

BURKE SWEEPS ELIMS FOR YONKERS TROT WITH CRAZY WOW, HABITAT
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday, August 29, 2015—New York did itself proud Saturday night, as Empire-breds won both \$40,000 eliminations for Yonkers Trot No. 61.

Yonkers Raceway's premier trotting event drew 11 3-year-olds—eight colts and three geldings—for the second jewel of that gait's Triple Crown.



Crazy Wow

When the stone dust settled, it was a pair of Ron Burke entities, Crazy Wow (Tim Tetrick, \$5.30) and Habitat (Yannick Gingras, \$6.30) who led the lads into next Saturday's (Sept. 5) half-million-dollar final.

Saturday's first elim saw another statebred, Buen Camino (Trond Smedshammer), win the draw and the early battle. He seated everyone, including Crazy Wow from post position No. 2 and Hambletonian champ Pinkman (Gingras) next door in post No. 3.

Buen Camino led through intervals of :28.1, :58.2 and 1:27.2, with 1-2 favorite Pinkman advancing from third. Pinkman then seemed to pull himself up, as Buen Camino owned a length-and-three-quarter lead into the lane. Crazy Wow ducked in—cutting inside at least one pylon—and went by, whipping a resurgent Pinkman by a length in 1:55.4. The winner had to survive an inquiry before the result was certified.

Buen Camino held third over a closing Workout Wonder (Dan Dube)—both getting berths in the final—with Wings of Royalty (catch-driver Brian Sears) last at every stations.

For second choice Crazy Wow—last season's New York Sire Stakes frosh champ—a son of Crazyed co-owned by Deo Volente Farms & Our Horse Cents Stable and J&T Silva Stables, it was his sixth win in 10 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$11.40, with triple wagering not offered to the small field.

“He was very good last week (winning Pocono's Colonial) and just as good tonight,” Tetrick said. “Things were a bit tight in the last turn, but he needed to trot, he did.”

As for Pinkman, “He did start to get away from me a bit in the last turn, and I didn't want to lose him,” Gingras said. “So I had to steady him, and showed his class by trotting well in the lane.”

Gingras had such issues with Habitat, who, after a brief seat third from post No. 5, went the distance (:29, :58.4, 1:27.2 1:55.3) in the second elimination. The job of the second choice

was made much easier when 3-5 fave Centurion ATM (Ake Svanstedt) couldn't get out of his own way behind the and again past the half.

The other Svanstedt-trained (though uncoupled) number, Southwind Mozart (Dan Dube) chased from a loose pocket, beaten a couple of lengths. Billy Flynn (Jason Bartlett) and French Laundry (Sears) also earned seats at next week's table, while Massive Lightning (Tyler Buter) and a foul-gaited Centurion ATM did not.

For Habitat, a son of Conway Hall, co-owned (as Burke Racing) by Burke, Weaver Brusceci and Our Horse Cents Stables, he's now 6-for-13 this season. The exacta paid \$67, with the triple returning \$287.

"Once I saw (Centurion ATM) make a break, there was no reason not to cut the mile," Gingras said. "He was very good, no issues."

Saturday night's \$48,000 Open Handicaps were won by faves...

--(Trot), Melady's Monet (Bartlett, \$3.90) in 1:54.4;

--(Pace), Dynamic Youth (George Brennan, \$5.60) in 1:51.



Habitat

Special props to Take My Picture, the 8-year-old Classic Photo gelding whose third-place finish in the Open 'Cap Trot made him a career millionaire (\$1,004,146).

The open draws for both Yonkers Trot No. 61 and the \$500,000 Messenger Stakes No. 60 (only eight entrants, so no elims) take place Tuesday morning.