BUCHOLIC VERNON DOWNS

Nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of central New York, Vernon Downs offers a long-running history of fast paced harness racing. From April to November, you can listen to the beat of the horses, featuring some of the finest races in the area. In recent years, Vernon Downs has seen a renaissance, with top trotters making a stop in central New York to contest the Zweig Memorial in the summer.

Additionally, top New York-sired horses take part in a full slate of New York Sire Stakes and Empire Breeders Classic events. Combine that with a casino, daily simulcasting of races throughout North America, promotions, good food, live entertainment, and an all-suite hotel, Vernon Downs is a great place to have fun at an affordable price.

Vernon Downs Quick Facts

Track circumference: 7/8 mile
Stretch length: 900’
First-row starters: 9
Open stretch: No
Takeout rates: Win, place, and show: 18%. Exacta and double: 20%. All others: 25%.

Casino Quick Facts

VLTs: 512
Other games: Video Poker, electronic roulette
Denominations: From 1¢ to $5.00
Minimum age to play VLTs: 18
VERNON DOWNS CONTACT INFORMATION

Website  http://www.vernondowns.com

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➢ John Horne  Announcer

➢ Jason Hall  Regional VP of Sponsorship
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VERNON DOWNS TRACK HISTORY

**July 1, 1953:** Vernon Downs opens its doors for the first time to a crowd of 4,632 racegoers. Bob Abbe II wins the first race over the Central New York racecourse, covering 6-1/2 furlongs in 1:44.1. A total of $114,777 is wagered on the first of 67 programs contested through the inaugural season.

**1955:** The three-quarter mile track is dubbed “The Home of the Miracle Mile” after Adios Harry paced one mile in 1:55, a world race record which held up for 15 years.

**1964:** Legendary racecaller Jim Moran debuts at Vernon, sharing duties with announcer Bud Hebert before embarking on a half-century career as the voice of harness racing in central New York.

**1965:** Bret Hanover attracts a crowd of 14,169 to the Miracle Mile for the season’s featured three-year-old pacing event.

**1966:** Bret Hanover again makes Vernon Downs history, establishing a 1:54 world record in a time trial. The grandstand is enclosed with large sliding windows, affording racegoers protection from inclement conditions while still allowing for open-air atmosphere on warm summer nights.

**1971:** The downstairs clubhouse restaurant is now air conditioned, and the track is rated the second fastest in America by the United States Trotting Association.

**1972:** The upper-level clubhouse restaurant is renamed the Gold Cup Room from the Mohawk Terrace, while the downstairs section becomes the Miracle Mile Room after two decades as the Turfside Terrace.

**1973:** AmTote installs a computerized pari-mutuel system, and 61 television monitors are installed throughout the facility.

**1974:** Instant replay of races is offered for the first time.

**1980:** Niatross, who was based at Vernon in a 13-for-13 freshman season, returns to Vernon with driver Clint Galbraith after their Meadowlands Pace triumph to capture the Gaines Stakes in 1:53.3, a new track record. A new lighting system is installed around the track.

**1984:** Sunday racing is welcomed to Vernon Downs.

**1985:** Prakas sets the trotting record at Vernon with a 1:56 mile in the Founders Gold Cup for three-year-old’s.

**1988:** Call for Rain establishes a new speed mark at Vernon with a 1:52.3 mile on August 20.

**1989:** Dexter Nukes equals Call for Rain’s mark of 1:52.3 in the Gaines Stakes.

**1991:** The inside hub rail is removed and replaced with pegs marking the inside of the track. May concert series begins.

**1992:** Stylish Cam takes another second off the track record with a 1:51.3 performance in the North American Pacing Series.

**1994:** Canaco On Time turns in a 1:51.1 mile on the pace. The Vernon Downs Hotel, located at the top of the present-day homestretch, opens in November as the Vernon Comfort Suites.

**1995:** Deliberate Speed’s 1:55 Founders Stakes win establishes a new trotting track record.
1996: Oye Vay’s 1:50.3 Gaines Stakes victory is the fastest mile in four decades of racing at Vernon. Both three-year-old trotting divisions of the Breeders Crown are held at Vernon, with Personal Banner (1:54.1) and Running Sea (1:55) winning the filly and colt divisions, respectively.

2000: After 47 years of the unique six-furlong track configuration replete with a chute for starting one-mile races in the homestretch, a new 7/8-mile oval is unveiled on July 1.

2004: Vernon Downs closes its doors in July.


2007: The Credit Winner free-for-all trot debuts at Vernon Downs. Vivid Photo and Roger Hammer take the lion’s share of the $154,000 purse with a 1:52.1 victory in the first of ten renewals of the event, which later would be named the Crawford Farms Trot and would move to sister track Tioga Downs in 2017.

2013: Intimidate and Ron Pierce establish the all-age trotting record at Vernon with a 1:51 win in the Credit Winner.

2014: After 50 years behind the microphone, Jim Moran calls his final race at Vernon Downs.

2015: Speedy local mainstays Fireyourguns and JK Panache both record 1:47.3 miles at Vernon to jointly hold the all-age track pacing record.

2018: The one and only Atlanta 3 year old trotting queen out of Chapter Seven sets a new track record in her EBC finals score here at Vernon of 150.3 on May 28th 2018.

2021: Cattlewash out of the Ron Burke barn goes wire to wire in a short field of 5 to break the track record for 4 year old pacers in a time of 149.0 flat.

2023: Kirekegaard K equals all time track trotting record of 1:50.3 while setting a new standard for 3-year-old colts for Ake Svanstedt in the Empire Breeders Classic.
The Dr. Harry M. Zweig 3-year-old Trot
(Grand Circuit Stake)

Top 3-year-old trotters are featured annually at Vernon Downs in the Harold M. Zweig Memorial

OPEN DIVISION

- **2023**
  - Ari Ferrari J
  - Dexter Dunn
  - Tony Alagna
  - 1:51
  - Chappercraz
  - Joe Bongiorno
  - Ron Burke
  - 1:51
  - Cecil Hanover
  - Ake Svanstedt
  - Ake Svanstedt

- **2022**
  - Temporal Hanover
  - Brian Sears
  - Marcus Melander
  - 1:52.3
  - Periculum
  - Mattias Melander
  - Marcus Melander
  - 1:52.3
  - Pretender
  - Andrew McCarthy
  - Nancy Takter

- **2021**
  - Spy Booth
  - Dexter Dunn
  - Nancy Takter
  - 1:52.3
  - Balenciaga
  - Scott Zeron
  - Paul Kelly
  - 1:52.3
  - Zenith Stride
  - Andrew McCarthy
  - Mark Harder

- **2020**
  - Ready For Moni
  - Matt Kakaley
  - Nancy Takter
  - 1:51.1
  - Back Of The Neck
  - Scott Zeron
  - Ake Svanstedt
  - 1:51.1
  - King Alphonso
  - Dexter Dunn
  - Ake Svanstedt

- **2019**
  - Greenshoe
  - Brian Sears
  - Marcus Melander
  - 1:52
  - Green Manalishi S
  - Tim Tetrick
  - Marcus Melander
  - 1:52
  - Mariseille
  - Ake Svanstedt
  - Ake Svanstedt

- **2018**
  - Met’s Hall
  - Andy Miller
  - Julie Miller
  - 1:52
  - Manchego (f)
  - Yannick Gingras
  - Jimmy Takter
  - 1:52
  - Six Pack
  - Åke Svanstedt
  - Åke Svanstedt

- **2017**
  - Yes Mickey
  - Åke Svanstedt
  - Åke Svanstedt
  - 1:51.2
  - Ariana G (f)
  - Yannick Gingras
  - Jimmy Takter
  - 1:51.2
  - Devious Man
  - Andy Miller
  - Julie Miller

- **2016**
  - Bar Hopping
  - Tim Tetrick
  - Jimmy Takter
  - 1:53.1
  - Milligan’s School
  - Andy Miller
  - Julie Miller
  - 1:53.1
  - Love Matters
  - Brett Miller
  - Jimmy Takter
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# EMPIRE BREEDERS’ CLASSIC
New York Sired 3YO Trotting Colts and Geldings

**KIERKEGAARD K** *(A. Svanstedt)*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Jurgen Hanover</td>
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<td>Archangel</td>
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<td>For A Dancer</td>
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VERNON DOWNS TRACK RECORDS

*Fastest

Pace:

*1:47.3 Fireyourguns 2015 Jim Morrill, Jr. & JK Panache 2015 Frank Davis

2C Travel Playlist 2015 Marcus Miller 1:49.2
2F Vivians Dream 2022 Jordan Stratton 1:50.4
2G Tomy Terror 2014 Corey Callahan 1:50.2
3C Shake That House 2019 Brian Sears 1:47.4
3F (t) Major Look 2012 Jeff Gregory 1:50 Give Me an Amen 2013 Jeff Gregory 1:50
3G Splash Brother 2020 Tyler Buter 1:49
4H Cattlewash 2021 David Miller 1:49.0
4M Armbro Dancer 2007 Ron Pierce 1:50.1
4G JK Panache 2013 Jim Morrill, Jr. 1:49.1
AH He’s Gorgeous 2012 Tim Tetrick 1:48.3
AM (t) My Little Dragon 2008 Brian Sears 1:49.4
AG (t) Fireyourguns 2015 Jim Morrill, Jr. 1:47.3* JK Panache 2015 Frank Davis

Trot:

*1:50.3 Atlanta 2018 Scott Zeron & Kierkegaard K 2023 Ake Svanstedt

2C Crazy Wow 2014 Dan Rawlings 1:54
2F Atlanta 2017 Mark Macdonald 1:54
2G Lightning Force 2013 John Campbell 1:55
3C Kierkegaard K Ake Svanstedt 1:50.3*
3F Atlanta 2018 Scott Zeron 1:50.3*
3G Pinkman 2015 Yannick Gingras 1:52
4H A Penny Earned 2013 J. Whittemore 1:53.1
4M Hannelore Hanover 2016 Yannick Gingras 1:51.3
4G Intimidate 2013 Ron Pierce 1:51
AH Whats The Word 2023 C. Connor Jr. 1:52
AM Maven 2014 Yannick Gingras 1:52
AG San Pail 2011 Randy Waples 1:51.1

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