

No surprises in New York Sire Stakes at Batavia

by Tim Bojarski, Batavia Downs Media Relations

Batavia, NY --- The mutuel payouts may have been small, but the purses were spread around in the 3-year-old filly pacing division of the New York Sire Stakes at Batavia Downs on Sunday (Aug. 2). A different sire, driver and trainer won each division of the series as they represented the best New York State has to offer for this sex and gait.



Mosquito Blue Chip was a 1:54.2 winner in the first division.

In the first \$39,200 division, Mosquito Blue Chip (Jim Morrill Jr.) left the gate and took a methodic path to the front in :27.4. Leading the single-file group and still unchallenged to the half, Morrill kept a tight grip on the filly with an eye on closing out the deal. When they rolled towards three-quarters, Morrill popped the plugs and Mosquito Blue Chip responded in kind, quickly pulling away to a four length advantage. With Morrill stretched out like he was in a recliner, the pair scurried home in :28.2 with no

one even close, to win in 1:54.2.

"She felt like her old self today. She was on cruise control the entire mile," said driver Jim Morrill Jr. of the filly who is now two-for-two lifetime at Batavia Downs.

Mosquito Blue Chip (Bettor's Delight-Sandfly Hanover) was sent off the prohibitive 1-9 favorite and paid \$2.30 for the win. Paul Jessop trains and co-owns the filly with Our Three Sons Stable and Donato Falcicchio.

As most expected in the second \$39,900 split, Band Of Angels (Matt Kakaley) and Moremercy Bluechip (Andy Miller) left from post three and four, respectively, and got away one-two before sauntering to a pedestrian :29 first quarter. With the rest of the field still in post position order behind the two favorites, Kakaley continued to grab leather in an even slower :29.4 second panel.

From there it was all Band Of Angels who was given her head and quickly opened up a five length lead before Kakaley lowered the lines and stored the whip. Band Of Angels (\$2.50) paced the back half in :56.2, winning in 1:55.1 with Moremercy Bluechip closing ground on the wrapped-up winner to finish second.

After the race, winning driver Matt Kakaley pointed out, "She did it as easily as a horse could do it and had plenty left coming down the stretch."

Band Of Angels ([Rock N Roll Heaven](#)-Time N Again) is conditioned by North America's leading trainer, Ron Burke, for owner W.J. Donovan.



Paul White photos

Jag Out won the fastest division in a time of 1:53.4.

The final \$39,900 split featured a speed duel between two unrelenting contestants and it started as soon as the gate pulled away. As the field headed into the first turn, they were spread three-wide across the track -- Jag Out (Andy Miller) on the pylons, Nippy W Hanover (Jim Morrill Jr.) in the middle and Artiawitchtoyou (Doug McNair) out widest of all. Off the turn, Nippy W Hanover settled in second but Artiawitchtoyou opted to go on. As she drew next to Jag Out at the quarter in :27.1, it was clear the leader had no intentions of giving up

that spot.

As they contentiously passed the half in :55, Jag Out and Artiawitchtoyou were seemingly pacing in tandem heading into the third turn, but then Artiawitchtoyou had taken all the air she could and by the 1:24.3 three-quarter split, started to show the effects. As she started to fade off, Jag Out continued to drive on to an impressive two length victory in the fastest time of the day, 1:53.4. The winner paid \$8.00.

"She was awesome! I know we went fast early but she's that good," said driver Andy Miller about the speed duel between his charge and Artiawitchtoyou.

Jag Out ([American Ideal](#)-Impertinent) is trained by Erv Miller, who co-owns her with Paymaq Racing and Mystical Marker Farms LLC.

There were also two divisions of the NYSS Excelsior A series on the card for \$30,000 in purses.

The first went to Yes You Can (If I Can Dream-Cantbuymehappiness) who went gate-to-wire in 1:56.2 for driver Jim Morrill Jr. and trainer Heidi Rohr. Yes You Can, who paid \$2.40, is owned by the Holland Racing Stable.

The second division was won by Hey Kobe (Bettor's Delight-American West) who also led the entire mile for driver Mark MacDonald and trainer Marthe Drolet. Hey Kobe is owned by Stephen Schneider and William Siegel. The winner returned \$4.00.

Driver Jim Morrill Jr. notched four victories on the card with Kevin Cummings adding two more wins to his meet-leading total.

Racing resumes on Wednesday at Batavia Downs when two divisions of the New York Sire Stakes 2-year-old trotting colts and geldings go postward for a total of \$110,000 in purses. Post time is set for 6:35 p.m.