing of the Hambletonian and this year was no exception.

Three splits were contested; two went as non-wagering affairs prior to the betting card and one was on the card and went as race number one on July 30. The majority of the drivers who participated were members of the C.K.G. Billings Amateur Driving Series.

The winner of the amateur event on the betting card was driven by Dave” Yes It’s True” Offenberg. A business executive by trade, Offenberg reined Double Strength to a 1:57:2 victory over Dream of Magic driven by Alan Schwartz. Third place went to the “Joltin’ Joe” Pennacchio-driven, Anton K.

It was Offenberg’s 29<sup>th</sup> career driving victory and second this season.

According to the rules of the Delvin Miller Amateur Drivers Association sponsors of the Billings Series, horses that participate for points must fit certain conditions and this event, though weighted with Billings’ drivers, only Joe Pennacchio’s horse fit the conditions and he earned the “wild card” points on the Billings leaderboards.

The first non-wagering event saw Terry “the Dairy Queen” Donnelly, owner of a Dairy Queen franchise, send her trotter Jay A Novak to the front from post six and then make every pole a winning one en route to a 2:01:1 triumph. The only other lady in the contest, Jody Riedel, hustled Petro Legacy home for second money while “Rob “Rapid Rail,” Krivelin and Red Lace rumbled home for the show dough.

Since Jay A Novak fit the Billings conditions Donnelly earned Billings points as did third place finisher Rob Krivelin.

For Donnelly, it marked her 12 lifetime driving victory and second this year, both in Billings’ competition.

In the second non-betting contest Eastern Region Billings point leader Todd ‘the Downeaster” Whitney padded his lead when he guided Witch and Famous to a 1:59 victory over Wolf’s Fawn and driver Mike Lopez. Steve “Cannonball” Markoff also earned Billings’ points with a third place finish with CR Mr. Bean.

Besides Whitney’s trotter, Markoff’s horse also fit the Billings criteria and each earned Billings’ points,

The victory was the 16<sup>th</sup> of the season for Whitney, a concrete master from Auburn, Me., and it was his sixth in Billings competition this year.