

Barn Doll stars in NYSS action at Batavia Downs Saturday

by Tim Bojarski, Batavia Downs Media Relations

Batavia, NY --- Barn Doll ([Conway Hall](#)-HeadinthecLOUDs) lived up to her hype as she toyed with the field in her division of the \$120,400 New York Sires Stakes (NYSS) for 3-year-old trotting fillies at Batavia Downs on Saturday night (Aug. 22)



Paul White photo

Barn Doll toyed with a field of 3-year-old trotting fillies, winning a division of NYSS in 1:57.3 on Saturday night at Batavia Downs.

were tied to a post.

As Ray Schnittker flew off the gate with Waiting Room to take an early three-length lead, Jeff Gregory floated Barn Doll out before settling in fourth. As the pack entered the clubhouse turn, Gregory started his outside march with the filly and quickly found himself sitting second outside of the leader at the three-quarter pole in 1:28.3.

Then halfway through the final turn, strategy came into play. Schnittker popped the earplugs looking to pull away while Gregory held his filly firm, making sure she got through that turn without issue. As the pair hit the top of the stretch, Barn Doll became explosive with trot and left the rest behind like they

Barn Doll (\$2.10) was a five-length winner in 1:57.3, which was only one-fifth second shy of the track record for this gait and sex. It was the ninth win in 11 starts for the top NYSS point-earning trotting filly and raised her 2015 earnings to \$311,520.

After the race, Gregory commented "She just loves to pass horses down the lane. The filly is just a pleasure drive."

Barn Doll is owned by Steve and Nancy Pratt and Wanda Polisseni's Purple Haze Stable. Steve Pratt also trains the horse.

In the other division, Jewels In Hock (Credit Winner-Jewels Galore) proved to be much the best even though she was tested early.

Chris Lems and Jewels In Hock took and held the point immediately, until Nunckeri (Ray Fisher Jr.) motored up the outside to challenge and then take the lead at the quarter. But with the tepid :30 clocking, Lems pulled to retake the front and did so without issue. From there the race was pretty much over.

Lems line-drove the filly to a 1:00.2 half and 1:29.4 three-quarters before letting her out a notch and trotting away from the field to win by two in 1:58.4.

"She just does it so easy" Said Lems. "She trotted real strong to the wire. She will definitely be a factor in the finals in a couple of weeks."

It was the eighth win in 15 starts (and five out of her last 6) for Jewels In Hock (\$3.10) who saw her 2015 earnings inflate to \$220,450 for Ken Jacobs' KJ Stable and trainer Linda Toscano.

There were also two \$15,000 NYSS Excelsior Series A races on the card Saturday.

The first was won by Allerage Belle (Conway Hall-Bourbon Belle) in 2:00. The filly was driven by John Cummings Jr. for trainer Megan Wilson. Allerage Belle (\$11.80) is owned by Alan Hainsworth.

The second division went to High Rise (Conway Hall-RC Biscuit) in 1:58.4. Chris Lems drove High Rise (\$2.60) for trainer George Ducharme and owner Ray Campbell Jr.

Visiting drivers Jeff Gregory and Chris Lems both scored driving doubles on the card.

Racing resumes Sunday afternoon at Batavia Downs with a 1:15 p.m. post time.