

CELEBRITY RUTH, WORLD APART WIN HUDSON TROT, LADY MAUD PACE
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, September 2, 2017—Jason Bartlett was the Saturday night (Sept., 2nd) Ladies Man, winning both of Yonkers Raceway's stakes for the fairer sex.

Favored Celebrity Ruth (\$5.40) was sting early and sharp in the \$119,010 Hudson Trot for 3-year-old fillies. From post position No. 4, he worked around Chapter Two (Jeff Gregory) and the two-speed number was in full swing (:28.1, 58.2, 1:27.2, 1:56.3).

The margin, two lengths entering the lane, was a length-and-three-quarters at the wire. Mamora Bay (Sam Schillaci) closed well for third, with Ice Attraction (Ake Svnastedt) and Evelyn (Andy Miller) rounding out the payees.

For "Ruth," a unraced-at-2 daughter of Archangel owned by White Birch Farms and trained by Trond Smedshammer, it was her fifth win (with five seconds) in 11 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$21.40, the triple returned \$103.50 and the superfecta paid \$872.

"She tied up in her last start (Zweig at Tioga), but Trond (Smedshammer) said she'd be better and she was," Bartlett said. "She's been seeing Barn Bella (in the New York Sire Stakes), and always races well.

"Trond could have driven her himself, but I'm glad he asked me."

It was another two-speed number in the \$113,800 Lady Maud for 3-year-old pacing fillies. The race, delayed several minutes after Ella Christina fell in the post parade and was eventually scratched, saw World Apart roll right to the lead from post No. 6 (in one notch after defection).

World Apart then gave it up to 4-5, pole-sitting choice Angel's Pride (Matt Kakaley), who threw down the gauntlet (:27.1, 56.1, 1:24.3).

Angel's Pride owned a length-and-a-half lead into the lane as World Apart edged out, 'winning the bob' by a nose in 1:54. It was 4½ lengths back to Robin J (Brian Sears), with Awash (Jordan Stratton) and Tori Hanover (Mark MacDonald) grabbing the remainder.

For World Apart, a daughter of Art Major trained by Linda Toscano for co-owning stables Radio Racing, South Mountain and Bay's, she's now 2-for-9 this season. The exacta paid \$33.60, with the triple returning \$207.50.

"She's always been able to leave the gate, so I was going to get her out of there," Bartlett said. "The last time here (New York Sire Stakes late July), there was a sickness going around the barn and she didn't race well. She was much better tonight."