

Racing Roundup: Brennan sweeps Yonkers doubles on milestone night

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Friday's (Aug. 16) edition of Racing Roundup features results stories from Yonkers Raceway, Tioga Downs, Northfield Park, Vernon Downs and Saratoga Gaming and Raceway.

Brennan sweeps Yonkers features on milestone night

Yonkers, NY--Yonkers Raceway's Friday night \$46,000 co-featured Open Handicaps--Pace for the lasses and Trot for either/or--were won by two-move millionairess Rock N Soul ([George Brennan](#), \$6.60) and a pocket-sitting Tall Cotton (Brennan again, \$4.50).



Sean Hamrock Photo

Rock N Soul won the fillies and mares Open Pace in 1:53 for driver [George Brennan](#), who reached the 8,000-win milestone in the night's first race.

Handsoffmycookie went back in, Rock N Soul made her second move.

That one launched her to the lead after a 56.4 half, leaving Let's Go Higher ([Jason Bartlett](#)) stuck first-up and Kamwood Laughter N gasping in the pocket.

Rock N Soul had some room in and out of the 1:24.1 three-quarters, taking three lengths into the lane. She shortened stride late, but won by a length in 1:53. Sir Jillian Z Tam (Pat Lachance) rallied into second, with Naughtytilltheend (Brent Holland), Royal Cee Cee N ([Brian Sears](#)) and a compromised Handsoffmycookie completing the cashers.

For tepid wagering choice Rock N Soul, a 6-year-old daughter of [Rocknroll Hanover](#) co-owned (as Burke Racing) by trainer Burke, Weaver Brusceci and Frank Baldachino, it was her sixth win in 18 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$37.20, with the triple returning \$118.50.

The featured trot saw Tall Cotton, as the people's preference from post 6, pocketed to second choice Little Brown Fox (Sears). After early intervals of 27.3 and 57, Bound For Fame ([Jordan Stratton](#)) moved from fifth.

It was the second consecutive Friday Brennan--Mr. 8,000 after an earlier win--and trainer [Ron Burke](#) swept the co-features.

They accomplished this feat with four different horses.

The weekly distaff derby saw 35-1 pole assignee Kamwood Laughter N (Shaun Vallee) seat everyone early, including Rock N Soul who, from post position No. 7, found room at the inn third.

Handsoffmycookie tried moving from second before a 27.1 opening quarter-mile, but her advances were rebuffed by the longshot leader. Soon after

That one instigated the issue passing the 1:26.3 three-quarters, drawing even with the leader in early stretch. However, while he did win the battle, Tall Cotton won the war. He ducked inside, defeating a stubborn Bound for Fame by a nose in 1:55.2.

Third went to a tiring Little Brown Fox, with Melady's Monet (Bartlett) and Super Manning ([Mark MacDonald](#)) rounding out the payees.

For Tall Cotton, a 7-year-old Revenue S gelding co-owned (as Burke Racing) by Burke, Howard Taylor, Weaver Brusecemi and Edwin Gold, he's now 5-for-16 this season. The exacta paid \$34.20, the triple returned \$119.50 and the superfecta paid \$408.

--Frank Drucker

Tioga Downs

Highly Thought Of made win number one in 2013 an exciting one for trainer Tom Gummerson. Dismissed by the betting public as the longest shot on the board at 22-1, the race seemed to be going that way of the odds as Mike Merton guided Highly Thought Of around in seventh as 5/2 second choice Runaway Tray led the field through fractions of 27.4, 56.2, and 1:24.3. At the top of the stretch, Runaway Tray was on E and the mares behind her fanned out as three lengths covered the entire field. Highly Thought Of was moved four-wide off the last turn and rallied in deep stretch to win by neck in 1:55.1. Getting up for second was the other longshot, Camilla The Terror, who also rallied from the back following the eventual winner. The longshots produced a \$672 exacta. Greg Merton had a hat trick on the night and the birthday boy Phil Fluet picked up a driving double. Tioga Downs continues live racing action on Saturday with a post time of 6:50 p.m. For more information on Tioga Downs please visit us online at www.tiogadowns.com.

Vernon Downs

The favorite A Penny Earned and She's All In battled tooth and nail to the finish of Friday night's \$10,000 Open trot feature at Vernon Downs. When the dust settled, the former got to the finish line first, but the latter ended up getting the victory. Competing in Friday's ninth race, A Penny Earned cut the final corner too sharply while leading the six-horse field into the stretch drive and, although the 4-year-old battler nipped the on-rushing She's All In by a nose at the end of the 1:54.3 mile, the judges disqualified the crowd's choice from first and placed him in second place for a violation of the Eurorail rule (going inside a pylon during the mile). The win was then awarded to the fourth betting choice; She's All In, who paid \$16.00 in the top spot on the payoff board. The victory was the fourth at Vernon, the fifth this season and the 14th all-time for the 4-year-old daughter of Revenue S-Simply Royal, who advanced her career earnings to \$103,164. Luke Plano did the driving for his father, Rick, the mare's owner and trainer.

Leading pilot and trainer Rick Plano completed the 11-race program with his meet-topping 16th driving double and three conditioning credits. Driver Howard Okusko Jr. collected his second triple of the weekend, while Roman Lopez chalked up his ninth double during the track's 50th program of 2013. One of Plano's victories was behind his wife's (Maryann) trotter Ulay Boko in Friday's sixth session. The 1:55.3 tally enabled the 11-year-old horse to become the meet's winningest equine performer with seven first-place finishes.

Saratoga Gaming and Raceway

Count Speed prevailed in his first-ever start in the Saratoga Open Trot on Friday night as the Dan Hennessey-trained trotter was used several times throughout the mile but still proved worthy. Count Speed (Majestic Son) recorded his fifth win in six starts since joining the Hennessey stable as he accelerated past the race's favorite Victory Tax (Shawn Gray) in

the final sixteenth of a mile. The score in Friday's \$18,000 Open for Count Speed, who was piloted by [Wally Hennessey](#), came in 1:57.3. Victory Tax held second while Oaklea Sydney (Dan Cappello Jr) earned the show spot.

Live racing continues on Saturday night at Saratoga with the \$275,000 Joe Gerrity Jr Memorial Invitational Pace highlighting the richest card of the year at the Spa.