

BARTLETT & STRATTON SET TO SQUARE OFF IN “BATTLE OF THE RISING STARS”

MONTICELLO, NY – Monticello Raceway’s Battle of the Rising Stars, a driving competition pitting outstanding youngsters Jason Bartlett, 26, against Jordan Stratton, 21, will be presented on Wednesday afternoon, November 19.

Bartlett is currently the leading driver at Yonkers Raceway while Stratton is the driving leader at Monticello Raceway. Bartlett’s 578 driving victories rank him fourth on the North American leaderboard while Stratton’s 557 rank him fifth best in North America.

Both drivers will compete in the first 12 races on the 13-race card that day with time left on the racing program to make trackside presentations to the winner after the point totals have been verified.

The European Point System will be used to determine the winner and local racing fans can follow the action race by race with the score sheet placed in the tracks official race program.

This unique contest had both Stratton and Bartlett select their mounts in each of the races they will be competing in. Bartlett selected his mount in the first race with Stratton getting his choice of the remaining horses in that event. In the second race it was Stratton’s turn to choose first and Bartlett second. It went on that way with choosing first in every other race until 12 drives were selected by each reinsman.

Of course, without the consent of the local horsemen this contest couldn’t have come to fruition and a big debt of gratitude is owed to the Monticello Harness Horsemen’s Association.

Some might feel that Stratton may have an inside track in selecting his mounts since he races daily at the Mighty M and arguably knows the competing horses better. That point may be demonstrated to an extent in that John Flynn, the tracks program director and morning line odds-maker gave a slight advantage to Stratton when he rated six of Stratton’s mounts as the morning line favorites in while Bartlett will handle five. Only in the ninth race trot will neither Bartlett nor Stratton steer the morning line favorite.

Of course Flynn’s assessments are only a betting guide; the proof, as they say, will be in the pudding, or in this case, in the outcome of each event. And keep in mind six other drivers in each race are also out to win and they will also have to be contended with.

Through this past weekend—November 9—each drivers’ current stats are as follows:

	starts	wins	seconds	thirds	money won	UDRS
Stratton---	3350	557	447	430	\$3,985,422	.283
Bartlett---	2791	578	433	313	\$5,900,672	.331

Post time for the Wednesday, November 19th race card at Monticello Raceway is at 12:40p.m.