

**OPENING ROUNDS DRAWN FOR MATCHMAKER, LEVY SERIES**  
**BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway**

YONKERS, NY, Monday, March 12, 2018—Yonkers Raceway's race office found itself quite popular this (Monday) afternoon, as among the usual Friday/Saturday double draw there were plenty of big girls and big boys.

Friday night's (March 16<sup>th</sup>) opening round of the Blue Chip Matchmaker saw four consecutively-carded (races 7 through 10) divisions, each worth \$40,000. Conveniently, 32 high-end lasses were parsed into the quarter of eight-horse fields.

Defending series champion Mackenzie A, who resurfaced her last Friday (March 9<sup>th</sup>) in a qualifier, makes her seasonal purse debut from post position No. 7 in the final division. Jordan Stratton again does the honors for the now-6-year-old Down Under daughter of Rock N Roll Heaven.

Peter Tritton trains for Von Knoblauch Stables and Ellen Kinser.

Saturday evening's (March 17<sup>th</sup>) beginning of the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series goes with five, \$50,000 Free-For-All divisions (races 4 through 7 and 11). Each race was neatly filled with a seven-horse field.

Last season's series winner, Keystone Velocity, makes his '18 debut from outside his six rivals in the second event. Dan Dube again takes a seat for co-owner/trainer Rene Allard. Now a spry 10-year-old, Keystone Velocity comes off a career-best \$783,000 season in 2017.

Each series offers five preliminary legs—ladies first Fridays, guys Saturday—with both finals set for Saturday night (Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>)

Unrelated to this conversation Sunday matinees resume this weekend (March 18<sup>th</sup>), with first post at 11:45 AM.

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(photos-Mike Lizzi-accompany)

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