

Track record effort by Soft Idea highlights NYSS at Yonkers Raceway

by Frank Drucker, Yonkers Raceway Publicity Director

Yonkers, NY---“She’s very talented, but sometimes I wonder where to put the 50 cents in because the ride can get bouncy.”



Jelena Gurga photo

Soft Idea established a new track record for 2-year-old fillies, winning in 1:53.4.

Such was the post-race postulate Thursday night from driver Jim Morrill Jr. after he—with some able assistance from odds-on favorite Soft Idea (\$3.10)—set a track record during Yonkers Raceway hosting of the \$147,723 New York Sire Stakes Frank Becerra Pace for 2-year-old fillies.

Soft Idea, this summer’s division dominatrix, threw down a 1:53.4 gauntlet in the final (\$48,941) division. Leaving from post position 3, she took over from second choice American Ivy (Brian Sears), then held that one at bay by a determined neck. It was more than three lengths back to Lyra (George

Brennan) in third.

The time matched Soft Idea’s life-best, taken at Vernon. Morrill Jr., ironically, drove Summertime Lea to the previous local frosh filly track record (1:54.1) three Septembers ago.

For Soft Idea, a daughter of [American Ideal](#)-Walk Softly trained by Linda Toscano for co-owners Bay’s Stable, Radio Racing Stable, South Mountain Stables and Little E LLC, it was her fifth (NYSS) win in seven seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$6.50, with the triple (three wagering favorites in order) returning \$18.80.

“We’re looking forward to the (Sept. 26) sires stakes final,” co-owner Harvey Nagler said.

Morrill Jr. also won Thursday’s second opening (\$49,841) Becerra division, as Time on My Hands (\$7.70) overcame her outside post 7 and avoided the first-tune happenstance to widen out in 1:55. Second went to Killing `Em Softly (Brennan), with Art Critic (Matt Kakaley third).

The “Sommelier Special” hunch play went in the spit bucket early, as Wine Snob (Ray Schnittker) made a first-turn break, badly impeding 7-5 choice Vino and Formaggio (Sears).

For second choice Time on My Hands, a daughter of [American Ideal](#)-Bewitching Jewel co-owned by Robert Mondillo, Michael Robinson, Steve Cheatham & BFJ Stables and trained by Chris Ryder, she’s now 3-for-5 this season. The exacta paid \$47.60, the triple returning \$190.

The opening (\$48,941) sire stakes event saw Dime A Dance (Kakaley, \$6.10)—pocketed from post 5—whizz by 7-10 fave Noclouds Bluechip (Sears) by a length in 1:55.4. Angels Rockn Pink (Mark MacDonald) was third.

For second choice (coupled with fourth-place finisher Encore Deo [Brennan]) Dime A Dance, a Roll With Joe-Hat Dance Hanover miss trained by Ron Burke for co-owners Our Horse Cents and J&T Silva Stables and Blue Chip Bloodstock, it was her second (consecutive) win

in seven tries this season. The exacta paid \$6.30, with no triple wagering to the limited number (five) of wagering interests).

"She just exploded when I asked her in the lane," Kakaley said. "As good as she was winning at Vernon (13 nights ago), she was better here."