

Sophomore fillies invade Yonkers in Thursday's NYSS Mike Cohen Pace

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

Yonkers, NY --- New York Sire Stakes return downstate Thursday night (Sept. 6) with Yonkers Raceway hosting the \$168,499 Mike Cohen Pace for 3-year-old fillies.

The event, remembering the publicity director at the Raceway as well as NBC Sports, goes in races eight, nine and 10.

The \$55,833 opening division is seemingly the lightest, with Line Dancer (Jordan Stratton, post one) retuning to statebred competition after winning a local overnight two starts ago. The daughter of [Art Major](#), co-owned by trainer Ricky Bucci and Blue Meadow Farm, was a Sire Stakes bridesmaid at Monticello last month.

Beachin N Kissin (Jason Bartlett, post two), Betterthangraduate (Brett Miller, post three) and Checkered Past (Jim Morrill Jr., post five) all have recent overnight wins.

The second \$55,833 Cohen event finds Solitary (Miller, post two) returning off a closing second in this past Saturday night's (Sept. 1) \$112,904 Lady Maud. The [American Ideal](#) miss, though just 1-for-15 this season, has her win against the statebreds.

Newsday (Stratton, post five) owns a local NYSS win (and another 'heater' win at Monticello), while Mink Pink (Bartlett, post three) was the scourge of the Excelsior ranks earlier in the season.

Thursday night's final \$56,833 Sire Stakes grouping is the marquee matchup, featuring Lady Maud winner Alexis Faith (Morrill Jr., post four). This daughter of [American Ideal](#) won that race (1:53.4) by barely extricating herself from the pocket. Alexis Faith, trained by Casie Coleman for co-owners West Wins Stable, Jim Fielding, J. Robert Darrow and Kevin McKinlay, is four-for-11 this season with earnings of \$226,388.

Alexis Faith opposes the red-hot Wisdom Tree (Matt Kakaley, post one), whose Sire Stakes resume reads five wins (including one here) and a second in six tries. The daughter of [Betterthancheddar](#), co-owned by Tom Pollack and Jeff Cullipher and trained by Ed Hart, has won nine of her dozen '18 tries overall with banking \$246,435. She's a month out since whipping the Catskills crowd (1:52.4) and owns a 1:49.4 life-best in the \$141,200 Nadia Lobell at Hoosier.

There's also a coupled-entry, the Ron Burke-trained Jewels Forreal (George Brennan, post two) and Tell Me A Joke (Miller, post seven).

Post time for the dozen-race wagering card is 6:50 p.m., however those early 5:30 p.m. attendees can watch a good, old-fashioned walkover. Windsun Magnolia (Jim Marohn Jr.) has the oval all to herself in a \$6,100 second-level Excelsior event.