

## NY-Bred's Gimpanzee and American Mercury capture Triple Crown races at Yonkers

August 31, 2019, by Kimberly French, Hoof Beats Editor

**Yonkers, NY** — Yonkers Raceway hosted a pair of Triple Crown races on Saturday night (Aug. 31) in the \$500,000 Yonkers Trot and the \$500,000 Messenger Stake. Gimpanzee (Brian Sears) rolled home to capture the Yonkers Trot in a North American and track record 1:53.3 and American Mercury went up the inside to best Bettor's Wish in the Messenger Stake in 1:51.3.



**Gimpanzee captured the Yonkers Trot in a track record 1:53.3. Mike Lizzi photo.**

Trained by Marcus Melander, Gimpanzee (\$2.60) made his bid for the lead in the Yonkers Trot first-over prior to the :28 quarter-mile pole. The son of Chapter Seven-Steamy Windows grabbed the bit and ran off with this event, posting subsequent fractions of :56.4 and 1:25 before cruising home in 1:53.3.

Hambletonian victor Forbidden Trade (Bob McClure) closed strongly for second after an overland journey, with Soul Strong (Dexter Dunn) hitting the wire in third.

"Since day one when I brought him here he lays down and turns over like a motorcycle," said Melander. "This is an amazing race to win and I don't think there is a better 3-year-old on a half-mile track."

An undefeated Dan Patch Award winner and New York Sire Stakes champion in 2018, Gimpanzee first tasted defeat when he finished fourth and third, respectively, in the Hambletonian eliminations and final.

Gimpanzee is owned by Courant Inc. and S R F Stable. He is now 16-14-0-1 and has earned more than \$1.1 million.

### **\$500,000 Messenger Stake**

After taking control and leading through fractions of :27, :55.3, and 1:23.3, Bettor's Wish (Dexter Dunn) was outlasted by an inside push to the wire by American Mercury (Tyler Buter) in a time of 1:51.3. U S Captain was a very game third after a first-over trip.



**Bettor's Wish was outlasted by an inside push to the wire by American Mercury in a time of 1:51.3. Mike Lizzi photo.**

"He was super sharp coming into the race," said Buter. "I came off Dexter's helmet there and he kicked off the gas. I think that was the winning move."

Owned by Crawford Farms Racing, Northfork Racing Stable, Chuck Pompey and Scott Bice, American Mercury is a son of [American Ideal](#)-Tessa Hanover. The 3-year-old gelding is trained by Chris Oakes. He sports a lifetime record of 17-9-3-3 and a bankroll of \$508,463. American Mercury paid \$16.20 to win.

— *Frank Drucker also contributed to this report*