

## North American Amateur Drivers Association's Series



Tony Verruso

Two five-horse divisions of trotters went to post in the North American Amateur Drivers Association's Series at Yonkers Raceway on Saturday, November 28 and when the judges hung the official signs Tony Verruso and Bob Heckkoff each emerged victorious in their respective divisions; Verruso with Wygant Prince and Heckkoff with No Recess. In his division Verruso took no prisoners after he gunned Wygant Prince to the lead and led the field by the quarter in :29.2. After a :31.1 breather Verruso got the field by the half in 1:01 and then Wygant Prince turned on the afterburners. The veteran gelding trotted the next stanza in :29.1 and cruised home an easy

winner in a 2:00.2 clocking. Although Bob Davis and Knockabout Rosie shadowed the winner throughout they couldn't overtake Wygant Prince and had to settle for second money. Cassa's Image finished third for Hannah Miller.

The winner, owned by Paul Minore and trained by Taylor Gower, notched his sixth seasonal triumph and for Verruso it marked his 60th driving victory of his amateur career.

In the other split Heckkoff nearly aped the strategy employed by Verruso when he left softly from the pylon position with No Recess and was looped on the first turn by Tagmaster (Tony Ciufettelli) only to retake before the quarter mile timer flashed :28.2.

Once on top No Recess seemed invincible trotting along comfortably and he even had a two-length as the field turned for home. But in the deep stretch the veteran Rich Boy gelding got leg weary and Dave Offenberg and King's Cavalier rallied from far back only to lose a head decision to Heckkoff's charge in time of 2:00.2. Hallanet and Paul Minore took home the show dough.

No Recess is owned by Heckkoff's R.H.B Ventures and Kyle Spagnola and trained by Spagnola. It was the trotters 9th seasonal victory and the 77th career winner driven by Bob Heckkoff.

Those non-betting races at Yonkers were the 10th in the NAADA series which will culminate in a \$6000 Consolation on Thursday at Monticello Raceway and a \$15,000 Final at Yonkers Raceway on Saturday.

**by John Manzi for NAADA**