

The Empire Report – Tuesday, April 16, 2024 – Race Analysis

RACE 1 – (1) YS SENSATIONAL CITY has been terrific all year, and just missed to a very sharp PURE SILKY in her first try in this class – give her a pass for her last (stuck in the back vs. MC ANGEL, etc.) and look for a quick wake up from the pole tonight. (2) ON THE MONEY GB is still winless on the year but she's hit board in 7 of 10 starts, and has been finishing her miles better since the recent claim – very playable underneath. (4) OKINAWA BEACH A hasn't raced since 3/15 but does have that 4/5 "maintenance qualifier" – she's been a little in and out this year, but could definitely make some noise if she shows up on her best game. (3) IDEALINFUN is another that has been a little hard to gauge this year but she hails from top connections, and does have a recent win and a 2nd in this class – hard to leave her out of the exotics. (6) PARADISE ROCK L has several very good tries at this level but moves from the rail to Post 6 and may have trouble replicating last week's sharp effort. (5) IRON MISTRESS was disappointing last time after a game first over try the week before– can grab a share IF she brings her best. (7) TWIN B ALLURE was excellent in her last, but has struggled from outside spots previously

RACE 2 – (1) MOVIN ON UP was in no-chance spots the last 2 weeks but was razor sharp for some time right before that – can get aggressive again with the move inside, and may prove tough to overhaul. (4) LAYTON HANOVER came into last off a month (after a sick scratch) but still turned in a huge effort, charging home for 2nd from well back – has to be considered a serious threat off that mile. (3) MICKY GEE N stepped his game up big time after being claimed away from his long time barn on 2/19 – on the flip side, he did test positive after that win on 2/26, and was subsequently disqualified (though no mention is made in tonight's program) – hard to be certain what to expect from him tonight. (2) BONDI SHAKE N ships in sharp from Fhd. but he was just 1 for 25 here in 2022-23 – maybe use underneath? (6) YOROKOBI N has been good all year (so far), and lost all chance last week after a bad shuffle – not sure he can reach from out here, however. (5) THE REGULATOR generally does his most damage from better spots, vs. a bit easier competition – always a chance for a piece, though.

RACE 3 – (4) PRINCESS ARONA won her first local start but then lost 14 straight, including some pretty bad stretch "hang jobs" – she was all business last week, however, hitting the top and never looking back, delivering an excellent front end score – she'll be very tough with a repeat of that effort. (2) AINTNOHOLLABACKGRL went her best mile of the year in that victory 2 back but was never able to get close to the top choice with her first over bid last week – probably the one with the best chance to knock off #4 tonight. (1) LOOKATMYART has been stuck on smaller pieces recently and may be looking at a similar result tonight – logical one for exotics. (3) FLIP THE SCRIPT was good 3 and 4 back but quickly reverted to her lesser form in her last couple – we'll see if she can find one of her better efforts tonight, and be in the hunt. (7) BLUEBIRD GRAF just fell apart after being claimed on 3/19 – brutal spot even if she gets a wake up call here. (5) SHOWMEMAGIC has 22 local starts and still has never been 1st or 2nd – hard to endorse. (6) TUGGINGONCREDIT has beaten just one horse in her 4 starts this year

RACE 4 – Tough race: (5) LA BELLA VITA N has been very good since dropping to this \$50K level and deserves a pass for her last (8 hole off a month) – she should be a decent price, and could be a good value play in a tough race to figure. (3) BETTER WATCH IT was terrific for a good part of 2023, but still trying to get her groove going in '24 – if things go her way, she's another with a chance to score at a decent payoff. (4) NUTTINBUTTHEBEST has been a different mare in 2024, already with 3 wins from her 6 local starts (she was 2 for 37 at YR in the two years prior!) – she's a little bit of a question mark at this level but a good price makes her worth a look. (2) ELSIES DELIGHT has been a bit in & out since arriving in Feb. but any of her better efforts would make her a threat with these, especially with the good draw. (1) LINE EM UP returns off a solid 3 race stint at PcD and will surely look to use her speed from the pole – add her to the list of mares with a legitimate chance in here. (6) ONEDERFULBEACH used all of a perfect trip to win in this class last week but seems like an underlay at that 5/2 ML price moving out to Post 6. (7) BADDITUDE raced well after an early miscue last week but faces an uphill battle starting from out here

RACE 5 – (3) SPITTING IMAGE had been sneaky sharp from some terrible spots so it was no surprise to see her win (easily) when moving inside 2 back – she proved that mile was no "fluke" with last week's dead game first over try, and she'll probably be the 3rd or 4th choice in the wagering tonight – good value play? (1) DREAM DANCING is off to a fast 10-4-3-0 start this year, draws the pole and looms a very dangerous threat (4) WHATINEEDISAMAN is also off to a great start in 2024, winning 4 of her 8 starts (and barely edging out #1 on two occasions) – another very serious threat in here. (2) CALLMEQUEENBEE A moves inside after making the most of a trio of outside draws – chance to come out on top, but more likely to end up somewhere on the bottom of exotics. (5) SAUBLE DE

LIGHTFUL needed all kinds of urging to make it to the top last week, required prodding to roll on once there then was eventually worn into submission by #3 – her price will drift up tonight, and she MAY just be better off the pace – not impossible. (6) FEAR ABBY ships in and gets a barn change that often leads to quick improvement...but she does seem a bit on the cheaper side. (7) PLEASURE SEEKER was strong in the pocket last week but just happened to run into a very sharp front end winner – tonight’s draw is a killer, however. (8) CORAL BELLA will wake up in a big way one of these nights...but probably not from out here.

RACE 6 – (5) FAMILY RECIPE picked up a 2nd and 3rd vs. better in his last pair and drops down to a level where he can usually do a lot of damage – wouldn’t bet the rent money on him at a short price, but he does deserve top billing. (7) LOUS SWEETREVENGE has been inconsistent at best this season but he moves to a red hot barn, gets a fresh set of hands and may actually be a “fair price” tonight – probably worth including on your tickets. (1) MIGHTY SA NTANA N is still looking for his first win of the season but he’s already picked up 4 seconds, at big prices – never a bad one to include underneath. (2) CHIMICHURRI N hasn’t started in nearly a year but the import won 9 of 26 Down Under, and was competing in some good races in his last few NZ starts – his barn is off to an amazing start in 2024, and perhaps the tote board will offer some additional clues. (8) KARLOO BRADLEY N raced well from Post 8 last week (despite 3 weeks off) but gets saddled with the same awful post tonight – small piece? (4) CAVIART SA RGENT’s only win this year came at the bottom level but he is capable of pieces against these. (3) MIND HUNTER probably needs to be in easier for a chance at the top prize – one of several that could contend for minor awards. (6) GAMBLINGTERROR can throw some good miles, but this is a tough spot – leaning towards others here

RACE 7 – (1) GRETZKY THE GREAT just missed 2 back the likely odds-on choice in here, then landed on a no-chance trip last week – moves all the way inside, and might be able to spring an upset...with some racing luck. (6) VICI goes a good one every week (and usually even better than that), but he hasn’t been able to find the winner’s circle since January – maybe tonight he gets over the hump? (3) STATESIDE DEUCE GB has an outstanding 7-5-1-1 record since starting his U.S. career but never seems overly “impressive” – he may be the type that just does what he needs to win...but he may also be a bit vulnerable in this pretty solid field. (4) MIDNIGHT THUNDER didn’t get around Yonkers all that smoothly in the past but had no issues at all in last week’s sharp, front end score – would be no surprise at all if he was able to make it 2 in a row. (2) HE ALLTHERAGE N has plenty of ability but he was rough much of the mile 2 back, then blew up on the final turn with a clear lead last week – he goes for a new pilot tonight, and may be worth using IF the price drifts up enough. (7) ONTOP RAINMAN will be rallying late – but likely from too far back to do any serious damage. (5) PEETIE was much better in his 2nd local start but also benefited tremendously by some confusion on the final turn (after #2 was briefly offstride) – we’ll see how he does without the benefit of that trip luck

RACE 8 – (4) IDEAL PAR didn’t have the best trip when 4th in his seasonal debut – was more aggressive in his 2nd start, ended up with a two hole trip, and was a close 3rd at the wire – barn has been on fire, so maybe this guy will be ready to get the job done in his 3rd start of the year. (1) FIREARM was winless in 10 starts as a 2YO but found the winner’s circle in his very first start back at 3 (beating the top choice) – solid chance to repeat, even if Gingras opts for #5. (5) HANK THE HUNK was well backed for his 2nd local try, had a great start but was wiped out by a breaker early on – has to be respected tonight. (7) LOOTABLE is just 1 for 36 lifetime but he has speed, and may be able to grab an up close trip – chance to add some value to the exotics. (8) YANKEE CLOUT got a beautiful drive and finished just behind #1 last week – he draws all the way outside for tonight, however, and he’s also just 1 for 42 for his career (19X 2nd or 3rd). (6) RENAISSANCE DEO went off huge prices in his first 2 career starts across the river – may find these more to his liking, and perhaps the tote board will offer some clues. (3) BEST BETTOR is 0 for 44 locally...and really not that many 2nds and 3rds either. (2) LEAVING A LEGEND shows three “meh” qualifiers as he debuts for a new barn in 2024

RACE 9 – (1) FANTOME EN JOIE picked up a pair of 4ths in his first 2 local tries, raced better when 3rd in his next pair, was a big go in his next but broke on the lead early on, then raced well again for 3rd last week – maybe this is a spot where he can grab that first local win. (3) RAYRAY raced very well 3 and 4 back, picking up a win and a 2nd – had a tough first over trip in his next, then finished ok for 4th in his last – logical player tonight, with any decent trip. (4) BULLVILLE STEPHANO has ability, but still seems to be finding his best stride in 2024 – he’s a possibility for sure, but that 9/5 ML price is definitely a turnoff. (6) CHIEF CORLEONE had been racing decently for several starts before a dud last week – tough draw, but not a bad one for 3rd/4th. (2) KNOCKIN OUT gets an inside draw, should get a decent trip and may be able to grab a small slice. (8) COUNTER OFFER is just 3 for 82 lifetime but he finished with pace in his last pair, and is another good bomb for 3rd/4th. (5) OHOKA LE BRON N has ability

(whebut it's hard to endorse a horse that's finished "distanced" in 4 straight starts! (7) BETTER OFF SINGLE took no \$\$ and beat no horses in his local debut – he'll get better at some point, but hard to make a case that it'll be tonight

RACE 10 – (3) UNITY cut the mile before coming up 2nd best to the tripsitter last week and has been a rock solid player at this \$20K level – chance to make amends tonight. (1) ALWAYS B MIMI was no threat in her last pair (after the claim) but should be looking at a much better trip for tonight – she has a couple of wins here this season, and could be a big threat tonight. (7) SEZANA N has yet to hit board this year and has been disappointing for a long time – she does have speed, however, and a pilot not afraid to use it. ...maybe she can add some value to the exotics? (5) ITTY BITTY is listed as the ML favorite but probably hasn't been racing well enough to merit that "honor" – her connections always deserve respect, but she does seem vulnerable here. (6) SUNSET SOPH did grab a win here earlier this year and has picked up some small pieces as well– a good trip could help her grab a share (4) TUAPEKA JESSIE N hasn't been sharp since leaving our leading barn earlier this winter – hard to make the case that a wake up call is coming tonight. (2) MARATHON MARY found some life on 3/19 but then broke in her next, then was scratched from her last – sticking with others

RACE 11 – (1) NAUTICAL HANOVER flew home last week to be 2nd to the streaking ANOTHRMASTRPIECE N and was 2nd to the razor sharp IT'S A ME MARIO 3 back – willing to try him on top tonight. (2) BLANK STARE drops back down to the level he beat 5 starts back, draws inside, and figures to be a dangerous player from start to finish. (5) KOMODO BEACH gets bet every week but hasn't been able to bring his best every start – he made up for an ugly try at ten cents on the dollar 2 back with last week's win (at 7/5), but he's up in class and a bit of a question mark. (6) ROCK THE BELLES gave it an aggressive try last week but was a notch below a few sharp ones – could have a bigger impact tonight. (7) CRANBOURNE N takes a major drop out of the Borgata but is clearly well off form – we'll see if he can offer some late life with the class drop. (3) GREAT SOMEWHERE has license to pick up after chasing better from well back in his last pair – it's also possible that he's just off form right now, and may continue to struggle. (4) SPORTS FAN just seems a bit cheaper than the major players in here, (8) MACH N CHEESE gets a class drop but also draws Post 8 – he may just tour the oval tonight, hoping for a class drop and much better post next week

RACE 12 – (5) CAPTAINS STAR was a very good 3rd making her first start in 4 months – gets Yannick to stay on board, and may be worth a play against a seemingly vulnerable field in the finale. (1) SHEIKH YABOOTY N has gone off the odds on choice in her last 3 starts but has only been able to win one of them – legitimate threat from this spot, but be careful about taking too short a price. (8) MISS ITALIA seems a bit on the cheaper side but she ships in very sharp from NJ, and has to get at least a look at that 20-1 ML price. (4) DANDYS SHOWTIME has been away for a month after backing through the field (from the pocket) in her last start – hard to say if our leading barn will have her all patched up for tonight. (7) LARJON LEAH was a bit of a surprising claim as she's 6-0-0-2 this year and has won only 2 of 52 Yonkers starts over the past 3 seasons – we'll see if her new connections can figure how to make her tick. (6) BETTOR B SAWYER lands in a tough spot but she does grab her share of pieces – maybe 3rd/4th? (2) BROOKDALE JESSIE hasn't won since Moby Dick was a minnow but she does grab a piece here and there. (3) ACEFOURTYFOUR ALEX is still trying to find her form after 6 dull 2024 outings