

STRATTON SWEEPS SATURDAY NIGHT 42G CO-FEATURES
BY FRANK DRUCKER, Publicity Director, Empire City @ Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, NY, Saturday December 7, 2019—Jordan Stratton took down both halves of Yonkers Raceway's co-featured \$42,000 Open Handicaps Saturday night (Dec. 7th), doing so with Will Take Charge and big-table-debuting Raukapuka Ruler N.

It was odds-on Will Take Charge (\$2.90) who killed 'em softly—fractions-wise—in the week's marquee trot. Winning the post positions 5-thru-7 draw, he left, working around Winning Shadow (George Brennan) right around the 28-second opening quarter-mile. After a :57.2 intermission, the returning Obrigado (Dan Dube) surprised by moving first-up from fourth.

A 30-second third quarter (1:27.2) allowed Obrigado to hang around before slowing backing way. Meanwhile, Will Take Charge, who had faltered late in his past two tries, owned a length-and-a-half lead into the lane. He defeated a Lean Hanover (Jim Marohn Jr.) by that exact margin in 1:56.1 with a closing Swansea (Austin Siegelman), Winning Shadow and Sumatra (Jason Bartlett) settling for the remainder.

For millionaire Will Take Charge, a 6-year-old Kadabra gelding co-owned by (trainer) Jeff Gillis, Mac Nichol and Gerald Stay, it was his sixth win in 23 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$40, the triple returned \$217 and the superfecta paid \$704.

The weekly adult pace saw Raukapuka Ruler N (\$6.80)—from post No. 3—finish what he started (:28.1, :56.3, 1:23.2, life-best-matching 1:52.3). He repelled first-up Heaven's Gait (Brennan) down the backside, then owned a length-and-a-half lead in and out of the final turn. Saying Grace N (Marohn Jr.), the 17-10 fave who had angled out of the pocket, made up some ground but missed a length A late-arriving The Real One (Pat Lachance) was third, with Mac's Jackpot (Brent Holland) and Sunfire Blue Chip (Siegelman) grabbing the minors.

For second choice Raukapuka Ruler N, a 6-year-old Down Under Bettor's Delight gelding owned by (trainer) Peter Tritton, it was his fifth win in 11 '19 tries. The exacta paid \$23.60, the triple returned \$253.50 and the superfecta paid \$1,106

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(FFI...Frank Drucker, Yonkers Raceway Publicity Director, 914-968-4200)