

FROSH COLTS/GELDINGS IN FRIDAY'S 156G NYSS JIM CRAWFORD PACE
FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Friday, August 24, 2018—Yonkers Raceway Friday night (Aug. 24th) hosted the \$156,000 New York Sire Stakes Jim Crawford Pace for 2-year-old colts and geldings.

Three divisions, worth \$52,000 each, comprised the event.

The opening group offered minimal suspense, as 1-5 favorite Major Blake (Jason Bartlett, \$2.40) had an open lead virtually from the outset. From post position No. 3, he rolled through intervals of :28.2, :58, 1:26.2 and 1:55. Major Blake disposed of a loosely-pocketed World on Edge (Matt Kakaley) by a couple of lengths, with Chatelroll (Jordan Stratton) a wide and rallying third.

Buddy Hill (Dexter Dunn) wound up a first-up fourth.

For Major Blake, an Art Major colt co-owned by (trainer Sam Schillaci, Howard Berke and Matthew Bencic, it was his third win in four seasonal/NYSS starts. The exacta paid \$8.60, the triple returned \$27.20 and the superfecta paid \$86.50.

The second go-round saw Sheppard Pace winner Hickfromfrenchlick (Ray Schnittker, \$5.20) stalk pole-sitting 13-10 fave Melodie's Major (Tyler Buter), then make up some distance to get him and get away (:28.2, :56.4, 1:24.2, life-best 1:53.3).

From post No 2, Hickfromfrenchlick had to chase from 2¼ lengths off the final turn before winning by a half-length. Cup Fan (Marcus Miller) and Covered Bridge (Jordan Stratton) were third and fourth, respectively.

For second choice Hickfromfrenchlick, a son of So Surreal co-owned by his trainer/driver, Nolamaura Racing and Thomas Sparatorico, he's now 3-for-4 this season. The exacta paid \$9.60, the triple returned \$29.60 and the superfecta paid \$117.50.

The third and final sire stakes get-together was won by polester Artie's Ideal (Miller, \$14). After stuffing Rock America (catch-driver George Brennan) in behind early, 'Artie' rated it well (:28, :58, 1:27, 1:55.1). He put away both a first-up Bicorne Hanover (Kakaley) and a second-over, 4-5 choice Reigning Deo (Stratton).

Artie's Ideal defeated Reigning Deo by a length-and-a-half, with Bicorne Hanover third and Jet Rock (Jim Marohn Jr.) recovering from an early break to finish fourth.

For third choice Artie's Ideal, a son of American Ideal owned by Bay Pond Racing Stable and trained by Erv Miller, it was his second win in four '18 tries (2-for-3 in statebred ranks). The exacta paid \$36, the triple returned \$83.50 and the superfecta paid \$211.50.

Friday night's \$44,000 Filly and Mare Open Handicap Pace was won by Lispatty (Mark MacDonald, \$14.80) in 1:52.2.

Saturday night (Aug. 25th), the Raceway offers a pair of \$40,000 elimination races for the 63rd Messenger Stakes, second jewel of the Pacing Triple Crown.

-30-

(photos-Mike Lizzi-accompany)

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