

Odds-on favorites upended in Vernon EBC filly elims

by James Witherite, Vernon Downs racing media

Vernon, NY --- Commanding favorite Non Stick was handed her first career defeat in her Empire Breeders Classic elimination on Friday (June 10) at Vernon Downs, while Fad Finance (\$22.60) and Earn Your Wings (\$18.20) copped minor upsets in the preliminaries for next week's (June 19) marquee trotting event.

In the first \$12,500 elimination, trainer-driver Åke Svanstedt sprinted to the fore with 1-10 favorite Non Stick, and the pair were unchallenged through splits of :26.4, :56.4, and 1:25.3. At head-stretch, the then-undefeated daughter of [Lucky Chucky](#) faced pressure from the two who most directly tracked her, as Straight A Student (Mark MacDonald) emerged from the pocket and Fad Finance (Trond Smedshammer) fanned deeper yet. Fad Finance vaulted to a narrow lead in mid-stretch, battling to maintain a lead over Straight A Student for a 1:54.1 triumph. Non Stick and Lindylicious (Chris Lems) rounded out the top four in the first elimination.



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Fad Finance denies Non Stick the first winner's circle for the first time of her career.

Smedshammer also trains Fad Finance, a 3-year-old [Credit Winner](#) filly, for the Purple Haze Stables, Marc Goldberg, and the Rojan Stables.

In the second elimination, Earn Your Wings (Jason Bartlett) took full advantage of a pocket trip, swinging out at head-stretch to duel clear of pacesetter Swinging Royalty (Lems) for a 1:54.4 win. Open Access (Matt Kakaley) rallied belatedly into third, while Goosebump Hanover (Jim Morrill, Jr.) held fourth.

Anette Lorentzon trains Earn Your Wings, also a 3-year-old [Credit Winner](#) filly, for the SRF Stable.

Of the two fifth-place finishers in the eliminations, Dazzling Dollars draws into next week's (June 19) \$234,375 final.

The following ten 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings advance directly to the \$222,975 Empire Breeders Classic final: Dante, Just For Today, Omaha Set Hut, Reve Royale, Sir Royson, Smalltownthrowdown, Southern Palms, Sweet Royalty, Thats a Bad Boy, and The Royal Harry.

Both finals will be part of a special Sunday evening card at Vernon on Father's Day (June 19).