

The Empire Report – Friday, April 12, 2024 – Race Recap

Race 1 – MILLWOOD BONNIE N came out from 5th off turn three (as REC TIME gapped), gained cover from MISS DOTTIE MAE to 3/4s, angled once into the stretch then kicked home strong to win it – excellent year continues! REC TIME backed off into 4th very quickly, was really gapping to the half and had to sit in, found room between horses into the stretch and was full of pace finishing, not far off the winner in 2nd – just gets stronger as the race gets longer. MISS DOTTIE MAE got away 3rd then pulled first over to 3/4s, kept getting closer and was right there as they turned for home, finally wore down the leader in the stretch but not until the top pair charged by both of them. NO WIN NO FEED A made the top off turn one then cut a sharp half, was asked for more on the final turn as pressure started to build then gradually weakened into the lane tiring to 4th – may prefer to have somebody else cut the mile? HELLO YES HI sat the two hole trip, had room in the stretch as the leader gave way but was outkicked. OAXACAN DREAM N sat last and was a bit lazy to the final turn, pacing home evenly at the back

Race 2 – MC ANGEL was able to fly right to the top once SILK CLOUD A didn't leave, faced only mild pressure to the final turn then paced away easily in the lane, winning for the 6th time in 9 starts this year! DRAGONS LUCKY LADY was away in the winner's pocket instantly, proved no match at all but was still able to hold 2nd as the top one drew away in the homestretch. GOLDEN QUEST N came out from last at the half and began a long first over move, was up to challenge for 2nd at 3/4s, was never a threat to the winner but did very well to hold the show spot, despite a tough trip off a bad date. SILK CLOUD A was surprisingly off the gate tonight, came out 2nd over to 3/4s, tipped wide on the final turn but never really kicked in at all – she raced “ok” in her last pair, but not as sharp as in a couple of her recent wins. TWIN B SUNKISSED sat in 3rd and was outkicked in the lane – not as sharp in her last couple.

Race 3 – CELIA B MONEY made a couple of early moves to secure the lead, carved out a quick clip on her own terms and still had plenty to the end, easily completing the wire to wire score – took no \$\$ and wasn't close in a pair of NJ starts, but was a different horse tonight! A GIRL THAT TWIRLS was roused to a quick start and made the top off turn one, allowed the winner to retake and sat the two hole, was right there to the top of the lane but simply no match in the final 1/8th of a mile – easily bested the others. GAME OF SHADOWS got away 4th, pulled first over to 3/4s as HEAVENS SHOWGIRL A started to tire in front of her. Took over 3rd to the top of the lane then paced evenly to the end. DEVILISH DREAMS got away last and was no factor. HEAVENS SHOWGIRL A yielded readily and got away 3rd, started to gap to 3/4s then tired badly from the final turn – barn has a couple that are having some rough starts this year

Race 4 – PEMBROKE SOUTHIE took these Indian File from the start, extended her lead a bit to the final turn and was a very sharp winner, improving her record to 5-4-0-1 this year – continues to do excellent work for her new connections, ULTIMATE SPEED sat 3rd to the stretch, angled clear and was able to rally nicely for the place spot. FAVORITE BEACH sat pocketed from the start, was no threat to the winner once into the lane and even blew the place spot. VILLAGE JADE finally came out from 4th to 3/4s, was unable to gain and finished a no-threat 4th. MORNING HAS BROKEN came out from 5th (last) on the final turn but had no offer (after a good try last week)

Race 5 – COACHELLABOUND N retook from KARMA SEELSTER at the quarter, avoided any pressure and responded to Gingras' urging into the lane, safely completing the front end score – continues to look very good! KARMA SEELSTER worked a bit to make the lead then surrendered it back to the winner, was clear from the top of the lane but no match for the top one, easily completing the exacta. TONY'S MOM found herself sitting 3rd and remained glued to the cones, had room inside for the drive home and paced well enough to hang on to the show spot. MAN DONTFORGET ME was a bit lazy in 6th on turn three, came out 2nd over before 3/4s behind dull cover, angled into the lane and soon found her best gear, charging late to just miss the show spot. TRUE BLUE HANOVER came out from 5th from the 5/8ths, could only get up to 3rd by the final bend, leveled off but did well to at least bring home a small paycheck. SALE EL SOL saved ground and paced evenly, while never a threat. INCASEYOU DIDN'T KNOW just failed to ever get seriously motivated from the back tonight. AVF CLAIRE was no factor at all after getting away 7th

Race 6 – ROCKN PHILLY came out first over to turn three, attacked the leader hard to 3/4s, put that one away by the top of the lane and was an easy winner from there – failed as the favorite last time, but makes amends tonight. HALLELUJAH HANOVER followed the winner all the way, offering steady late pace for 2nd after a very nice trip.

COWGIRL LILLY was urged to get around LAURIE LEE then drove on to seat FORTUNADA, met with stiff pressure from the winner by 3/4s and started to give way into the final turn, holding decently for 3rd after weakening from the top of the lane. FORTUNADA was forced to drop in behind COWGIRL LILLY and race from the pocket, was behind the tiring leader entering the stretch but had only even pace when clear. SWEETEST BELLE sat last with no chance, finishing with interest up the cones to just miss 4th. LAURIE LEE was outleft and got away 3rd, sat in until slipping out from 5th to the top of the lane, failing to fire from there – back to back disappointing tries. GINGER TREE LIZ was out 3rd over off turn three but was all done by the final turn – no good at all tonight

Race 7 – PARISO was away comfortably in 3rd, pulled uncovered to 3/4s and soon trotted up into 2nd, took aim at the leader at the head of the lane and measured that one off confidently, making it 2 for 3 since arriving at Yonkers. FIX A DRINK (well backed tonight) shot right to the top, cut a solid clip and enjoyed a clear lead most of the way, felt the winner coming to him to the top of the lane and was simply no match in the latter stages, a very well meant 2nd best. SWISS HOUSE ONFIRE saved ground from 4th, trotting home steadily for 3rd (while no threat). WINDSONG PIONEER was off the gate tonight and sat in 5th, also finishing steadily to pick up 4th. FOR A DREAMER sat in the back with no chance but was trotting well late to pick up a small paycheck – not bad at all. VOYAGE TO PARIS had a good start and got away in the two hole, started to waken to 3/4s and really fell apart once into the lane – disappointing, for sure. JOXTER was needlessly off the cones from 6th past the stands but could only clog the rim despite some energetic persuasion from Mr. Daley – just looked well short off the layoff. CLEOPATRA AS broke before the quarter

Race 8 – PC FREE WHEELING sat pocketed from the start, popped out to challenge on the final turn, took a while to put away the leader into the stretch but was still a pretty confident winner, cashing in on the class drop and perfect trip! BEERTHIRTY K took these Indian File to the quarter, enjoyed things his own way until meeting up with the tripsitter on the final turn, battled gamely right to the end and was a very good 2nd best. STREET GOSSIP came out from 4th on turn three and trotted around a bad gapper, was a much closer 3rd to the final turn, angled into the lane and finished with good trot to be right there with the top pair – good try tonight. QUIKSILVR BLUECHIP worked to move up into 4th on the final turn, couldn't get near the top trip and was all out to edge out a couple of others for 4th – just “ok”, at best. JUST SHOW UP got away 4th, inherited 3rd from a breaker but gapped badly to the half, never grabbing the bit at all in a dull local debut. FANATIC lagged most of the way, was never close but did finish with some life in what should serve as a useful tightener. BAZILLIONAIRE was never close at all. ALLSUMMERLONG AS broke in 3rd on turn two

Race 9 – LIT DE ROSE was more aggressive tonight and quarter moved to command (rather than sit 3rd), faced no real pressure to the final turn, was asked for more by Lachance and responded, scoring an easy win to head into next week's Final! DOUGS BABE A pulled first over from 4th from turn three, challenged for 2nd to 3/4s, couldn't threaten the winner into the lane but did dig in to win the battle for 2nd – raced pretty much the same as she has throughout the series legs....”good”, not “great”. RACINE BELL was able to loop to the lead from Post 7 then yielded to the winner to the quarter, gapped in the pocket on the final turn (as she's done in the past), battled back a bit into the lane but was outmuscled late for the place spot. JIVE DANCING A avoided getting trapped by EASY TO PLEASE to the half then ended up 2nd over, had her chance for better in the lane but really had only even pace to the wire. DELITFULCATHERIN N was looped by RACINE BELL then got away in her pocket, was back to 3rd after the lead changed hands to the quarter, sat to the stretch and could only pace home evenly, outgamed for 4th. EASY TO PLEASE came out to the half but ended up 3rd over as two others were able to come out in front of her, moved wide on the final bend and did finish steadily, though unable to pass any rivals. TREACHEROUS PENNY saved ground from the back, pacing evenly while no threat

Race 10 – JULA MUSCLE PACK drove on into the first turn to seat VINNY DE VIE, cut his own honest clip then suddenly opened a clear lead into the stretch, digging in late to hold off the tripsitter – makes it 2 in a row. VINNY DE VIE left well but was pocketed by the winner, suddenly lost ground entering the stretch then found his best stride coming to the wire, making things close (but unable to make up the ground he lost off the top of the lane). MAX saved ground all the way, finishing alertly for the show spot. DRACO S also appreciated the ground saving trip, trotting home solidly for 4th. MACMORRIS HANOVER came out first over from 3rd to 3/4s but was quickly just spinning his wheels on the rim, fading to 5th in the final 1/8th of a mile. FULL RIGHTS trotted evenly from the back (no chance spot). SMART AS HILL looked shaky into the first turn and eventually did go offstride

Race 11- KASHA V grabbed the lead quickly, cut an honest clip on his own terms and proved a very easy winner, but in a mile a bit slow for tonight. HOOLIE N HECTOR left to a spot in 3rd, pulled first over before 3/4s, gradually took over 2nd into the lane and remained solid to the wire – good try, but still not at his “peak form”. DOUBLE DEALING had a good start to get away in the pocket, weakened into the lane but still finished well ahead of the others in 3rd – not “great”, but some improvement from his last pair. DONATO PATRIOT K (way overbet at 3/5!) left well but made a break on the first turn, recovered at the back, grinded his way up into 4th on the final turn but was no threat at all to the top trio. WESLYNN CROWN was trapped a long way in 5th behind an empty rival, finishing full of trot after finally managing to shake free in the stretch (but after the damage was done). PIVOTAL was looking to refuse to the gate again but eventually gave in and got away trotting, gapped badly to 3/4s and is acting like a horse that just doesn’t want to be out there right now. MUFASA AS was empty from the back.