



Media Contact:

Jason Politi | Baker Public Relations

O: 518.426.4099 | M: 845.913.6394

jason@bakerpublicrelations.com

www.bakerpublicrelations.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twenty-six New York-Breds Qualify for Saturday's Breeders Crown Finals

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. – The New York Sire Stakes is pleased to announce that 26 New York-bred horses will be competing in the \$6 million Breeders Crown Finals this weekend. Known as harness racing's richest and most prestigious year-end divisional championship series, the finals return to The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on Saturday (Oct. 27).

"As one of the most significant championships in the country, having this many horses representing New York State continues to be a testament to the talent coming out of the New York Sire Stakes program," said M. Kelly Young, executive director, Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund. "We are looking forward to an exciting evening of racing."

New York-bred horses participating in the Breeders Crown include:

Six Pack, who trotted a world-record mile of 1:50 in this year's Stanley Dancer Memorial, and then lowered that mark with a 1:49.1 performance at the 126th Kentucky Futurity. The three-year old trotter has earned \$970,573 this year and nearly \$1.17 million in his career. Six Pack (Muscle Mass-Pleasing Lady) was bred by Brittany Farms of Kentucky, is trained and driven by Ake Svanstedt, and owned by Svanstedt with Little E LLC, Stall Kalmar FF and Lars Berg.

Atlanta's victory over the weekend was her eighth in 13 starts. The three-year-old became just the fourteenth filly to win the Hambletonian this year, capturing harness racing's richest prize in 1:50.4 and taking her over \$1 million in career earnings. Atlanta (Chapter Seven-Hemi Blue Chip) was bred by Order By Stable, is trained by Rick Zeron, and owned by Zeron with Crawford Farms, Howard Taylor, Brad Grant and Holland Racing Stable.

Dan Patch Award winner **Youaremycandygirl** became the fastest 2-year-old female pacer in history with a 1:50 at last year's International Stallion Stakes at Lexington's Red Mile. She was voted the best 2-year-old female pacer of 2017 by the U.S. Harness Writers Association after winning nine of 11 races and earning \$895,615. This year she scored in the Empire Breeders Championship and the Shady Daisy. Youaremycandygirl (American Ideal-Sweet Lady Jane) was bred by Birnam Wood Farm and is trained by Ron Burke. Owner W.J. Donovan bought the filly as a yearling for \$150,000 at the 2016 Standardbred Horse Sale.

Plunge Blue Chip became the fastest 3-year-old trotter in history, regardless of sex, with her 1:49.4 performance in the Del Miller Memorial this year. She went on to be crowned New York Sire Stakes champion with a seven-length win at last month's finals. Plunge Blue Chip (Muscle Mass-Dunk The Donato) was bred by Blue Chip Bloodstock, is trained and driven by Ake Svanstedt, and owned by Svanstedt with Blue Chip Bloodstock, Tomas Andersson, and Rick Zeron Stables.

Gimpanzee (Chapter Seven-Steamy Windows) remains undefeated after eight starts including last Friday's Breeder's Crown 2-Year-Old Colt and Gelding Trot eliminations. The New York Stakes Champion was bred by Order By Stable and fetched \$170,000 at the Standardbred Horse Sale, has earned \$291,358 to go with his untarnished record.

Woodside Charm (Chapter Seven-Fireworks) is unbeaten in six races as a freshman after winning her elimination in 1:53.. She turned heads in September when she set an astounding 1:53.4 world record on the half-mile track at

Saratoga in a division of the New York Sire Stakes. The trotter is trained, driven and owned by Verlin Yoder and was bred by AV & Son Bloodstock LLC.

New York-breds also securing a place in this weekend's finals are Guardian Angel AS, Top Flight Angel, Dunbar Hall, American History, Celebrity Ruth, All Bets Off, Zero Tolerance, Prescient Beauty, Brady Bunch, Stella Jane, Dance Blue, I'm Trigger Happy, St Somewhere, Solitary, Tequila Monday, Supergirl Riley, Ciao Dolce, Springsteen, Hitman Hill, and Barn Bella.

About the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund:

The Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund (the Fund) is a public benefit corporation established in 1965 by the Laverne Law (Laws of New York, Chapter 567 of the Laws of 1965). The mission of the Fund is to promote agriculture through the breeding of Standardbred horses and the conduct of equine research within the State. To carry out its legislative mission, the Fund administers the New York Sire Stakes races, Excelsior/State Fair Series races, and County Fair Races. Additionally, the Fund provides assistance to county agriculture societies and contributes to the statewide 4-H program and to the Harry M. Zweig Fund for Equine Research.

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