

N F HAPPENSTANCE, MACH IT SO WIN SATURDAY NIGHT 44G CO-FEATURES
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, September 29, 2018—Two hard-knocking veterans who've made careers of winning did just that Saturday night (Sept. 29th), annexing Yonkers Raceway's co-featured \$44,000 Open Handicaps.

Ladies first, so props to favored N F Happenstance (Jack Parker Jr. \$4.10) for whipping five gelded gentlemen in the weekly trotting feature. Assigned outside all of them, she did her thing—leaving—then went the distance (:27.4, :58.2, 1:26.3, 1:55.4).

Fashion Creditor (Brent Holland) was a sold second, closing to miss three-quarters of a length, with DW's NY Yank (George Brennan) tiring in the pocket and ending up third. Barry Black (Jordan Stratton) and Don Dream (Jason Bartlett) picked off the remainder, while a first-up Tight Lines (Jeff Gregory) broke.

For N F Happenstance, an 8-year-old daughter of S J's Caviar owned by James Moore III and trained by Carol Jamieson-Parker, it was her 10th win (with 10 seconds) in 26 seasonal starts (career 30-for-107) The exacta paid \$51.50, the triple returned \$104 and the superfecta paid \$1,013.

The week's marquee pace saw a gutty, two-move effort from Mach it So (Joe Bongiorno, \$18). Nose-to-gate from assigned post position No. 5, he was stuffed in behind Doctor Butch (Bartlett). The Doctor found a :27.2 opening quarter-mile as 3-5 fave More The Better N (Eric Goodell) was about to move from third.

More The Better N made the lead before a 56-second half, and soon after, Mach it So was back for more. That one engaged More The Better N after a 1:24 three-quarters, then put him away late the lane. Mach it So defeated a second-up Theartofconfusion A (Dan Dube) by a half-length in 1:52.1.

Doctor Butch was third, with More The Better N fading to a money-burning fourth. Caviart Luca (Brennan) settled for the final pay envelope.

For fourth choice Mach it So, an 8-year-old double millionaire Mach Three gelding owned by Bamond Racing and trained by Jeffrey Bamond Jr., it was his seventh win in 22 seasonal starts (career 47-for-142) The exacta paid \$91, the triple returned \$307.50 and the superfecta paid \$789.

Quillen Memorial winner Sunfire Blue Chip came up injured from his assigned eight-hole here.

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(photos-Joe Hoenigmann-accompany)

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