

ERIC TADDEO REINS 1<sup>ST</sup> PARI-MUTUEL WINNER IN BILLINGS EVENT AT  
VERNON DOWNS ON AUG.9; BILLINGS CANCELLED AT HIAWATHA HORSE  
PARK

MONTICELLO, NY --- Like a first girlfriend an initial pari-mutuel driving victory will be remembered forever and for “Cowboy Eric” Taddeo his triumph with Highmaker in an eastern region Billings Trot at Vernon Downs on Saturday, August 9 will be indelibly etched in his memory.

Taddeo, a New York City Fire Fighter and relative newcomer to the sport of amateur racing, undoubtedly rejoiced –and maybe even celebrated—after he reined his 6 year old trotting gelding to a come-from-behind 2:01:1 victory in the lone Billings split at the central New York 7/8<sup>th</sup> mile oval.

Dismissed at odds of over 23-1 Taddeo was patient and bided his time as he raced along in fourth position content to let Peter “the President” Gerry cut the early fractions with Final Legacy. Himself a 20-1 shot Gerry’s hopes were high as he rounded the final turn and though he led until the deep stretch his trotter, Final Legacy, was collared by Highmaker and Taddeo who then went on to hold off a late rally from favored CJ’s Not A Clue, driven by “Daring Dave” Pozefsky. Gerry did, however, get the show dough and finished just one length behind the winner

Highmaker lit up the tote board when he returned a \$49.80 win mutuel.

A Billings “wild card” event was scheduled at Hiawatha Horse Park in Sarnia, Ontario that same evening but an unsafe racetrack caused by inclement weather forced the cancellation of the racing program there after the first race became official.

Weather permitting a “wild card” Billings Trot is slated for Sunday, August 10 at Clinton Raceway in Clinton, Ontario and the following day, a midwest regional Billings trot will be contested at the Muskingum County Fair in Zanesville, Ohio.