

ELIMS FOR ROONEY, LISMORE PACES LEAD YONKERS SATURDAY
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, May 19, 2018—Yonkers Raceway's foggy Saturday night (May 19th) featured eliminations for both the Art Rooney and Lismore Paces.

With 10 3-year-old boys entering the Rooney and nine sophomore girls in the Lismore, it was three games of 'musical chairs' to determine next week's finalists.

Odds-on favorite Decoy (Dave Miller, \$2.20) made short work of his four foes in the first, \$40,000 eliminations for the Rooney. Unhurried from post position No. 3, he rolled to the past the half, then rolled away. The final margin over a 'good' surface was 8½ lengths in 1:54.

Minnie Vinnie (Brett Miller) closed for second as the 32-1 rank outsider, with Major Authority (Brian Sears) third and early leader Jimtastic (Jason Bartlett) fourth. Matinee Fashion (George Brennan) eliminated himself with a break down the backside the second time.

For Decoy, a son of Somebeachsomewhere co-owned Brixton Medical Group, R A W Equine & Joe Sbrocco and trained by Jimmy Takter, it was his second win in three seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$36.60, with no triple wagering offered due to the short field.

"I was pretty happy with him," Miller said. "He went a good middle half. Now, we hope to good for next week.

Miller has won three finals of the Rooney Pace, including last season with Downbytheseaside.

Saturday other 40-large elim for the Rooney saw Trump Nation (Bartlett, \$9) hold off both 4-5 choice Springsteen (Sears) and Babes Dig Me (Brett Miller) by a head and a neck, respectively.

Pole-sitting Trump Nation took over from early leader—and subsequent breaker—Handsoffmychips (Brennan), then finish it off in 1:53.3, his fastest purse mile of the season.

Kwik Talkin' (Jordan Stratton) wound up fourth.

For third choice Trump Nation, a statebred son of Betterthancheddar co-owned by (trainer) Andrew Harris and Evan Katz, he's now 2-for-4 this season. The exacta paid \$17.80, with again no triple wagering offered.

"I wanted to control the race," Bartlett said. "When I saw the cheap (:57.2) half, I thought I was in good shape, but halfway down the lane, when (Springsteen) came at me, I thought I was beaten. He dug in."

The evening's lone \$20,000 elimination for the Lismore was won by Jewels Forreal (Dan Dube, \$5.20, part of entry) in a life-best 1:55.1.

Pocketed from post No. 4, Jews Forreal was able to get out when entymate Python Blue Chip (Brennan) made a bad, first-over break in the final turn. Pass Line Bluechip (Bartlett) cut the mile but could not last, beaten a head.

Checked Past (Mark MacDonald) was third, with Solitary (Brent Holland), Alexa's Power (Stratton), Believe in Me (Sears), Reign on Me (Brett Miller) and a recovering Python Blue Chip also qualifying for the final.

Krushed Apple (Dave Miller) was outrun.

For second choice (part of three-headed entry) Jewels Forreal, a daughter of So Surreal co-owned (as Burke Racing) by (trainer) Ron Burke and Weaver Brusceci, it was her first win in seven '18 tries. The exacta paid \$12.20, the triple returned \$55.50 and the superfecta paid \$267.

The finals of both events, worth \$300,000 (Rooney) and \$111,444 (Lismore), go next Saturday night (May 26th). Open draws take place Monday afternoon (May 21st).

Saturday night's \$44,000 Open Handicap Pace saw favored Evenin' of Pleasure (Sears, \$5.20) repeat in 1:52.3 . The 8-year-old son of Dragon Again, owned by Gestion J Y Blais and trained by Jennifer Bongiorno, is approaching \$900,000 in career coin after a 30th lifetime win.

Sunday matinees return tomorrow (May 20th), with a first post of 12:35 PM.

-30-

(photos-Mike Lizzi-accompany)

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