

**DOWNBYTHESEASIDE WINS 62<sup>ND</sup> MESSENGER STAKES**  
**BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway**

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, September 2, 2017—With death and taxes came some drama.

It wasn't pretty, but effective enough as 1-20 favorite Downbytheseaside (Brian Sears, \$2.10) relied upon every bit of his seven-figure resume Saturday night (Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>), winning the \$500,000 Messenger Stakes.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> edition of Yonkers Raceway's second jewel of the Pacing Triple Crown appeared to be nothing more than a walkover after Art Rooney Pace champion 'Seaside' won last week's lone elimination by 8½ lengths in 1:51...matching the fastest local mile of the season.

The final was a whole other tale. Leaving from post position No. 7 as the rain intensified, Downbytheseaside wanted no part of an early three-hole. He drove past Blood Line (Mark MacDonald), taking over right at the :27.1 opening quarter-mile.

It was a 56-second intermission before Miso Fast (Matt Kakaley) took out of fifth. Art Scene (Jordan Stratton) was second-over, with Funknwaffles (Corey Callahan) third-up.

Blood Line was spent, backing out of the pocket before a 1:24.1 three-quarters. Miso Fast, meanwhile, continued to haunt the fave while Art Scene angled inside to an enticingly-vacant two-hole.

Downbytheseaside was clinging to a half-length lead into the lane, then was all out to close the sale. He defeated a passing-lane Art Scene by a scant schnoz in 1:52.1 (as we pointed out with Yonkers Trot story, inside route may not have been best course with the wet going). Third went to Funknwaffles, beaten a half-length, with Miso Fast and 86-1 outsider Henry the Dragon (Montrell Teague) grabbing the final pay envelopes.

Summer Side (Dan Dube), Mac's Jackpot (Jason Bartlett) and Blood Line rounded out the roster.

For Downbytheseaside, a 3-year-old son of 2008 Messenger winner Somebeachsomewhere trained by Brian Brown for co-owners Country Club Acres, Joe Sbrocco, Richard Lombardo and Diamond Creek Racing, it was his eighth win in 12 seasonal starts (\$956,216). The exacta paid \$19.10, with the triple returning \$68.

"It was a different week and a different track (with the rain)," Sears said. "It was closer than I would have wanted, but they're going to make you work for it and he dug in.

"He's had problems with his feet," Brown said. "We've gone through about five different types of shoes. He wasn't as sharp as he was last week, that's for sure."

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(FFI...Frank Drucker, Yonkers Raceway Publicity Director, 914-968-4200)