

## The Empire Report - Friday, January 18, 2019 - Race Analysis

**RACE 1** - (2) TOWNSLIGHT HANOVER may be worth a play in the opener - figures to benefit from having a speedball right inside of him, and he should also be quite a bit tighter after last week's useful tightener - price figures to be fair in this competitive event. (1) WILD AGAIN certainly returned sharp off the hiatus, flying to the top from the outside and never looking back - clearly eligible to repeat, but the fact that he's moving up AND going to a new barn make him at least a bit risky...at a short price. (3) SHOW THE FASHION finished with good interest into a fast mile last time - another easy trip could land him another good slice. (5) TWOMACSONESHADOW may not have been fully cranked up last week, but still was a close 4th - won here 7X in '18, and he's one to consider if the price is juicy. (4) BUGSY MAGUIRE changes hands after a steady 4th in his '19 debut - another that can show up late with the right trip. (8) ZIGGY SKY returned just as sharp as he left, going a BIG effort from Post 7 last week - unfortunately, gets no post luck tonight. (7) WE THINK ALIKE delivered the win last week, but is facing a tougher task here

**RACE 2** - (2) SALLY FLETCHER A was very sharp off the 2 month layoff, pacing a BIG third quarter to roll past the leader, then digging in gamely for 2nd to a very promising winner - barn has been sending out live ones so far, and this mare figures to be very tough in this spot. (1) ANNABETH wasn't all that sharp for the latter part of the year but looked pretty good off the freshening, rallying steadily for 4th after a shuffle - should have a pretty big say with that start under her belt. (6) MILADY DENVER A was pretty good heading into the winter break, and that qualifier should have her ready for her return - an aggressive start could lead to be a pretty good piece here. (7) SHESJUSTADELIGHT N was a solid rallying 3rd in her seasonal debut, but obviously the move outside will make things much tougher this time around. (5) SUDDEN CHANGE N & (8) DONGAL RUNDLSCRK N for 3rd/4th?

**RACE 3** - (4) LACHIE MAGUIRE N was very sharp off the winter break, pacing strong at both ends of the mile while finishing 2nd to a very promising recent import - generally faces better (overall) fields than this, and looms the one to beat...but at a pretty short price. (3) ORILLIA JOE really had no excuse to get beat last week but that's just him (will lose in an "easy" spot, then win in a "tough" one) - dangerous any time he goes behind the gate, and probably the main threat. (2) LUCIANO N rarely wins but even he couldn't mess up last week's very easy spot - figures for a close up trip tonight, and should be around for a good chunk of this. (8) OZONE BLUE CHIP paced evenly from a no chance spot last time - draws worst again, but maybe he can steal 3rd/4th at a nice price? (6) ROOTIN TOOTIN was a decent 2 and 3YO, but this is a tough spot for his 4YO debut - just watch, for now. (7) MASTER THE VIEW is undeniably sharp, but seems buried.

**RACE 4** - (2) FIRST CLASS HORSE basically "conceded" from Post 8 last week, but finished with sneaky good pace from his impossible spot - have to believe he'll be cranked up for a serious mile tonight, and expect to see him aggressively handled - solid player. (5) ARDIE B SPEED had the misfortune of catching a scary sharp winner last Sat. night but was still plenty sharp himself (for 2nd) - goes to a new barn here, but still think he's a major threat. (4) CHEYENNE REIJANE probably is better one level down, but still holds his own with these when the trip works out - include in exotics. (3) BUGGER BRUISER has looked good since the barn change, and the move to 30s makes sense - another that belongs in exotics. (8) SKYFUL OF LIGHTERS has been terrific since arriving, including last weeks score - brutal spot, though!

**RACE 5** - (3) SAIL TO THE BEACH has become a bit camera shy lately, but she's rock solid in this class and this a questionable field - maybe Brennan will have better luck with her? (6) FILLY FORTY SEVEN easily handled cheaper last week - steps up now, but as noted, this is a pretty modest crew...trainer/driver combo has been red hot to start the meet! (2) BETABCOOL N has lost a step or two but her overall recent form has been solid, and she was a good 3rd in her YR return last week - would be no surprise at all. (5) BETTERB CHEVRON N makes her U.S. debut for connections that win with a LOT of these - if the board says she's a "go", you may want to pay attention! (1) MOTU MOONBEAM N has been away since Nov. - check the board? (4) ROYAL KNOCKOUT never wins, but often can rally late for smaller pieces - 3rd/4th

**RACE 6** - Very "soft" Open, but also very evenly matched: (7) ITTY BITTY re-found her form late in the year, and has just gotten sharper ever since - absolutely jogged last week for red hot barn and while things figure to be tougher from Post 7, if Bartlett can improve position a bit at the start she'll be very tough again. (2) CULINARY DELIGHT N probably needed her last, and did finish okay once she found room in the stretch - could be sharper this time around. (1) ELLA MICHELLE A won at 38-1, won at 40-1, and just missed in her last start of '18 at 22-1 -- leave her out at your own risk! (4) AMATEUR HOUR improved all through last season, climbing all the way up the class ladder - had a useful tightener, and is another that can be sharper this week. (5) CLEAR IDEA had an erratic 2018 season - the talent is there, but she needs to bring her "A Game" for a shot at a big piece. (3) BRAZUCA may be a little cheap, and has missed 3 weeks

**RACE 7** - (5) VORACITY has been away for 5 weeks but the barn has been sending them out in decent form off the layoffs - definitely the "best" horse in here, deserves top billing, but don't bet the rent money at a short price! (6) BALLERAT BOOMERANG was winless here in 8 tries last year but hit board in half of them (did have 10 wins overall, on the year) - out of town form suggests he's ready to be a tough player in here, but the barn has REALLY struggled this week...mixed feelings. (3) LIGHTNINGONMYFEET was unable to hang on with cheaper last time, but did finish 2nd - tighter now, and looms a real threat if the top two fail to deliver. (1) TORRID BROMAC N had 7 wins here last year, figures to benefit from qualifying twice, and draws the rail with Bartlett - can't blame anybody for taking a shot with him. (2) MEETYOUAT MIDNIGHT was camera shy last year, but raced well (for pieces) many times - eligible to do so here, as well. (7) LATE MAIL N certainly fits, does have leaving speed, but check the board to see if he's "serious"

**RACE 8** - (2) DOCTOR BUTCH drew Post 8 for his return and used that mile to sharpen up off the hiatus - gets major post relief and the fact that Bartlett takes him suggests that it's time for him to get serious - winning spot if the classy veteran is ready. (3) TEXAS TERROR N was scratched lame back in Sept. but qualified nicely (beat import Don Domingo) then finished with plenty of interest in his return last week - would absolutely have him on my tickets. (7) ANYTHINGFORLOVE A had an excellent 2018 season and has been facing some tough competition at The Meadows - debuts tonight for the "Super Siblings", and that has been a winning angle in the past...another that has to be included. (6) MCERLEAN probably benefited from the few weeks off and his last effort wasn't bad at all - willing to include underneath. (4) PROVEN DESIRE & (1) SHNEONUCRZYDIAMND A are possibilities for the very bottom of the gimmicks

**RACE 9** - Tough race! (4) BARRY BLACK was sharp to end 2018, then landed in a hopeless spot for his return last week - figures for a much better journey here, and worth a play if the price is square. (3) OOH RAH fell off the map after a promising (belated) start to his career, but lit up the tote board here last year, and has gone some very good miles since then - another I'd certainly use at the right price. (7) LIFE WELL LIVED is stepping up quite a bit, but he's very sharp and Bartlett is the right guy to send him out of there - chance to stick around a long way if not used too hard early on. (5) BLENHEIM is an erratic sort, but was very good winning 2 back, and can be a player IF he behaves. (6) TIDQUIST has used inside trips to grab a pair of 3rds at this level - maybe he can do it again? (1) DELCREST MASSY is a bit cheap, off a bad date, but does draw best and may be able to take home a piece.

**RACE 10** - (6) LYNBAR ROSE N buried cheaper at Fhd. in her U.S. debut but was VERY impressive in stepping way up, and winning here last week - steps up one notch, but acts like it shouldn't be a problem - stick with her. (1) DUDESALADY was a steady 3rd last time, and now draws the pole with Bartlett - good chance to land somewhere on this ticket. (3) CAROBBEAN PACETRY is the "x factor" here - hard to know how tight she'll be off the layoff, but the barn HAS sent out plenty of similar live ones, and she just may be worth a look, at least underneath. (5) SHEZ SUGARSWEET A was very impressive in last week's front end score, and is now 3-1-1-1 locally - include her in exotics. (7) TRUTH AND LIBERTY endured a very tough trip upon arrival from Pompano but still raced super for 2nd - only knock here is the post, but still worth including in the exotics, at a nice price. (2) BELLATRICKS may need one off the layoff