

SWEET 16TH AND FINAL DOWNSTATE NYSS LEG
IN FRIDAY'S 156G LEW BARASCH TROT
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Thursday, September 13, 2018—We're done. Not really.

Yonkers Raceway Friday night (Sept. 14th) hosts its 16th and final leg of New York Sire Stakes competition with the \$156,200 Lew Barasch Trot for 2-year-old colts and geldings.

Of course, this is the final chance to electrify the electorate before the \$1.8 million New York Night of Champions here a week from Saturday (Sept. 22nd).

Friday's event once again honors the memory of 'Tootie,' the sport's quintessential PR man and unsung hero behind the huge, back-in the-day success of the International Trot.

The first (\$77,400) grouping goes as the fifth race, with Thunder (Jason Bartlett, post 2) and Chip Chip Conway (Jim Taggart Jr., post 4) again opposing one another. The pair finished 1-2 at Vernon late last month, the former's third sire stakes win in his last four starts.

Thunder, a son of Conway Hall, is trained by John Butenschoen for co-owners Crawford Racing, VIP Internet Stables and Jeremy Day. The frosh bankroll of \$113,121 dwarfs that of his rivals, though his previously-mentioned nemesis has put away \$73,119.

Chip Chip Conway has a win, three seconds and a third in five (NYSS) tries adding the straps. The Conway Hall gelding is co-owned by (trainer) Gary Messenger and Kenneth Weckstein.

The evening's second (\$78,800) statebred sojourn sees divisional beast Gimpanzee (Brian Sears, post 6) display his perfect 5-for-5 (\$126,958) record.

They haven't come within sniffing range of Gimpanzee, whose 'slimmest' margin in the five wins—ail in NYSS completion—has been 2¾ lengths. He aired here from an eight-hole last month in 1:57.3 and returns off a life-best 1:54.3 number at Vernon. The son of Chapter Seven is trained by Marcus Melander for Delray Beach co-owners Courant Inc. and S R F Stable.

Chapter Fashion (Bartlett, post 4) also won a statebred event here and has hit the board in all but one of his six tries.

Post time for the dozen-race card is the evening standard of 6:50 PM.

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(photo-Mike Lizzi-accompanies)

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