

**YONKERS HOSTS STATEBRED OPENER IN 171G NYSS JOE GOLDSTEIN TROT**  
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Tuesday, May 8, 2018—New York Sire Stakes season began Tuesday night (May 8<sup>th</sup>), with Yonkers Raceway hosting the \$171,900 Joe Goldstein Trot for 3-year-old fillies.

Four, seven-horse fields—at \$42,975 each—comprised the event.

The opening event saw odds-on Plunge Blue Chip (Ake Svantstedt, \$2.40) make amends for her lone off day (last season's final of NYSS here) by making short work of the other six lasses. From post position No. 3, the frosh track record-holder had nary had an anxious moment (:29.4, :59.4, 1:29.1, 1:57.3) in her seasonal purse debut.

Tribute to Seven (Tim Tetrick) came first-up into second, beaten a couple of lengths. White Cheetah (Mark MacDonald), as the 84-1 rank outsider, was a pocket third.



Plunge Blue Chip

For Plunge Blue Chip, a daughter of Muscles Yankee co-owned (with Blue Chip Bloodstock and Tomas Andersson) and trained by her driver, she's now 10-for-11 in her career, earnings in excess of \$425,000. The exacta (two wagering choices) paid \$4.30, with the triple returning \$29.

“She was really good and it was an easy race for her,” Svantstedt said. He wasn't lying.

The second division saw Svantstedt double up when Fury Road (\$7.70) finished what she started (:30.2, 1:01.3, 1:30.4, 1:59.3).

From, post No. 4, her job was made much easier when the other leavers—stateside-debuting 2-5 favorite Alloveragain (Tim Tetrick) and Red Reign (Andy Miller)—both jumped it off. The former did get back in it and challenged until the three-quarters before backing away.

Fury Road whipped pocket-sitting Logetta Hanover (MacDonald) by a length-and-a-half, with Lima Novelty (Corey Callahan) and Perfect Summer K (Scott Zeron) third and fourth, respectively.

For second choice Fury Road, a Muscle Mass miss owned by Knutsson Trotting and trained by Svantstedt, she now has four wins and four seconds in 10 career starts. The exacta paid \$39, the triple returned \$154 and the superfecta paid \$532.

The evening's third statebred sojourn saw border-crossing, people's choice Jordan Blue Chip (Zeron, \$2.50) easily win her NYSS/American debut.



Away third from post No. 4, she went up and over early leader (:29.2, 1:00.2) Somedew Somedon't (Tetrick)

before the 1:29.3 three-quarters en route to a life-best 1:58.1 effort. Jordan Blue Chip widened to 3¾ lengths at the wire. Somedew Somedon't stayed at it and finished second, with Ciao Dolce (Svanstedt) third.

**Jordan Blue Chip** For Jordan Blue Chip, a Chapter Seven ma'am owned by Dreamville Stable and trained by Paula Wellwood, it was her first win in a pair of seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$16.80, with the triple returning \$50

“She was great, especially for her first time over a half-(mile track),” Zeron said. “I didn't even have to pull the plugs.”

In the spirit of the hockey playoffs, Svanstedt had himself a hat trick in the final NYSS event with 11-10 fave Lucky Ava (\$4.30).

Lucky Ava, last seen here upsetting (at 21-1) the \$225,000 statebred finale a season ago, pole-danced to a handy, down-the-road work night (:29.2, :59.4, 1:28.3, life-best 1:58). The final margin was a length-and-a-half.

Dew to Win (Trond Smedshammer), at 46-1, snapped Mooshka Stride (Jeff Gregory) for second, with Caviart Cady (Marcus Johansson) rounding out the gimmick finishers.

For Lucky Ava, a season-bowing daughter of Lucky Chucky, co-owned by (trainer) Svanstedt, Little E LLC and Van Camp Trotting, it was her sixth win in 11 career starts. The exacta paid \$103, the triple returned \$416.50 and the superfecta paid \$2,051.

(photos-Mike Lizzi-accompany)