The Empire Report - Friday, May 24, 2019 - Race Analysis

RACE 1 - (1) AL MAR GOT A FEVER switched barns 2 back and wired a cheap Chester field - shipped in and moved up considerably but had no trouble grabbing another wire to wire score - takes yet another bump up tonight, but seems sharp enough to pull it off. (1) SELL A BIT N started last week a length and half behind the winner and ended the mile in the exact same spot - she's also moving up tonight but has a good chance to complete the exacta once more. (5) ALWAYS WOGGY has a mixed bag of Ohio efforts but her connections have shipped in enough live ones to make her worth at least a look. (6) JEWEL LEHIGH A does plenty of damage in this class when "right", but it's hard to take a short price in her current form. (7) WISHY WASHY GIRL is 0 for 15 but has hit board 8X - not a bad bomb for the bottom of the ticket.

RACE 2 - (1) ITTY BITTY was off a month to her last start then caught a pretty fast mile on top of that - gets right back in the box, draws the pole, and anything close to her best effort would be enough to beat these. (4) BRONZE OVER N never left the cones last week and wound up blocked (with pace) in the stretch, as a result - goes back to Brennan, and is usually a solid player at this level. (2) ZOE ELLASEN looked very good in her first 2 local starts (vs. a bit easier) - no chance on the move up last week (8 hole), but draws inside tonight and could easily grab herself a nice chunk. (3) VORST was well backed last week and gave it a good try on the front end before getting nailed by the trip sitter - should have a say tonight, as well. (6) CLEAR IDEA may be sharpening/bravening up a bit - willing to include for 3rd/4th.

RACE 3 - (3) BLATANTLY BEST was sharp off the claim 2 back and can be excused for his last, as he was really roughed up early on - an easier trip tonight could translate into a victory. (4) CHACHING HANOVER left alertly the last 2 weeks and ended up 2nd best to a couple of sharp winners - chance for another good piece tonight in his good current form. (1) TEXAS TERROR N can't "bring it" every week anymore, but he's still pretty efficient in this class when he draws inside - good chance to be part of the exotics. (2) IDEAL COWBOY was a little disappointing in his last couple but he could easily find his way into the gimmicks here with an easy trip. (6) BLAYDE HANOVER likes YR, but seems a bit cheap now.

RACE 4 - (2) MACH IT A PAR has clearly lost a few steps this year, but her last few have been more encouraging - drops to a pretty modest NW20000 field and seems sharp enough to take these. (1) DON GAL RUNDLSCRK N looked like she might be finally be tailing after an excellent run but quickly rebounded in her last pair with a couple of more good efforts - draws best, and is very legit threat. (5) JAG OUT hung badly last week, but to be fair, the winner IS very sharp right now - has been "in and out" most of the year, but one of her "good" efforts could land her a board spot tonight. (3) NEWSDAY disappointed with cheaper here 3 starts back - she was a close 2nd, though, and has to at least be considered for a piece. Both (8) LIFETIME TRUST and (7) ACEFORTYFOURAMANDA fit well, but are post compromised!

RACE 5 - Tough race: (5) PERFECT BET has been in 3 no-chance spots since returning to YR - had 8 wins here in '18, and he seems overdue for a trip to go his way...worth a look. (4) RONNY BUGATTI missed a lot of time but returned with 2 sharp Monti tightener/wins, followed by a 2nd right here to a pretty nice winner - no factor vs. better in last, but figures to fit nicely with these. (3) LIGHTNING ONMYFEET does his best work with cheaper, but throws some good miles with these two - the price will be right. (6) SUNKEN TREASURE is a total in-and-outer but already has 4 wins this year and is never a bad play when the price is juicy. (1) MOHAWK WARRIOR will be overbet here (last win was a perfect trip).

RACE 6 - (7) FEELIN RED HOT was a beast throughout the Matchmaker Series....until her unfortunate clunker in the Final - has returned razor sharp, and can take another against this fairly modest Open group. (5) QUEEN LOSTRIS N has been away 3 weeks since her sharp win in the Preferred but that might be because stablemate LISPATTY was racing in this class - may get overlooked tonight, but is worth using in the exotics. (4) ANGELS PRIDE steps up after beating lesser twice in the last 4 starts - has shown she can hang with these too (when sharp), and may be able to work out a trip here...use underneath. (8) ALEXAS POWER took a few starts to get sharp but she's hitting on all cylinders now - but not sure she can find a way into the hunt. (1) SANDYS BEACH has really upped her game lately - maybe can sit close, for a piece.
RACE 7 - (6) OCEANIA was stuck racing from the back of the pack in the Open the last 2 starts but still raced better than those lines might look - significant class relief tonight and should be able to beat these, even from off the pace. (1) STELLENBOSCH has held her own nicely since bumping up to this class, and raced very well last time despite the bad date - may be able to add some value to the exotics with the rail draw. (2) BETABCOOL N seems to be in a better groove lately, her trainer is going well too, and this is a good spot to include her in the gimmicks. (4) AMBRO COURAGE N isn't always the most consistent mare but she does have a win and two 2nds in her last 4, and may have another good one in her. (5) SCANDAL ICIOUS is another unreliable sort and stepping up off a pocket win - can go either way.

RACE 8 - 1 1/16th miles - (8) WINNING SHADOW drops to a softer group than he's used to and while he draws the extreme outside, he should still be able to scoot right to the top with the longer distance to the 1st turn - the one to beat. (5) TROTting GRACE may have needed that start on 5/3 but was much sharper in her last, finishing right there with the sharp IN MY DREAMS - another good trip can put her right in the mix again. (7) WARRAWEE SHIPSHAPE got away way back in his YR debut, raced wide through the final turn and was still gaining nicely at the end - hard to not include him at 20-1 ML. (6) SOUTHWIND CRUZE has always been an inconsistent sort, even for the "Super Siblings" - hard to say what kind of trip he'll get tonight. (4) BIG BILL BREEZE moves up, but his speed gives him a chance at a small share.

RACE 9 - (3) BEACH MEMORIES certainly took to his new surroundings last week, scoring right off the claim - he can be a pretty good horse when "in the mood", and it seems like his new barn quickly figured how to push his buttons - one more? (5) STATESMAN N probably could have made it 3 in a row last week if he hadn't gone so incredibly slow to the half - still was dead game for 2nd, and will be a big threat here if he can remain just as sharp in his new barn. (6) WHATSTROUBLINUROCKY has done good work since arriving here in May - drawing outside a few main foes is going to hurt, but he's worth including in exotics at a decent price. (2) SWIFT AS A SHADOW has been finishing well in all his recent starts - maybe can show up late for another good piece? (4) JOE HILL goes to a new barn, but off a sick scr. and dull try - iffy

RACE 10 - (3) CHRISTEN ME N hit a dry spell for a while but after a couple of equipment changes (and some class relief) he seems to have found some excellent form, both here and out of town - returns to a spot that should be right in his wheelhouse, in his current form. (6) ROCK DIAMONDS N makes his YR debut for an outfit that has enjoyed success with these imports, and seems to be have been getting sharper every week - would be no surprise if he fits nicely with these. (2) ORILLIA JOE was moved to the owner's "A Training Team" two back and instantly found his way to the winner's circle - was in too steep last time, bit drops back down and will be a major factor once again. (1) THE LUNCH PAIL is "sneaky ok" right now and can definitely land a piece...IF Siegelman knows NOT to use him hard early from this spot. (7) SOME WHERE FANCY rallied well for 2nd here from a similar spot on 4/27 - could add some value to exotics

RACE 11 - (1) SHEZZA GNP N finished well last week but just couldn't gain on some pretty decent rivals - faces a MUCH easier crew tonight (even though technically the same class), and the road to the winner's circle goes through her. (5) LOVINEVERYMINUTE didn't leave last week and that left her stuck trying a long first over move (which eventually fizzled) - have to believe she'll be blasting tonight, and that makes her a very live player. (4) FIRSTUP was making her first start in 6 months last week and finished with alert pace - at 12-1 ML, she's a good one to include in the exotics, looking for an ever better effort this time around. (8) MONICA GALLAGHER had a rough time in her first 4 starts this year - freshened up, looked ok in the qualifier, but didn't get the best of trips from her substitute pilot last week - tote board may offer clues to her "seriousness" for tonight. (3) YOU SHOULD BE HERE steps up off a game win - ok 3rd/4th

RACE 12 - (2) GOKUDO HANOVER toured the oval at Fhd. and took the $12,500 off his card that he needed to get this class drop - have a feeling we'll see the "real" version tonight! (4) BLOOD LINE came back ready, winning in NJ off the 5 month layoff - 3 solid tries since then, and now returns to the Hilltop where he did good work last year - live player tonight. (3) ODDS ON DELRAY got burned up on the lead 2 back but was allowed to relax early last week and paced a :54.2 back 1/2 to be a solid 3rd - fits well this class. (5) PROVEN DESIRE was right there in 4 of his last 6 with 8 holes in the other 2....use underneath in the gimmicks. (1)TAKE IT BACK TERRY has struggled with this type for some time - maybe 3rd/4th?