

Sassa Hanover dominant in Vernon NY Sire Stakes

by James Witherite, Tioga Downs racing media

Vernon Downs, NY --- Making her return to the races after she spent her 2-year-old season in the shadows of JK She'salady, Sassa Hanover (\$2.70) proved dominant in her sophomore debut, trouncing six other 3-year-old pacing fillies in her \$30,450 New York Sire Stakes event on Saturday (May 16) evening at Vernon Downs.



Fotowon photo

Sassa Hanover (Andy McCarthy) started her 3-year-old season on a winning note, drawing clear in her \$30,450 New York Sire Stakes event at Vernon Downs.

The [Rock N Roll Heaven](#)-Sayo Hanover filly was a fair bit off the early pace, tracking from midfield as Mosquito Hanover (Chris Lems) and Not Before Eight (John MacDonald) alternated on the lead through a :55.2 initial half mile. On the backstretch, Andy McCarthy moved Sassa Hanover off the pegs, commencing a strong push to the fore well before reaching the far turn. Upon clearing Not Before Eight, Sassa Hanover was faced with a first-over challenge from Bossers Joy (Greg Merton), but she quickly dismissed that rival, kicking clear to a 5-1/2 length victory in 1:51. Bossers Joy narrowly held second from Not Before Eight, who labored late after chasing from the pocket.

Trainer Ron Burke's Burke Racing Stable co-owns seven-time winner Sassa Hanover with the Panhellenic Stable, the Weaver Bruscelemi partnership, and Larry Karr.

Daughters of Bettor's Delight took two of the other three Sire Stakes splits, with Bettorhaveanother (\$22.40, Chris Lems, 1:51) and Bettor Be Steppin (\$3.50, Corey Callahan, 1:51.3) proving victorious. Art Major filly Moonlit Dance (\$13.00, Joe Pavia, Jr., 1:52.1) rounded out the quartet of Sire Stakes winners on the evening's program.

Live racing returns to Vernon Downs on Sunday (May 17) afternoon, with first post time set for 1:15 p.m.