

NY-Bred, Bill's Man wins Canadian Trotting Classic elim.

- by Mark McKelvie, WEG Communications

Campbellville, ON --- The team of driver Corey Callahan and trainer John Butenschoen connected to capture both eliminations of the Canadian Trotting Classic on Saturday night (Sept. 9) at Mohawk Racetrack.

A group of 13 3-year-old trotting colts and geldings were split into two C\$40,000 eliminations to determine the field for next Saturday's (Sept.16) \$684,000 final.



The first elimination saw Bill's Man charge home in :27.2 to win in 1:53.2 for Callahan and Butenschoen.

The son of [Credit Winner](#) got away fourth with Callahan and would sit in that position until the final turn. Victor Gio IT showed the way, posting fractions of :27.3, :56.4 and 1:25.2. What The Hill enjoyed a two-hole trip and was angled out of the pocket approaching three-quarters, which provided cover for a moving Bill's Man.

Bill's Man won the first Canadian Trotting Classic elimination in a time of 1:53.2.

In the stretch, What The Hill took the lead with an eighth of a mile to go, but couldn't fight off Bill's Man on the outside and Dancer Hall on the inside. Bill's Man would reach the wire first, defeating Dancer Hall by a neck.

"I knew I had (What The Hill) beat and then I saw (Dancer Hall) sneaking up through there, but the horse had plenty of trot," said Callahan about the victory. "The main thing is we just wanted to get through there error free."

Lindy The Great got up for fourth, while Victor Gio IT dropped back to finish fifth.

Owned by William Wiswell and M And L of Delaware LLC, Bill's Man has had a lot of close calls, including a loss by a nose in his Hambletonian elimination. He was winless in his last nine coming into Saturday.

"He's had a lot of bad luck," said Callahan. "You know you don't get many chances to win the Hambletonian and he raced his heart out in the elimination and then drew post 10 and I mean that was really a heartbreaker.

"He puts forth his best effort and he's going to have his day."

Bill's Man is now three for 14 with C\$248,986 earned this season, which boosts his career totals to five wins and C\$319,427 in lifetime earnings. The Butenschoen trainee paid \$7.20 to win.