

Straight A Student, Fad Finance tie mark in NYSS at Buffalo Raceway by Brian Mazurek, for Buffalo Raceway

Hamburg, NY --- Straight A Student (\$3.10) and Fad Finance (\$3.50) took their respective \$60,200 divisions of the New York Sire Stakes and tied the Buffalo Raceway track record for 3-year-old filly trotters in doing so with times of 1:58.2 over the fast track on Sunday (July 17) afternoon.

The clocking equaled the mark of 1:58.2 established in 2015 by High Rise.



In the opening leg, Straight A Student (Mark MacDonald) got a perfect trip and won the cavalry charge down the stretch to register a head victory over Lindylicious (Kevin Cummings). Goosebump Hanover (Jim Morrill Jr.) took the show position.

Straight A Student would not be denied in capturing her NYSS division at Buffalo Raceway.

At the start, Straight A Student parked Goosebump Hanover to the quarter-pole before finally relinquishing the lead. From there, Goosebump Hanover was in command until the top of the stretch when Straight A Student came charging down the passing lane and Lindylicious attacked from the

outside. It was a blanket finish with Straight A Student getting the head win over Lindylicious while Goosebump Hanover was just a neck back.

"I just wanted to make it around the first turn," MacDonald said in getting Straight A Student to the winner's circle. "I knew if I followed Goosebump Hanover around the track, I'd be where I wanted to be in the end."

Straight A Student ([Credit Winner](#)-Smarter Than Smart) as been playing second fiddle for much of the season as she has had five runner-up finishes in her seven starts.

"She's trotted some big miles this season and finally got the win," MacDonald added.

Trained by Paul Kelley, Straight A Student pushed her seasonal earnings to \$71,885 and \$93,675 lifetime.

In the second division, Fad Finance was ready to roll midway down the backstretch the final time but had to wait for racing room before rallying late to nip Monarchs Sequel (MacDonald) by a nose. Swinging Royalty (Chris Lems) secured the show position.

Fad Finance had nowhere to go heading to the three-quarter marker as the pace-setting Swinging Royalty and the first-over Monarchs Sequel had her boxed in along the pylons. In the race for the wire, Fad Finance found some wiggle room and just got up in time to take the nose victory.

"I did all I could do to keep her in the two hole," Morrill Jr. said of Fad Finance's journey. "If I could have gotten her free down the backstretch, we probably would have won by five lengths."

Trained by Trond Smedshammer, it was the third victory of the year for Fad Finance ([Credit Winner-Armbro Vanity](#)). The win pushed her seasonal bankroll to \$83,038 and \$129,988 in her career.

Fruition (\$5.10) was the fastest in the \$15,000 Excelsior A Series with a 2:00.0 victory, which gave MacDonald a double, while Kevin Cummings drove Outside Court (\$7.30) to a 2:00.4 win.

Shawn McDonough swept both of the \$6,600 Excelsior B Series as he was aboard Catalina Cash (\$6.60) and Barn Diva (\$10.40). Catalina Cash covered the mile in 2:02.0 while Barn Diva toured the Buffalo Raceway half-mile oval in 2:03.1.

Morrill Jr. took top honors on the day in the bike as he posted five wins.

The final week of the 2016 season at Buffalo Raceway will start on Wednesday (July 20)night at 5 p.m. with a 12-race card scheduled. The New York Sire Stakes will kick off closing week as the 2-year-old colt and gelding pacers will be in action.

For more information including the latest news, upcoming promotions, race replays and results, go to www.buffaloraceway.com.



Steve Roth photos

A determined Fad Finance found a way to get her nose in front at the wire in her NYSS division.