

Barn Girl wins Excelsior Series final at Vernon

by James Witherite, Vernon Downs racing media

Vernon, NY--Employing a first-over bid through the far turn, Barn Girl (\$2.20) delivered as the prohibitive favorite in her \$45,000 New York Excelsior Series final, one of four to headline Saturday (Sept. 19) evening's program at Vernon Downs.



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Barn Girl (Jeff Gregory) earned her 14th career win in her \$45,000 Excelsior Series final at Vernon Downs.

The 3-year-old trotting daughter of [Cash Hall](#) and Turquoise Sweetie earned her 14th career win in the first Excelsior event of the evening, angling first-over just as Miss B'velle J (Jim Morrill, Jr.) took the lead through a :57.3 half. Barn Girl progressed steadily through the far turn, making ground in the second flight through a :28.2 third quarter before collaring Miss B'velle J in deep stretch for a 1:54.2 triumph. Jeff Gregory drove Barn Girl for trainer Howard Okusko Sr. and owners Steven Pratt, Nancy Pratt, and the Out in the Country Stable.

Andy Ray (\$9.10) took top honours among 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings in their Excelsior final, placed second-over by Andy Miller behind the live

cover of 4-5 favorite Crazshana (Trond Smedshammer) before kicking cover to narrowly prevail in 1:54.1. Erv Miller trains the gelded son of [Crazed](#) and Crown N Lindy for Paymaq Racing, Ronald Michelon, and Harvey Eisman.

The 3-year-old filly pace saw Matt Kakaley slid second-over with Hey Kobe (\$5.40) to track a live B Stern through a :55.2 half, only to be left uncovered on the far turn and sustain a bid to a deep-stretch lead. The daughter of [Bettor's Delight](#) and American West was able to wear down B Stern through a :27 final quarter for a 1:51.2 triumph. Jean Drolet trains Hey Kobe for Stephen Schneider and William Siegel.

In the 3-year-old pace for colts and geldings, Masterson (\$3.50, part of entry) emerged late from a tracking trip, drawing clear for a 1:50 win to extend his win streak to five. Tracy Brainard trains the gelded son of [Bettor's Delight](#) and Tug River Princess for Blue Chip Bloodstock, and Jim Morrill, Jr. was aboard for the winning drive.

Morrill also captured two of the evening's four \$50,000 New York Sire Stakes consolations, teaming up with Fashion Creditor (3-year-old colt trot, 1:53.2) and Penji Hanover (3-year-old colt pace, 1:49.4). Also victorious were My Lucky Word (3-year-old filly trot, 1:56.2, Corey Callahan) and Luck Be a Lindy (3-year-old filly pace, 1:51, Gregory).

Live racing returns to Vernon Downs on Wednesday (Sept. 23) evening, with post time at 6:45 p.m. Eastern.