

## The Empire Report – Friday, June 27, 2025 – Race Analysis

**RACE 1** – (3) BLACKHAWK ZETTE won here as the favorite on 4/10 at the NW20000 level, making his first start of the year – he's faced much tougher out of town since then, and was our clear choice LAST week (when scratched due to transportation issues) – remains the solid choice. (7) SUPER DUPER COOPER is the big question mark – he had some big moments at 2 & 3, but has struggled to get his season going so far as a 4YO...he switched hands after his last NJ start, and lands in a very high % barn that can pick one up in a hurry – he was Bartlett's choice, but also lands in a very tough spot for his first Yonkers try of the year – mixed feelings! (1) OPTRIX hung brutally in the latter stages 2 back, then tired in the lane after a first over bid last week – perhaps an easy trip from the pole would help his chances for a good piece tonight. (4) BARRY BLACK was one of the barn's multiple form-reversing winners over the past 2 weeks – he'll face much tougher tonight, but still has to be considered for at least a small piece. (5) CRAZYLAND recently returned from a 4 month layoff and returns to YR off a pair of wins over cheaper at Chester – Bartlett does opt for #7, though, and that may not bode well for this guy's chances tonight. (2) VINNY DE VIE hasn't been at his sharpest and just missed 3 weeks after a sick scratch – leaning towards others. (6) CREATIVE VENTURE has been stuck on smaller pieces for a while, and often vs. easier – tonight's draw won't help.

**RACE 2** – Park MGM Filly Pace: (3) THE LAST MARTINI banked over \$500K as a 2YO on the strength of a victory (here at Yonkers) in the NYSS Final, as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in the She's A Great Lady, and Breeder's Crown– she's been super so far in her 4 three year old starts, and looms a prohibitive favorite tonight! (1) FASHION TERROR showed promise at 2, winning 4 of 8 starts – she's come back strong at 3, and was runner-up to the top choice in a NYSS at Tioga three back – decent chance she can complete that exacta once more. (4) DRESSED TO KILL has been getting sharper each week into her 3YO campaign, and comes into this off a pair of wins and a 2<sup>nd</sup> in her last 3 NY Excelsior starts – might be next in line, especially with Yannick on board. (2) FAMILY JEWEL is a solid 8-3-2-1 to start off her career, and her barn has really done fine work here for the past year or so – definitely gets a class test tonight, though. (5) INTRICACY scored a nice 1:51.3 victory at Chester 2 back but weakened on the lead when facing better in her next – tonight's draw probably won't help her chances.

**RACE 3** – NY NY MILE: (3) CHAPVIOUS was terrific to start off her 2YO season, winning her career debut here at Yonkers (NYSS) with a VERY sharp :27.4 final quarter– she jogged at Buffalo in her next, was a good 3<sup>rd</sup> at Tioga but went on the shelf for the season after a break at VD on 7/26 – she was killed by a terrible drive in her first start back at 3 (give her a pass), but rebounded with a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> at VD last week – maybe she's ready to deliver her best tonight? (4) DEVIOUS BABE made a break here last year in her career debut but was 2<sup>nd</sup> in a NYSS at BR the next week – she was turned out after a sick scratch in her next and has been solid since returning at 3, hitting board in all 5 starts – Andy M. comes over to drive tonight, and that can only help her chances. (1) ROYAL MISSION earned nearly \$300K at 2, which included a win right here in the NUSS Final – she's been “good” so far at 3, but her last couple weren't “great”, and she does figure to be the favorite...maybe a little vulnerable? (2) SHES A SHOE IN won the PaSS at 2 but has been a little slow to find that top form so far at 3 – it feels like she's on the right track, and a big price makes her worth at least a look. (5) SANTA CATERINA hails from top connections, but she's off to a slow start in 2025 – hard to endorse at that 2-1 ML price. (6) HALFADOZEN breezed through the Weiss Series but things turned sour shortly after that – tough to hop on board right now, especially with the outside draw

**RACE 4** - Park MGM Filly Pace: (2) FANSVILLE started her career with a pair of blowout Excelsior victories but went on the shelf after a tiring 5<sup>th</sup> in a NYSS try upstate – has come back solid at 3, and recent picked up a pair of NYSS 3rds behind the outstanding THE LAST MARTINI...feels like the one to knock off in this easier spot. (5) MRS CHEESE was a solid 4<sup>th</sup> in a NYSS at VD last week, finishing a spot behind the top choice – she raced very well for 2<sup>nd</sup> in her only local start, and has been improving nicely all year – could offer a fair price tonight. (1) PLEA SE BE YOU won her 2<sup>nd</sup> career start here at Yonkers and returns off a nice rallying score in NJ – the right trip makes her a legitimate threat. (3) HUNTINGFORCHROME won 2 of 4 as a 2YO and had already taken 4 of 6 at 3, including three straight Excelsior victories– would be no surprise at all in this well matched field (4) MARTINI STAR raced very well when 2<sup>nd</sup> in her only local try this year, hurt that night by a bad trip – she's just 1 for 13, however, and that has us leaning more towards others for the top prize.

**RACE 5** – Tough race: (6) RITSON had been stuck in terrible spots (vs. much tougher fields) so it was no surprise to see him heavily backed in last week's easier spot...or to see him dominate that softer crew – he steps up a notch but meets some shaky foes, and may have built enough confidence with that last win to handle these too. (8) DRIBB

LING BI has been doing good work in PA and feels like a very good fit with these – he'll need some major trip luck to overcome Post 8, but he does have appeal at that 20-1 ML price. (2) SWISS HOUSE ONFIRE is 0 for 12 this year and just hasn't been finishing well enough lately – on the flip side, his barn has sent out some nice-priced, form reversing winners over the last couple of weeks with lesser form than he has – another possible upsetter? (7) TEXSONG SOPRANO is a streaky sort and is definitely well off his best game right now – he does face easier, though, and a quick wake up call wouldn't be out of the question. (4) IMMIGRANT AM S wouldn't be a shock in here but he's winless in 7 local tries, and his lone win of the year came vs. much cheaper at PcD – hard to justify a play at that 9/5 ML price. (5) B NICKING has his moments, but he's been camera shy for the last couple of seasons and prone to some pretty disappointing efforts – would need to be a pretty good price to be worth considering on top. (1) MYCROWNMYKINGDOM has missed 3 weeks after losing his last by 21 lengths – prefer to just watch, for now. (3) IMAN ANDOVER returns off a win vs. cheaper at PcD but he's 5-0-0-0 locally this year – sticking with others

**RACE 6** – (3) EL NIGHTWISH raced once as a 2YO (in November) then was turned out – she's come back terrific at 3, winning all 4 starts and looking better each week for her outstanding barn – that last win (at VD, EBC division) was fairly effortless, and Dunn is back on board tonight – deserves the edge, even vs. some very nice fillies. (5) MONALISHI has plenty of talent herself winning \$413K at 2 while compiling a 10-6-2-0 season – she's been excellent so far since returning at 3, and will get Gingras on board for the first time as she arrives from Canada – hard to leave her off your tickets. (2) SEVENTH GEN won 4 of 6 as a 2YO, including an impressive 1:56.1 score at Freehold – she's come back very good at 3, with the lone blip being a miscue at VD three back – she was no match for the top choice in her last (2<sup>nd</sup> best), but will be waiting in the wings should either of the top pair falter. (4) RLADY W made \$141K last year, the bulk of it coming from her success in the MaSS – she finished full of trot in NJ last week (2<sup>nd</sup> start of the year), and could add some value to the exotics. (6) MY HONOR picked up a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in her first 2 starts this year (NJSS) but was trapped from the start in last week's Final and never had any chance to really trot – Ake will drive tonight, and she would be worth a look from this spot only if her price is pretty generous. (1) BIZZY BRENDA was a major overlay when she won here at 12-1 two back but that was a MUCH easier spot – still, she's proven she can get around the track, and not a bad one for the bottom of exotics (at that 20-1 ML price). (7) GILDA BI just re-qualified after a couple of months off and lands in a brutal spot for her return – leaning elsewhere

**RACE 7** – Yonkers Trot Final - \$300,000: (1) SUPER CHAPTER was an outstanding 2YO, going 11-5-3-1 for \$521K (2<sup>nd</sup> only in earnings to his incredible barnmate, MARYLAND) – he's started off 2025 with 2 very sharp wins, including last week's 1:50.4 score at VD (beating MARYLAND in the process) – he's going to be VERY hard to beat with a clean mile...but note that he did make a break here last year (in the NYSS Final) before betting the rent money at \$2.10! (3) VARIEGATED is also a barnmate to the top choice and while probably not quite in the same league, he DID win last year's NYSS Final, breaking his maiden at the best possible time – he's looked good so far in his 3 starts this year, and not a bad alternative if fishing for a possible upsetter. (4) CHAT ROOM didn't look quite right in his first start back at 3 (made an uncharacteristic break on the final turn) but he bounced right back with wins in his next pair – next in line? (5) HARD SEVEN weakened a bit behind SUPER CHAPTER (and MARYLAND) in the lane last week but still was a nice 3<sup>rd</sup> – drawing outside hurts, but at least there's only 5 horses – he does make the occasional miscue. (2) HAPPY JACK B was a pretty nice 2YO but is still trying to find his game at 3 – prefer others right now

**RACE 8** – MGM Grand Messenger Final - \$200,000 – should be an excellent race! (5) DANDYS IDEAL ended his 2YO campaign on a strong note but made an unexpected miscue at Stga. to start off 2025- re-qualified in impressive fashion, then raced super in his NA Cup elimination, before enduring an absolutely brutal trip in the Final – was back here last week (6 days later) and surely appreciated racing from well back, finishing full of pace for 2<sup>nd</sup> behind TWISTED DESTINY (whom he followed) – maybe he can reverse that decision tonight? (3) TWISTED DESTINY started the year winning 3 of 4 starts, the lone loss a close 2<sup>nd</sup> to the outstanding LOUPRINT – he was patient early in last week's elimination, then slingshotted right on by the leaders to win confidently – would be no surprise here at all! (1) MANOLETE was off 4 weeks to last week's elimination but he still went a big mile (first time Lasix), used hard early and still pacing well late – looking for a big mile from him tonight. (4) FAST CHOICE was a fast closing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NA Cup Final and while he did weaken to 4<sup>th</sup> in last week's elimination, he was used very hard early and may have just been a little tired off those 2 big miles in Canada – his price will creep up tonight, and he'd hardly be a surprise. (7) PAPIS ROCKET was off a month to last week's race but he just flew off the car from Post 8 then came up 2<sup>nd</sup> best in what turned into a 2 horse affair – he'll no doubt look to use that same quick start tonight BUT this is a much tougher field, and he won't be allowed to just control the action – willing to include underneath. (8) ODDS ON NO LIMIT used a fast start (and pocket trip to #7) win his elimination last week, but tonight's draw

won't leave him many good options – will need major trip luck just for a decent piece, (6) BANDERAS found a seam to just grab 4<sup>th</sup> last week (and make it to the Final) but tonight's tough draw does figure to compromise his chances. (2) WORLD OF WISHES (barnmate to #3) is really the only one in here that would be a major shock

**RACE 9** – (1) MIKI IN LUV looked like a winner last week (after securing a pocket trip from Post 7) but she probably deserves a pass for not being able to get by the classy LUCKY ARTIST A – she'll get her chance to make amends tonight, likely at a pretty short price. (6) TWO PISTOL ANNIE really struggled for a long stretch this year but has definitely been showing signs of turning things around, and that last effort was actually VERY good – could easily be the main danger, despite another bad draw. (5) PIRATE BOOTY is hard to like off her out of town lines but she's getting a pretty significant barn and driver change, and it's hard to say how much she might improve – have to respect her chances, but she's likely to be overbet. (7) WHASSUP HANOVER was 2<sup>nd</sup> here on 10/4 but went on the shelf for 5 months after that – she really struggled in her first 3 starts back (out of town) and while her last 3 look much better, they were against softer competition – hard to say if she's gotten sharp enough to beat these from all the way out here. (2) KAT was purchased after a win (in PA) on 3/26, was 3<sup>rd</sup> here in her next start but hasn't been better than 4<sup>th</sup> in the 7 tries since then – minor share only. (3) COWGIRL LILLY had a brief recent form spree but has gone the wrong way again. (4) LADYZAR just feels overmatched

**RACE 10** – (4) EASY TO PLEASE never had room to pace last week, and may have had more in the tank than she was able to show – the guess is that she'll be handled much more aggressively off the class drop tonight – hopefully that 2-1 ML price won't hurt her value too much. (5) STAYINGWITHTHEWIND came up a little light in the crucial stages last week but that was in the same tough field that #4 drops out of – would be no surprise at all. (2) IDEAL COVER has been pretty solid lately, and was a fast closing 3<sup>rd</sup> in her last – she's always a good price, and not a bad one for longshot fans to consider. (1) TALENT TO SPARE A had been very good recently, making it all the more surprising when she squandered a two hole trip last week – hard to know which version we'll get tonight! (3) TRUE BLUE HANOVER just wasn't sharp at all last week (a disappointing, no threat 3<sup>rd</sup>) and now faces much tougher – minor share only. (6) KATIES UP opened a big lead to the top of the lane and was able to hang on, picking up her first victory of 2025 – moves up, draws outside, and that has us leaning elsewhere. (7) RESURRECTION DAWN was 2<sup>nd</sup> two back but that was on the lead, 2 levels down – hard to like her chances out here

**RACE 11** – Very tough finale! (4) BE DIFFERENT hasn't shown much lately but he's also been stuck in the back most weeks, facing much better...it's not that long ago that he pulled off a 38-1 upset and while he won't be that long tonight, he'll still be a pretty juicy price. (5) KASHA V can be wildly unpredictable from week to week but he still throws enough good efforts to be worth a look in a vulnerable field like this one. (2) HANKINS HANOVER went on the shelf for 10 weeks after a couple of miscues, then made a break (at PcD) in his first start back – he's had 3 good efforts since then, and may be the one to beat in his YR return – not willing to take a short price on this risky 4YO, however. (8) ARCHERY SEELSTER has some good recent tries vs. cheaper out of town, and a pilot not afraid to leave the gate from any spot – another one to consider, at a big price. (1) MUSICAL RIDE re-qualified after a couple of miscues – she can trot with these on her best effort, but may be handled very conservatively tonight, under the circumstances. (3) RADIO LAB is a little hard to gauge off his Canadian lines but he's been away for a month, and may not be fully cranked for his local debut. (6) BULLY BOY HILL has regressed since a recent claim – waiting for better signs before considering. (7) ROGER RABBIT has tailed off, and gets a terrible draw