

The Empire Report - Thursday, January 17, 2019 - Race Analysis

RACE 1 - (5) DALI DELIGHT started off 2019 much the same way she raced through much of 2018 - by crushing a basement field! Hard to go against her, but I will point out that she was claimed by a barn that sent out several poor performers earlier this week. (1) CHERRY BLISS was invisible in her 2019 debut but she drops in class while going from Post 8 to the rail and that could easily trigger a quick form reversal. (4) NORTHERN SOIREE was an "ok" 4th last week, but does have a pretty good YR history - include her in the exotics. (6) ROCKLINDAROCK was trapped a long way last start but charged home full of pace for 2nd up a clear rail - hard to predict her trip from the outside, but a good one may land her a piece. Both (2) BEYONCES ROCKN and (3) GLAMORGAL are playable for 3rd/4th, but that seems like their limit.

RACE 2 - (6) CHUCKABUCK has hit board in 6 of 7 since changing hands (broke in the other) including last weeks 8 hole blowout at Fhd. - faces nothing scary in his local debut, and looms the one to beat. (4) GOT NO MONEY HONEY has been steady overall, and just missed in last - good draw makes him a live one again. (5) FINS UP hit the top quickly last time but broke on the first turn - slaps the hobbles back on for tonight, and that 15-1 ML makes it hard to resist including him. (2) JACKIE NEULANDS has been close here a couple of times, and seems very eligible to grab another minor share. (8) RAISING KERCK HAERT won his local debut but a lot went his way - draws Post 8 now, and a smaller piece seems likely

RACE 3 - (2) NORTHERN ASSASSIN A picked up wins in all 3 Nov. starts - no chance 8 hole after that then tough trip 2nd to Donau, followed by 2nd last week to repeater Rock Icon - gets the narrow edge over a couple of other live rivals. (1) CODE MEISTER was stuck first over into a quick 3rd panel last week and was still a solid 3rd, off the bad date - has hit board in all 5 Yonkers starts, and may be able to get that first win photo tonight. (4) GLASS PRINCE moves inside AND drops after a steady 5th last week (Post 7, vs. better) - veteran knows how to win races, but will need some trip luck against the top pair. (3) QUICK ART as done little since the barn change, but the good draw gives him a shot at a minor piece. (4) MISTER ACCUMULATOR and (7) MIDNIGHT DYLAN N are possibilities for 3rd/4th, if spreading

RACE 4 - (6) TAKE A WISH made \$91K last year on the strength of a couple NJ Bred stakes wins - she certainly fits well enough with these, and is worth a shot at 12-1 ML (hoping that Smith will at least put her in play). (2) TRUMPS RALLY gave it a good try on the front end in his first attempt for the new barn (lost to the trip sitter) - license to be even sharper tonight. (8) WORTHYOURATTENTION beat similar 2 back (Chester) then was 2nd here last week to Perlucky (who would be odds-on against these) - very dangerous here if Bartlett hustles her away to a good start. (3) PHOTO BOMBR only won 2 of 33 last year but hit board 22 other times - been away for 5 wks., but gets a big driver switch...mixed feelings. (7) AMERICAN STEELE usually grabs good pieces here, but draws poorly off a bad date.

RACE 5 - (5) NEXT SUCCESS was well backed in his 2019 debut and delivered a solid first over try (just missed 2nd) - switches to Bartlett tonight, and catches a pretty soft field....biggest knock is the 3/2 ML. (1) JUSTICE MY WAY was "sneaky ok" in his last start of '18, then finished up well in his '19 return - should get a decent start tonight with minimal effort, and he does have a license to spring a mini upset. (2) MARTY MONKHOUSER A was no good at all last week, but he's beaten this type before, and a quick reversal isn't out of the question. (4) INDY INGOT was a bit sluggish last time, but is eligible to be tighter now - not sure he can win this, but he can certainly grab himself a decent piece. (8) BYBY LANDON does fit well here - no prayer in last, but may not be all that serious against this week, with another bad draw.

RACE 6 - (1) NO EXCUSES was actually VERY good last week, but was severely overdriven and could have been 2nd (maybe 1st?) with a more conservative approach - moves all the way inside now and while I doubt he'll be 9-1, he should at least be a fair price. (3) T BARRR seems to have improved significantly (out of town) since the barn change - figures to be a major threat in his YR return. (4) FIRST CLASS ACT was better last time, and gets Gingras on board tonight - has to be included in the exotics. (7) ONE OF THE FEW ships in from Canada to a barn that has done well with these types in the past, but will have to deal with both Post 7 and 26 days off - tough task. (5) THE LIONKING AS & (6) HOUSE HUBBY for 3rd/4th

RACE 7 - (2) FASHION BYTHEBEACH was a big "go" from Post 7 last week (new barn) - earned the pocket trip but never was able to find room in the stretch - guessing he'll call the shots now with the move inside....but don't expect much of a price. (1) BEAST MODE also sat a pocket last week - he had his shot at the winner but came up a close 2nd best....may suffer same fate tonight. (3) SIMPLY SUNSATIONAL N is hard to gauge right now thanks to a bunch of recent bad posts and/or much tougher fields - my guess is that he'll be a player, but maybe for a smaller share. (4) MATT MAJOR has a terrible local record but does seem pretty good now - chance to hit the bottom of the ticket. (7) ROOSTER RABBIT raced well last time, but the move outside will hurt - chance 3rd/4th. (8) HE CAN FLY N will struggle to reach tonight

RACE 8 - Basically a NW5000 field disguised as NW10000! (1) FANTICIPATION is hard to like off her lines, but she should be tighter this week, faces easier than she's used to, and seems eligible for a big reversal from this spot. (5) A CRAFTY LADY easily handled cheaper last week, but as noted, most of these are really NW5000 types - very possible repeater, but that 8/5 ML is a turn off. (7) BRING ME DIAMONDS seems like the "best" mare in here, but she's been off for 5 weeks and draws Post 7 - pretty hard to play her with any kind of confidence! (8) BELLA RAGAZA changes barns and draws Post 8 (while technically moving up), but at least she CAN blast (if she wants to), and her consistency makes her worth at least a look. The others can argue over the spoils.

RACE 9 - (3) HYBRID HENRY was helped by an easy trip last week, but was still a good 2nd to the dominant, well meant winner - certainly likes to win races, and is in a logical spot to do just that tonight. (6) FASHION FOREVER never got involved from Post 8 last time, but he's capable of better than that - if Smith decides to be aggressive here, he can make some noise...at a nice price. (2) CLIVE BIGSBY wasn't on his game at all last week (lazy, then broke) but he does have some ability and I suppose it's a good sign that he drops right back in the box - just don't take a short price. (5) SEVEN KNIGHTS has been a very solid YR performer, but may find the competition here to be a bit better than he's used to - piece? (4) HOME RUN TROT hasn't clicked yet since the barn change, and has missed 5 weeks - just watch, for now

RACE 10 - Wide open race: (2) SKYWAY BOMBER was in a no-chance spot last week but finished well, and that mile may serve as a good tightener - should offer some decent value in tough to figure event. (5) SWIFT AS A SHADOW moves up riding a 3 race win streak but he's shown he can go with these when sharp, like this - looks to win for 3rd trainer in as many starts. (3) LONE SURVIVOR ended the year sharp, but was just a little short in his '19 return - claimed that night, and looks to provide quick dividends for his new connections. (1) DIAMOND COWBOY hasn't raced since Oct. - obviously very "iffy", but wouldn't say impossible. (4) PIECE OF THE ROCK had a bad trip in last (as the favorite), but never fired anyway - maybe Gingras can motivate him? (7) RURAL ART may not be fully cranked for tonight (bad date, post)

RACE 11 - (2) BLACK MAMBA AS landed on a tough trip off a bad date last time, but was still a dead game 2nd to a winner that crawled over the half in 1:00.1 - very logical selection here, but he may be way overbet! (6) COASTAL REGION saw his 3 race win streak ended by a couple of early breaks last week, but the recovery he made afterwards was impressive - an absolute "use" at what figures to be a nice price. (1) SOUTHWIND FERRARI may be a bit cheaper in here, but the rail draw and big switch to Kakaley make him worth considering - at least include in the exotics. (5) VOLARE wasn't bad last time and does have some big efforts....but his 9-1-0-1 local record doesn't inspire much confidence. (7) NOWS THE MOMENT fits ability-wise, but will be coming from last, with a lesser pilot - maybe can land a piece?

RACE 12 - (1) ACEFORTYFOURAMANDA shocked off the layoff last week when she suddenly found her gate speed (from Post 7!), and incredibly, nobody else left - was a VERY easy winner, and looms a very short priced repeater. (3) WHISKERSONKITTENS finished well last time and is in a good spot here to leave well, and grab herself a trip - can be a player. (5) SHADY STELLA easily handled cheaper last week, but she can go with these too, when sharp - recently reinstated trainer is quickly re-stocking his barn with some live ones. (7) POPPY DRAYTON N really disappointed at even money last week off the pocket trip - will be ignored here, so she's worth including underneath. (4) SNEAKY GIRL gets some post relief - maybe can grab a minor share? (6) MISS IRISH ROSE A & (8) FOXY DAME N will be hurt by the draw