

MACH IT A PAR WINS FRIDAY 40G DISTAFF DERBY
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Friday, May 4, 2018—First, she won the open draw. Then, she closed matters early.

Odds-on favorite Mach it a Par (Jason Bartlett, \$2.60) toyed with her six foes Friday night (May 4th), easily winning Yonkers Raceway's \$40,000 Filly and Mare Open Pace.

Away second, Mach it a Par went up and over Bettorhaveanother (Joe Bongiorno) before a 28-second opening quarter-mile. A qualifier-esque :57.4 intermission effectively ended what minimal suspense actually remained.

Motu Moonbeam N (Brent Holland) was the first to move—from seventh—and subsequently broke after Call Me Queen Be (Eric Goodell) appeared to come out underneath her.

Meanwhile, Mach it a Par maintained her open lead in and out of a 1:26.1 three-quarters, widening to 3½ lengths off the final turn. She finished if off by 2½ lengths in 1:54.2.

Culinary Delight (Larry Stalbaum) did get into second, with Bettorhaveanother, Call Me Queen Be and Delightful Dragon coming away with the minors.

For Mach it a Par, an 8-year-old daughter of Mach Three co-owned by D'Elegance Stable IX, Carmen Iannacone, T L P & Gandolfo Stables and trained by Richard Banca, it was her fourth win in 13 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$8.40, with the triple returning \$28.60.

Derby Day fun begins early Saturday (May 5th), with mutuel windows opening at 10 AM in advance of the 144th Kentucky Derby. First post at Churchill Downs is 10:30 AM, and Yonkers getting the spirit with the obligatory hat contests, mint juleps and an array of food and drink specials.

Of course, since a wager or two is made, windows are open both inside and outside, with Derby post time set for about 6:46 PM.

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(photo-Mike Castellano-accompanies)

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