New York Night of Champions races drawn
by Frank Drucker, Publicity Director, Empire City at Yonkers Raceway

Yonkers, NY --- Post positions have been drawn for Saturday’s (Sept. 24) $1.8 million New York Night of Champions, with Yonkers Raceway again hosting the Empire State’s richest night of racing.

Eight $225,000 sire stakes finals, each sponsored by a prominent breeding farm, feature the best 2- and 3-year-olds of both sexes and gaits.

Here’s a hot-off-the-presses thumbnail of the divisions, which go as the first eight in the baker’s dozen worth of races. First post is the usual 7:10 p.m.

1st race (Winbak Farm 2-Year-Old Filly Pace) -- These races aren’t handicapped, but this one certainly appears that way. Planet Rock (Tim Tetrick, post seven) and the late-starting Tequila Monday (David Miller, post eight) are arguably the best the class has to offer, with the latter setting the local track record (1:53.1) for frosh lasses. Roaring To Go (Brett Miller, post five) was a 1:53.2 winner here.

2nd race (Allerage Farm 3-Year-Old Filly Trot) -- Last season’s division champ, Non Stick (Ake Svanstedt, post two), has enjoyed another solid summer, though she does enter off a break in her latest try. Fad Finance (Jim Morrill Jr., post five) has hit the board in 10 of her 11 ’16 tries. Both these ladies have earned more than $200,000 this season.

3rd race (Genesee Valley Farm 2-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Pace) -- Funknwaffles (Morrill, post four) has been nearly perfect, with seven wins and a second in eight tries ($144,784), while Miso Fast (Matt Kakaley, post two) is five-for-seven (both are two-for-two here). Pointomygranson (Marcus Miller, post eight) has a pair of open-lengths wins leading to this race.

4th race (Majestic View Farms International 2-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Trot) -- Julie and Andy Miller have a potent pair in Devious Man (Andy Miller, post four) and Money Macintosh (Brian Sears, post seven), a combined nine-for-17 this season. Despite common ownership, they go uncoupled. Zack’s Zoomer (Marcus Miller, post five) has a win and a pair of seconds since adding the straps.

5th race (Cameo Hills Farm 3-Year-Old Filly Pace) -- As evenly-matched a final as the Night of Champions offers, with Wishy Washy Girl (Morrill, post four) the one entering off a win. Last season’s frosh champ, Dime A Dance (Kakaley, post five), has 10 board finishes in her dozen seasonal tries, while Soft Idea (Scott Zeron, post three) has a pair of wins here.

6th race (Crawford Farms 2-Year-Old Filly Trot) -- Division points leader Mamora Bay (Sam Schillaci, post five) has been in the money all season (eight starts, five wins—two here, two seconds, one third). Barn Bella (Jeff Gregory, post three), a scratched-sick in her last scheduled start (here), is five-for-eight and won her last three races in open-distance fashion. Amber Ella (John Campbell, post eight) has learned her job lately, having won her last four tries.

7th race (Blue Chip Farms, 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Pace) -- Art Rooney Pace winner Missile J (Tetrick, post three), unraced at 2, enters eight-for-18 with more than $313,000 in the till.
Roll Away Joe (Morrill, post five) has banked more than $200,000, stringing together four consecutive wins at one point. Manny (Brett Miller, post six) gets a barn change entering the final.

8th race (Morrisville College Equine Institute 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding Trot) -- Yonkers Trot runner-up Smalltownthrowdown (Dan Daley, post two) blitzed his statebred rivals here in his subsequent start. He has six wins and more than $333,000 in reserve this season, Dante (Svanstedt, post four) has been oh so consistent this season (nine starts, four wins, three seconds), while Dayson (Sears, post eight) is eight-for-13 this summer, though he ran like a deer here in his latest appearance.