

NYSS and District 8 Awards Banquet held at Batavia Downs
By Tim Bojarski for the Harness Horse Breeders of New York State

Latham, NY---There was a full slate of accolades to pass out on Sunday (Nov. 15) when Batavia Downs hosted the USTA District 8 and New York Sire Stakes year-end awards banquet. This marquee event was presented by the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund.

The gathering of top names in harness racing from the Empire State mingled at a cocktail party in Grandstands Banquet Hall at Batavia Downs that was sponsored by all the USTA District 8 harness tracks in the state, before sitting down to a dinner of surf and turf. The awards presentation, which included video highlights of all the winners, began just before dessert.

The focus for many was the announcement of USTA District 8 horse of the year and when the envelope was opened; Crazy Wow took home the hardware.

Crazy Wow (Crazed-No Pan No Gain 1:51.1, \$1,260,540) is owned by Our Horse Cents Stable, JT45, J&T Silva Stables LLC and Deo Volente Farms LLC and is a student of Ron Burke. The ownership group purchased the colt at the end of his 2-year-old campaign (where he became the NYSS 2-year-old trotting colt champion) and Burke guided him to a million-dollar season on the Grand Circuit in 2015.

After starting his 3-year-old campaign off winning two of three NYSS events, Crazy Wow began collecting major stakes. He won the \$255,325 Empire Breeders Classic at Vernon Downs in a lifetime best 1:51.1 over an off-track. Next he took the \$500,000 Colonial Trot at Pocono Downs.

Then after an untimely break in the \$500,000 Yonkers Trot, he finished a fast-closing second to Hambletonian winner Pinkman, in the \$532,000 Canadian Trotting Classic at Mohawk Raceway.

Crazy Wow closed out the year with three out of four wins including the \$109,000 Bluegrass Stake at the Red mile, \$270,000 Erskine at Hoosier Park and the \$243,550 Matron Stake At Dover Downs.

For the year, Crazy Wow had nine wins in 17 starts and earned \$1,027,612 in purses.

The New York Sire Stake award winners featured some of the best horses in North America this year and in many cases, they outperformed their competition in any jurisdiction for their sex and gait.

Betting Exchange (Bettor's Delight-Cheeky Hanover) was named the NYSS 3-year-old pacing colt of the year.

Betting Exchange raced against the best 3-year-old pacers all year, acquitting himself well in every event. He finished second in the \$380,000 Art Rooney at Yonkers and third behind Wakizashi Hanover and Wiggle It Jiggleit in the \$810,000 North American Cup at Mohawk. He won three NYSS races including the \$225,000 final. His seasonal mark tied the track record of 1:51.2 for 3-year-old pacing males at Batavia Downs and his 10 in-the-money finishes carded him \$430,975 for the year.

Habitat (Conway Hall-Habit's Best) was named the NYSS 3-year-old trotting colt of the year.

Habitat started winning early in the year when he took the \$133,170 Dexter Cup at Freehold on May 2, which was his seasonal bow. His schedule then turned quickly challenging. He finished second to Crazy Wow in the \$255,325 Empire Breeders Classic at Vernon Down, second to Hambletonian champion, Pinkman in the \$157,250 Dancer Memorial at the Meadowlands before finishing off the board in the Hambletonian. But Habitat would rebound in a big way, taking the \$500,000 Yonkers Trot just a week before winning the \$225,000 NYSS final, also at Yonkers. He tallied eight wins for the year and stashed \$727,814 in cash for his efforts.

Travel Playlist (Art Major-Village Madonna), who was named the NYSS 2-year-old pacing colt of the year, was the fastest 2-year-old of his sex and gait in North America this year, taking a 1:49.2 record at Vernon Downs in a division of the NYSS on September 7. In his speedy, albeit abbreviated season, Travel Playlist won five NYSS events which helped him bank \$252,570 for the year to go along with his National season's record.

Dime A Dance (Roll With Joe-Hat Dance Hanover), who was named the NYSS 2-year-old pacing filly of the year, set a world record for her sex and gait over a half-mile track when she circled the course at Batavia Downs in 1:52.4 on September 16. She won four NYSS events including the \$225,000 final. Those wins figured into eight top-three finishes and they padded her account with \$219,989 for the year.

Jim Morrill Jr. was named the NYSS Driver of the Year. Morrill scored 44 victories in the series that earned over \$1.8 million in purses for their connections. Morrill also registered an amazing .460 UDR for the entire NYSS season.

Ron Burke was the NYSS Trainer of the Year. Burke campaigned 29 horses on the Empire circuit this year and they account for 31 wins and just under \$1.6 million in purses. Burke's trainees earned checks 74% of the time in races they competed in.

And the NYSS Breeder of the Year was Winbak Farm. The 21 horses bred by Winbak earned \$778,238 in the NYSS over the year and earned purse checks 72% of the time.

Here is a complete list of all the New York Sires Stakes champions:

2015 USTA DISTRICT 8 CHAMPIONS

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROTTER

Goosbump Hanover

Owners: Burke Racing Stables, J&T Silva Stables, Crawford Farms & Joseph Di Scala Jr.

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACER

Dime A Dance

Owners: Our Horse Cents Stables, Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. & J & T Silva Stables

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROTTER

Barn Doll

Owners: Steven & Nancy Pratt & Purple Haze Stables LLC

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACER

Divine Caroline

Owners: Michael Ouriel, Val D'Or Farms, Ted Gewertz & Rojan Stables

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROTTER

Dayson

Owners: Margaret Butler & Amy Butler

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACER

Travel Playlist

Owners: Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc., Ronald Michelon, Taylor Made Stallions & Frederick Hertrich III

3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROTTER

Crazy Wow

Owners: Our Horse Cents Stable, JT45, J&T Silva Stables & Deo Volente Farms

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACER

Penji Hanover

Owner: W. Springtime Racing Stable

DRIVER OF THE YEAR-**Jim Morrill Jr**

TRAINER OF THE YEAR-**George Ducharme**

HORSE OF THE YEAR-**Crazy Wow**

2015 NEW YORK SIRE STAKES CHAMPIONS

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

Non Stick (Lucky Chucky-Meucci Madness)

Owners: Ake Svanstedt Inc. & Little E LLC

Breeders: Michael Andrew & Steve Stewart

Trainer: Ake Svanstedt

Driver: Daniel Dube

NYSS Earnings: \$178,948

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Dime A Dance (Roll With Joe- Hat Dance Hanover)

Owners: Our Horse Cents Stables, Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc. & J & T Silva Stables

Breeders: Eugene Kurzrok, Richard Taylor & Stephen Springer

Trainer: Ron Burke

Driver: Matt Kakaley

NYSS Earnings: \$214,016

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

Jewels In Hock (Credit Winner -Jewels Galore)

Owner: KJ Stables LLC

Breeder: Steve Jones

Trainer: Linda Toscano

Driver: Jim Morrill Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$293,553

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Band Of Angels (Rock N Roll Heaven-Time N Again)

Owner: WJ Donovan

Breeders: Steve Stewart & Birch Hollow Farms

Trainer: Ron Burke

Driver: Jason Bartlett

NYSS Earnings: \$206,569

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

Allerage Echo (Conway Hall- Economical)

Owner: Kenneth Jacobs

Breeder: Little E LLC

Trainer: George Ducharme

Driver: Brian Sears

NYSS Earnings: \$261,939

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE Travel Playlist Art Major — Village Madonna

Owners: Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc., Ronald Michelin, Taylor Made Stallions & Frederick Hertrich III

Breeder: Winbak Farm

Trainer: Erv Miller

Driver: Marcus Miller

NYSS Earnings: \$234,695

3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

Habitat (Conway Hall- Habit's Best)

Owners: Burke Racing Stable LLC, Our Horse Cents Stables & Weaver Brusceci LLC

Breeder: Fredericka Caldwell

Trainer: Ron Burke

Driver: Jim Morrill Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$158,375

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

Betting Exchange (Bettor's Delight- Cheeky Hanover)

Owners: Howard Taylor, Susan Kajfasz & Tom Fanning

Breeder: Flintlock Farm Inc.

Trainer: Tom Fanning

Driver: Jason Bartlett

NYSS Earnings: \$201,437

DRIVER OF THE YEAR-**Jim Morrill Jr.**

TRAINER OF THE YEAR-Ron Burke

BREEDER OF THE YEAR-**Winbak Farm**

2015 NEW YORK-BRED EXCELSIOR CHAMPIONS

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

Outsidecourt (Conway Court-Getaway Cheyenne)

Owner: P&J Stables

Breeder: P&J Stables

Trainer: Gary Messenger

Driver: Bruce Aldrich Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$46,800

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Lyra (American Ideal- Hypnotize)

Owners: Stephen Schneider, William Siegel & Marthe Drolet

Breeder: Winbak Farm

Trainer: Jean Drolet

Driver: John Cummings Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$58,050

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

Barn Girl (Cash Hall-Turquoise Sweetie)

Owners: Steven Pratt, Nancy Pratt & Out In The Country Stable

Breeder: Morrisville Col Fdn Inc.

Trainer: Howard Okusko

Driver: Jeff Gregory

NYSS Earnings: \$41,100

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Hey Kobe (Bettor's Delight-American West)

Owners: Stephen Schneider & William Siegel

Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.

Trainer: Jean Drolet

Driver: Matt Kakaley

NYSS Earnings: \$53,250

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

Boxall (Credit Winner -Vallaire)

Owner: Little E LLC

Breeder: David Anderson

Trainer: Jessica Okusko

Driver: Jim Morrill Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$42,000

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

Artmagic (Art Major-Sammy's Magic Girl)

Owner: Purple Haze Stables LLC

Breeder: Hanover Shoe Farm Inc.

Trainer: Trond Smedshammer

Driver: Jim Morrill Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$38,700

3-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

Andy Ray (Crazed-Crown N Lindy)

Owners: Paymaq Racing, Ronald Michelin & Harvey Eisman

Breeder: Lindy Racing Stable

Trainer: Erv Miller

Driver: Andy Miller

NYSS Earnings: \$46,425

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

Masterson (Bettor's Delight-Tug River Princess)

Owner: Let It Ride Stables Inc., Robert Cooper Stables LLC & Jerry Silva

Breeders: Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.

Trainer: Tracy Brainard

Driver: Jim Morrill Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$56,250

DRIVER OF THE YEAR-**Jim Morrill Jr.**

TRAINER OF THE YEAR-**George Ducharme**

BREEDER OF THE YEAR-**Winbak Farm**

2015 NEW YORK COUNTY FAIR CHAMPIONS

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

Linda's Choice (Conway Hall-Howard's Sister)

Owner: Philip Hale

Breeder: Philip Hale

Trainer: David Dewhurst

Driver: James Devaux

NYSS Earnings: \$8,850

2-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Niche Blue Chip (Art Major- PW Spare)

Owners: Elizabeth & Dyce Spalluto, Veronica Dylo & David Widzinski

Breeder: Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.

Trainer: Mihalo Zdjelar Jr.

Driver: Gregory Merton

NYSS Earnings: \$12,857

3 -YEAR-OLD FILLY TROT

Hollywood Jess (Conway Hall-Howard's Sister)

Owners: Philip Hale & David Dewhurst

Breeder: Philip Hale

Trainer: David Dewhurst

Driver: Truman Gale

NYSS Earnings: \$10,925

3-YEAR-OLD FILLY PACE

Maya Scape (Kenneth J-AB Seascape)

Owner: Laurier Sauve

Breeder: Howard Stables

Trainer: Henry Westbrook III

Driver: Henry Westbrook III

NYSS Earnings: \$11,875

2-YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

Trooper Jim (Conway Hall- Alpine Goal)

Owners: Heather & Barry White

Breeder: Barry White

Trainer: Barry White

Driver: Bruce Aldrich Jr.

NYSS Earnings: \$7,585

2-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

Americanation (American Ideal- Cool World)

Owner: Pine Hill Stables

Breeder: George Miller

Trainer: Jeffrey Johnson Jr.

Driver: Truman Gale

NYSS Earnings: \$7,275

3 -YEAR-OLD COLT TROT

J A T O (Big Apple Deli-Highwaytoheaven)

Owners: Margaret & Amy Butler

Breeder: Steuben Farms

Trainer: Margaret Butler

Driver: Douglas Ackley

NYSS Earnings: \$17,787

3-YEAR-OLD COLT PACE

Adonis Bay (If I Can Dream-Kiss Me I'm Lucky)

Owner: Harold Smith

Breeder: Bulletproof Enterprises

Trainer: Harold Smith

Driver: James Devaux

NYSS Earnings: \$11,757

DRIVER OF THE YEAR-**Truman Gale**

TRAINER OF THE YEAR-**David Dewhurst**

BREEDER OF THE YEAR-**Winbak Farm**