

PENULTIMATE PERFORMERS IN LEVY SERIES
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, April 7, 2018—Yonkers Raceway Saturday night (Apr. 7th) hosted a formful fourth of five preliminary rounds in the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series.

A trio \$50,000 events comprised the Free-for-All foray, which was guaranteed a different look as series (3-for-3 leader) Dr. J Hanover 'stole' a week off.

First Division—It was nary more than a qualifier for money for people's puny parimutuel preference Bit of a Legend N (Jordan Stratton, \$2.30). From post position No. 2, he worked around pole-sitting Chumlee A (Larry Stalbaum), then waltzed though a flat, 28-second opening quarter-mile and :57.2 intermission.

Long Live Rock (Dan Dube) tried it first-up from third, but even that didn't sufficiently up the tempo (1:25.3 three-quarters). Bit of a Legend N opened a couple of lengths in and out of the final turn, winning by a length-and-a-quarter in a season's-best 1:53.2.

Chumlee A saved second, with Killer Martini (Jason Bartlett) third.

For 2016 series champ Bit of a Legend N, a 9-year-old Down Under son of Bettor's Delight owned by Von Knoblauch Stable and trained by Peter Tritton, it was his second win in four seasonal/series starts (career earnings more than \$1.97 million). The exacta (two wagering choices) paid \$4.10, with the triple returning \$18.60.

Second Division—Pole-sitting favorite Somewhere in L A (Bartlett, \$4.40) retook from 96-1 rank outsider Evenin' of Pleasure (Joe Bongiorno) right at a :26.4 opening quarter-mile, then held that one at bay (:56.3, 1:25, 1:53). Christen Me N (Stratton) was a ground-saving third.

Second- and third-choices Rockin' Ron (Yannick Gingras) and Missile J (Tim Tetrick) were non-factors from first- and second-over, respectively.

For 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 fourth win in six seasonal starts (2-for-4 in series). The exacta paid \$216, the triple returned \$2,105 and the superfecta (Rodeo Rock [Eric Goodell]) paid \$4,585.

Third Division---Odds-on Mach it So (Dave Miller, \$3.80) rebounded from a failed retake a week ago. From the pole, he played early leapfrog with defending Levy champ Keystone Velocity (Dube) before finishing his appointed rounds (:56.4, 1:24.3, season's-best 1:53.1).

Mach it So held off the pocket pursuer by a length, with Bettor Memories (Tetrick) third.

For Mach it So, a 9-year-old Mach Three gelding owned by Bamond Racing and trained by Jeffrey Bamond Jr., he's 2-for-4 this season/series. The exacta paid \$13.60, with the triple returning \$35.

Saturday night's \$40,000 Open Handicap Trot was won by a down-the-road fave Melady's Monet (Bartlett, \$3) in 1:55.3 for a 50th career victory.

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(photos-Mike Lizzi-accompany)

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