

**GOKUDO HANOVER WINS SATURDAY NIGHT 40G OPEN HANDICAP PACE**  
**BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway**

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, December 16, 2017—Gokudo Hanover (Matt Kakaley, \$9.80) inherited the pocket, then inhaled the leader Saturday night (Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>), winning Yonkers Raceway's last-of-the-season \$40,000 Open Handicap Pace.

Sitting chilly early from an assigned post position No. 2, Gokudo Hanover watched from third as Bakersfield (Greg Merton) made the first lead. That one gave it up to Thisjetsabookin' (Jordan Stratton) before a snappy :26.4 opening quarter-mile.

Thisjetsabookin' then hung Caviart Luca (George Brennan) for the holidays, prompting a :55.1 intermission. Shane Adam (Jason Bartlett) moved off the cones from fifth, going around a fading Caviart Luca and taking his shot at the lead in and out of a 1:23.4 three-quarters.

Bakersfield, surmising the leader was done, extricated himself off the cones to get behind Shane Adam. Wrong move, as Gokudo Hanover took this vacated space.

A resurgent Thisjetsabookin' retained his stubborn lead off the final turn, but was about to get swallowed up by a pair to his inside. Gokudo Hanover rolled by, as did Killer Martini (Brent Holland), the latter whipping the former by a couple of lengths in 1:52.4.

Thisjetsabookin', Shane Adam and a belated 5-2 choice The Real One (Pat Lachance) picked off the minor awards.

For third choice Gokudo Hanover, a 5-year-old Cam's Card Shark gelding co-owned by James Craparotta, Pat Berry Racing & Triple D Stables and trained by Scott DiDomenico, it was his 10<sup>th</sup> win in 34 seasonal starts (four wins, a second and a third in last six tries). The inside-number exacta paid \$80.50, with the triple returning \$294.

The Raceway's 2017 season concludes late Sunday morning (Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>), with first post at 11:30 AM. The 11-race card features seven 'French' trots (races 5 through 11), the 'New York, New York Double' (Aqueduct's 3<sup>rd</sup> race, Yonkers' 6<sup>th</sup> race) and a mandatory Pick 5 payout (50-cent base wager, races 7 through 11).

-30-

(photo-Darragh Riordan-accompanies)

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