

'Snake Eyes' in NYSS Michael Sorentino Trot

Friday, July 15, 2016 - by Frank Drucker, Publicity Director, Empire City at Yonkers Raceway

Yonkers, NY --- They won the draws as well as the hearts and minds of the electorate Thursday night (July 14). Short-priced pole-sitters Dayson (Yannick Gingras, \$2.60) and Dante (Ake Svanstedt, \$2.80) delivered in Yonkers Raceway's \$163,374 New York Sire Stakes Michael Sorentino Trot for 3-year-old colts and geldings.



Mike Lizzi photo

Yannick Gingras steered Dayson to a 1:56.1 score.

Smalltownthrowdown third.

Dayson, racing in a money start for the first time since adding trotting hobbles, allowed Smalltownthrowdown (Dan Daley) the initial lead in the opening (\$80,937) division. Dayson then retook right before a :29.4 opening quarter-mile, with none of his five rivals electing to press the issue. After a :59.2 intermission and 1:27.3 three-quarters, Smalltownthrowdown pulled an early pocket in the final turn.

Dayson met that challenge and widened, opening to 2-1/2 lengths in 1:56.1. Royson (Jim Marohn Jr.) skimmed the cones to grab second, with

For Dayson, a [Conway Hall](#) gelding co-owned as Burke Racing by trainer Ron Burke, along with Our Horse Cents Stable, J&T Silva Stable and Rossi Smith, it was his fifth win in eight seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$15.20, with the triple returning \$35.40.

"It was nice and easy," Gingras said. "The straps definitely helped him keep his mind on business."

As for Dante in the \$82,437 second division, he was content to sit pocketed to uncoupled stablemate The Royal Harry (Mark MacDonald) though intervals of :28, :58.2 and 1:28.1. That one had a 1-1/4 length lead entering the lane, but Dante edged out and edged by. He beat his barn neighbor by a length in 1:57.2, with Credevie (George Brennan) third.

Dante, a son of [Credit Winner](#) trained by his driver for owner Courant A B, is four-for-six this season. The exacta paid \$7.60, with the triple returning \$105.50.

"He doesn't pull as much as he did (at 2)," Svanstedt said. "He's a better horse to drive now."

Stakes action continues here this weekend. Friday night, the \$167,874 New York Sire Stakes Art Watson Pace (3-year-old fillies) will be contested, while Saturday night, it's the \$100,000 Lawrence B. Sheppard (2-year-old colts/geldings).