

Pair of Hambletonian competitors headline NYSS action at Batavia Downs

by Tim Bojarski for Batavia Downs

Batavia, NY---It's not too often Hambletonian competitors make their way to Batavia Downs but that will be the case Friday night (Sept. 4) when the New York Sire Stakes (NYSS) 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings convene at that fast half-mile track in upstate New York. Thirteen horses will go in two divisions (slated as race three and four) to compete for a total of \$120,400 in purses.

The first \$60,200 leg has Fashion Creditor ([Credit Winner](#)-Bon Voyage) as the 5-2 morning line favorite. Besides competing in the NYSS, Fashion Creditor has been facing many of the top juvenile trotters on the Grand Circuit all year, including a start in the first elimination of the \$1 million Hambletonian.

After getting away last and having to deal with a breaking horse in front of him, Fashion Creditor rallied to finish only three and one-half lengths behind the race and eventual Hambo winner, Pinkman, and was only a half-length shy of qualifying for the final. And then on August 15, he was narrowly beaten fourth in the \$200,000 Colonial Trot at Pocono Downs.

Fashion Creditor took his lifetime mark of 1:52.3 at the Meadowland on July 31, the first of three consecutive races he was timed in 1:52 and change. His six in-the-money finishes (that include two wins) have earned him \$83,805 for the year. Jim Morrill Jr. will drive for trainer Tom Fanning. His toughest competitor looks to be Royal Deceptor (RC Royalty-Art of Deception) who has put together a solid campaign this year.

Although Royal Deceptor has two NYSS wins and one Excelsior series tally, he did not fare as well in the \$255,325 Empire Breeders Classic or the \$370,000 Zweig. He was solidly beaten in both of those but has still managed to put away \$114,588 for the year. Michael McGivern will drive again for trainer Cheryl McGivern, which has been the case for the horse's entire career.

In the second \$60,200 stanza, Wings of Royalty (RC Royalty-Sparkling Cider) puts his impressive resume on the line and is the odds maker's choice at 5-2. Much like Fashion Creditor, Wings of Royalty has faced some of the best trotters in his class this season. He finished one and one-half lengths behind Hambletonian champion, Pinkman, in the Zweig in 1:52.1 before finishing fifth behind Hambletonian runner-up, Mission Brief, in the Hambo elimination. Although he qualified for the final, he drew post nine and was never a factor in the race.

He just missed qualifying for the final of the \$580,000 Yonkers Trot last week finishing fifth, but is listed as the also eligible for the race. He is the highest money earner in this race for 2015 with \$148,223 made on the strength of three wins, only one of which was in NYSS action. Chris Lems drives Wings of Royalty for trainer George Ducharme.

A major threat to the favorite's success will come from Mythology Bluechip ([Crazed-Sirenuse](#)) who is now racing for a new barn. Mythology Bluechip was sold on July 7 and switched trainers to Nancy Johansson. The story isn't that the colt had been racing poorly for his previous connections but more the bad posts he's drawn for his new owners. He has

had three nine-holes and an 11 in his last five starts and last week when he left from post five, he was interfered with. The horse has shown gate speed as well as closing ability and his 1:53.1 mark at the Meadowlands this year is the best of anything in this race.

Marcus Johansson will make a rare Batavia Downs visit to drive for trainer Nancy Johansson, who also does not compete at this venue too often.

There are also two \$15,000 NYSS Excelsior Series "A" legs on the card that will go as races two and five.