

## **Barn Bella, Celebrity Ruth win NYSS at Monticello**

from Monticello Raceway

**Monticello, NY**---Monticello Raceway kicked off its 2017 Sire Stakes season on Tuesday afternoon (July 11) with 3-year-old trotting fillies on the marquee, and saw drivers Jason Bartlett and Trond Smedshammer each have a driving double.

Barn Bella, the leading money-winning 3-year-old trotting filly in the nation was featured in the first race from the rail and Mamora Bay starting from the 6 hole. As the gate left, Barn Bella was content to sit in the 3 hole as Jim Morrill and Heels On Wheels cut the mile through fractions of 29.4, 59.3, at the half Jeff Gregory tipped the 2-5 favorite to the outside and slowly began her overland route, the field passed the three-quarters in 1:28.2.

At the top of the stretch, Mamora Bay was mounting her challenge and ranging into contention, but the diminutive daughter of [Conway Hall](#) – Bravissima continued her even speed and held off Heels On Wheels and Mamora Bay to score her seventh win of the year in 1:57.1, last quarter in 28.2. The win gave Barn Bella in excess of \$182,000 on her card thus far in the young 2017 season for owners Steve and Nancy Pratt and Purple Haze Stables LLC.

In the second division of sire stakes competition, favorite Celebrity Ruth (\$2.60) did not disappoint her backers, the [Archangel](#) – Celebrity Obsesion filly left from post 2 and was never headed, scoring a wire-to-wire win in 1:57.3, trotting her last quarter in 28.4, skipping away by five lengths over second-place finisher Sevally, who mounted a threat in the last turn, but became rough-gaited and lost all momentum. The win gave Celebrity Ruth her second sire stakes win of the year for owners White Birch Farm. In six starts she has three wins and three thirds with earnings in excess of \$120,000.

### Excelsior A

The favorite Seventh Heaven (\$3.50) scored a wire-to-wire win for trainer Linda Toscano in 1:58. The [Chapter Seven](#) - Porque filly is owned by Richard Balog and was driven to victory by Jason Bartlett.

Bartlett scored his second win of the afternoon with Hotel Royale Starting from post 8. The daughter of RC Royalty – Dream Ticket left the gate strongly and found a tuck in the 4 hole. She then came first-over at the half to prevail by a head in 2:00.2. She is trained by George Ducharme for owner KJ Stables LLC of Baldwinsville, N.Y.

Chapter Review (\$19.00) ([Chapter Seven](#) – Love Me Two Times) won in 2:00.1 for trainer Paul Kelley and driven by Mark MacDonald. The local connection, Comfort To A Fool, finished second for trainer Gary Messenger and driver Jim Taggart Jr.

### Excelsior B

Barn Sis took a new lifetime mark of 2:00.4. The 18-1 longshot, who looked sharp warming up, was driven by (P) driver Cole Wimmer. The [Credit Winner](#) – Baby Im

Bad News filly made a bold move at the five-eighths pole and grinded out an impressive win over Anja for winning owners Morrisville College Foundation.

Creditover (\$6.00) broke her maiden. The [Credit Winner](#) – Andover The Top filly was idling third until the five-eighths marker and then pulled first-over to take the lead from pacesetter Royal Heiress who finished second, to score in 2:01 for winning owner Purple Haze Stables LLC of Fairport N.Y. The win gave Trond Smedshammer his second training

and driving win of the afternoon.

The 3-year-old trotting colts are next on the sire stakes calendar on Monday (July 17). A total of \$543,000 was wagered on today's card.