The Empire Report – Saturday, May 4, 2024 – Race Recap

Race 1 – SUPER DUPER COOPER was caught wide leaving but patiently made his way to the top to the quarter, cut an easy clip from there then just trotted away effortlessly in the lane – good looking 3YO return! RILEYS REBEL had a good start then ended up 3rd by the quarter, gapped a bit off turn three but started to do better to 3/4s, found some good trot into the lane and was able to rally into 2nd, even if well off the dominant winner. CENTRAL PARK took command between horses off turn one then yielded to the winner to the quarter, couldn’t stick with the top one in the final 1/8th of a mile and got collared late for 2nd – but still a promising try in her first start as a 3YO. MAGIC MELVIN was underway from 7th at the half, had to avoid a breaker on turn three, was up to challenge for 4th on the final turn and did pick that slot in the lane – decent try to be a “best of the rest” 4th. ST PAULI GIRL sat the cones and was never close, but did finish up ok in her career debut. BARN CREDIT was outlet but able to get away in 4th, started to really weaken to 3/4s and was just no good at all tonight. TO MY CREDIT got away in the back and never varied. SOUTHWIND CRÈME got away 5th, came out on turn three but went off stride.

Race 2 – OBJ was the lone speed from the pole, cut a solid half then really opened things up to the final turn, simply crushing this weak bunch – jury still out as to her upside, however. PINE BUSH MAGA was stuck behind a badly gapping JESS INDEED then finally went around that one off turn three, rallied into 3rd to the final turn then continued to pace well in the lane, getting up late for the place spot – not close to the winner, but still a good try. QUIET ASSURANCES sat pocketed from the start, lost some ground to 3/4s then lost the place spot in the lane with no visible excuses – just not finishing her miles lately. JESS INDEED got away 3rd, was already gapping badly to the half and just wasn’t even competitive tonight (for her new barn). JS KRYPTONITE got away 5th, was hurt by the bad gapper to the half but ultimately empty anyway.

Race 3 – PALADIO drove on and forced URSULA BLUE CHIP to back off into 3rd, cut her own easy clip and was able to safely hold off the tripsitter to prevail – she caught a very soft field tonight, and was able to come out on top. AMERICAN HOPE sat pocketed from the start, had her chance in the lane but wasn’t able to outkick the leader, easily besting the others – she was WAY overbet, and just “ok” tonight. URSULA BLUE CHIP was the lone outside leaver but wasn’t quick enough for the top and had to drop in 3rd, lost ground to the top of the lane but did safely hold the show spot. SHANGHAI STAR got away 4th, was a little steppy on turn three, sat the cones and was no factor – jury still out on this first time starter. DUCK INTO THE NITE came out from 5th off turn three but could only generate a weak bid before tiring. ADAGIRLDAWN broke early and was way back.

Race 4 – AMBUSHED stepped around DEVILISH DREAMS then landed in the picket behind HONEY LOVE, popped out to challenge that leader to 3/4s, collared her to the top of the lane and remained strong through the wire, scoring in a very sharp 4YO return! DEVILISH DREAMS yielded early and got away 3rd, came out behind the winner on the final turn and had plenty of pace in the lane, a sharp 2nd best. HONEY LOVE made an easy lead then grabbed an easy half, got tested by the winner to 3/4s and was outmuscled by the top of the lane, weakening to 3rd but really not far back in the quick final quarter. OAKWOOD DYNASTY IR sat 4th to the final turn, moved out 3rd over and kicked home evenly into the :27.3 final quarter. CANNERY ROW got away 5th and was never a player (but with no chance into the final half). EBONY LADY got away last and was never close.

Race 5 – ALOTBETTOR N took these down the road and was able to maintain a comfortable clip, felt some pressure coming on the final turn, remained under fire through the lane but was able to dig in gamely and seal the deal. WAIMAC ATTACK N pulled first over from 4th on the back side, was a closer 2nd by the final turn, had dead aim through the lane but just couldn’t find enough to ever get by the stubborn winner – very game try shipping in from Pocono. LYONS JOHNNYJR sat pocketed from the start, had room inside for the drive home and finished well – but just not well enough to beat out the top two. LIBERTY N FREEDOM was able to improve to 5th off turn one, came out 2nd over to 3/4s and was within range as they turned for home… but lacked the stretch pop to be a more serious late threat. SHARK PLAY sat in from 3rd, had room in the stretch but little to offer – fails to improve despite another class drop. KEYSTONE DASH sat the cones at the back and was never in play… but wasn’t terrible, either. MAJESTIC KIWI N got away last and was never in it. PHELGON gave up a spot off turn one, came out 3rd over to 3/4s but was empty into the stretch.

Race 6 – GOOD INVESTMENT pulled first over from 3rd off turn three and was up to challenge to 3/4s, battled nose to nose through the final bend, was able to finally go by late then also held off one late challenger to win it –
add him to the list of form reversing winners the barn has sent out since the beginning of April! MIDNIGHT NATION sat last all the way, finally was sent 4 wide on the final turn and charged home through the lane, only a half length back at the wire – not sure why Marohn waited so long to cut him loose, but it probably cost him a victory tonight. MARLBANK ROAD was the lone speed and had things his own way until meeting a big test from the winner to the final turn, battled all he could from there and only gave way grudgingly to the wire. GRATIAN HANOVER enjoyed the two hole trip, had room into the lane but was clearly outbattled by the top trio. TIM MCMIKI was on a line into turn three, ended up following the winner’s very live cover, was right there as they turned for home but ended up squandering a chance for a big piece. VIVA LAS VEGAS N was sent off favored but sat the cones and just never had any impact at all

Race 7 – ALEX TYE came out from 4th on turn three, was up to press the leader hard on the final turn, collared that one into the lane and scored comfortably as the longest shot in the race! SARANAC BLUE CHIP found the early pocket, slotted out behind the winner to the top of the lane but had only enough to squeeze out 2nd. AIR FORCE HANOVER took these right down the road, met up with the winner on the final turn and gave way to the pressure into the lane, just hanging on to 3rd – definitely disappointing. GINGRAS BEACH came out 2nd over to 3/4s, found his best stride once into the lane but it was a little too late, only able to grab 4th (chance for 2nd if he kicks in a little sooner). MY CARBON COPY N got away 3rd, was on a line and had to sit in, coming up empty in the stretch – just never really looked good tonight

Race 8 – CYRIS N was aggressive tonight and right to the top, was asked for more to the top of the lane and responded, safely completed the solid front end score. CAUGHTINALANDSLIDE got away 3rd, pulled first over on the back side and was much closer to the top of the lane, was no match for the winner but stayed on very nicely to be 2nd best. WICHITA LINEMAN had a good start and secured the two hole trip, started to gap off turn three, was able to hang in there and hold position but had to settle for 3rd when outmuscled in the lane – just not on his best game these days. EMINEM HANOVER saved ground when a couple of others pulled, had room in the stretch and paced home evenly for 4th. MIND HUNTER came out 2nd over to 3/4s but just came up empty in the lane this week. WAR DAN DELIGHT N sat last and was unable to rally.

Race 9 – PAT STANLEY N was moving from 5th off turn three and was up to come after the leader by the final bend, paced on by into the lane and cruised home to a VERY powerful victory off the claim – he doesn’t always bring his best, but he can go miles like this when he does! MAJOR DESIRE went right to the top then let SMOKIN BY N take over, shook free into the lane after the winner went by and was able to rally for the place spot – he’s been sharp, and had good pace at both ends of the mile tonight. SMOKIN BY N took command off turn one, cut a solid pace then was challenged by the winner on the final bend, gave way into the lane and had to settle for 3rd tonight. LUCIANO N sat the 3 hole trip, came out on the final turn but gapped cover, not up to the top trio at all in the final 1/8th of a mile. B COOL FOOL sat 6th, was never close but did finish ok. ARRHYTHMIC SURGE was always well back in a dull try. TIN ROOF RAIDER A gapped from 4th on turn three then continued to tire badly.

Race 10 – IM J BEE N left but wisely backed off into 3rd off turn one, came out behind the parked OZONE BLUE CHIP to turn three then joined the leaders three wide on the final bend, was hanging a bit into the stretch but Kakaley was able to keep him motivated through the lane, eventually going by an exhausted rival and then holding off one other to come out on top. CAPTAIN T HANOVER had to move around a troubled IMABEACHBOY to the half, was still 7th to 3/4s, began a big rally from the back on the final turn and ended up passing ‘em all…except for the winner. OZONE BLUE CHIP was looped by ROCK THIS WAY then ended up brutally parked by that same horse, was still there trying hard in 2nd at 3/4s then battled between horses on the final turn, went BY the leader into the stretch and was still fighting all he could at the end, though understandably overtaken by a couple of (much) fresher foes) – he’s VERY good right now, and certainly deserved a better fate tonight! TYGA HANOVER moved from last to 6th to 3rd, came out to the final bend and found some mild late pace to outbattle a couple of others for 4th. JOIOS PLACE ended up sitting 4th, was behind traffic to the final turn, was clear to the top of the lane but still had no pop. IM A POWERPLAY A left well enough to secure the pocket trip just off the up front battle, was trapped behind the now tiring leader to the top of the lane and lost any chance – gets a pass for tonight. ROCK THIS WAY was able to loop the other leavers from his outside post and blasted to the top, ignored the parked OZONE BLUE CHIP but was still under fire from that one to 3/4s, gave way to the top of the lane and really tired badly. IMABEACHBOY had some issue from early on and didn’t finish.