

Sire Stakes action at Monticello on May 23

by Shawn Wiles, for Monticello Raceway

Monticello, NY --- The New York Sire Stakes season gets underway at Monticello Raceway on Monday (May 23), as 3-year-old pacing fillies take center stage.

When Race Secretary Eric Warner opened the box there were a total of 44 fillies, broken down to two divisions of the Excelsior A and Excelsior B series and two Sire Stake events. The A class vies for a purse of \$15,000, the B class races for \$6,700, while the Sire Stakes go for a purse of \$61,300 on the afternoon's 11-race card.

The action gets underway in race two, the first split of the Excelsior B Series. Monticello horseman Gary Messenger (Sultry Susan-post one) and Frank Yanoti (Were Gonna Rock-post three) each have one entered.

The final split of the Excelsior B class is race three as Bullvillefirerworks will look to light up the sky from the rail. The Bullville Powerful filly who calls Monticello Raceway home is looking for her second consecutive win. She won last week at her home track in 2:00.4. Pop Art Delight, another Monticello Raceway juvenile, with start from post four with Jim Taggart Jr. aboard.

The Excelsior A class starts in race five. Erv Miller', Rolling Going Gone starts from the rail for driver Marcus Miller, The [Roll With Joe](#) lass has been busy this year, already with 11 starts under her belt and a mark of 1:55.4, taken at Yonkers.

Race seven will be the final Excelsior A event on the card, as this competitive leg will feature Lyra (post one), Milky Way Rae (post six), and Queen Of Darkness (post five).

Race four is the first heat of Sire Stakes competition, as seven fillies will go behind the gate. Soft Idea looks to be tight after three qualifiers under her belt, the last one a winning effort in 1:54.4 for trainer Linda Toscano. The daughter of [American Ideal](#) won more than \$200,000 in her freshman season. Ron Burke will also bring his entry of Mother Of Art (post four) and Art Critic (post six) to the fray.

On paper, race eight appears to be the race of the day, the final division of the Sire Stakes. Vino And Formaggio, who was an impressive winner at Monticello Raceway in Sire Stakes action last year, will start from the rail for trainer Ron Burke, who also has entymate Encore Deo (post six) with Matt Kakaley driving.

Crawford Farms LLC, of Syracuse, N.Y., sends forth Angels Rockn Pink, a brown daughter of [Rock N Roll Heaven](#) who will start from post four for master filly trainer Chris Oakes. Purchased as a yearling for \$35,000, Angels Rockn Pink hailed from the Diamond Creek consignment.

American Curves threw in an unexpected bad performance last start at Mohawk; prior to that she was razor sharp grabbing an early season life mark of 1:56.3.