

By Frank Drucker

When last we saw Fleur de Lil A and driver Eric Goodell, they were winning Yonkers Raceway's \$42,500 Filly and Mare Open Handicap Pace from third-over.

A fortnight later, same tact, same result.

"Lil"--negotiating both the eight-hole a gapper in front of her--launched a big Friday night move in and out of the final turn.

LR Dancing Dream (Jim Pantaleano) made the lead passing a :27.1 opening quarter-mile. She then found a :55.3 intermission and 1:24.2 three-quarters, with Little Mermaid N (Stephane Bouchard) supplying the company.



The leader was done early stretch, swallowed up by "Lil", among others. Fleur de Lil A, last early, handled Hannah Isabel (Cat Manzi) by a length-and-a-half in 1:53.3, with Monochromatic (Matt Kakaley), Little Mermaid N and Gordy's Pet (Brent Holland) completing the cashers.

For Fleur de Lil A, a 7-year-old Down Under Armbro Operative mare owned by Luke McCarthy and trained by Noel Daley, she returned \$16.80 (fifth choice) for her fifth win in 16 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$183, with the triple returning \$1,754.

Say this much for Pembroke Prayer...he does not discriminate.

Three consecutive wins over three different ovals, the latest--after Scarborough and Saratoga--occurred in his Friday night local return.



Leaving from post position No. 6 in the weekly trotting feature, Pembroke Prayer--as the tepid 2-1 choice--handled the first turn, something several of his rivals could not say. They could, but they'd be lying.

He stepped around pylon assignee Batalj Launcher (Goodell), then strolled through fractions of :28, 58.1, 1:26.3 and 1:55.1. That effort duplicated both the fastest local trot mile of the season (Hurrikanebiggeorge) and the track record for aged geldings (shared by a couple of others).

Pembroke Prayer easily held Batalj Launcher at bay, winning by a couple of lengths. Summertime Yankee (Kakaley), Lady in the Wind (Manzi) and Master Pine (Jason Bartlett) also made appearance fees.

For Pembroke Prayer, a 6-year-old Like a Prayer gelding co-owned by (trainer) Mark Ford and William Varney, he returned \$6.40 for his 10th win in 34 seasonal starts. The exacta paid \$30.20, with the triple returning \$346.

Yonkers' current live schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday) remains in effect, with first post at 7:10 PM. Evening simulcasting accompanies all live programs, with afternoon simulcasting available around the NYRA schedule. Wednesday afternoon simulcasting ends at approximately 5:30 PM.

Photo: [Mike Lizzi](#)