

'OTHER' LASSES HAVE SPOTLIGHT IN FOURTH ROUND OF MATCHMAKER
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Friday, April 6, 2018—With series starlets Shartin N, Twinkle and defending champ Mackenzie A getting the week off, Yonkers Raceway Friday night (Apr. 6th) presented the fourth round of the Blue Chip Matchmaker.

Three, \$40,000 events again brought together many of the best pacing mares, all of whom were thrilled the three queens abdicated this time around. Thus, some previous understudies stepped to the fore.

First Division—A compact quintet (after a defection) saw a last-to-first late lunge by Scandalicious (Tim Tetrick, \$16.80) in 1:53.4.

From post position No. 4 (in one notch), Scandalicious was content to watch Eclipse Me N (Dan Dube) throw it down (:26.4, :56). Miss Irish Rose A (Larry Stalbaum) left into the pocket, while 9-10 favorite Lady Shadow (Jason Bartlett) was away fourth.

That one was out toward the 1:24.3 three-quarters, needing some first-up reminders. Eclipse Me N maintained a length-and-a-half lead into the lane, but her rivals were about to conduct an intervention.

Scandalicious, who didn't leave the cones until past the three-quarters, paced over her four foes, snapping Miss Irish Rose A by a nose. Lady Shadow, though never a threat to win, did continue to grab third, beaten a length-and-a-quarter. Eclipse Me N faded to fourth.

For third choice Scandalicious, a 7-year-old daughter of American Ideal owned by JFE Enterprises and trained by Scott DiDomenico, it was her first win in 11 seasonal starts (1-for-4 in series). The exacta paid \$87.50, with triple wagering cancelled due to the short field.

Second Division—Medusa (Yannick Gingras, \$12.40) was hard-used to make the lead, then just lasted (:27, :56.4, 1:25.2, 1:54) over a surging Clear Idea (Mark MacDonald).

From post No. 5, Medusa found herself shut out of an early seat by polester Dewar N Soda (Tetrick). She then drove past 11-10 fave Call Me Queen Be (Scott Zeron), stealing a self-serving soft second quarter.

Call Me Queen Be pulled pocket before the three-quarters, but was repelled.

Medusa had a length-and-a-half advantage in and out of the final turn, and she'd need it. Clear Idea closed quickly from second-over, missing a head. Call Me Queen Be did save the bottom of the ticket.

For third choice Medusa, a 7-year-old daughter of Bettor's Delight co-owned by Keystoneers Randy Bendis & Tom Pollack and trained by Ed Hart, it was her first win in six '18 tries (1-for-4 in series). The exacta paid \$53, with the triple returning \$132.50.

Third Division---Lakeisha Hall (George Brennan, \$5.60) doubled her series pleasure, going the distance (:27.2, :57, 1:25.3, 1:54.1).

From post No. 2, Lakeisha Hall went up and over pole-sitting Motu Moonbeam N (Brent Holland). Safe from Terror (Jordan Stratton), as the 8-5 choice, tried to leave, but was forced to slip in fourth.

Safe from Terror moved again down the backside, only pacing in place before tiring. Meanwhile, Lakeisha Hall opened to a length-and-a-half entering the lane. Motu Moonbeam N edged from the pocket, from never came close to reaching. The margin was a length in a tick faster than the winner's effort a week ago. with Dude'salady (Tetrick) third.

For second choice Lakeisha Hall, a 5-year-old daughter of Three Straight co-owned (as Burke Racing) by (trainer) Ron Burke, Weaver Bruscelli and Jack Piatt II, she's 2-for-4 this season (and series). The exacta paid \$10.80, with the triple returning \$65.

Saturday night (Apr.7th) offers a trio of \$50,000 divisions of Free-for-Allers in the fourth round of the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series.

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(photos-Darragh Riordan-accompany)

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