

## The Empire Report – Thursday, April 18, 2024 – Race Analysis

**RACE 1** – (3) CYRUS N has been in a few no-chance spots, facing better – he drops, moves inside, and his barn is off to a start in 2024 that even our most high-flying outfits would envy (winning at nearly a 40% clip!) – just needs a decent trip to be a big threat. (7) TYPHOON BANNER N was our top choice last Thurs. when the card was halted after 3 races – he still has a big chance...but he definitely was in a better starting spot a week ago. (6) HURRIKANE JONNYBOY caught tough fields for his first 2 starts of 2024 then tired in a hot mile (in NJ) last week after showing speed from the outside– could go either way tonight, but that 20-1 ML price is definitely attractive (8) BLUE HUNT has plenty of ability but he’s also very lazy, and draws Post 8 for a barn that’s been dull recently – could be overbet from a tough spot. (1) GOTHIC ROCK turned in a better one last week and draws well for tonight – may be a bit below the main players, however. (2) WAR DAN DELIGHT is another that fits well at this level and gets a good draw...but also faces a couple of tougher ones – small piece? (4) KIMBLE A is finally starting to do better things after a rough start to his U.S. career – not sure how he’ll handle the class bump, however. (5) BENHOPE RULZ N is a consistent “piece getter” at this level, and could do better if an easy trip comes his way

**RACE 2** – (4) HILLEXOTIC just re-qualified sharply for a barn that knows how to have ‘em ready – he’s always been a “Yonkers lover”, and was 4 for 5 here last year – we’ll try him right off the shelf. (5) NOWS THE MOMENT has been like a machine here the past 3 years, compiling an outstanding 38-17-5-6 record – he MAY not be at his absolute peak form right now, but remains a very dangerous threat anytime he’s in to go. (3) CREDIT CON tends to be a little in-and-out but he was certainly on his game for last week’s “pocket rocket” win over a bit easier – he can go at this top level when at his best too. (2) I GET IT was terrific in his first 2 starts in from Dover then just “ok” last week – needs to bring his “A Game” if he hopes to contend for a bigger slice. (1) TEXSONG SOPRANO has earned his way up to the top level after 3 straight wins over cheaper– now he gets to show if he can hang with these, as well

**RACE 3** – Good race: (1) INN AT RODANTHE has been very steady lately, and may have won his last had he not been trapped in the pocket for too long – he’s overdue for a victory, and maybe this is a spot where he can get over the hump. (3) STEUBEN HANOVER wins more than his share of starts but he’s also prone to some duds – he moves from one top barn to another tonight, and has to be seen as a dangerous player...but don’t fall in love at too short a price. (4) J S HOPSCOTCH was caught wide leaving last week (into a driving rainstorm), hit the top but then broke off the first turn, recovered at the back then was sent wide on the final turn, rallying on by in the lane in a pretty remarkable recovery – his form at this \$40K level is stellar for sure, but we’ll see if he can replicate it for a new barn tonight (after being claimed from his last). (5) WILLY WALTON landed on a beautiful trip last week and was able to score the upset for his first victory of the season – leaning to others for the top slot, but he’s certainly eligible to be part of the exotics. (7) BAR COINS finished steadily in his last and seems to be trending in the right direction right now – the tough draw may limit him tonight, however. (2) IN MY DREAMS has more than enough ability to hang with these but he’s been offstride too often lately for our tastes. (8) NO TURNING BACK picked up an opportunistic 2<sup>nd</sup> last week but doesn’t figure to fare as well from Post 8. (6) CREDARENA seems overmatched

**RACE 4** – (2) MISSISSIPPI STORM has three tighteners under his belt, including a decent 3<sup>rd</sup> here last start – he should pair up well tonight with Zeron, and should offer some decent value from this spot. (4) EPOS OSTERVANG DK was a “play against” for us when the card was canceled early last week (he had an unknown pilot at the lines) – Bartlett is back tonight, however, and that makes him mighty dangerous...just like every week! (3) HAT TRICK MARLEAU has been climbing back up the class ladder with 2 wins and 2 seconds from his last 4 starts – sharp enough for a chance at a piece. (5) TOP ME OFF is a tough call – when on his game, he’s gone some big miles this year...but he’s also been more prone to “off weeks” lately, and it’s hard to know which version we’ll see tonight. (1) GAELIHILL has been away for 3 weeks after backing up badly here on 3/28 – he’s capable of much better, but he’s also in pretty tough tonight. (6) UNEVERGONNAGETHIS has struggled to find his best form this year – starting from the outside tonight doesn’t figure to help his chances

**RACE 5** – (4) PAT STANLEY N was super in that win 2 back then a “good” 3<sup>rd</sup> last week – he’s become a bit tough to predict from week to week but IF he brings his best, he can be very tough tonight (5) HURRIKANEKINGJAMES had fallen a bit off form recently but his last effort was a step in the right direction– very logical player. (1) GLACIS got roughed up last week and paid for it – he should get a much better trip tonight, but make sure to get a fair price if using on top (as he’s been pretty camera shy, historically). (2) PASS A GRILLEBEACH looked home free last week

until the winner just became airborne late and nailed him at the wire – he can be a little inconsistent, but his best effort puts him into the mix. (7) SULLIVAN is sharp again and may have been the top choice with a better draw... but Marohn has limited options from out here, and may need to wait for a better spot for a chance at the top prize. (3) HEART ON MY SLEEVE held for 3<sup>rd</sup> last week and a few of his barnmates have perked up lately – maybe 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>? (6) FOREVER FAV was seriously overdriven last week and killed his own chances – tough draw tonight. (8) ODDS ON PICK SIX’ best efforts this year have come off easy trips, from better posts

**RACE 6** – Amateur Race: (3) ITSONEOFTHOSE rattled of an incredible mile here 2 starts back, enjoying a big lead all around the track and absolutely trouncing an NAADA field by 7 lengths (in a pretty quick time for that night!) – anything close to that will make him mighty tough against these too. (1) LIONHEAD was 7-2-0-2 at Yonkers last year, and recently had a win, 2nd, and 3rd with “Yogi” at the lines – logical player for tonight. (2) BACARDI just missed here three back then rallied for 3rd in his next – he returns off an overnight win at Fhd., and that 15-1 ML price does make him worth at least considering! (8) BULLY BOY draws all the way outside and is prone to miscues...he’s also capable of BIG miles (like the one at Monti last week) and he’s a great bomb to consider if you don’t think the top choice will be able to just wire these again. (5) B MEDITHREE was sent off at a miniscule price here on 3/21 and just held on (by a quivering nostril) over #2 – he probably won’t go off nearly as short tonight, but he still figures to be somewhat overbet, and could be a bit vulnerable. (4) SKYWAY PROFESSOR has been solid lately, gets along well with his pilot and is eligible to grab a smaller piece here. (7) ALLINDOTIME was our choice last week (when the card was canceled after Race 3) but that was from an inside post – his options have become greatly reduced with the poor draw. (6) SOUTHWIND FROST picked up wins 3 and 4 back in NJ and won with tonight’s pilot on 1/27 at Fhd. – we liked him a lot better when he was scheduled to start from the rail last week, however.

**RACE 7** – (1) STOP STARING perked up 2 back with the drop to 20s, and was also one of several from the barn to elevate their games recently – he moves up to 25s off last week’s victory, but draws the pole in a “not too scary” field – decent chance to take another, but can’t possibly offer any value with that 6/5 ML price. (2) MISSILE SEELSTER seems to have suddenly come to life with last week’s 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish but the truth is that he hasn’t really been bad, but rather been hampered by an endless slew of awful posts – he could be a player here too. (3) BRUSHING UP has been picking up lots of smaller pieces but is still seeking his first win of the season– prefer to keep using him underneath. (4) IM A POWERPLAY A drops below the level of the claim after last week’s horrible effort – hard to know if a wheel came off OR if his connections are looking for a “drop and pop” scenario. (8) MAJOR DESIRE lands all the way outside but Gingras has shown a willingness to leave with him in the past – worth at least a look at what figures to be a pretty juicy price. (7) ON THE VIRG does fit nicely with these but figures to be compromised by the draw. (6) LUCIANO drops a peg after a decent speed try vs. 30s – tough draw, though, and he rarely wins (5) BLUEBIRD RECON is one of the few from this barn that has never got things going in 2024

**RACE 8** – (5) TAKE A CLOSER LOOK pulled off the 23-1 upset 3 back but made clear that it was no fluke in his next 2 starts (2<sup>nd</sup> by a nose, win by a head) – feels like they’ll have him to catch and beat. (6) URIEL BLUE CHIP is somewhat of an enigma– he HAS the ability, but just isn’t “smooth” some weeks and becomes his own worst enemy – he’s usually the type to avoid at a very short price, but consider if the odds get more attractive. (2) FINAL CHEES ERECIPE raced much better than expected in his local debut but was unable to replicate that mile the 2<sup>nd</sup> time around – if you think he can bring that “A Game” tonight, he’ll definitely be a good price. (7) WISE THINKING toured the oval from 8<sup>th</sup> in his local debut but really wasn’t bad – he probably fits with these so if the tote board suggests that he’ll be more serious tonight, you may want to include him on some tickets. (1) OTHER PEOPLES BEER gets a barn change that often produces good results but The Meadows shipper does appear to be a little on the cheaper side – leaning towards others. (3) DEMPSEY HANOVER grabbed 3<sup>rd</sup> at a big price in his only local start then took time off after a lame scratch on 2/5 – qualified ok, but prefer to just watch, for now. (4) ALLBETSONFRITZ was a decent 3<sup>rd</sup> at PcD last week but his local efforts have been “meh” – leaning elsewhere. (8) HURRIKANE CHUCK is the outsider...both literally and figuratively

**RACE 9** – (8) TIPSY MONI gets to duck the boys and gets back in with the girls tonight...where she’s been virtually unbeatable – gets top billing, even from out here. (4) NO MAS DRAMA has become a bit unpredictable this year, mixing in “good” efforts, with “great” efforts and also some not-so-hot efforts – can be a big player IF she shows up in the right mood. (6) HOT FLASH KIMMY made a BIG recovery after a first turn miscue in her local debut – she re-qualified sharply at Pocono, and MAY have a chance to threaten (at least for a piece) tonight if she can find a way into the hunt. (1) P L NOTSONICE landed on a tough trip in her YR debut and still almost picked up

a 4th – she seems capable of better, and we may see it from the pole tonight. (2) PERFECT VIXEN has had an amazing season so far, going from the bottom levels upstate to winning the FM Open here at YR – she’s missed 4 weeks, however, and her barnmates that have had similar layoffs have produced a mixed bag of results recently – not sure what to expect! (3) IMA DIAMOND BABE picked up a no-threat 3<sup>rd</sup> in her local debut – we’ll see if she can build off that tonight. (5) LADY JETER got lost at the back last week – she should be closer to the action tonight, but still feels like she may be in a tough spot. (7) CALL ME DANI figures to be hurt badly by the draw

**RACE 10** – (3) HIGHLAND MOWGLI was a jogburger 2 back then ran into the “good” CREDIT CON last week and was an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> best – sharp enough to come out on top tonight. (4) P L OSCAR made a break last week but that’s not usually an issue for him – he may be able to grab a good trip tonight, and he generally offers good value – worth considering. (2) KEG STAND would be the clear favorite in here if at/near his best but his first 2 starts (in NJ) suggest that he may not be hitting on all cylinders just yet – Yannick does take the drive (over #3), but he still may be vulnerable at a short price tonight. (1) DWS POINT MAN has raced well ever since arriving here in February, holding his form nicely as he ascended the class ladder – very playable in exotics. (5) B NICKING was very good for a long time but broke two back then lacked any real pop last week – feels like he MAY be tailing a bit, but we could get a better picture after tonight. (6) HELPOFTHSEASON lost her spot in the FM Open to barnmate TIPSYPY MONI, and this is probably a tougher assignment

**RACE 11-** (1) VIVA LAS VEGAS N drops, draws the pole, and his barn has been very solid lately – catches a pretty modest group tonight, and gets the edge to come out on top. (6) GENIUS MAN put in a good one last week, coming up 2<sup>nd</sup> best to the very well meant winner – he can be inconsistent at times but he picks up his share of wins every year, and often against fields like this – the main danger? (8) AIR FORCE HANOVER looked like a good play last week but unfortunately, the card was canceled before his race – he’s still worth a look at a big price, but he’ll need a lot more trip luck to get it done from out here. (3) SPRINGBRIDGE DUEL has “figured” any number of times in the past but he’s now 0 for 19 at YR (last 3 yrs.) and getting tougher to use on top– willing to include on the bottom of exotics, though. (4) WON LAST FEELING has been stuck on minor pieces lately and that’s actually been his story for much of his time at Yonkers – another one to consider underneath. (2) HURRIKANE HUNTER (no Lasix tonight) just re-qualified after 6 months on the shelf – prefer to just watch, for now. (5) MARLBANK ROAD is listed as the 5/2 ML choice but hasn’t raced in 10 months and qualified up the track – pretty hard to be on his team right now. (7) LAST MACH draws post 7 off a month and was 3-0-0-0 here last year.

**RACE 12** – Tough race! (4) LIGHTFOOTEDLEGEND has been ultra consistent since returning for his 2024 campaign– he gets his regular pilot back, and is one of several players with a legitimate chance in here (2) PERRON wasn’t on his game the last 2 weeks but he also dislikes an off track (0 for 14) – if the surface comes up dry, he may be a good bomb to consider. (1) FLIP THE SWITCH saw his 4 race winning streak snapped 2 back – he was claimed that night, then made a break for his new connections last week – has become a bit iffy, but that also means a better price for anybody looking to hop on board. (8) MANCLANE was very sharp to start off the new year – hit a rough patch, but feels like he’s getting his game back together again – just insist on a fair price if trying him from Post 8! (7) TOCCOA FALLS shipped in off a pair of NJ clunkers and his speed try came up short – seems a bit risky right now for that 3-1 ML price, especially from Post 7. (5) ICE BREAKERS K has a mixed bag of tries here this year – chance to at least be in the hunt if he brings his best effort. (6) THE BALLYKEEL DEAL upped her game considerably after shipping in from Canada to one of our top barns – struggled a bit in last week’s FM Open, and this spot may not be any easier. (3) CRESCENT BEAUTY won a “fall apart” race on 2/29 but has struggled in her other 6 starts this year.