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The Yonkers Hilltop Helper

Expert Raceway Selections
Prepared by the SOA of NY

EMPIRE CITY CASINO
NYSS DAY OF CHAMPIONS
EIGHT \$225,000 CHAMPIONSHIP RACES
NYSS - BEST BREEDING/RACING PROGRAM IN THE USA
\$250,000 DAN ROONEY INVITATIONAL PACE
\$250,000 HARRY HARVEY INVITATIONAL TROT

UP TO 8% REWARDS

EARLY PICK 4 PLAY (RACES 3-6) - \$2 1&3 WITH 2&8 WITH 3&5&7 WITH 4 = \$24
PICK 5 PLAY (RACES 7-11) - 50¢ 2&6 WITH 3&4&6&10 WITH 2&4&6 WITH 1&3 WITH 2&3 = \$48
LATE PICK 4 PLAY (RACES 5-8) - \$2 3&5 WITH 4 WITH 2&6 WITH 3&4&6&10 = \$32

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017 - FIRST POST: 1:00 PM - \$3.3 MILLION IN TOTAL PURSES!!!

Race 1: NYSS - \$225,000 GENESEE VALLEY FARM 2 YO COLT/GELDING PACE - 1:00 PM

- 1 - HITMAN HILL - 6-6 lifetime (all 1 or 2 holes), including 2 wins here from rail (last in 55.2 half); catch him to cash
- 3 - CASUAL COOL - 5 wins on year & off board 1 of 9; gets top pilot Bartlett & will make presence felt throughout
- 8 - PAPRIKE BLUE CHIP - Superb freshman; tough draw

Race 2: NYSS - \$225,000 WINBAK FARM 2 YO FILLY PACE - EARLY PICK 3 (2-4) - 1:20 PM

- 2 - AZREAL AS IT GETS - Won last 3 (2 NYSS & Simpson) after earning smaller checks 1st 5; expect aggressive try
- 7 - ALEXIS FAITH - 5 wins, but gets unprecedented bad post
- 1 - BETTERTHANGRADUATE - Only two wins on year, but has some good late foot & some speed; 20-1 ML

Race 3: NYSS - \$225,000 CRAWFORD FARM 2 YO FILLY TROT - EARLY PICK 4 (3-6) - 1:40 PM

- 1 - SUPERGIRL RILEY - Last 4 excellent & may own tactical edge over short-priced favorite (#3); rail win here 7/18
- 3 - PLUNGE BLUE CHIP - Best of Ake's 3 in here with 6-6 lifetime record (2-2 here); very tough (lead or pocket)
- 5 - LUCKY AVA - Owns 3 NYSS wins; will be chasing top pair; big driver change to Gingras noted & respected
- 2 - LIMA NOVELTY - 3 NYSS wins on year, including 1 here

Race 4: NYSS - \$225,000 CAMEO HILLS FARM 3 YO FILLY PACE - MIDDLE PICK 3 (4-6) - 2:00 PM

- 2 - OBVIOUS BLUE CHIP - Jugette 2nd (elim) & 3rd (final) command respect; won EBC Final (upsetting #7/#8)
- 8 - TEQUILA MONDAY - 2 YO Champ (DQ from 8 hole) after impossible trip (including break); 8-ball again;
- 1 - PLANET ROCK - Winless at 3, but can stay close here

Race 5: NYSS - \$225,000 HARNESS HORSE BREEDERS 2 YO COLT/GELDING TROT - LATE PICK 4 (5-8) - 2:20 PM

- 3 - CLIVE BIGSBY - 2 wins/2 seconds last 4 NYSS tries (7 hole win here); outdraws key rivals; Bartlett back on
- 5 - TITO - 2 wins on year (both NYSS); threat from mid-pack
- 7 - SIX PACK - Solid resume includes YR win from 7 hole

Race 6: NYSS - \$225,000 BLUE CHIP FARMS 3 YO COLT/GELDING PACE - 2:40 PM

- 4 - FUNKNWAFFLES - 2 YO Champ has been battling open types & was 2nd in Jug; should become 2-time Champ
- 5 - CULTURAL PARADISE - Has taken advantage of good draws, winning 6 of 13 (13-13 on board); second best
- 1 - WHAT'S GOIN ON - Can be close and grab slice

Race 7: \$250,000 DAN ROONEY INVITATIONAL PACE - PICK 5 (7-11) - 3:00 PM

- 6 - BIT OF A LEGEND N - Aged Pacer of Year candidate (3 6 figure wins (so far)); draws outside, but expect Stratton will be aggressive with my favorite horse; 12-1 ML
- 2 - SOMEWHERE IN LA - Earned \$480k on year despite more than his share of bad luck; rare inside spot; all 10 2017 wins at YR; Bartlett will send hard
- 4 - ALL BETS OFF - Over \$500k on year (\$2.7 million in career) while battling best of the best; big Hoosier win

Race 8: \$250,000 HARRY HARVEY INVITATIONAL TROT - LATE PICK 3 (8-10) - 3:30 PM

- 3 - CRAZY WOW - 2YO NYSS Champ has battled best all year; gets good draw & Gingras will be aggressive here
- 4 - LOOKSLIKACHPNDAL - No chance 1st 2 tries here; has number of lines that make him dangerous late; 20-1 ML?
- 10 - HOMICIDE HUNTER - Has done excellent work here (4 Open wins); solid win in Centaur; 2nd tier, but big threat
- 6 - DIA MONDE - Very impressive in lone Hilltop try; speed?

Race 9: \$1,000,000 YONKERS INTERNATIONAL TROT AT EMPIRE CITY CASINO - 4:00 PM

PICKS: 4-2-6-1-3 (ANALYSIS ON REVERSE SIDE)

Race 10: NYSS - \$225,000 MORRISVILLE COLLEGE EQUINE INSTITUTE 3 YO COLT/GELDING TROT - 4:30 PM

- 1 - GUARDIAN ANGEL AS - Most talented here, but not sure rail is best spot for him; careful handling needed
- 3 - SWELL CHAP - Enters race in peak form and was just nailed late by choice here 9/23; expect big effort
- 7 - TOP FLIGHT ANGEL - Impressive Yonkers Trot winner beaten by good one in last here; has to overcome draw
- 5 - EYE OF A TIGER AS - Can be positioned for late rally

Race 11: NYSS - \$225,000 ALLERAGE FARM 3 YO FILLY TROT - 5:00 PM

- 3 - BARN BELLA - 2YO Champ has won 11 of 14 this year for trot specialist Gregory; 2 recent breaks only concern
- 2 - CELEBRITY RUTH - Hudson winner 1st or 2nd in 13 of 14; draws inside choice who's had her number; main danger
- 5 - MAMORA BAY - Runner up at 2; ultra-consistent filly
- 1 - MAEWEGONOW - \$100k+ on year; rail tri/super factor

NEW YORK, NEW YORK PICK 4 - 8TH YONKERS/ 9TH YONKERS/8TH BELMONT/9TH BELMONT - (POOL CLOSES APPROXIMATELY 3:30 PM)

BELMONT 8TH - FUTURITY STAKES - 4:46 PM

- 2 - HAPPY LIKE A FOOL - Lone win (3 tries) came in April at 4½ furlongs; 2nd (of 23) in Group 2 at Ascot; Ward speed
- 3 - BARRY LEE - Showed speed, but folded in Saratoga Special; rallied off pace to win Ari/Wash Futurity;
- 6 - ENGAGE - Brown trainee lost debut to horse who tired on lead in Hopeful; drifted badly in winning 2nd start
- 4 - MOJOVATION - Dreadful in Hopeful, but owns best Beyer

BELMONT 9TH - PEBBLES STAKES - 5:19 PM

- 2 - RUBILINDA - 2 wins & 1 2nd (bumped in traffic) in 3 career tries; stretches out & late running style suits this trip
- 3 - TRAIS - Late closing 2nd in NA debut for Chad Brown; Ortiz opts for choice (Brown's other); Velazquez subs

NEW YORK, NEW YORK PICK 4 PLAYS - 3:30 PM

\$1 3 & 4 WITH 2 & 4 & 6 WITH 2 & 3 WITH 2 & 3 = \$24
\$1 3 & 4 WITH 4 WITH 2 & 3 & 6 WITH 2 & 3 = \$12
\$1 3&4&6&10 WITH 4 WITH 2&3&4&6 WITH 2&3 = \$32



- 4

TWISTER BI (ITALY)

4th in 2017 UET rankings (behind BOLD EAGLE/TIMOKO/PROPULSION). 3rd in UET Masters Final (behind AUBRION DUGERS & BOLD EAGLE). Front running winner of Group 1 Ulf Thoresen when he sprinted away from pocket sitting country mate OASIS BI. Impressive close to win Group 1 Oslo Grand Prix. Brilliant 2nd when parked whole race in Jubileumspokalen in world record time. Trainer says he trains well over half. Versatile, but expect speed here. Pick.
- 2

OASIS BI (ITALY)

4th in 2015 edition (from 10 hole) & solid 2nd last year after using speed to get pocket position behind RESOLVE. Only 1 win in 2017 following an ultra-impressive 2016 campaign (2nd UET Trotting Masters Final, win Gran Premio Lotteria & 3rd Prix D'Amérique). Dull 9th in 2017 UET Final & only 2 board finishes last 7 (tough shuffle in Sundsvall). Over \$2 million earned. Trainer says he prefers YR's hard track (training well here). Expect pocket trip behind TWISTER BI.
- 6

RESOLVE (USA)

Last year's Champ in world record time (on lead). Several big 2017 wins (Cashman (1 1/8), Crawford & Cutler (1 1/8), but even more impressive finishing 2nd behind BOLD EAGLE in Elitloppet Elim & 3rd behind TIMOKO in Final. 2nd behind NUNCIO in 2016 Elitloppet. Poor last start (Maple Leaf Elim) when he pulled & abruptly retreated (trainer suspects tick bite that caused fever). Away since 9/8. 2-6 at YR, with 1 Open win coming from 7 post. 2 hole to 6 hole.
- 1

MARION MARAUDER (CANADA)

2016 Triple Crown winner & 2016 Dan Patch Trotter of the Year. Winner of 2017 Graduate Final & Hambletonian Maturity vs. 4YOs. Another who failed to fire in Maple Leaf Elim (last start), & has been off the board last 2. Qualified sharply last week. 2-2 at Yonkers (Yonkers Trot Elim & Final). Has enough speed to take advantage of rail draw, but (like DREAMMOKO) is facing a tall task against older warriors. Ultra game & regular pilot Zeron obviously a plus.
- 3

DREAMMOKO (FRANCE)

Son of TIMOKO, runner up in 2015's edition. Had the audacity to challenge dad in the Group 1 Kymi Grand Prix & finished a hard charging 3rd (1 spot behind TIMOKO) after a VERY difficult trip. Has picked up some nice wins facing fellow 4YOs (Prix Phaeton, Prix de Pont-Audemer & Prix de Meulen) & 2nd in Group 1 Prix de Selection. Brings regular pilot Gelormini & trained by TIMOKO's Westerlink. Logical exotics candidate, but tough assignment for 4 YO.
- 8

IN SECRET (USA)

Home court advantage, with wins in 4 consecutive Yonkers Raceway Opens. Won 1st 5 for trainer Burke (there's a surprise!). Also gets the benefit of Yonkers based George Brennan, who has won just about everything there is to win in the sport. Got the worst of the draw, but is no stranger to YR 8 holes. May still be overbet by Yonkers faithful and is facing some tough European elders, but remember Papagayo E was also 5 YO when he won this race in 2015.
- 10

ON TRACK PIRATEN (SWEDEN)

1st up in 2015 edition (after early 3-wide move from 6 hole) & tired late. Strong closing 4th last year from 8 hole. Now has to deal with 10 hole. Winner of nearly \$2 million lifetime (37 wins - 118 starts) went on tear, winning 8 consecutive starts 1/26/16-3/11/17. Won Midsommarioppet on 6/24, but has lost his last 7 (with only two board finishes). Offstride in UET Masters Final 9/9 (same as last year), & tired in last to 4th. Talented veteran gets benefit of Johnny Takter.
- 7

MIDNIGHT HOUR (FINLAND)

Impressive 10th in UET rankings. Proved his durability in the Group 1 Aby Stora Pris by winning first and third heats (third was a two horse runoff). Winner of the 2017 Group 1 Prix Saint Michel (defeating JONESY, a 2016 Yonkers International Trot participant). 30 wins in just 72 lifetime starts. Unfortunately, 7 hole in 10 horse field likely to severely compromise his chances.
- 9

TRIPOLINI VP (DENMARK)

Comes into race in top form, winning three of last four. Was strong in 2016, winning Silverdivisionen of the Flaata Eindom As Loppet and the Hamburg Cup. Second tier draw may not be too bad given the speed of the two inside horses in the first tier. This feels like a fairly big class hike for this one, but then again no one believed Denmark would win the 1992 Euro!
- 5

SHADOW WOODLAND (FINLAND)

Has won 25 of 64 lifetime races. Winner of the 2017 Prix The Onions Lopp and the Gulddivisionen on 3/25 and 9/9. Picks up the services of Tim Tetrick (that ain't gonna hurt a bit). Drew mid-pack, but outside some likely leavers. Will be forced to take back and will probably be no better than 7th early on. Seems like a tall order to reel in several good ones who will be more forwardly placed.

<p>2015</p> <p>PAPAGAYO E</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>RESOLVE</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL TROT</p>
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