

JACK VERNON WINS SUNDAY AFTERNOON 54G OPEN HANDICAP TROT
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Sunday, November 18, 2018—Dan Dube does not discriminate.

He and Jack Vernon (\$8.40) went the distance Sunday afternoon (Nov. 18th), winning Yonkers Raceway's \$54,800 Open Handicap Trot. The previous evening, Dube and Gokudo Hanover wired 'em in the week's marquee pace.

Back to 'Jack,' who won a several-horse scrum for the early lead, then gave nothing else a shot.

The nine-horse feature (one came up ill) served as the opener of seven added-distance 'French' trots.

From post position No. 4, Jack Vernon stuffed Gruden (Brian Sears) in behind, setting up shop before a 28-second opening quarter-mile. It was a :57.1 half and 1:26.3 three-quarters before invading 3-2 favorite I Know My Chip (Jim Marohn Jr.) made his second move.

Wide early into a four-hole, I Know My Chip came first-up, but the bid was both brief and ineffective. Meanwhile, Jack Vernon was gone, widening past the 1:55.3 milepost and opening four lengths in and out of the final turn.

He finished\ it off by 2¼ lengths, getting the mile-and-a-quarter in 2:25. Andy Ray (Jason Bartlett) offered late foot to wind up second, with Gruden, Lean Hanover (Jordan Stratton) and Lord Cromwell (Matt Kakaley) settling for the minors.

I Know My Chip backpedaled to last.

For second choice Jack Vernon, a 5-year-old Muscle Hill gelding owned by Mr. (Andy) Miller Stable and trained by Mrs. (Julie) Miller, it was his 10th win in 25 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$66, the triple returned \$466.50 and the superfecta paid \$2,828.

Technical difficulties resulted in the cancellation of the 'New York, New York Double' for Sunday afternoon.

The next Sunday matinee is Nov. 25th (post time TBA).

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(photo-Chris Brokate-accompanies)

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