

The Empire Report - Saturday, January 12, 2018 - Race Recap

Race 1 - BLAYDE HANOVER made a very easy lead off turn one, maintained a solid pace (and avoided any pressure in the process), opened up daylight as they turned for home then drew clear as he pleased, a jogburger winner in the opener - very well backed at the windows, and able to deliver the goods. TYBER TYKE left around CHEYENNE JEFFREY and earned himself the two hole trip, couldn't stay with the winner once they entered the stretch but had no trouble holding on to the place spot. STOLEN CAR floated out into the "free" 4 hole he knew was waiting for him, gained inside a weak first over horse to the final turn, was clear for the stretch drive and paced home solidly for 3rd - very useful try off the bad date. CHEYENNE JEFFREY was outleft and away in 3rd, tried to come first over to 3/4s but was never able to gain, though he did hang in pretty well to be 4th - just wasn't tight enough for this fast mile (off the bad date). ACE OF CLUBS saved ground at the back, pacing home evenly as a non factor. ROYAL HEART was grabbing early to give STOLEN CAR his spot, came out 2nd over behind poor cover to 3/4s but had no offer anyway.

Race 2 - VANQUISHED N moved out 2nd over on the back side and ended up following beautiful cover, found himself with dead aim on the new leader into the stretch and was able to surge late to score the 17-1 upset - was awfully quiet in his last 2 NJ starts, but was certainly ready for action to start his 2019 Yonkers season. BLAISE MM HANOVER sat 3rd until pulling first over past turn three, went on the attack quickly and was up to press the leader into the quick :27.4 third panel, took over completely as they turned for home and battled gamely right to the wire, taking a tough beat right at the end. BURNING SHORE joined the live outer flow to race 3rd over to 3/4s, couldn't kick home as well as the top pair but did have enough to grab 3rd. WARMINSTER A was out from last past the half but ended up 4th over to 3/4s, angled once into the stretch and finished with plenty of pace, nearly getting the show spot - has some issues, but does have some ability, when in the mood. DOJEA SOLO stepped easily around NORMANDY BEACH to cut this mile, found himself under siege despite pacing a swift 3rd quarter, battled into the final turn but had nothing left once they entered the homestretch. NORMANDY BEACH was content to sit the pocket tonight, had room from early in the stretch but just didn't enough finishing - short off the layoff? PARTY BOY sat the cones near the back, finishing alertly behind a wall of horses. HIGHLAND TARTAN lagged in last to the final turn but did finish okay, at the back of the pack.

Race 3 - GUNPOWDER N was flushed out to the half then gained cover himself from KENDRICK N, got carried well through the final turn then swung three wide to the top of the lane, found his stride into the stretch and rolled right on past the tiring leaders. TULLOW N took control off turn one then yielded to a quick retake, found room up the cones once into the stretch and kicked home solidly, though unable to outfinish the top one - good try, with pace at both ends of the mile. PHIL YOUR BOOTS retook quickly from TULLOW N then rated a comfortable half, had to pick up the pace considerably to 3/4s to deal with first over pressure, put that one away to the head of the stretch but didn't have much left, barely holding on to the show spot. QUALITY CLOSER had to back off when TULLOW N left inside of him, pulled past the stands then ended up 3rd over in the flow (behind the winner), followed wide at the top of the stretch but just didn't have enough pop to be a serious late threat. GALACTIC GALLEON N stayed inside in last, searched for (and found) a seam into the stretch and was going well as they hit the wire - clearly outraced his 74-1 price, and it seems the barn has showed up pretty live tonight. CHEYENNE SEEBER saved ground all the way but wasn't a player. KENRICK N was flushed out first over to the half, put in a decent bid into the quickened pace but couldn't keep it going from the top of the lane - eligible to be tighter next time, especially with an easier trip. HURRICANE BEACH was taken well off the car, ended up 4th over and launched a very wide move on the final turn...but then fizzled out quickly.

Race 4 - DON DOMINGO N got away 6th and remained there on the cones a long way, finally had room to slip out on the final turn (but was still 3rd over), swung four wide quickly then kicked it into high gear once they straightened away for home, pacing past all his rivals to win impressively - gave his backers a big scare, but things paid off in the end. ALL DOWN THE LINE was content to sit pocketed to CHACHING HANOVER, found the room he needed into the stretch, took a while to find his best gear but did get rolling

on time to pick up 2nd. MY MIND IS MADEUP sat 3rd all the way to the final turn before slipping out 2nd over, collared the leaders but was outfinished on the money by the top pair (on both sides of him) - not a bad try, though. CHACHING HANOVER made the lead easily then was able to grab a breather to the half, repelled a challenger with a quick 3rd quarter and took a clear lead into the stretch...but soon started to feel the legs getting heavy and was overtaken by the closers - decent try to steal one. AWESOMENESS sat in the back as a non factor, but was pacing okay when he hit the wire - useful effort from an impossible spot. DR DRAKE RAMORAY hoped to leave but had to back off 4th, came out first over to the half and got closer to 3/4s but saw his bid stall out into the final bend. SPORTSKEEPER floated out early but quickly had to back away 5th, was gapping cover as soon as he pulled to the half and just wasn't any good off the layoff. ART HISTORY was non functional at the back.

Race 5 - MELADYS MONET allowed WINGS OF ROYALTY to loop him at the start that moved up to take over past turn one, had things his own way through comfortable fractions then left his rivals in the dust once they neared the top of the lane - classy ol' boy is looking pretty good right now! WINGS OF ROYALTY was sent right out to the lead before yielding it to the winner, started to lose ground by the head of the stretch and had to summon up some of his back class to hang on for 2nd. CHESTNUT SCHOFIELD could only improve one position at the start, got stuck making a LONG first over move from the half, was up challenging for 2nd at 3/4s and remained dead game right to the end, just losing the place spot to a rival with a much easier trip - continues to do good things for his new connections. GONNA FLY sat 3rd all the way, trotting home evenly to take home a small piece. GOLDEN KRONOS lost a spot early on, sat the cones at the back then finished evenly late, clearly content to use this as a tightener (off the missed time). ONLY PASSING THRU came out 2nd over to 3/4s, was gapping by the final turn and just wasn't sharp at all.

Race 6 - BELLOWS BINGE was underway from 6th to the half before ending up 3rd over in the flow, moved 4 wide on the final turn as the field started to stack up tighter, had dead aim in deepstretch and just got up at the wire. CHRISTEN ME N got away patiently in 4th, gained cover from SICILY just past the half to race 2nd over, tipped three wide on the final turn and rallied past the leaders in the stretch...only to get nailed right on the money by the winner - had the perfect trip, but maybe he was just a bit short off the layoff? BETTORS FIRE N moved around a stopper to the half and was soon 4th over, followed very wide on the final bend then rallied nicely in the stretch for 3rd (at a BIG price) -- turning a \$56 exacta into \$5200 trifecta! ASTON HILL DAVE didn't leave then got shuffled back as he sat in, moved out into traffic on the final turn, found room into the stretch and was going very well late to be a close 4th - continues to race well for current connections. SICILY was a bit wide early before settling on a seat in 3rd, had to pull out first over just past the half and pressed the leader hard by 3/4s, was clearly doing the better work on the final turn but was unable to sustain his bid once into the stretch, quickly gobbled up by the closers. RUN ONEOVER N was able to rush up into the first turn to force the two leavers to drop in behind him, got hounded severely to 3/4s and by the final turn it was clear that he wasn't going to make it. AIR STRIKE left fast but was forced to drop into the pocket, found himself trapped behind the tiring leader to the top of the stretch but I'm not sure that he had anything left anyway - may just need the front end to deliver those top efforts.

Race 7 - GREAT VINTAGE left quickly to an easy lead, remained untested to the top of the stretch but needed to really dig in late as BEYOND DELIGHT really started getting to him - definitely NOT his best, but able to survive for the win. BEYOND DELIGHT pulled uncovered from 3rd at the 5/8ths and challenged for 2nd to 3/4s, got a bit closer on the final turn but really started to dig in once into the stretch, chipping away at the winner's margin and finishing right there as they hit the wire together - terrific effort, even in defeat. HEREHECOMESAROCKIN moved out off turn three and soon grabbed cover, angled into the stretch and also finished well, not far off the top two at the wire - return sharp in 2019! BLATANTLY BEST let the winner go to sit the two hole, never really had full inside clearance in the stretch and might have been even closer if he did. IMAROCNROLLEGEND N was moving from 7th to the half and eventually ended up 3rd over, angled widest at the head of the lane and finished well from a very tough spot - very useful return mile. TEXICAN N saved ground to the stretch, found room and finished very willingly from an impossible spot. HEEZ ORL BLACK N saved ground all the way - was never a factor,

but he did finish well enough to at least get a look when he drops. MCSPIDEY trailed all the way, but wasn't all that far back at the end.

Race 8 - ANDY RAY was roused at the start and able to get away in the two hole, edged out on the final turn and gradually wore down the leader through the stretch, a comfortable winner at the end. SMALLTOWNTHROWDOWN left sharply from his outside post and took over on the first turn, maintained a steady pace and was finally pressed on the final turn by the winner, battled hard into the stretch but came up a bit short nearing the finish - barn had him sharp off the layoff. MOSTINTERSTINGMAN was quiet at the back but helped by a couple of breakers, hit his best stride late in the mile and almost got there for 2nd - just what the doctor ordered after a break in his last, and missing the last month! ROYAL BACHELOR got away in 3rd, advanced inside on the final turn, found room in the stretch and trotted well to the end, though outgamed by some classier foes for a board spot - wasn't bad at all. THISGUYISONFIRE sat in 4th at the half, came out to 3/4s and gained the winner's cover on the final turn...but went offstride before he could even think of rallying. WESLYNN DANCER got underway from 5th from the half but went offstride on turn three.

Race 9 - MIGHTY MR SHARKEY N pulled first over to turn three, gained nicely into the teeth of a :27.3 third panel, attacked hard on the final turn before collaring the leader into the stretch....then staying on gamely to the wire to hold off one last closer - has had a couple of issues since arriving in the U.S. recently, but he certainly put it all together beautifully tonight! CITY HALL couldn't get around the rail horse and was stuck sitting 3rd, sat to the final turn before slipping out 2nd over, was briefly pushed wide (by KHUN RATHA A) but found a good gear once into the stretch and had aim on the winner...but had to settle for 2nd best. KHUN RATHA A generated enough speed to secure the two hole trip, seemed to be on and off the bit as the race went on, lost a bunch of ground off turn three but narrowed that gap to the final turn, edged his way out (under CITY HALL) on the final turn then finished pretty well right to the wire - bit of a "weird" effort, but definitely kept trying (and showed some encouraging speed at the start). CARRACCI HANOVER took off the gate and got away 5th, sat all the way but had good life finishing in the latter stages - keep an eye going forward. SCOTCH MCEWAN (back on 3 days rest) blasted from Post 8 and took over off turn one, opened a nice lead off turn three and was cruising along until the winner started to reel him in on the final turn, battled for as long as he could but eventually gave way. ALBERTO CONTADOR N was never involved, but looked fine coming over the wire - useful tightener? BUNGALOW BILL N moved out from 6th at the half but was gapping cover off turn three, couldn't get closer into the sharp 3rd panel and just wasn't a player tonight. KILLER MARTINI trailed all the way but only got beat by 5 lengths and certainly wasn't "bad".

Race 10 - LOCKTON LUCK A pulled uncovered from 3rd at the half, hit a good gear to 3/4s despite pacing into the fastest part of the race, found the pocket to the final turn then finally was able to reel in the leader just as they neared the wire - very determined winner in his local debut! FRANCO RAYNER N made a couple of early moves to secure the lead then rated a VERY easy :58 half, stepped on the gas to 3/4s and was left with only the winner chasing him by the final turn, dug in very gamely from the head of the lane but just couldn't find the wire in time - almost stole this one, but ran into a very tough customer! SOHO WALLSTREET A came out 2nd over at the half, gapped a bit into the hot 3rd quarter, couldn't go on with the top pair but held pretty well to hang on to the show spot. LETTUCERIPRITA A saved ground all the way and gained spots to the final turn, moved out to clearance and finished well from the top of the lane to be 4th. THE WALL tried to leave but lacked the speed and had to retreat, ended up racing 4th over at the half in what proved to be a terrible flow, had to swing very wide on the final turn (from well back) and actually did very well to be 5th, not far off 3rd and 4th (opened up with \$\$\$, but just never had a prayer tonight). CROCKETS CULLEN N was used hard to make the lead from Post 8 then yielded to a retake, started to weaken in the pocket as the pace quickened to 3/4s and was pretty much out of gas by the final turn. MCCLINCHIE N was out 3rd over at the half but gapped cover, and was empty by the final turn. ROCK N BLUE looked pretty hot from the start and may very well have shut off his air at the back.