

New York Night of Champions races drawn

by Frank Drucker, Publicity Director, Empire City at Yonkers Raceway

Yonkers, NY --- Post positions have been drawn for Saturday's (Sept. 24) \$1.8 million New York Night of Champions, with Yonkers Raceway again hosting the Empire State's richest night of racing.

Eight \$225,000 sire stakes finals, each sponsored by a prominent breeding farm, feature the best 2- and 3-year-olds of both sexes and gaits.

Here's a hot-off-the-presses thumbnail of the divisions, which go as the first eight in the baker's dozen worth of races. First post is the usual 7:10 p.m.

1st race (*Winbak Farm 2-Year-Old Filly Pace*) -- These races aren't handicapped, but this one certainly appears that way. Planet Rock (Tim Tetrick, post seven) and the late-starting Tequila Monday (David Miller, post eight) are arguably the best the class has to offer, with the latter setting the local track record (1:53.1) for frosh lassies. Roaring To Go (Brett Miller, post five) was a 1:53.2 winner here.

2nd race (*Allerage Farm 3-Year-Old Filly Trot*) -- Last season's division champ, Non Stick (Ake Svanstedt, post two), has enjoyed another solid summer, though she does enter off a break in her latest try. Fad Finance (Jim Morrill Jr., post five) has hit the board in 10 of her 11 '16 tries. Both these ladies have earned more than \$200,000 this season.

3rd race (*Genesee Valley Farm 2-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Pace*) -- Funknwaffles (Morrill, post four) has been nearly perfect, with seven wins and a second in eight tries (\$144,784), while Miso Fast (Matt Kakaley, post two) is five-for-seven (both are two-for-two here). Pointomygranson (Marcus Miller, post eight) has a pair of open-lengths wins leading to this race.

4th race (*Majestic View Farms International 2-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Trot*) -- Julie and Andy Miller have a potent pair in Devious Man (Andy Miller, post four) and Money Macintosh (Brian Sears, post seven), a combined nine-for-17 this season. Despite common ownership, they go uncoupled. Zack's Zoomer (Marcus Miller, post five) has a win and a pair of seconds since adding the straps.

5th race (*Cameo Hills Farm 3-Year-Old Filly Pace*) -- As evenly-matched a final as the Night of Champions offers, with Wishy Washy Girl (Morrill, post four) the one entering off a win. Last season's frosh champ, Dime A Dance (Kakaley, post five), has 10 board finishes in her dozen seasonal tries, while Soft Idea (Scott Zeron, post three) has a pair of wins here.

6th race (*Crawford Farms 2-Year-Old Filly Trot*) -- Division points leader Mamora Bay (Sam Schillaci, post five) has been in the money all season (eight starts, five wins--two here, two seconds, one third). Barn Bella (Jeff Gregory, post three), a scratched-sick in her last scheduled start (here), is five-for-eight and won her last three races in open-distance fashion. Amber Ella (John Campbell, post eight) has learned her job lately, having won her last four tries.

7th race (*Blue Chip Farms, 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Pace*) -- Art Rooney Pace winner Missile J (Tetrick, post three), unraced at 2, enters eight-for-18 with more than \$313,000 in the till.

Roll Away Joe (Morrill, post five) has banked more than \$200,000, stringing together four consecutive wins at one point. Manny (Brett Miller, post six) gets a barn change entering the final.

8th race (*Morrisville College Equine Institute 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Trot*) -- Yonkers Trot runner-up Smalltownthrowdown (Dan Daley, post two) blitzed his statebred rivals here in his subsequent start. He has six wins and more than \$333,000 in reserve this season, Dante (Svanstedt, post four) has been oh so consistent this season (nine starts, four wins, three seconds), while Dayson (Sears, post eight) is eight-for-13 this summer, though he ran like a deer here in his latest appearance.