

The Empire Report – Friday, July 19, 2024 – Race Recap

Race 1 – FADE OUT looped right to the top from Post 8 then rolled hot fractions, faced no pressure and was clear to the top of the lane, a safe winner despite getting a little tired near the end – remains sharp! VIBRANCE was outleft by the winner and had to grab up and back off into 4th to the quarter, pulled first over before 3/4s and was up to challenge for 2nd to the final turn, kept coming in the lane and took over the place spot, narrowing the winner's margin to the wire – another sharp try despite a less than stellar trip. LATE FOR DINNER got away 3rd and sat the cones, angled free in the stretch and finished with pace to be a close 3rd. JENDEN STRIKE A had a good start and grabbed the two hole trip...but just wasn't up to the top trio late and had to settle for a slightly disappointing 4th. ROCKN PHILLY gave up a seat to VIBRANCE and got away 5th, looked sluggish at times and was fortunate just to take home a 5th place check – not sharp at all the last 2 weeks. SILKY STRIDE came out from 6th on the back side, was a loose 2nd over to 3/4s then had no offer from the top of the lane. BETTER WATCH IT was away 7th and never in play tonight. LADY NEWTON got away last and never varied

Race 2 – SILK CLOUD A took command off turn one, had things all her own way then paired up back to back :27.3 quarters to win this in very easy fashion. CHERYLS SHADOW went right to the top then let the winner take over, chased well all the way and was easily 2nd best. COACHELLABOUND N left to a spot in 3rd, pulled first over to 3/4s and soon was challenging for 2nd, weakened just a bit in the lane but was still a good 3rd, considering the tough trip off a bad date. GOLDEN QUEST N got away 5th, saved ground and paced home evenly for 4th – bit better this week. UPTOWN HANOVER got away last and paced evenly at the back. OKINAWA BEACH A was outleft and away in 4th, gapped 2nd over to 3/4s and was empty by the final turn – may need to be in easier

Race 3 – BAR COINS inherited the pocket from a breaker early on, popped out under urging to 3/4s then was able to collar the leader on the final turn, an easy winner from there -showed life last week, was well backed tonight and able to deliver. DYLANDMAR was off a bit slow but still ended up in the three hole, followed the winner from 3/4s, moved into 2nd on the final turn and trotted steadily to the end, while no threat to the top one. TOWN VICTOR got away 5th, came out before 3/4s and offered a solid finish to easily be 3rd – looked a little “choppy” at times, but still a nice effort in his local debut/ MUFASA AS was outleft and had to retreat to 4th, beating a tired rival for the 4th slot (but no threat at all). LIGHTFOOTEDLEGEND left fast and right to the top, cut a solid half then was tested by the tripsitter at 3/4s, gave way on the final turn and really tired after that – just not on his game right now. CAL MILES N SHELL got away in the pocket but broke on the first turn – recovered at the back, and even beat a couple at the end. EXCHEQUER was well off the car and never close. DOUBLES N BUBBLES was always well out of it

Race 4 – SEVENSHADESOFGREY got away patiently in 4th, pulled uncovered on the back side then was up to challenge on the final turn, confidently measuring off the leader in the lane to win going away – got the perfect trip (for him) and knew what to do with it. DWS POINT MAN left tonight to an easy lead, rated a mild half then felt the winner coming to him on the final turn, was no match coming to the wire but stayed on very nicely for 2nd – was clearly inside at least a couple of pylons, but was fortunate that there wasn't even an inquiry. NO DRAMA PLEASE was outleft but away in the pocket, searched for room into the lane and was good late, not far off 2nd – solid at both ends of the mile. NO TURNING BACK ended up sitting 5th, followed the winner's very live cover to 3/4s, was right there as they turned for home but had only even trot to the wire when a bit more was needed. SOUTHWIND ARTURO was outleft by DWS POINT MAN and had to work up into 3rd to the quarter, sat the cones after that and trotted evenly for a small check. MANCLANE got away 6th, gapped to 3/4s and was no factor. WINDSONG PIONEER was sent off at 189-1 and raced accordingly

Race 5 – BLOOD MOON A let a couple of leavers go and got away 3rd, pulled first over past 5/8ths and challenged for 2nd to 3/4s, kept coming into the lane and was able to nail the leader late, scoring in very game fashion! PURE SILKY was fast off the car and opened a seat for FAVORITE BEACH, faced only mild pressure to the final turn, dug in bravely to the wire but was outmuscled at the end by the very game winner – sharp in defeat. LIT DE ROSE came out on turn three and grabbed cover from the winner, was right there into the lane but just isn't on her best game right now and was unable to collar the top pair – 2nd straight loss as the 1/5 choice! FAVORITER BEACH left well enough to get away in the pocket, couldn't quite kick home with the top trio but was still ok. TALENT TO SPARE A sat in from 4th, unable to rally once clear into the stretch. HONEY LOVE sat the cones from 6th and was never in the hunt. ULTIMATE SPEED was moving from the back to turn three, ended up 3rd over but just never fired tonight.

Race 6 – SOMWHERUNDERHEAVN left decently from Post 8 and was able to drop neatly in 3rd, moved out under DIXIE DREAM at the half and paced on by the leader to 3/4s, carried a clear lead into the stretch and was able to hang on, though getting a little leg weary at the end – after a judges inquiry it was determined that she did cause interference when she came out at the half, and was disqualified to 2nd. DIXIE DREAM gave up a couple of holes and got away 4th, was flushed out before the half then had to grab a bit as SOMWHERUNDERHEAVN came out just in front of her, was left uncovered to the final turn and finally was able to take over 2nd into the lane, gaining on the leader as they neared the wire...then was placed first, via disqualification! FRONT PAGE STORY was forced to drop behind HUNTING LINDY on turn one, was back to 3rd after that leader gave way to 3/4s then slipped out from 4th to the top of the lane, angled clear and was pacing well late to be close at the end. SUPER GIRL was already following excess cover when she started to gap badly on turn three, eventually ended up back on the cones in last, looked like she wouldn't be close at all but did find late life up the inside and wasn't far back in 4th at the wire! HUNTING LINDY was aggressive at the start and seated a couple of leavers, got outbrushed at 3/4s and gradually weakened more from there. MORNING HAS BROKEN had to stay inside from the back as 5 others pulled, was trapped inside to the top of the lane and never really found room in the stretch – give her a pass! RACY ROXY A was outleft and had to retreat to 7th, ended up FIFTH over at the half then dropped back inside (in last) on turn three, came back out 4th over to 3/4s and was actually pacing pretty well late considering the adventurous trip! EASY TO PLEASE ended up 3rd over to the half, was 2nd over to the final turn but pretty much empty soon after that – not sharp at all the last 2 weeks

Race 7 – PURAMERI easily found the two hole, looked strong in the pocket all the way and was able to outkick the favorite home in what morphed into a two horse affair! JIVE DANCING A stepped right out to the lead and easily deposited the winner behind her, enjoyed things all her own way and while she did fight gamely in the stretch, she still had to settle for 2nd best tonight. COMMANDER CATHY N came out from 5th off turn three, offered only a weak bid as she barely challenged for 3rd to 3/4s, finally passed a very tired rival to take over 3rd into the lane and safely held that spot to the end, while not close to the top two. FASHIONATTIFFANYS gapped a bit in 4th to the half, slipped out on the final turn and paced home evenly to the end. GAME OF SHADOWS stayed inside from 7th, found room between horses in the stretch and finished mildly. ELSIES DELIGHT swung wide from last on the final turn, pacing home evenly as no threat. SEZANA N chased from 3rd, started to weaken on the back side and faded to 7th by the wire. WESTERN ROSIE floated at the start then backed off 6th, followed weak cover off turn three but was empty herself

Race 8 – CECIL HANOVER took command off turn one then grabbed a mild half, picked things up to 3/4s on his own then drew off effortlessly for the 2nd straight week. VOYAGE TO PARIS had a good start and ended up in the pocket, stayed close to the top of the lane but was no match from there, safely holding the place spot behind the dominant winner. FANATIC had a good start and sat the three hole trip, trotting solidly to the end in another good effort. FENCHY HANOVER saved ground all the way, using the easy trip to pick up a 4th place finish. MAX sat in the back throughout, trotting home steadily late from a no chance spot. BARRY BLACK pulled uncovered from 4th on the back side but was just spinning his wheels on the rim this week, unable to put together a bid. HOOLIE N HECTOR got away 5th, came out behind empty cover to 3/4s but had even less himself. UNFORGETTABLE was well backed tonight but blew up at the start

Race 9 – PRETTY HANDSOME showed speed tonight and ended up sitting 3rd, came out on the final turn and really kicked in through the lane, blowing by with authority with a wake up call victory! PINEBUSHDRAGONROLL quarter moved to command then ignored the weakly parked THREE GRAND, had things his own way but was simply no match late for the sharp winner – solid try. GOTHIC ROCK was used early and secured a two hole trip, had room inside for the drive home but was unable to generate a stretch rally, pacing home evenly for 3rd. PASS A GRILLEBEACH sat the cones in 4th, pacing evenly to the end (no threat). RANDOM HANOVER came out from 6th to 3/4s to swing wide around the tiring THREE GRAND, was caught wide through the final bend and had only even pace in the stretch. HIGH ON ROCKNROLL saved ground at the back and never threatened. THREE GRAND was caught wide leaving and ultimately parked weakly – lost all chance early on. MIDNIGHT LIGHTNING always had the best view

Race 10 – ELEKTRA A made the top off turn one then released TWIN B ALLURE at the quarter, popped out to challenge before 3/4s, gradually wore down the leader and turned for home in control, digging in late to hold off a couple of stretch challengers. MACHS LEGACY A came out to 3/4s then picked up cover from the pocket-popping

winner, had dead aim to the wire but couldn't find enough to go by – much improved in her 2nd U.S. start. HOW SWEET IS THAT moved out from 5th on the final turn, angled wide as they turned for home and kicked home strong to be right there 3rd. ROCKNROLL ANNIE made a quick lead, yielded then ended up sitting 3rd, had room in the stretch but was clearly outfinished by the top ones. COWGIRL LILLY saved ground to the final turn but was unable to rally at all. BLANK CHEEK sat last and was no factor at all. TWIN B ALLURE got away 3rd before quarter moving to command, gave way to the winner on the final turn and really tired after that

Race 11 – ATREACHEROUS A retook from DRAGONS LUCKY LADY at the quarter, cut a strong clip and was a very sharp winner, despite the class jump – remains very sharp! DRAGONS LUCKY LADY left right to the top then let the winner retake, chased all the way but was unable to make a dent in the lane, a sharp 2nd best. TRUE BLUE HANOVER got away 5th, came out behind poor cover to 3/4s then ducked back inside to the final turn, shook free in the lane and finished up solidly for the show spot. MISS DOTTIE MAE sat the cones all the way, had room in the stretch and outmuscled a tight bunch for 4th. HELLO YES HI was outleft and had to back off into 4th, pulled first over on the back side but couldn't really go forward, never grabbing the bit in a dull try. NITE TIME DEAL sat 3rd all the way but just fell apart inside the final 1/16th tonight. SALE EL SOL swung wide from the top in 7th, offering only even pace to the wire. HALLELUJAH HANOVER trailed all the way, but looked okay hitting the wire

Race 12 – HELPOFTHSEASON made an easy lead then opened up seats for two other leavers, had things all her own way and was able to hold off the tripsitter as the two battled to the end – finally scores as the favorite, after failing the last 3 tries. WILLY WALTON left well and easily dropped into the pocket, had dead aim through the lane but just couldn't go by. YANKEE DUGOUT dropped easily into 3rd from Post 8, needed lots of urging to stay close to 3/4s, looked ready to fold on the final turn but came back to life into the lane, and easily beat the others for the show spot. FOR A DREAMER came out from 5th before 3/4s, was no threat and only able to beat weaker ones for 4th. THE BALLYKEEL DEAL had a poor start from the rail, sat 4th all the way then was empty in the stretch. MYCROWNMYKINGDOM was hurt a bit early on by a gapper but still had no offer. CONGRESS HILL EVA gapped badly through the opening half – evenly the rest of the way. BIG CHARLIE MORAN left...but broke instantly