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INAUGURAL YONKERS VS. FRANCE DRIVERS' CUP WRAPS UP JUNE 24 & JUNE 26 IN PARIS

Yonkers, New York - Yonkers Raceway's team of five premier drivers, led by points-leader Jordan Stratton, try to say "au revoir" to their French counterparts when the group travels across the Atlantic to Hippodrome de Vincennes in Paris for the second leg of the inaugural Yonkers vs. France Drivers' Cup Challenge. There's one race each next Friday, June 24, and Sunday, June 26.

The first leg saw Stratton win both Yonkers' races on March 20, one in a dead-heat with Yonkers captain **Jason Bartlett.** The locals won the opening round, 85 points to 47 (points awarded as 17/12/9/7/6/5/4/3/2/1, with five given in the event of a scratch).

In addition to Bartlett and Stratton, **Tyler Buter**, **Dan Dube** and **Pat Lachance** are representing Westchester against a potent French quintet of **Pierre Vercruysse** (captain), **Matthieu Abrivard**, **Nicolas Ensch**, **Pierre Levesque** and **Franck Ouvrie**.

"I've driven at Vincennes before (in the World Driving Championship), and the track is great, "Bartlett said. "It's an honor to represent both Yonkers and the U.S."

As for Stratton, he's keeping his eyes on the prize. "I have to make sure to bring a suitcase big enough to carry home the trophy," he said.

Recap of Opening Leg:

The two-nation competition began on **Empire City Casino's** historic half mile in a pair of 1 ½ mile trotting races which were simulcast to the French-hubbed audience.

In the first or two divisions raced at 1 ½ miles with 10 starters, Stratton, driving 23-1 longshot Lily's Swan Pond, stormed down the stretch to finish in a dead heat for the win with his Yonkers mate Bartlett, handling the even money favorite Hasty Profitt. HeadsAreGonna Turn, with Tyler Buter in the bike, was just a neck back in third, giving the Yonkers contingent a sweep of the first three spots in the competition. The race was timed in 2:31:2.

In the second division, Stratton gave the French a "kiss it goodbye" drive soaring to a seven and a quarter length win behind Cousin Eddie (\$7.40). Appropriately named Paris Princess N, with Frenchman Pierre Levesque in the sulky, was second. "Eddie," winning his sixth Race in eight starts this season, stopped the clock in 2:29:4. Massive Talent with Yonkers' Dan Dube driving was third.

About Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway:

Empire City Casino is one of the largest entertainment and gaming destinations in the northeast. Featuring 5,300 of the hottest slots, electronic craps, roulette, baccarat and sic bo, Empire City Casino also offers guests year-round harness racing and International simulcasting, live entertainment including the best party, tribute and Latin bands, comedy, New York's hottest DJ's, and more. A plethora of dining options will satisfy even the most discerning palate with Italian cuisine at Nonno's Trattoria; Dan Rooney's, a high-energy sports bar; Alley 810, a craft cocktail lounge with retro bowling lanes; and convenient delicious options at the International Food Court or Lil' Cocina. Visit Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway located at 810 Yonkers Avenue (off I-87 at Central Avenue) Yonkers, NY, Westchester County, open seven days a week from 10:00am to 6:00am. Visit www.empirecitycasino.com or call 914.968.4200 for information.

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