

GREAT VINTAGE WINS SATURDAY NIGHT 44G OPEN HANDICAP PACE
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, July 21, 2018—Veteran Great Vintage (Mark MacDonald, \$6.60) had to work for the lead and that worked for him Saturday night (July 21st), winning Yonkers Raceway's \$44,000 Open Handicap Pace.

Using his usual gate speed, Great Vintage—from post position No. 5—had an early impediment in Barimah A (Brent Holland). Forced wide around that one, Great Vintage then continued to the lead, taking over from Robbie Burns N (Greg Merton) before a 27-second opening quarter-mile.

Once he fronted the fray, Great Vintage finished it off (:56.4, 1:24.4, 1:52.4). Second went to a stubborn 17-10 fave Always at My Place (George Brennan), who was also compromised when an out-again Barimah A moved first-up and was his obligatory hard-to-steer self.

Barimah A eventually went back in—again—leaving Always at My Place to take up the chase. Great Vintage, with a length-and-a-half lead entering the lane, defeated Always at My Place by three-quarters of a length in 1:52.

Robbie Burns N was a pocket third, with Run Oneover N (Jim Marohn Jr.) and that Barimah A rounding out the payees.

For second choice Great Vintage, a 10-year-old son of American Ideal owned by Christina Takter, John Fielding, Goran Anderberg & Goran Falk and trained by Jimmy Takter, it was his fourth win in 11 seasonal starts (career 44-for-159, earnings over \$1.24 million). The exacta paid \$22, the triple returned \$68.50 and the superfecta paid \$281.

Sunday's (July 22nd) matinee has a first post of 12:30 PM, with races 1 through 4 of the overflow-field, mile-and-a-quarter 'French' theme. The 'New York, New York Double' is comprised of Saratoga's third race and Yonkers' fifth. Post times are 2:07 PM and 2:20 PM, respectively. .

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(photo-Katy Gazzini-accompanies)

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