

ELLA MICHELLE A WINS FRIDAY NIGHT 44G DISTAFF DERBY
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Friday, January 18, 2019—Ella Michelle A (Joe Bongiorno, \$7.70) won the draw for the inner half of the gate, then left the other lasses at her mercy Friday night (Jan. 18th), easily winning Yonkers Raceway's \$44,000 Filly and Mare Open Handicap Pace.

Ella Michelle A stuffed both Amateur Hour (Brent Holland) and Clear Idea (Matt Kakaley) in behind, while 3-2 favorite Itty Bitty (Jason Bartlett) was forced to retreat after she, too, tried leaving.

Meanwhile, Ella Michelle A had nary an issue (:27.4, :57, 1:25.4, 1:55.1), with Clear Idea faltering after a weak second move. Ella Michelle A had a couple of lengths in and out of the final turn before winning by three. Culinary Delight N (Larry Stalbaum) offered late lane pace to get second, with a tough-trip Itty Bitty, 53-1 rank outsider Made of Jewels AS (Troy Beyer) and Amateur Hour settling for the minors.

For second choice Ella Michelle A, a now-8-year-old Down Under daughter of Cammibest owned and trained by Chris Scicluna, it was a winning seasonal debut. The exacta paid \$89.50, the triple returned \$324.50 and the superfecta paid \$2,896.

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(photo-Jonathan Paredes-accompanies)

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