

[Saratoga Russell feels right at home](#)

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SARATOGA SPRINGS - It just didn't sound right. A horse named Saratoga Russell running at Monmouth Park?

With that in mind, the 18 to 20 partners who hold a share of the 4-year-old colt voted against plans to race him in New Jersey.

Trained by Kieran McLaughlin, Saratoga Russell responded by winning at his namesake track on Wednesday, finishing first in the sixth race at six furlongs on the dirt.

West Point Thoroughbreds, which offers partnerships, owns Saratoga Russell.

"We put a circle around this race, and then a race came up at Monmouth on Sunday that we thought would be a little bit easier," said West Point founder Terry Finley. "We told all the partners we'd like to go to Monmouth and then there was an uproar. So I said, I'm not getting involved in this. And there was an overwhelming vote and I called Kieran and said, they pay the bills, we're going to Saratoga."

Jim Dolan, 45, of New Jersey owns a share of the horse and explained the rationale for going to Saratoga instead of Monmouth.

"My thing was, we call him Saratoga Russell, we should run him at Saratoga," said Dolan, whose wife comes from Saratoga Springs. "This is Saratoga. It's the best meet in the world."

It was the first Spa win for Saratoga Russell, who is 3-for-6 lifetime.

Saratoga Russell is named after Russell Horvat of New York City, a former West Point partner who died of cancer.