

## **YONKERS HOSTS 166G NYSS ART WATSON PACE**

BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Monday, June 15, 2015—Yonkers Raceway hosted the ladies Monday night, specifically the \$166,375 New York Sire Stakes Art Watson Pace for 3-year-old fillies.

Three divisions, at \$55,125, \$56,125 and \$55,125, comprised the event.

Band of Angels (Yannick Gingras, \$2.80) won both the draw and the endorsement of the electorate, holding sway (:28.3, :57.3, 1:25.4, 1:54.3) in the opening event. She defeated pocket-sitting Bettorhaveanother (Jim Morrill Jr.) by a half-length, with Divine Caroline (Dave Miller) third.

For Band of Angels, a daughter of Rock N Roll Heaven owned by W J Donovan and trained by Ron Burke, it was her second (NYSS) win in four seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$6.90, with the triple (three wagering favorites in order) returning \$15.40.

The seven-horse field nearly finished in odds-ascending order, had 27-1 My Little Delight (sixth) been able to get past 37-1 Bosser's Joy for fifth.

It was essentially the same MO in the second division, as pole-sitting, odds-on fave Not Before Eight (Scott Zeron, \$3.50) was a handy victress.

Away third early, she worked around last season's frosh champ, Mosquito Blue Chip (Morrill Jr.), after a :27.4 opening quarter-mile. She then led the lasses for the remainder (:57.2, 1:27, 1:55.1), swatting "Mosquito" by a length-and-a-half. First leader Luck Be a Lindy (Mark MacDonald) was third.



For Not Before Eight, a Bettor's Delight miss (unraced at 2) trained by Steve Elliott for owner Ernest Hartman, she's 6-for-9 this season and a perfect 6-for-6 here (first five wins in overnight). The exacta (two choices in order) paid \$5.90, with the triple returning \$17.40.

Zeron and Elliott doubled their sire stakes pleasure in the final NYSS event when Rock Me Gently (\$35.20)—from post position



No. 6—rallied from third over. They did so after a front-end battle between 7-10 fave Bettor N Better (Gingras), She's Heavenly (George Brennan) and a first-up Hipnumberone (Greg Merton).

Those three prompted the pace (:27.1, :55.4, 1:24.4), setting it up for someone to pick 'em off. It was Rock Me Gently and 46-1 rank outsider Nippy W Hanover (John Campbell) closing from the back in a pedestrian (:30.1) final quarter, with the former whipping the latter by a length. Third went to Heavenly Bride (Brian Sears).

For sixth choice Rock Me Gently, a daughter of Rock N Roll Heaven co-owned by Old Block Stables, Fra Stable and Kenneth Klein, it was her third win in six seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$786, with the triple returning \$2,551.

The Raceway's five-program-per-week schedule is now back in vogue, with first post every Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:10 PM, with Tuesday matinees at 1 (a "French-centric" Tuesday this week). Evening simulcasting accompanies all nighttime programs, with afternoon simulcasting available daily.