

## Bad Boy Matt wins Open Handicap Pace at Yonkers

by Frank Drucker, Yonkers Raceway Publicity Director

**Yonkers, NY** --- Bad Boy Matt (Mark MacDonald, \$19.20) lasted—barely—from first-up Saturday (March 12) night, winning Yonkers Raceway's \$32,000 Open Handicap Pace.

Spectating early from post position five, Bad Boy Matt saw 3-10 favorite Bit Of A Legend N (Jordan Stratton) and Roland N Rock (Dan Dube) both leave inside of him.



*Sean Hamrock photo*

**Bad Boy Matt (5) was a narrow winner of the Open Handicap Pace on Saturday night at Yonkers Raceway.**

Roland N Rock was able to get away cheap enough (28-flat opening quarter-mile, :56.4 intermission) before Bad Boy Matt moved to challenge from fifth. Roland N Rock continued to lead in and out of a 1:25.2 three-quarters.

Despite the seemingly-comfy fractions, Roland N Rock was folding off the final turn. This did nothing for the cause of a trapped-in Bit Of A Legend N as Bad Boy Matt opened some daylight early in the lane.

Bit Of A Legend N finally saw the passing lane and closed relentlessly, but ran out of racetrack. Bad Boy Matt's nose was at the line first in 1:53. A season-debuting Ideal Cowboy (Jason Bartlett) was a fast-moving third, with Dream Out Loud N (George Brennan) and Justified (Eric Abbatiello) rounded out the payees. Roland N Rock faded to seventh.

For third choice Bad Boy Matt, a 6-year-old [Badlands Hanover](#) co-owned by Legacy Racing of Delaware & Reginald Hazzard II and trained by Wayne Givens, it was his third win in nine seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$37.80, with the triple returning \$303.50.

Saturday night also saw the season's fastest mile(s), a pair of 1:51.3 efforts by Lunar Tide N (Shaun Vallee) and Mattamerican (Bartlett). Also, when 28-1 Keystone Honor (Brennan, \$59.50), 35-1 Aberdeen Hanover (Pat Lachance) and 9-1 Life Up Front (Stratton) crossed the line 1-2-3 in the 11th race, it resulted in a \$12,299 triple, richest locally thus far in 2016.

The Raceway's live season continues with a "French" Sunday afternoon (first post 1:10 p.m.).