

SHARTIN N WINS 373G FINAL OF B-C MATCHMAKER
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, April 21, 2018—She went from dominant to doubting in just one start.

It took just one more start to restore the reputation.

Odds-on fave Shartin N (Tim Tetrick, \$3.80) gave nothing else a chance Saturday night (Apr. 21st), winning Yonkers Raceway \$373,000 final of the Blue Chip Matchmaker.

A week after a confounding, double-break performance, Shartin N—who had won her first three series preliminaries before taking the subsequent fourth round off—had something to prove.

An unhurried fourth after winning the draw, Shartin N saw Sell a Bit N (Jordan Stratton), Medusa (Yannick Gingras) and eight-holer Lakeisha Hall (George Brennan) all leave in front of her.

It was Sell a Bit N leading through pokey intervals of :27.2 and :57 before Shartin N began her assault. Moving with purpose, she engaged the leader right at the half, then rolled by. A 27-second third quarter (1:24 three-quarters) gave her the lead, which she widened to 3½ lengths entering the lane.

The final margin was 4½ lengths in a spiffy 1:52.2. Sell a Bit N did save second over 49-1 outsider Motu Moonbeam N (Brent Holland), with Dude'salady (Scott Zeron) and Lady Shadow (Jason Bartlett) settling for the minors.

Medusa, Twinkle (Eric Goodell) and Lakeisha Hall rounded out the order.

For Shartin N, a 5-year-old daughter of Tintin in America co-owned by Richard Poillucci & Jo Anne Looney-King and trained by Jim King Jr., it was his eight win in 10 seasonal starts. The exacta (two wagering choices) paid \$8.70, with the All-Kiwi triple returning \$87.

“I wasn't racing her to win,” Tetrick said. “I was racing her to make money. If she broke again, we'd get nothing, so I wanted to be careful getting out of there.”

“She's been fussy at times, and she was last week, but she was very good tonight,” Tetrick said. “She has every attribute to be a good horse, you just have to keep her calm like she was tonight. She's learning how to be an ‘American’ horse, to stop and start and relax.”

“We did a lot of work with her, changed some things right up until the race and added a Murphy blind (right side),” King said. “I also warmed her up hard to get some of the sting out of her. I'm glad it worked out. It's a better feeling than last week, I can say that.”

Tetrick won his second Matchmaker, eight seasons after Ginger and Fred (2010).

A pair of series consolations, worth \$100,000 (Levy) and \$75,000 (Matchmaker), were won by Always at My Place (Brennan, \$47) in 1:53.1, and Mackenzie A (Stratton, \$4.50), also in 1:53.1.

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(photo-Mike Lizzi-accompanies)

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