Freshman fillies take center stage in New York Sire Stakes
by Frank Drucker, Publicity Director, Empire City at Yonkers Raceway

Yonkers, NY --- New York Sire Stakes continued downstate Monday night (Aug. 15), with Yonkers Raceway hosting the $145,923 Mike Cohen Trot for 2-year-old fillies.

The trio of races honored the memory of the former Yonkers and NBC Sports publicity director, with family and friends making winner’s circle presentations.

The $48,941 third division was the evening’s fastest, with Barn Bella (Jeff Gregory, $6.10) wiring her three rivals (two others were scratched). From post position No, 3, she led through intervals of :29.2, :59.4, 1:30.2 and 1:59. The final margin was 3-1/2 lengths, with Hotel Royale (Brian Sears) edging Heel On Wheels (Matt Kakaley) for second.

Mighty Surf (catch-driver Scott Zeron), as the 9-10 favorite, was not enamored of her environs in any way, shape or form. Very wide early, she eventually found a pocket before breaking, catching herself and breaking again.

For second choice Barn Bella, a daughter of Conway Hall-Bravissima co-owned by trainer Steve and Nancy Pratt and Purple Haze Stables, it was her third win in six seasonal starts. The exacta paid $30.40, with triple wagering cancelled.

Monday’s $48,941 second event saw odds-on Mamora Bay (Sam Schillaci, $2.80), last of the quintet (one scratch) turning for home after a behind-the-gate bobble, storm by to win going away. From post No. 5, she defeated Run For Royalty (John Campbell) by 1-1/4 lengths in a life-best 1:59.3, with pace-setting (:30.1, 1:00., 1:29.3) Flyhawk Charm (Jason Bartlett) settling for third.

Mamora Bay, a Chapter Seven-Giulie Bi miss trained by her driver for owner Peter Barbato, is now three-for-five (with a second and a third) this season. The exacta paid $18.40, with triple wagering again scrapped.

The evening’s $48,091 first sire stakes get-together had the three wagering choices all misbehave and the pair of double-digit propositions mind their manners. Nightflix Hanover (Ray Schnittker, $29), inheriting a gift pocket from post No. 4, pulled against Reverend Nanny (Jordan Stratton) by the half, then widened. The final margin was 13-1/4 lengths in 2:03.3. Cherry Royal Ruby (Dan Daley), the 9-10 choice, recovered to beat the other two jumpers and finish third.

For fourth choice Nightflix Hanover, a Credit Winner-Nan's Conway miss co-owned with Charlie Iannazzo, Ted Gewertz and Tom Spatorico by her driver/trainer, it was a maiden-breaking win in her fifth start. The exacta paid $115.50, with triple wagering not offered due to only five scheduled/actual starters.

Statebreds are back at it at Thursday night (Aug. 18) with the $151,624 Jim Meagher Pace (2-year-old colts/geldings).