

The Empire Report – Saturday, July 5, 2025 – Race Analysis

RACE 1 – (7) HOPNROLL HEAVEN benefited from an easy trip when 2nd two back but showed it was no fluke when 2nd again last week, despite starting from Post 7 – gets the same bad draw for tonight but another quick start could make him a serious player. (6) HEAVE AWAY his board in 4 of his last 5 starts and it would have been 5 for 5 if not for that final turn miscue 4 back – he gets a switch to Brennan tonight, and could be very dangerous with some trip luck. (5) DANCE ON THE BEACH came into his last winless in 2025 but was pretty well backed, and able to go wire to wire despite Post 7 – has to be respected again tonight, especially after drawing inside a couple of main foes. (4) VESPA N couldn't sustain his first over bid well enough last week but still wasn't bad – suppose he has a chance at the upset IF a perfect trip somehow falls into his lap. (3) GINGER TREE PETE is well off his best form and isn't always an easy horse for a new pilot to drive – still may be able to grab a minor share, though. (1) SWEET TROY is listed as the ML favorite despite being non-competitive in all 5 of his starts earlier this year – he just re-qualified, but hard to consider at a short price! (2) UNDRTHSOUTHRNSUN N is off a month off some poor efforts

RACE 2 – (6) METAMAN draws furthest outside for the 3rd straight start but at least it's a 6 horse field tonight – he recently won 3 in a row, so perhaps he can pull of an upset here if Holland can at least improve a bit at the start (with the likely favorites looking somewhat vulnerable). (2) REAL PEACE held remarkably well 2 back, considering he was parked every step from the 8 hole – he did disappoint on the lead in his last (as the favorite), however, so we'll see if he can make amends tonight. (1) SOUTH POINT was super to close out 2024 and continued to thrive right into April of this year – his form dropped off dramatically after that, and he's been trying to get rolling again ever since – this MAY be a winning spot...but he's hard to get excited about with that “even money” ML listing! (5) VELOCITY KOMODO was no threat at all in his last couple but is capable of better – a more aggressive start could boost his chances a bit. (3) TWIN B SPEED DIAL was no factor in his 2 starts since the qualifier but also wasn't terrible – inclined to pass, but will at least check the tote board for some clues. (4) HANK THE HUNK went a good one 2 back, but struggled last week – losing Brennan tonight isn't going to help his chances

RACE 3 – (6) MA ISABELLE has been doing very good work vs. much better in all of her recent starts – absolutely deserves top billing in this much easier spot, even with the outside draw. (2) HALFADOZEN started off the year winning 3 Weiss Series legs then taking the Final, had a couple more solid tries in NJ but then started to be plagued with breaking issues -she was able to behave herself here in last week's solid 4th place finish in the NY NY Mile, and she can have a big say tonight IF she continues to mind her manners. (4) THE THING IS is a solid weekly player, always trotting strong through the wire – he should be able to rally for a nice piece here too, but really shouldn't be the ML favorite. (3) ENERGY KING had been doing solid work before leaving hard last week and making a break – can rebound here for a piece with a clean effort. (5) KELLYS GREATEST used a good trip to take home a good 3rd while stepping up in class last week – a quick start would help her chances for another small piece tonight. (1) BRONZER hasn't been on his game for a while – not sure the rail draw will be enough to turn things around

RACE 4 – Good race: (2) WAIMAC ATTACK N was a sharp winner 3 back, battled hard most of the mile when a close 3rd in his next, then was solid again in last week's 2nd place finish – one of a few with a legitimate chance in here, depending on how the race plays out. (7) GARDYS LEGACY A is 2 for 2 since returning to YR (first time since 2023) but did benefit from perfect trips each time – he may be looking at a tougher trip tonight, but he also figures to be a decent price, because of the draw. (1) WAR DAN DELIGHT N struggled for most of 2024 and then into early 2025...he did finally start to race better, and has been a solid weekly player in this class for a while now – remains a threat, starting from the pole. (3) GOTHIC ROCK still hasn't found his best form since recently returning from the long layoff, but he's at least getting competitive – couldn't blame anybody looking to play ANY horse from this red-hot barn. (4) VIVA LAS VEGAS N takes a drop down to the basement and that makes him a very logical player – he's also as camera shy as they come, so be careful about taking a short price, if he's your choice. (5) SAN JOSE arrives for an owner who started TRAINING recently in NJ, and seeing his horses finish 1st or 2nd in 40% of their starts – he lists somebody ELSE as trainer tonight, and we'll see how he fares with the locals. (6) CENTURY IGLESIAS raced better than expected at 31-1 last week and would have been listed higher with a better draw.

RACE 5 – (1) LADY BLUE JAY was a sharp upset winner 2 back but couldn't replicate that success on the front end last week, especially after being used hard to get there – could definitely rebound quickly with an easier trip tonight. (2) PONDA SUPERB picked up a pair of well-backed 3rds in her 2 local starts but could be returning with

extra confidence tonight after a blowout win at Plainridge last start – legitimate threat. (8) PUSSYCAT DOLL GB lost to #1 as the 1/5 choice two back but did get it done at 6/5 last week, though not a “pretty” winner – won’t be easy to repeat from put here, but a good price makes her worth at least considering on top. (4) ACCESS GRANTED had an adventurous trip last week and still wasn’t too far back – she’s just 3 for 36 lifetime, however, and better used underneath. (5) PARKAVENUELISA worked out a much better trip last week and took home 2nd – will need another nice journey to continue that success tonight. (6) SANTAFES GINA had a slow start last week but still worked out a beautiful trip...which she then squandered – needs to be sharper. (7) IM A BELIEVER drops, but the poor draw will probably offset that benefit. (3) IN ERAS IMAGE makes her local debut for a new barn but has missed a month

RACE 6 – (4) DONTTELLMENOW is back on the upswing, with sharp efforts in his last pair – not a fan of that 8/5 ML price, but he DOES figure to have a big chance to come out on top tonight. (2) TWIGGS PUB is now 0 for 26 at Yonkers and one of the few horses that our leading trainer has NOT been able to get to the winner’s circle – he did race well in his last pair, however, and should be part of the equation tonight with the good draw. (8) SKYWAY HOUDINI threw a big time brush at the leader last week but even his own individual :26.4 quarter wasn’t enough to help him clear to the lead, and he had every right to weaken a bit in the lane – he’s as good (or better) as any of these, and has to be worth a good look at that 20-1 ML price...even from Post 8. (3) CLEVELAND B MIKI will attract plenty of attention with the move inside but he MAY have tailed just a bit since the recent claim – possible for sure, but could end up overbet. (1) BLUE COLLAR MAN arrives from NJ and would appear to have the speed to be a close up player in his Hilltop debut – hard to say if he’ll be good enough to stick around to the end, though. (6) MOSES looked a bit better after adding Lasix in his last pair but he gets a poor draw, and may need to wait for a better spot to be a bigger player. (7) CAUGHTINALANDSLIDE always seems to find his stride way too late and now will likely be coming from way out of it. (5) WARRIOR FOR TRUTH is just 1 for 26 at Yonkers

RACE 7 – (3) SEVEN LAYER matured over the winter and has come back very solid as a 3YO – he’s been banging heads on the NYSS circuit and hit board in 4 of 5 starts (the other being when he was in with SUPER CHAPTER, MARYLAND, etc.) – catches a decent field tonight, but still should be able to handle these (7) BEERSNSUNSHINE DEO has displayed legitimate ability, though derailed by a first turn miscue after leaving last week – could add some value to the ticket with a clean mile. (6) JAKEEY JUMPUP has outperformed his price several times and may do so again tonight – good one for exotics. (8) SHOW ME has ability for sure, but he draws Post 8 for his local debut (after missing 3 weeks) and may run into some road trouble along the way. (5) TOP FLOOR TACTICS shows all good efforts...except for a dull try in his only local appearance – not quite sure what we’ll get from him tonight. (4) GILLYS DE VIE was no factor last week but has otherwise made some noise in most of his YR starts – ok underneath. Both (1) MARIN COUNTY and (2) FLIGHT OF FRITZ come off victories...but may find these much tougher

RACE 8 – (4) HOOSIER CELEBRITY has been knocking on the door for weeks, usually racing very hard then missing out to better trip (sharp) winners – feels like a spot where he can get over the hump. (2) RECORD YEAR moves from one top barn to another after using good trips to beat weaker fields in his last pair – threat for sure, but very likely to be overbet. (5) THIRD EDITION has been a very solid \$15K claimer – any live trip gives him a good chance to land somewhere on the ticket. (1) OUR CORELLI N shipped in sharp from NJ but hasn’t been able to replicate that form here at Yonkers – we’ll see if moving all the way inside can help him find a much better effort. (3) PRINCE OF TIDES wasn’t “sharp” in his last pair, but he wasn’t terrible either...an easy trip gives him a shot at a minor award. (6) KILOWATT KID N was an upset winner in a fall apart race 3 back, absurdly overbet when 4th the next week then an “ok” 3rd in his last – another that could take home a small slice with the right trip. (7) ROCKINBILLYSDREAM has tailed off, and now has to contend with Post 7

RACE 9 – Very competitive finale! (4) ON DAYBOO has been solid overall lately but his last was REALLY sharp, somehow holding out a huge rush from SKYWAY HOUDINI to 3/4s and still prevailing easily – he faces a few other similarly sharp rivals, but we’ll give him the narrow edge. (3) MEMPHISTENNESSEE N has now won 3 in a row and become popular at the claim box – steps up a notch, but remains very dangerous! (6) KEYSTONE DASH had license to flatten after a big move last week, making his first start since January – great bomb to consider at 20-1 ML. (2) MAJOR POCKET A wired softer last week and it’s hard to say how he’ll handle the jump to 20s (and with his trainer on board) – maybe 3rd/4th? (5) J B GRAM hasn’t done much lately but does drop a bit – could perk up a little. (1) JUST BET IT ALL was racing in 60s when last seen here a year ago – returns at the \$20K level, and not willing to “hope” he’s ready as the 2-1 ML favorite. (8) DELIGHTFUL TERROR fits but figures to be handled conservatively after getting parked in his last. (7) SAWYERS DESIRE probably needs an easier spot to be a player