

## Bartlett, Banca team up for two wins in fourth round of Levy

by Frank Drucker, Publicity Director, Empire City at Yonkers Raceway

**Yonkers, NY** --- With points leader Missile J getting a week off for good behavior, the Saturday (April 8) night marquee was available for rental during Round Four of Yonkers Raceway's George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series. Three \$50,000 divisions—down from four the first three weeks—went at it.



*Mike Lizzi photo*

**Somewhere In L A won the stretch battle, picking off Mach It So by a head.**

Stablemates Blood Brother (Jason Bartlett, \$6.10) and Somewhere In L A (Bartlett again, \$7.80) won the second and third events in 1:52.1 and a season's-best 1:51.3, respectively.

Blood Brother, from post position two after a pair of no-shot seven-holes the previous two tries, picked up pace-setting polester McArdle's Lightning (Matt Kakaley) after that one laid down the law with fractions of :27.4, :56.3, 1:24.1. It was 8-5 fave Keystone Velocity (Dan Dube) trying it first-up from fourth, pressing the leader to the lane.

Blood Brother ducked inside and prevailed by a half-length over McArdle's Lightning, with Keystone Velocity hanging in for third. Te Kawau N (Tim Tetrick) and Provocativeprincen (Jordan Stratton) rounded out the payees.

For second choice, Blood Brother, a 5-year-old Somebeachsomewhere gelding trained by Richard Banca for co-owners D'elegance Stable IX, Carmen Iannacone, T L P and P T Stables, it was his second win in 11 seasonal starts and he is one-for-four in this series. The exacta paid \$23, with the triple returning \$36.

Somewhere In L A, from post three, did it first-up. He engaged pole-siting Mach It So (Tetrick) as that one led through intervals of :27, 56.1, 1:23.3. Somewhere In L A won the stretch battle, picking off Mach It So by a head.

Great Vintage (Mark MacDonald) tracked the the winner and wound up third, with Soto (Dube)—a fourth pocket trip in as many series starts—and 7-5 choice Bit Of A Legend N (Stratton) settling for the minors.

For second choice Somewhere In L A, a 6-year-old Somebeachsomewhere gelding trained by Banca for co-owners D'elegance Stable IX, Carmen Iannacone, T L P and Gandolfo Stables, it was his fifth win in a dozen seasonal starts and his first in the series. The exacta paid \$32.40, the triple returned \$153 and the superfecta paid \$318.50.

"I didn't want to get tortured again with him," Bartlett said of Somewhere In L A and his early-series attempts. "I had him to relax for the first three-eighths and he did the rest. There's no bottom to him."

Saturday night's first Levy grouping had a first-over Clear Vision (Brett Miller, \$8.90), from post two, gut out a nose win over McWicked (Kakaley). The latter rolled through subsections of :27.2, :56.3 and 1:24, leading every step but the last one. Third went to a pocketed Guantanamo Bay (Stratton), with slight 2-1 choice Wakizashi Hanover (Tetrick) and Caviart Luca (George Brennan) grabbing the smaller envelopes.

For third choice Clear Vision, an 11-year-old Western Hanover gelding co-owned by Robert Santagata & Jennifer Lappe and trained by John Kokinos, it was his second win in nine 2017 starts and his first win from his second attempt in this series. The exacta paid \$48.40, with the triple returning \$202.

"He's one of my favorite horses of all-time," Miller said. "He won first-over for me in the (2014) Battle of Lake Erie (Northfield). A lot of people don't care for him because he's won't go by the final horse (though he did tonight). If he did, he'd have made \$5 million (he's now at \$2.6 million)."

Saturday night's \$55,000 Open Trot was won by favored Not Afraid (Dube, \$5.40) down-the-road in 1:56.1.

Special props to the inimitable Foiled Again (Kakaley, \$3.90), who notched career win 94 in the \$27,000, opener in 1:53.2, going past the \$7.5 million earnings plateau (\$7,508,033).

The evening's Pick-5, buoyed by a double carryover of more than \$12,500, attracted \$28,524 of new investments, resulted in a winning combination of 2/3/1/2/5, paying \$1,579.50 for every correct 50-cent wager.