

**DR. J HANOVER HAT TRICK LEADS THIRD ROUND OF LEVY SERIES**  
**BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway**

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, March 31, 2018—Yonkers Raceway used the last day of March to feature the fourth round of the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series.

Four, \$50,000 events comprised the Free-for-All foray.

*First Division*—After a pair of less-than-stellar series trips, Missile J (Tim Tetrick, \$7.30) came to play. From post position No. 3, he threw down the gauntlet (:27.3, :56 1:24.1, 1:52) en route to the fastest local mile of the season.

Missile J rebuffed an attempted early hostile takeover from 1-2 favorite Mach it So (Dave Miller), the defeated a good, first-up Bettor Memories (Kyle Husted) by a length. Caviart Luca was third, while Mach it So went the wrong way late, fading to sixth.

For second choice Missile J, a 5-year-old American Ideal gelding co-owned by Brian Carsey & John McGill and trained by Scott DiDomenico, it was his fourth win in seven seasonal starts (1-for-3 in series). The exacta paid \$40.60, with the triple returning \$123.

*Second Division*—Odds-on from post No. 4, Dr. J Hanover (Brett Miller, \$3.90) did what he did in the first two legs. He made an immediate—and ‘cheap’—lead, then again made his rivals pay (:28.3, :58, 1:26.0; 1:53.3).

Bit of a Legend N (Jordan Stratton) fought the good fight with a two-move second, but missed a half-length. Another Daily Copy (Jason Bartlett) was a pylon pocket third.

For Dr. J Hanover, a 5-year-old Somebeachsomewhere gelding co-owned by Brad Grant, Robert Leblanc, Steven Wienick & Irwin Samelman and trained by Tony Alagna, it was his third win in four seasonal starts (3-for-3 in series). The exacta (two wagering choices) paid \$8.30, the triple returned \$29 and the superfecta (Mister Daytona N [Scott Zeron]) paid \$134.

*Third Division*---Pole-sitting Western Fame (Mark MacDonald) snapped 4-5 fave Rockin’ Ron (Yannick Gingras) at the (1:52.4) wire. The latter led through intervals of :27.3, :56.4 and 1:25, taking a couple of lengths into the lane.

However, he could not join Dr. J Hanover as a three-peater, faltering in a photo. Third went to Killer Martini (Bartlett), beaten four lengths.

Meanwhile, last season’s series winner, Keystone Velocity (Dan Dube) did not distinguish himself this night. The second choice was away a loose third, then backpedaled first-up as a never-factoring sixth.

For third choice Western Fame, a 5-year-old homebred son of Western Ideal owned by Brittany Farms and trained by Jimmy Takter, he’s 2-for-4 this season (2-for-3 in series). The exacta paid \$23.20, the triple returned \$124 and the superfecta (89-1 outsider Rodeo Rock [Eric Goodell]) paid \$806.

*Fourth Division*—Somewhere in L A (Stratton, \$6.30) needed two moves to prevail. Away fourth from post No. 6, he saw Franco Rayner N (Joe Bongiorno) give his backers an early (:27.3, :56.1) thrill.

Somewhere in L A went past that one before the 1:23.4 three-quarters, opening 2½ lengths in in and out of the final turn. He whipped a troubled-trip Long Live Rock (Dube) by a length in 1:53, with Luciano N (Brent Holland) third.

Long Live Rock's angst was caused in large part by 3-2 choice All Bets Off (Yannick Gingras). After getting away from the pole, he was in disarray second-over, forcing pursuer Long Live Rock wide very early. All Bets Off wound up seventh, beaten 10 lengths.

For second choice Somewhere in L A, a 7-year-old Somebeachsomewhere gelding co-owned by D'Elegance Stable IX, Carmen Iannacone and T L P & Gandolfo Stables and trained by Richard Banca, it was his third win in five seasonal starts (1-for-3 in series). The exacta paid \$28, with triple returning \$137.

Saturday night's \$40,000 Open Handicap Trot was won by a first-up Rubber Duck (Bongiorno, \$12.40) in 1:56.1.

A reminder that there is no horse race wagering permitted in New York State Easter Sunday (Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>), including the Raceway and Empire City Bets.

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(photos-Mike Lizzi-accompany)

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