

The Empire Report – Thursday, July 18, 2024 – Race Recap

Race 1 – WOWERESS took command off turn one, cut a very strong clip and easily held off his closest pursuers to score in a career best 1:55.4! FRINGED made an easy lead then yielded to the winner, chased closely all the way and safely held on to the place spot while no threat to the top one. BUT WHY got away sitting 4th, pulled uncovered past 5/8ths and was up to challenge for 2nd on the final turn, never could take over that spot but did trot well right to the wire. PAPA JOE LOZITO sat the cones in 3rd, not up to the top ones but easily holding 4th. GRIT MAN got away in 5th but never got close to the action. JAKY JUMPUP was away slowly and never got any better

Race 2 – SIR PINOCCHIO was handled carefully early and got away 3rd, rushed up to take over at the quarter then enjoyed things his own way, safely holding off a trio of pursuers to score as the 1/5 choice – he definitely looked shaky at times tonight, and wasn't nearly as sharp as the horse that just won the Yonkers Trot here 3 weeks ago. KEEP ASKING got away in the pocket but was back to 3rd after the winner took over, found room between horses into the stretch and finished with good trot to be a close 2nd. NOTTINGHAM stepped out to the early lead, seated KEEP ASKING then yielded to the favorite at the quarter, popped out with dead aim at the top of the lane but just couldn't find enough to go by the vulnerable winner, ending up a close 3rd instead. THINKER MONKEY sat in from 4th, angled for the drive home and offered good trot to be right there late. IT WASNT ME came out from 5th off turn three, got up to 3rd on the final turn but weakened at the top of the lane and went offstride

Race 3 – Fall apart race! RAMBORAIN was outleft and backed off into 3rd, was losing ground to 3/4s but still pulled off the cones, started to do better on the final turn as the leader began to tire, trotted right on by the NEW leader into the lane and was an easy winner at the end, a combination of a solid effort and some good fortune! BARN CREDIT came out from 4th to 3/4s but made no gain, benefited from the early leaders just folding from the final turn and was able to outkick the others for the place spot. THE THING IS sat 5th, was clear between horses into the lane and found enough to pick up 3rd. CHAPLIND retook from MIGHTY DEO to the quarter then grabbed some very easy fractions, just gave way to the pocket popping tripsitter on the final turn but came back at the end to beat that one out for 4th – strange performance! MIGHTY DEO made the lead then yielded to a retake, popped out to 3/4s and trotted on by the leader on the final turn, looked like a winner then seemed to just pull himself up into the lane, first watching RAMBORAIN go by and then folding to last!

Race 4 – SKY BOX made the top off turn one then dropped anchor to the half, picked things back up to 3/4s then felt INFLATION getting closer to the final turn, still had plenty left and easily held off his only rival to the finish – continues to thrive at Yonkers! INFLATION got away 3rd, came out to 3/4s and up into 2nd on the final turn, had the winner in his sights as they turned for home and did trot strong to the wire...but was 2nd best tonight. BLANTONS BLUE was outleft and away in 4th, took over 3rd on the final turn and easily bested the others, while no threat to the top pair. TOBERN left well and grabbed the pocket trip, lost ground at 3/4s and was a well beaten 4th at the end. PEPPER WOW had a slow start and never in the hunt. PROMISES MET got away 5th then broke to the half

Race 5 – FLY BY let others go and was away surprisingly in 4th, pulled first over to the half and was up to challenge off turn three, was still a half length back on the final turn and had to work hard in the lane to eventually get by the stubborn leader, making the chalk players nervous until the very end (at 1/5)! VOSS BLUE CHIP made the top on turn one and wouldn't allow a retake, just jammed the brakes with a :31.3 second quarter, picked things up off turn three (as the favorite got closer) and was still holding the leading to and through the final turn, dug in right to the wire and ALMOST was able to hang on at 22-1 – vintage Gingras, as he almost “steals” another one! VICTOR LASZLO was able to trot up into 3rd past turn one, came out behind the winner to 3/4s, angled into the lane and finished with good trot to be right behind the top pair – good effort tonight. SUPER DUPER COOPER got away in the pocket and failed to retake from the longshot leader, never popped out despite the incredibly slow 2nd quarter, was indecisive as to whether to stay in or come out to 3/4s, elected to stay inside and just came up empty once into the lane – hard to say if he just wasn't on his game tonight, or if the drive just compromised his chances. CRAZY BROTHER JIM saved ground to no avail. ROBERT MICHAEL appeared overmatched on paper...and he was

Race 6 – STICK WITH ME KID flew right to an easy lead, started to get away to 3/4s and was pretty much in another time zone by the time they hit the wire, absolutely obliterating these tonight – not often we see a \$2.10 horse in an amateur race but this guy certainly looked the part tonight! PSALMSFORTYSIXFIVE got away 6th, came out on the back side and was up into 4th to 3/4s, angled into the stretch and was able to get there late to be a distant 2nd

best – doing better since adding hobbles. PILSNER FROSTY got away in the winner’s pocket, started to really lose ground coming to 3/4s, faded more from the final turn but still almost held 2nd! KASHAS BOY got away 3rd, challenged for 2nd to the final turn but just never fired tonight, ending up 4th when it looked like he could easily be 2nd at 3/4s. LIMERENCE got away last and trotted home evenly with the “second pack”. LA MAGIC got away 4th, was already tiring off turn three and finished well back. SECRET BRO was outleft and in no man’s land off turn one, ended up parked by the winner, was already tired when he dropped to the cones in 4th on turn three and finished way back at the end

Race 7 – BLACK MAGIC was caught a bit wide early on before trotting up to take the lead, rated an easy half then started to extend his lead, absolutely crushing these in his impressive Hilltop debut! HAND DOVER DAN left well tonight and got away 3rd, came out uncovered on the back side and challenged for 2nd to 3/4s, taking over that spot and holding it gamely to the wire – both smooth and solid tonight. UNEVERGONNAGETHIS ended up 3rd over on the back side, offering good late foot to get there last for the show spot. PASSIONATE PROMISE got away 4th, came out 2nd over on the back side, moved into 3rd to the top of the lane and trotted well to the wire, even though losing the show spot late. WARRIOR ONE left well to end up in the winner’s pocket, gapped off turn three then was back to 3rd on the final turn, tiring more into the lane – definitely on best game at the moment. VINNY DE VIE saved ground but was still no factor. BEERTHIRTY K took off the gate and got away last, unable to get into the hunt tonight

Race 8 – EXPLOSIVE RIDGE left nicely into the two hole, found room once into the stretch and blew right on by to the easy victory - makes it a pair of amateur wins tonight for Adameczyk, both times starting from all the way outside! RACEACE went right to the top and seated the winner behind him, easily dismissed WINNERESS on the final turn but was simply no match in the lane for the winner’s powerful late kick. FASHION FOREVER was able to get away well in 3rd, holding that spot right to the end. WINNERESS got away in 4th and was underway first over off turn two, felt his bid stall on the final turn and weakened to 4th – not a bad try, considering the trip. DROP THE MIC saved ground from 6th and was never a player. BEACON BEACH came out 2nd over past the stands, coming up empty from the top of the lane – dull try tonight. SNOWMAN HANOVER lagged at the back

Race 9 – BAD BOY TOO made an easy lead then cut an easy half, edging away in the lane to another easy victory. CHIEF CORLEONE was able to secure the two hole trip, proved no match in the lane but easily beat the others, completing the same exacta once again. HES HALF NAKED came out from 5th on the back side, could only challenge for 3rd on the final turn but held together well enough to the wire to still bring home the show spot. CELLMATE got away 4th and elected to sit on the cones, had room in the lane and paced home evenly for 4th. THE SERPENT saved ground from last, hitting the wire with decent interest in an encouraging local debut. FOUT got away 3rd, sat the cones and folded anyway. AIRY SHADOW started to leave but then had to abort, gapped 2nd over to the final turn then tired badly.

Race 10 – P L NOTSONICE got away last and saved ground to the final turn, got some help when QUEEN OF ALL just drifted wide on the final turn (allowing her to slip out), found her best gear once into the lane and charged on by to victory – opportunistic for sure, but also sharp! PERFECT VIXEN surprisingly couldn’t get around PARISO and was away in 3rd as a result, got flushed out uncovered on turn three then bobbled briefly to 3/4s, quickly smoothed out and was back challenging for 2nd to the final turn, kept coming in the lane and did finally go by the leader, but not until the winner zoomed on by them both – remains sharp! DIAMANTE TRIO IT had the best speed and took command off turn one, felt rivals getting closer to the top of the lane, dug in right to the end and only gave way grudgingly late. PARISO offered better speed this week and earned the two hole trip, was right there all the way but outmused in the crucial stages. QUEEN OF ALL came out from 4th at the half then flushed out PERFECT VIXEN, drifted wide into the final turn (allowing the winner to get out) then was outkicked in the stretch. HOT FLASH KIMMY didn’t leave and didn’t pull, appeared full of trot on the final turn but made a break before she could shake free.

Race 11 – INFINITY STONE seated a pair of leavers on the first turn then grabbed a soft half, had things all his own way and responded to urging to the top of the lane, edging away to an easy victory. P C FREE WHEELING dropped easily into the pocket on turn one, seemed a threat at the top of the lane but came up short in the final 1/16th of a mile, a no threat 2nd best. SKYWAY PROFESSOR was helped by a couple of early breakers and able to easily find a spot to drop in 3rd, sat all the way and trotted steadily to the wire. J S HOPSCOTCH was offstride briefly before the start but quickly recovered to get away 5th, passed a tired one to 3/4s to take over 4th and trotted evenly the

rest of the way. FIGHT SONG gave up a couple of spots and got away 4th, lost ground to 3/4s and was clearly short off the sick scratch. ROGER RABBIT broke at the start and used up his energy just catching the pack. AIRMANS JACKPOT broke at the start and was out of it

Race 12 – CAPTAIN T HANOVER was away well in 4th, came out first over to turn three and started to turn the heat up to the final bend, put the winner away once into the stretch and reported home an easy winner, his 2nd victory in a row. LAST POUND left and found a spot in 5th, flushed out the winner and raced 2nd over to turn three, enjoyed a beautiful trip and while unable to kick home with the top one, did finish well enough for the place spot. HUNTED HOUSE was underway from 7th to the half, ended up 3rd over in the live flow, pacing home well for the show spot. THAT DOG WILL HUNT took off the gate tonight and got away last, came out 4th over to the final turn and kicked home alertly in the lane for 4th, not far off 2nd and 3rd. SURFRIDER had to drop in 3rd off turn one, looked hot to the quarter then was cut loose to rush up for the lead on turn two, looked fine to 3/4s but started to feel heat building to the final turn, then gave way for good once into the homestretch. KID FROM THE BRONX stepped around GENTLE GIANT then yielded to SURFRIDER on turn two, had room inside into the stretch but lacked the 2nd move he needed. GENTLE GIANT figured to have a solid chance coming in but yielded off turn one then was back to 3rd off turn two, never pulled and was shuffled back turning for home, left with no real chance (hard to say what he may have had in the tank). EURO STEP was off a bit slowly, got shuffled back to last and was never in play