

Downstate NY Sire Stakes season begins Monday

Wednesday, July 05, 2017 - by Frank Drucker, Publicity Director, Empire City at Yonkers Raceway

Yonkers, NY --- Not wasting any time, the Empire State's glamour boys begin the downstate New York Sire Stakes season Monday night (July 10), with Yonkers Raceway hosting the \$169,500 Hugh Grant Pace for 3-year-old colts and geldings.

A quartet of divisions -- going as races two, four, five and six -- highlight the dozen-race card, with the usual evening first post of 7:10 p.m.

The opening \$42,975 event appears up for grabs, with Manattack (Chris Lems, post four) and America's Fleet (Jason Bartlett, post five) each owning second-place finishes in sire stakes competition. What's Going On (Scott Zeron, post six) is trying to regain some of the \$172,000 freshman form.

The second \$42,175 grouping figures to go through Funknwaffles (Corey Callahan, post three), looming the shortest price of the state races. The [American Ideal](#) gelding, trained by John Butenschoen for owner Crawford Farms Racing, chased home division-dominating Fear The Dragon in last Saturday's half-million-dollar Hempt Memorial at Pocono. Funknwaffles was a handy NYSS winner at Vernon after finishing third locally in late May's \$300,000 Art Rooney Pace.

Statebred division three (\$42,175) sees Heaven's Gait (David Miller, post one) hit town off his win in the \$75,000 consolation of the Hempt. The [Rock N Roll Heaven](#) colt, owned by John Cummins and trained by Nicholas Devita, has a spiffy 1:49 NYSS win at Vernon to his credit.

American Wiggle (Zeron, post two) threw down a 36-1 NYSS upset at Vernon in a lifetime-best 1:51 two starts ago, while Serious Major (Jim Morrill Jr., post six) has a win and a second (both at odds-on) in his two sire stakes tries. He goes out for his third different trainer (Brian Brown, Chris Ryder, Ron Burke) in as many starts. Twin B Cowboy (Mark MacDonald, post four) owns a pair of thirds in sire stakes competition this season.

Monday night's final \$42,175 Empire excursion features In A Single Bound (Billy Dobson, post three), the [Roll With Joe](#) gelding eyeing a third consecutive NYSS victory and a sixth win in eight seasonal starts.