

The Empire Report - Monday, January 14, 2018 - Race Analysis

RACE 1 - (2) GHOSTTOTHEPOST has been "okay" for most of her 11 start career, but "okay" may be enough to beat THIS crew - gets major post relief, Stratton stays on board, and she figures to have a tactical edge over her main foes - biggest knock is the very short price that is looming. (8) SILK REED gets stuck all the way outside, but I have to believe she'll be able to leave well enough to at least find a close up seat - she's just 2 for 41 lifetime, but at least has faced better than these in most of those starts - a possibility. (5) IVESEENTHEFUTURE didn't seem all that motivated in her local debut, then was trapped too long to have any greater impact at the end - license to be much more involved tonight, even if Bartlett opts for #3. (6) MAJOR MAID gets a nice driver upgrade for tonight, but moves outside and sports a 1 for 32 record - maybe can grab a small piece? (7) SWEET MOVES is another longshot getting a big driver change - throw her in on the bottom of the gimmicks? (3) VIRGINITE seems like a work in progress...but worth watching.

RACE 2 - (8) CASH FOR GOLD really had no excuses last week (at 3/5) but even that effort might be enough to handle this pretty shaky bunch - the price will certainly be much better for those looking to give him one more chance. (5) HALLANET shows several pretty good efforts at Freehold, facing a few that would be short priced favorites in here - definitely willing to use, and he would have been the top pick had a local catch driver been listed. (6) ZAGSTER makes his first start for a top outfit and has Gingras on board but he's been away for over a month, and figures to be a pretty short price - if the odds are decent enough, I suppose it's hard to NOT use him. (2) POWERFUL YIELD's best recent effort was when he had Miller on board and he picks up another very live pilot for tonight - a live trip might make him a very live player. (1) SORTIE HANOVER and (3) PISTOLS ASPIRATION can argue over the spoils.

RACE 3 - (3) B FIFTEEN was ignored in the wagering last week but used a quick start (from Post 7) to earn a pocket trip to the prohibitive favorite, and pick up 2nd (at 48-1) - obviously won't be anything close to that price here, but the move inside does give her the edge on a few main foes. (1) THE BAY FRONT raced evenly in her YR debut, racing off a bad date - tighter now, has the rail with Stratton, and may be a live player, with the right trip. (6) PELICAN BLUE CHIP has struggled here at times but she looked a bit "smoother" last week, and is worth a look here.....as long as the price is decent. (5) PARTYON PARTY GIRL raced very well for 3rd last time, and was one of several very live horses this barn sent out opening week - willing to include if the price is fair. (7) DRY CREEK GIN raced ok from a hopeless spot last time - gets Gingras now, and is an interesting bomb. Any of the others can land pieces in this evenly matched race

RACE 4 - (1) NOBLE WARRAWEE probably wasn't all that serious from Post 8 last week but the veteran moves all the way inside tonight, and a MUCH better effort is expected - he always wins a few races here every year, and this is a very good spot to grab his first of 2019. (4) WINNING PRINCESS has struggled here (at times) in the past, but returns in fine form, and getting a major driver upgrade - dangerous rival. (3) MUSCLE AVE started to come around in Nov. after a long drought and grabbed a win here (1 1/4 miles) on 12/2 - huge recovery after an early break in his first try for new connections, then was scratched sick last week - mixed feelings, but he would really be no surprise. (6) CANTCUTTHATCHIP seems to be pretty comfy at this lower level, but will be at a tactical disadvantage from Post 6 - not impossible, though. (7) THE LINDY TREATY will get a longer look when he draws better - does seem to fit.

RACE 5 - (4) TAKETHEMONEYANDRUN was helped by breakers in last, but still was dead game at the end, despite the moth off - has now taken 4 of his last 5, but may offer some value in this competitive race. (5) WILD BILL was hitting the top when he went offstride in last - made a huge recovery to just miss to the top one, and clearly deserves a lot of respect tonight. (2) EVERYONE HANOVER was taken out at the start last week and gets a total pass - he won't be 20-1 in here, but he'll be a good enough price to at least deserve a serious look. (6) THUNDER SOME WHERE was a fine 2nd to a runaway in a very fast mile last week - as noted, barn is red hot, but the draw could be a problem. (7) RAPID UP ART was loaded in the pocket last week, so much so that he almost broke on the final turn - have a feeling he fits well here, and would have been rated higher had he drawn a bit better! (1) ROLL WITH JEFF was sharp in handling much easier last week, but this field is MUCH tougher - may be in trouble, even from the rail.

RACE 6 - (5) CROSS MY MIND got lost in the back in 3 NJ tries but at least he stayed "fit" during the hiatus - had a win and a 3rd here before that, and just seems best in this much lesser of the NW4 divisions. (7) ROCKN CELEBRATION grabbed a Chester win in his 2nd start off the barn change, then simply had no prayer in last week's 1:53 mile - may be better than a bunch of these, and the price should be juicy. (1) BRACKLEY BEACH is a tough one to recommend (2 for 40 and off a break in last), but he draws best in a soft field and may be in the hunt, by default. (3) I RUN THIS SHOW ships in off a win and a 2nd, but vs. much cheaper out of town - at least he's in "form", though, and has a license to take this on that alone. (6) TEN BEACHES LATER wasn't terrible last time after being well back early on - 2nd time Lasix, and may be able to grab a piece. (4) OUR ART AND HEAVEN is racing "ok", but does seem pretty cheap.

RACE 7 - Evenly matched race: (2) BULLVILLEKARLA sat to the top of the stretch then kicked home string last week, but the winner (#5) was still fresh - has been knocking on the door lately, and maybe she'll be the one to trip out, and take this wide open affair. (5) LA ALWAYS AMARTINI has hit board in all 4 local starts, finally getting her picture taken last week - could easily repeat that victory, but likely won't be getting a free pass to the lead tonight. (3) SEEN AT RIO DEO lacked the gear to go up and press the leader last week, but stuck around nicely for a close up 4th - eligible to be sharper tonight, and the price should be decent. (4) ELLA IS AWESOME has won all 3 starts for her current trainer, but will need to be even sharper than last week of she hopes to extend her streak to 4 - possible, but won't be easy. (6) A OLIVEIN MYMARTINI is very erratic sort, but she did race okay last week off the tough trip, and could land a piece tonight...if in the mood. (1) MALNIFICENT is a fresh face but off a bad date, and possibly a bit cheaper.

RACE 8 - (5) BETTOR THAN SPRING delivered 2 blowouts here after arriving from Chester - changed barns before last, broke briefly at the start, but came up with a HUGE recovery, just missing in a monster effort - will be very tough here with a clean getaway. (8) WESTERN BEACHBOY hit the top instantly in last, quickly had big lead and never let up, crushing his rivals in a fast mile - eligible to repeat, even from the extreme outside. (1) SAULSBROOK DEPUTY got a little tired chasing the fast mile last week but may be a bit sharper tonight - include in the exotics. (3) MR PROFETA is good at saving ground all the way, then finishing with some life - may get him 3rd or 4th here. (7) TITANIUM N actually had good late pace last week, though after the fact - possible bomb to add some value to the gimmicks? (6) ROCK LIGHTS hit board at big prices in 3 of his last 4 - have to throw him in for 3rd/4th once again.

RACE 9 - (4) MACINTOSH N had a "lean" 2 for 35 year in '18, but this is a field that's right up his alley - gets a big switch to Bartlett, and seems destined for a very good trip tonight....may get way overbet, though. (5) MACHTU N hasn't visited the photographer too often here over the last couple of years, but his trainer has been sending out solid ones to start the new meet, and he appears to be a legit player here....even if by default. (1) LEAN ON YOU hasn't raced here in some time, but he figures to be a good fit with this bunch - hard to know if he'll be tight enough, though. (3) THEREISAPACEFORUS is another Chester shipper who can make some noise tonight IF he's primed for a top effort off the bad date. (2) RAINBOW ROMANCE N was just for 2 for 29 last year but draws well enough to at least get a look, even if for a lesser award. (7) SIR MACHALOT and (8) ALL ARTIST may wait for better spots before we see their best efforts.

RACE 10 - (1) JAYES A LADY was a little short when 3rd two back then was dead game in last, looking beat at the top of the stretch but digging back in through the stretch to earn the first over win dead heat - draws best tonight, and figures to be very tough. (5) CATCH AN ACE has won 4 of 5, with the only loss being by a neck to the prohibitive favorite - remains very dangerous. (6) SLICK ARTIST A ended the year with a sharp win, then was right there in the 3 way finish in her 2019 return - will need some trip luck, but may be able to post a mini-upset if she gets it. Don't care for the two outside mares, but any among (2) SANDYS BEACH, (3) TELL ME A JOKE, and (4) STELLENBOSCH are eligible to grab minor awards, depending on their trips.