

The Empire Report - Monday, January 7, 2019 - Race Recap

Race 1 - ROLL WITH JEFF offered the best early speed and was able to loop his way to the lead off turn one, shrugged off CAPTAIN AMERICA to the final turn and was a very easy winner to kick off the 2019 racing season at Yonkers! OUR ART AND HEAVEN left well and got away in the two hole, was no threat at all to the sharp winner but finished way ahead of the others for an easy 2nd best. DAKOTA OLE got away in 4th, came out behind a tiring rival at 3/4s and swung wide on the final turn, finishing well enough to outkick the others for the (well beaten) show spot. TREASURE TOM saved ground nicely, and would have been 3rd had he been sharper (no factor 4th). LETSGETINTOTROUBLE came out 3rd over to 3/4s, pacing home evenly for the last paycheck - wasn't terrible. CAPTAIN AMERICA was outleft by the winner and forced to drop in 3rd, pulled first over to the half but was put away by 3/4s, tiring badly on the final turn.

Race 2 - ABC MUSCLES BOY yielded early and found himself sitting 4th at the quarter, pulled uncovered from turn two and was in attack mode by the 5/8ths, blew on past the leader to the final turn then drew away effortlessly, taking full advantage of the big class drop - Gingras pops into town tonight and takes both ends of the early double. MERRY HANOVER followed the winner off turn two, was left uncovered by the final bend, couldn't kick home with the top one but finished well to move into and hold 2nd - raced okay. MULTITASKR HANOVER came out 3rd over to the half, had dead aim through the stretch for the place spot but just couldn't find enough to get by, settling for 3rd instead. CANTCUTTHATCHIP got away in the early pocket but was soon back into 3rd, was stuck inside by the early moving outer flow and shuffled on the cones, maneuvered free into the stretch then did finish well to be 4th (after losing all chance, with that shuffle). MASTER OF EXCUSES made the lead nicely on turn one but had to cut WICKED NICK loose to the quarter, retook command on turn two but was outbrushed by the winner to the final turn and gave way after that. WICKED NICK didn't really leave but was cut loose off turn one and reached the top before the quarter, was back into 2nd after a retake, got stuck behind a tired one on the final turn but didn't have anything left once clear into the stretch. SORTIE HANOVER was off the car at the start and unable to ever get into the hunt.

Race 3 - BEACH JUMPER was hurt badly when a weak horse left inside of her and was caught wide early, ended up parked (after getting looped by KEYSTONE KRYSTAL) and was fortunate to finally find a spot in 3rd to drop in, came back out first over to the half and was able to pace on by the stopping leader nearing 3/4s, suddenly opened up daylight to the top of the stretch and won by a large margin, despite the :30.2 final quarter - seemed like the only one to even show up in here tonight. GHOSTTOTHEPOST was sent very wide from last on the final turn, easily picking off a bunch of very weak ones to rally into the 2nd spot - hard to even know if she was "good" tonight, or simply passing exhausted foes. PARKAVENUEJULIEANN ended up racing 4th over to the half and elected to try an early three wide move heading to 3/4s, never found a gear that could get her near the leaders but she did persevere well enough to end up 3rd...though well back in a slow mile. IVESEENTHEFUTURE got away in 7th then stayed inside as a bunch of weak ones pulled (and clogged the outer tier), faced traffic once into the stretch but was going well at the end once finally free - never had a prayer, and I suspect wasn't really a big "go" anyway in her local debut. RUFFLES FOR THREE left without any real speed then let the eventual winner (whom she hurt by "leaving") drop in front of her to the quarter, was back out past the stands and flushed out the winner, enjoyed a very good trip but was still dead empty by the final turn - looked pretty poor on paper but was driven like a very live player by Gingras....but raced the way her lines suggested she would. MAJOR MAID did a nice job securing the pocket trip, got shuffled by the tiring leader on the final turn and basically lost ANY chance - willing to excuse. KEYSTONE KRYSTAL was forced FOUR wide on the first turn but had enough speed to rush up for the lead to the quarter, gave way to the winner's pressure at 3/4s and folded badly. LIPPY DOO was out 3rd over to the half, gapped off turn three and just never looked any good tonight.

Race 4 - GLOBAL REVOLUTION left quickly but eventually was forced to drop in behind MUGSHOTS BRO, ended up back to 3rd by the quarter then came out first over past 5/8ths, turned up the heat on the

final turn and gradually edged past the leader into the stretch, digging in late to hang on for the win - trip worked out pretty well, and he was able to cash in. MUGSHOTS BRO didn't have a fast start but accelerated into the turn and was able to get away on top, let heavily favored CASH FOR GOLD go before the quarter and sat the two hole, had to angle free once into the stretch and found his best gear just a little too late to run down the winner - tough beat. CASH FOR GOLD floated into turn one then rushed up to take over before the quarter, crawled a VERY soft half, had things his own way until the winner started to really press him on the final turn and just couldn't kick in enough once into the stretch to make it home on top - definitely disappointing. BLUE SWAN got away in 4th, came out 2nd over before 3/4s but was unable to rally, trotting evenly (at best) for a small piece. MIGHTY SURF was sent wide from last on the final turn, finishing very well from an impossible spot. NOBLE WARRAWEE was underway from 7th to the half, never got near the leaders and was an absolute non factor. DARK POOL saved ground but still had nothing at all. CRESURREY was caught wide into turn one then went offstride.

Race 5 - ELLA IS AWESOME was the only leaver and made an instant top, crawled a half in :59 seconds, fought off A OLIVEINMYMARTINI at the top of the stretch then dug in to the wire to prevail in a fairly slow mile. CABOWABOCUTTIE had a good, clean start from the rail tonight and got away in the winner's pocket, never found the room she needed in the stretch and was fortunate to be able to get 2nd - guessing she wins this had the rail opened up for her. THATS AMAZING grabbed cover to race 2nd over from the half, swung wide on the final turn and paced gamely to the wire, just missing the place spot - showed up ready off the bad line/bad date. A OLIVEINMYMARTINI launched a LONG uncovered move to the half, challenged for 2nd to 3/4s, seemed to be repelled by the top of the stretch but did hang in pretty well to the end to be a close 4th. ASPECIAL PRESENCE raced 3rd over to 3/4s, angled wide at the head of the lane and paced home steadily from a rough spot. KITTY KITTY HAWK got away 3rd and stayed there throughout, never finding any clearance in the homestretch - very hard to know what she may have had in the tank. DRY CREEK GIN raced 4th over to 3/4s, had no chance but did finish up okay in the back. JK LOCKEHERUP sat in 4th and came up empty.

Race 6 - WESTERN BEACHBOY was the only leaver and not only hit the top easily, he had a big lead as they hit the quarter, continued to roll a hot pace as he extended that margin even further, turning this one into an absolute laugher with a crisp 1:53 victory. THUNDER SOME WHERE got away in 3rd, passed the tiring pocket sitter to 3/4s and chased the winner home a distant, but clear 2nd best. STENDAHL HANOVER sat 4th a long way, moved up into 3rd at 3/4s and paced evenly the rest of the way. ROCKIN CELEBRATION beat the weak ones only. WEEKEND ATNANNIES was never close. DEWAR N JACK had to work hard just to stay within shouting distance of the free-wheeling winner early on, but eventually bottomed badly and just stopped before 3/4s.

Race 7 - CATCH AN ACE retook from B FIFTEEN to the quarter, rated easy fractions on an uncontested lead, was asked for more on the final turn and did respond into the stretch, a safe winner....at 1/20! B FIFTEEN was the only outside leaver and was able to hit the front, allowed the heavy favorite to retake and sat the two hole, tracked closely all the way and had no trouble hanging on to the place spot...at a healthy 48-1 price! PARTYON PARTYGIRL was out 2nd over to the half, did have aim for 2nd once into the stretch but couldn't quite get there - raced very well, and was the 2nd "overachiever" for the barn tonight. SEEN AT RIO DEO pulled uncovered from 4th past the stands, struggled a bit to 3/4s but did keep on trying, finishing 4th but not far off a board spot - just couldn't find a gear when she needed it. THE BAY FRONT raced 3rd over to the half, finishing mildly at the end to earn a small paycheck. GATE SPEED was steppy in the 3 hole off turn one, sat all the way but quit at the head of the lane - not sure that she'll ever really be a "Yonkers horse". EASY LIVIN was never involved, but not really that far back at the end. JERICHO DIVA broke early on.

Race 8 - TAKETHEMONEYANDRUN was the beneficiary of a couple of early breakers and easily held the lead, managed to carve out a pretty slow pace as a result, faced a major test from WILD BILL once into the stretch but had enough in the tank to be able to dig in and fend off his rival. WILD BILL was going right to the front but made a very costly break on the first turn, was actually helped by some other confusion and able to recover and get back into 3rd, pulled uncovered to 3/4s and posed a major threat as

they turned for home, looked like he might go on by but was probably left a bit short (thanks to the early trouble) and just couldn't get past the much fresher winner. RAPID IT UP ART ended up with a pocket trip thanks to the early breakers, looked VERY hot in the two hole and almost broke on the final turn, steadied himself after that but had nothing left to offer in the stretch - MIGHT have been a different story had he not made that break, and been able to slip out sooner - hard to say. IMAGEOFAROCKER had a little trouble avoiding the early breakers before settling in 4th, was close enough to do some damage but just never found any kind of life tonight. TEN BEACHES LATER was way off the car but still away in 5th, never was a factor but really wasn't bad! EVERYONE HANOVER was really affected by the early breakers and lost all chance - gets a pass. ROCK IT SCOTT left okay but shied when WILD BILL broke on the first turn and went offstride himself - judges determined that it was "driver error". BRACKLEY BEACH just lost it on the first turn, adding to the early confusion.

Race 9 - LA ALWAYS AMARTINI went right to the front and opened a seat for DUCK DUCK DRAGON, rated a soft middle half while turning back a (weak) bid from SUCCESSFUL OUTLOOK, remaining sharp to the end to complete the front end victory. BULLVILLEKARLA was outstepped early and away in 3rd, sat to the top of the lane before finally making her move, pacing home solidly to the wire and forcing the winner to dig in to hold her off. TELL ME A JOKE gained ground inside to the top of the lane, had room up the cones for the drive home and finished strong for the show spot - easy trip, but a solid try. DUCK DUCK DRAGON was able to find a seat right behind the winner, stayed close to the top of the stretch but came up well short when it mattered, PELICAN BLUE CHIP was out 3rd over off turn three, ended up in a poor flow but did finish well from an absolutely impossible spot. THORNAPPLE had to abort when a couple left right inside of her, came out 2nd over to the half, waited too long to go around weak cover but really didn't have all that much herself. SUCCESSFUL OUTLOOK pulled uncovered at the half, never got close enough to bother the leader and was all done by the final turn. PLAIN OLD JANE always had the best view.

Race 10 - LUCIANO N pulled first over to the half, blew right on by the leader past 3/4s, opened up a quick lead and cruised home a dominant winner- helped that the leader just gave way, but still a sharp performance. MEETYOUATMIDNIGHT left to a spot in 4th off turn one, came out 2nd over to the half, moved up into 2nd to the top of the lane then dug in gamely to hold that spot (though clearly no threat to the top one). AMERICAN VENTURE was able to slip out 3rd over before 3/4s, (thanks to a gapper), had dead aim the entire stretch for 2nd but just never could get there. MAJOR BUCKS was well off the car then stuck 4th over to the half, was forced into a long three wide move (by horrible cover) and remained out there on the final turn, sustaining decent momentum into the stretch to rally for the 4th slot - not bad at all. OH JONNY BE GOOD N was content to let FERNLEIGH REBEL N cut this mile and that proved to be a costly mistake, as he was shuffled out of it when that one gave way to the winner. STELLAS PHELLA saved ground and was never involved. FEEL THE NEED A gave MEETYOUATMIDNIGHT a seat then followed him 3rd over, gapped on the rim to 3/4s and just wasn't any good tonight. FERNLEIGH REBEL N made an easy top and never faced a retake attempt from OH JONNY BE GOOD N, rated a soft :58 half but still had no answers when the winner came calling at 3/4, giving way to that one and stopping - readers were warned that this one MAY be overbet AND very vulnerable!

Race 11 - JAYES A LADY pulled uncovered past 5/8ths and pressed the leader hard by 3/4s, finally wore down the heavy favorite into the stretch (after seeming to be tiring to the head of the lane), then showed a ton of guts to hold together for the win dead heat! BAND STAND followed JAYES A LADY to 3/4s, tipped wide at the top of the lane and ended up tied for the win as they hit the finish line. SLICK ARTIST A made a quick lead before yielding to BIG THONG, had room up the cones for the drive to the wire but was outmuscled by the top two in a tight 3-way battle. BIG THONG made the top past turn one, was asked for more to 3/4s as pressure came her way, seemed (for a moment) to have a chance to pull this off but just wasn't on her best game tonight and was outfinished by the top ones. LINE DANCER got away in 3rd, sat all the way then finished evenly just behind the leaders. STELLENBOSCH raced 3rd over to 3/4s but was unable to gain ground in the homestretch. LYONS JENNIELEE was empty from the back.

Race 12 - PROLOGUE made the top past turn one maintained a solid clip, felt BETTOR THAN SPRING taking aim at him from the top of the lane but had enough left to dig in and preserve the sharp 1:53.2 victory - made it 3 on the night for Gingras but more significantly, gave him his 7000th career win...at the very track that originally launched him to stardom! BETTOR THAN SPRING made a bobble at the start but recovered quickly enough to get away in 5th, began a long uncovered move to the half and gradually moved up to be 2nd on the final turn, had aim on the winner into the stretch but just couldn't get by that one - raced his eyeballs out, and have to believe would have been tough to beat if not for the early trouble. ROCK LIGHTS came out 2nd over past the half, gapped a bit on the final turn but came on again in the stretch to grab 3rd - makes it the 3rd time in the last 4 starts that he's hit board...at a big price. SAULSBROOK DEPUTY made the top then released the winner, lost ground by 3/4s then was outbattled for the show spot as well - just wasn't up to the very quick mile tonight. MR PROFETA got away in 4th, sat to the stretch then offered some mild pace at the end for a very small piece. MONTYS PLAY sat last early on, came out 3rd over on turn three but never was able to get into the hunt tonight. TITANIUM N swung very wide from last on the final bend, hitting the wire with "sneaky pace", after the fact. PEMBROKE JOEY got away 3rd but was all done with a quarter of a mile still to go.