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Six World-Class Trotters from Europe Land at JFK Today for \$1 Million Yonkers International Trot on October 15 at Yonkers Raceway

Yonkers, New York - Six world-class trotters from Europe touched down this morning (October 5) at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York to compete in the 38th edition of the \$1 million **Yonkers International Trot**, set for Saturday afternoon, **October 15**, at **Yonkers Raceway**.

The arriving-group represents five of the seven countries that will vie for the purse equaling last year's New York State and raceway record. Elite trotters from Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, and Sweden (2) were on board, and will be joined by the United States (2) and Canada in the global trotting classic which was revived last year after a 20-year hiatus by raceway and **Empire City Casino** president and CEO **Timothy J. Rooney**.

The sextet of Euros that made the transcontinental journey, plus two United States flag-carriers and one Canadian stalwart, in alphabetical order, are as follows:

BBS Sugarlight – Norway
Explosive de Vie – Sweden
Flanagan Memory – Canada
Hannelore Hanover – USA (mare)
Jonesy – Finland
Oasis Bi – Italy
Obrigado – USA
On Track Piraten – Sweden
Resolve – USA
Tano Bork – Denmark

The European invaders departed from [Liège](#) Airport in eastern Belgium (close to the German city of Düsseldorf), and landed at 7:00 AM following the transcontinental flight of 5,960 kilometers or 3,703.4 miles. The journey traveled was eight hours and 55 minutes.

Three of the entrants – **BBS Sugarlight** (4th), **Oasis Bi** (5th) and **On Track Piraten** (7th) - competed in last year's Yonkers International. Last season's winner, Norway's **Papagayo E.**, is injured and unable to defend his title. Italy's **Ringostarr Treb** had accepted an invitation to participate this year but was scratched and did not make the trip.

The USA will have a triple threat in a trio of million dollar earners. The only mare in the field, **Hannelore Hanover** (driver **Yannick Gingras**), was a \$32,000 bargain purchase who has won 23 of 37 career races. **Resolve** (driver **Ake Svanstedt**), who has 14 career victories and was able to defeat Hannelore in the final of the

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Maple Leaf Trot on September 17, is the second American entry. **Obrigado** today became the third American to accept an invitation, replacing the scratched Ringostarr Treb. This 6-year-old Boy Band gelding has been the best thing to come out of Maine since bottled water, sporting career earnings of \$1,362,019. Obrigado has won six of his 14 seasonal starts (\$614,320), and comes off a win in the \$160,000 Dayton Trotting Derby this past Friday (1:53.2).

Yonkers Raceway's Frank Drucker and Cammie Haughton comprised the greeting party to welcome the visiting contingent. The elite trotting sextet was vanned to Newburg's airport for a two-day quarantine, and will then be shipped to Yonkers on Friday.

The horses actually still have not touched U.S. soil due to the quarantine. They were lowered on pallets and carefully loaded onto the vans which were then sealed for the trip to Newburgh's Stewart Airport for a two-day quarantine before being shipped to Yonkers on Friday.

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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