The Empire Report – Friday, May 10, 2024 – Race Analysis

RACE 1 – (6) P C FREE WHEELING has been razor sharp for several starts, her record only spoiled when parked the mile 2 back – she can probably leave well enough to establish a decent early spot here, and the price should still be decent (despite her fine form) – good value play in tonight’s opener. (4) WARRIOR ONE seemed to be in a major rut coming into his last but the very classy 8YO bounced back with a dead game front end score – bodies well for another big try tonight, but he also figures to be overbet off that win. (1) GRINDER was invisible in his last pair but he’s more than capable of being a big player here if he shows up on his best game – certainly worth a look at that 8-1 ML price. (2) CASSIUS HANOVER held his own nicely in the recent John Brennan Trotting Series, picking up several smaller pieces – an easy trip puts him in play for a slice tonight as well. (5) ON HIGHER GROUND was scr. sick from his last but the bigger concern is that even though 2nd in his prior two, he was VERY rough at times during the mile – could be a bit vulnerable at the moment. (3) KINDA LUCKY LINDY’s best recent work has come vs. easier, and he may need a bit easier spot to be a serious player. (7) BARRY BLACK was a good 3rd off a bad date last week but he draws outside while moving up in class tonight – tough assignment. (8) NO DRAMA PLEASE looked very good in wins over cheaper 2 and 3 back but was a “meh” 4th last week, and now faces tougher while landing all the way outside.

RACE 2 – (1) SUPER GIRL made $91K at 3, qualifying for the OhSS Final – she changed barns for her 4YO campaign and while she’s still winless in 5 starts, her NJ efforts suggest that she’s landed in a local field that could help her find the winner’s circle…but a very short price. (3) WOODMERE HARRIET is just 20-1-1-1 locally (last 3 years) but has often faced better and sometimes raced decently – may be able to pick up a decent piece vs. these. (5) SWEET AL LOU debuted locally for our leading barn last week but didn’t take a lot of tote action, and wasn’t any factor (in a pretty soft field) – she’ll probably come around at some point, but hard to take a shortish price right now. (6) BLUEBIRD GRAF turned in a better effort last week, right there all the way at 35-1- tonight’s draw may slow her back down, however. (4) CAPTAINS STAR looked good when 3rd in her 2024 return but then regressed quickly in her next pair – needs to find a better spot to be a legitimate player tonight. (2) KATHYS MOMENT is 0 for 17 at YR and her recent out of town form is less than encouraging – the good draw seems her best asset here.

RACE 3 - (3) FOR A DREAMER seemed to be in a winning spot last week but somehow got caught behind the winner’s eye-popping, head scratching 1:55 mile and had to settle for 2nd best – good chance to make amends tonight. (4) QUIK SILVR BLUECHIP raced ok last week, ending up 3rd in the same race where the top choice was 2nd – logical player for another good piece tonight. (2) VOYAGE TO PARIS has been highly inconsistent for a barn that’s really hit the skids lately (0 for 38 since the beginning of April) – if he can produce one of his better efforts, he has a chance to land somewhere on the ticket. (1) WILY WALLY won at this level with a pocket trip on 2/23 but has failed to his board in his 7 other local starts this year – the rail draw does put him in play for a piece, though. (5) IN MY DREAMS wasn’t “good” last week but at least he “functioned” (after a slew of poor outings) – we’ll see if he can build on that with a better try tonight. (6) BAZILLIONAIRE was a little better last week, but faces a tough task from Post 6. (7) BROWNIE is the outsider…both literally and figuratively.

RACE 4 – (1) HOOLIE N HECTOR remains winless in 2024 but he can certainly be forgiven for getting outgamed last week by the classy WARRIOR ONE – this feels like a spot where he can finally get over the hump, but not one to bet the rent money on (at a short price). (5) TJORRONE’S 5 starts in 2024 have been mixed for sure, but he did just miss here to a very sharp P C FREE WHEELING 2 back – if he brings his best (and behaves), he can be a major threat. (6) INFINITY STONE hit the top last week and raced about 10-15 lengths better than his “typical” effort, never stopping in an eye-popping 1:55 mile – can he be counted on to repeat that mile…THAT is the $64,000 question! (4) THE LAST CHAPTER made an uncharacteristic miscue 2 back but did recover quickly and finish 2nd – raced ok from the back last week, and could be in the mix here with a quick start. (7) CREATIVE VENTURE feels a bit off his game and draws outside off 17 days – prefer to just watch this week. (2) KASHA V seemed to have gotten his act together after adding hopples but seems to have begun regressing in his last pair – prefer others. (3) ALONG IN TIME wasn’t involved in either of his 2024 starts (in PA) – good week to pass, and watch.

RACE 5 – (1) MAN DONTFORGET ME has been banging heads with (much) better all year (and every year) and may have had this class drop in mind when she just toured the oval from Post 7 last week – willing to hop on board here, looking for her to bring her best (and she’s had success with Brennan in the past). (4) MISS DOTTIE MAE’s last effort was sharper than it looks, and she’s actually gone a bunch of big miles going back to February – should be
able to have a big say tonight, with any decent trip. (2) MORNING HAS BROKEN has lost some pop on her fastball but is still a solid player at this level – a good trip can out her right there at the wire. (5) CHERLYS SHADOW OW was handled aggressively the last 2 weeks but came up disappointing in the latter stages – her barn has really come to life over the past week, however, and maybe her chances should be upgraded a bit? (7) OUR LADY LARA A had shown a ton of potential not too long ago but seems to have fallen apart up at Stga. – she moved to our leading trainer for her last start (at Chester), but a tough trip (off a bad date) left her tiring late – has to be worth at least a look at that 20-1 ML price. (3) HALLELUJAH HANOVER is winless in 12 starts this year, facing mostly cheaper – maybe she can save ground for minor spoils? (6) COMMANDER CATHY was a close 2nd in her last pair but with good trips, from the pole – faces a much tougher assignment tonight. (8) COWGIRL LILLY trailed from a similar spot last week – leaning to others

RACE 6 – (2) HIGH FASHION STAR ships in sharp from NJ and does have a strong local record – as noted before, her barn has been ice cold here lately ...maybe this mare can help break a long losing streak? (6) MY AUGUST MOON A won 9 of 11 in Australia last year, ending her season with a Grade 1 victory – her barn is clicking this year at an almost unimaginable 40% clip, and she has 3 preps getting ready for her U.S. debut – lots to like, other than the possibility of a very short price. (4) EASY TO PLEASE still hasn’t gotten back to “peak form”, but she’s a bit better than she was for much of 2023 – another class drop could put her right in the mix tonight. (7) RACY ROXY A lands a horrible spot returning from Stga. but she raced very well here in 4 recent starts, and should offer some good value from out here – worth a look, at least for exotics. (5) ULTIMATE SPEED steps up off a nice trip win over a bit easier – she’s been a solid player all year, and a live trip gives her a chance to make some late noise. (1) HELLO YES HI toughed one out on the front end last week, but does faces better now – hard to say if she can be as effective with this crew. (3) PEMBROKE SOUTHIE is listed on the bottom only because somebody has to be...but she’s done more than enough good work to have a say tonight

RACE 7 – (1) KARMA SEELSTER beat this class on 1/8 before hitting board in 4 Matchmaker Legs – landed in a no-chance spot for the Final, but should appreciate the class drop, week off, and rail draw! (5) GOLDEN QUEST N was already enjoying an outstanding year BEFORE upping her game even more after last week’s barn change – we’ll see if she’s good enough right now to give the classy top choice a serious battle. (4) DELITFULCATHERIN N is definitely off her game right now but the $647K earner usually bounces back eventually – bit risky at the moment, but hardly impossible. (3) TWIN B SUNKISSED finished ok from a hopeless spot last week, was a winner (vs. a bit easier) the week before, and was 2nd behind #5 the start before that – belongs in your exotics. (2) REC TIME has a bad habit of gapping for extended periods during the mile – if Dube can keep her at least somewhat motivated, she’ll have a chance to rally late for a small piece. (7) DRAGONS LUCKY LADY has gone plenty of solid efforts at these higher levels but may be too post compromised to have much say tonight (6) LUCKY ARTIST A has been unreliable at best lately – tough spot, even if she shows up in a good mood

RACE 8 – (5) LIT DE ROSE figured to be handled conservatively last week (first start after winning the Matchmaker Final) but still was her usual sharp self, sitting last then rallying for 2nd – she lands outside again (in the 5 horse field), and we’ll go with her on top tonight...but probably wouldn’t be betting the farm at a short price. (3) SILK CLOUDED A was sharper than she looked coming into her last and in hindsight, was a big overlay at the 20-1 payoff – she may very well be the main danger tonight as well...but you know what they say about missing the wedding! (2) MC ANGEL gave it her best on the front end (making the jump up to the Invitational) and did well to end up 3rd behind the top pair – could be in line for a similar outcome tonight. (4) DOUGS BABE A has been a little too sluggish in almost ever start this year – can certainly rally for a piece, but sticking with others on top. (1) MILLWOOD BONNIE N threw her first dud in ages last week and now has to move UP to the Open – prefer others this week

RACE 9 – (1) TRUE BLUE HANOVER had the misfortune of starting off her 4YO campaign in the Matchmaker Series – while she wasn’t a factor, she also didn’t embarrass herself – she jogged with the class relief last week and even though she’ll be facing tougher tonight, she may be able to handle these too. (2) ARCO N shipped in sharp from Buffalo and raced very well (first over) in her YR debut – no reason she can’t be right back in the thick of things tonight. (5) SALE EL SOL is another that was simply over her head in those Matchmaker legs, but also wasn’t terrible – makes her first start since then (going back to her old trainer), and should be able to have a say in the outcome. (4) UPTOWN HANOVER would have jogged off that trip last week if even close to her best – she may find that top form some time soon, but for now she seems a bit vulnerable at a relatively short price. (6) VILLA GE JADE has missed some time after being scratched sick from her last and draws poorly tonight – definitely leaning elsewhere. (3) ELISES DELIGHT was a winner last week but with a perfect trip in a “fall apart” race –
seems unlikely to be able to replicate that effort vs. these. (7) GAME OF SHADOWS has had a pretty good year so far but faces a daunting task from this spot. (8) SUGAR BRITCHES was distanced in her NJ qualifier (pacing in 1:58.4!) and didn’t seem to actually be qualified to race here on 4/19 – she finished distanced THAT night as well, and it definitely doesn’t do the public a service allowing her to keep entering.

RACE 10 – (1) DONATO PATRIOT K made an unfortunate miscue here on 4/12 when sent off as the odds-on choice dropping to this level – he’s come up with 3 straight sharp efforts across the river since then, and we’ll look for him to make amends coming back to Yonkers. (2) DIAMANTE TRIO IT hit a rough patch for a few starts but was back on her game last week, a pocket rocket winner in a season’s best 1:56 – remains very dangerous. (4) BLUE BIRD BISHOP took all kinds of $$ from Post 8 two back (2nd time for his new barn) and raced very well for 3rd – never got in play last start, but moves inside and could be part of the equation tonight. (6) FULL RIGHTS get some class relief but gets no luck with the draw – he’ll need some trip luck from this spot, but not a bad one for the bottom of exotics at that 20-1 ML price. (3) STREET GOSSIP beat a weak bunch last week but the easy win may help boost his confidence a bit – willing to consider for a small slice. (5) SWISS HOUSE ON FIRE should appreciate a bit of class relief but does catch a pretty solid field for this level– probably looking at only a minor share. (7) WINDSONG PIONEER gave it a good try on the front end last week (2nd to #2) but that was from the pole – the move to Post 7 does figure to really hurt. (8) DARBYSHIRE struggled from a similar spot last week and could be in the same boat tonight, even with some class relief.