The Empire Report - Friday, September 20, 2019 - Race Analysis

RACE 1 - (4) AMERICAN VENTURE moved to a red hot barn last week, got a perfect trip and had no trouble exploding home for the "pocket rocket" victory - not sure he'll get such a dream trip tonight, but he still a solid chance to repeat against these. (3) DEERFIELD BEACH was a sharp upset winner 3 back - big go in his next but unfortunately got parked, then paced evenly for 4th from off the pace in last - in and outer can be a threat here if he's on his best game. (1) COACH CAL is just 1 for 21 this year and that win was in a basement claimer...that being said, he's been sharp for a long time, was especially good last week, and the rail does put him in play for a good piece, even vs. 20s. (2) WIND BLAST is the "x factor" - very capable of beating these but dropped to a claimer on 8/30 and was scratched that night - maybe a red flag?

RACE 2 - Several strong players here: (1) SHOWMEYOURGUNS was a sharp 7 hole winner vs. this type 4 back - ok 4th vs. better in next, no chance 8 hole in next, but plenty of late trot last week vs. runaway winner in 1:54 mile - post edge may be the difference here. (6) KADABRA QUEEN beat similar from Post 8 upon arrival from Canada - broke next, stretch traffic on 9/6, and another BIG 8 hole try in last, with trot at both ends of the mile - very live player. (4) ANOTHER BREATH was clearly well meant in last, giving a very sharp Blenheim a major tussle - has hit board in all 3 local tries this year. (2) ANNAPOLIS HALL drops, gets a big switch back to Stratton, and anything close to his best makes him a major threat. (3) DELI DELITE and (5) URSIS DES CAILLONS are likely looking at scraps only vs. these.

RACE 3 - (4) SAFE FROM TERROR beat this class on 8/2 and just missed twice, vs. better, since then - wasn't at her best at Tioga last week, but anything close to her "A Game" would be enough to handle these. (5) QUEEN LOSTRIS N wired a bit lesser at Chester 2 back, then had plenty of pace from an impossible spot returning here in last - can get a good chunk here if she works out a good trip. (1) ALWAYS WOGGY can be excused for last week's back of the pack clunker, but her prior is also a little shaky, with even that recent win being just "ok" - hard to ignore her from this spot, but also hard to love her (at least on top). (6) BROWN BRINNY was quickly reclaimed last week, and she's been a model of consistency - Post 6 may limit her tonight, though. (2) LIVINGINTHEDREAM & (3) BLUSH HANOVER possible for small pieces

RACE 4 - (1) NERVE OF STEEL N was well backed for his YR debut, went a big first over trip but came up 2nd best to a very sharp (repeat) winner - makes amends from the pole tonight. (4) SANATTLE SLEW was sent on a suicide mission 2 back and seemed to still be paying for it in his last - does good work with a patient trip, and figures to get that tonight...could rebound with a nice effort here. (5) OUR REGAL IDEAL was just 3rd (at 103-1!) in a 40, and now drops down to a much more reasonable $25K claimer - at 15-1 ML, he's worthy of at least a look! (2) ROCK ON PRECIOUS is razor sharp but wouldn't be the first horse to regress leaving his former barn - be careful! (3) DIAMOND COWBOY needs to better than his last two!

RACE 5 - (2) GLENFERRIE BLADE A finally landed in a spot where she could be more aggressive last week and converted with a dead game victory - finds herself in another spot she should handle tonight. (4) AMBRO COURAGE N has been solid (overall) lately for a barn that's been quietly doing good things - not a bad one to use in exotics. (3) ROCKIN THE BOYS A was a game front end winner vs. a bit easier last week - been just "ok" at this level in the past, but still looks like a prime candidate for a good piece tonight. (1) SLICK ARTIST A is definitely on the cheaper side but returns to YR is fine form, and the rail gives her a good chance to land somewhere in the gimmicks. (6) KOTARE YARRA N seems a bit risky right now, with 3 straight breaks before beating lesser in last (at PcD).

RACE 6 - (6) ALEXAS POWER weakened on the front end last week but I still think she prefers chasing - one of several possibilities in tonight's Open. (5) BETTER N CHEVRON N was a "good" 3rd last week, but has been "super" several times recently - belongs on your tickets. (1) ANGELS PRIDE came up 2nd best last week off the perfect trip, but is looking at another good trip tonight, and could easily land another big chunk. (8) FEELIN RED HOT may go "easy" of last week's Ohio disaster...or she may just blast to the top and win her 10th of the season - wouldn't want her to beat me! (2) LIBERTY ROSE N and (7) LADY DELA RENTA are razor sharp as they make their first tries at this level - we'll learn more tonight!
RACE 7 - (2) DO OVER HANOVER is clearly on top of his game right now, and moves to a barn that has been winning off the claim all year - by no means an "easy" spot, but we'll stick with him! (4) HALF A BILLION has been very good lately, and his last is WAY better than even that good looking line could suggest - if he's as good for his new connections this week, he'll have a big say in the outcome. (5) SWIFT AS A SHADOW is rock solid at this level, and comes into this having taken 3 of his last 4 - catches a tough crew tonight, though, and also faces an "iffy" trip...may be bit vulnerable? (8) BLUEBIRD RECON has had no prayer in his 2 local starts (outside posts vs. 40s) but still looked fine each time - gets a "winning" drop, but also gets stuck with another 8 hole...still looking to include him in the gimmicks, hoping for a good trip. The other 3 are all capable 25s, but may not be able to be players tonight

RACE 8 - (4) MARLEYS GUY continues to enjoy an excellent 2019 season, a completely transformed trotter ever since joining the high % "Super Sibling" operation - returns from Fhd. to a fairly soft local spot, and is supposed to wire these. (1) NO EXCUSES may seem a little cheap off his recent PcD efforts but he's done some good work here at The Hilltop, and reunites with his favorite pilot - expecting a strong effort. (2) SEVEN IRON has missed 3 weeks since a Chester clunker, but perhaps that's a good thing - on his best, he can be a player here...include underneath. (5) SIMPLY VOLO's only local win was at the bottom level, but he can hang with these too, when he behaves...another to use in the gimmicks. (3) DARK POOL hasn't been great lately, but the inside draw at least puts him in play for 3rd/4th

RACE 9 - (4) SHEZZA GNP N got shuffled all the way back to last, came out 4th over, then finished with good pop last week - seems overdue for a live trip...and maybe a win? (6) TIPP CITY was a sharp front end winner off the drop last week and that can only help her confidence - good enough to move back up and be a big player tonight, especially if Holland blasts her out of there. (2) TELL ME A JOKE has become a consistent Fri, night player - draws inside, and could easily pick up a nice chunk here. (3) PATANJALI N suggests that there's more to her than we've seen so far - might have ranked her a bit higher if the "other" brother had stayed on board (Jordan took the top choice). (7) SHES PUKKA N was better last week than her line suggests - terrible draw, but not a bad value horse for the gimmicks. (1) QUEEN JOSEPHINE draws best. but needs to show up on top of her game if she hopes to grab a share.

RACE 10 - (1) MACH IT A PAR not only drops to face MUCH lesser than she's used to, she also draws the rail - likely looking at $2.40 wire to wire winner. (2) ROSE RUN TONI has been in absolute career form for nearly 2 months....so it's incredible that her new trainer quickly figured out that she was actually BLEEDING while accomplishing all of this (adds Lasix tonight) - may complete a pretty short exacta. (5) BYE BYE MICHELLE has landed on 2 good trips since returning from PcD and picked up a pair of 3rds as a result - chance for another piece tonight. (3) LOVINEVERYMINUTE faltered on the lead vs. lesser in her last pair, but sometimes likes to just sit and rally - throw her in underneath. (4) SUES NIGHT OUT has elevated her game recently, but had no chance in last (shuffled badly) - may add some value for 3rd/4th

RACE 11 - (5) FASHION CREDITOR has won his last 3 at this level, actually figures to be a fair price, and gets the narrow nod against a solid NW20000 bunch. (2) LEAN HANOVER hasn't been an "Open" performer this year, but he's surely a major threat at THIS level - Stratton beat this class with him 2X in July. (1) BUEN CAMINO was also a winner the last time he dropped to this level, and the rail only helps his chances tonight - would be no surprise at all. (3) LIMERANCE beat this class on 8/2, and was very good in last week's 3rd place finish (ignore the beaten lengths, as the winner won by 11, in a 1:54 mile) - one to include in exotics, for some value. (4) MONEY MAVEN would prefer things one level down, but is quite capable of pieces at this level too - 3rd/4th? The outside 3 all fit, but face tough journeys tonight

RACE 12 - Very tough finale! (6) ROBYN CAMDEN is really hitting on all cylinders right now - faces very solid field, but may be able to trip out and beat them. (4) DGS ELSA is just another of the remarkable transformation projects that have become the norm for the "Super Siblings" - drops from the Open, and is a clear threat. (5) KAITLYN N made a very costly early break last week, but her big recovery confirms how sharp she is right now - another possibility. (3) QUITE A SIGHT has 2 recent wins one level down, but also had good "sneaky" pace in last week's Open - no reason she can't land a share. (2) KEENE OLIVIA is enjoying a career year, seemingly in top form for months - another than can land somewhere in the exotics