

## The Empire Report - Tuesday, January 15, 2019 - Race Analysis

**RACE 1** - (3) TOUGH MUDDER has been delivering sharp miles in this class for some time, handles any trip, and picks up Brennan upon arrival at The Hilltop - will be a short price, but is definitely the one to beat. (2) POP ICON may prove to be the main foe - struggled off the Oct. claim, but changed hands again in December and his last pair are definite steps in the right direction - should be a live player here. (4) MANHATTAN BENNY wasn't doing much lately in Florida but he's eligible to perk up with his move back North, especially with the major switch to Stratton. (7) NAKED CITY was just 1 for 41 last year but he started off 2019 with a (sharp) Monti win, and may be able to land a decent piece even from out here. (6) CHEYENNE DANNY and (8) MR BLISSFUL are reasonable bombs for 3rd/4th, if spreading

**RACE 2** - Competitive race: (5) ABERFORTH has a good closing kick, and he was particularly sharp last week (off a bad date, adding Lasix for the first time) - won't be that same 40-1 price THIS week, but still should offer some decent value in a tough race. (4) NO RECESS used to enjoy racing here, and that last 10 hole effort at The Swamp should have him tight for tonight - Brennan takes him over #7, and figures to handle him aggressively from this spot. (1) FREDDIE MAC finally showed some life on 12/2 and has been solid ever since - very legit player, but that needless 3/2 ML price will likely leave him way overbet. (2) WINDSUN MISSILE flew to the top but broke on the first turn last time - risky for sure, but that 20-1 line at least makes him worth a look. (6) MOOSE MADNESS was empty off the layoff, but the barn sent out live ones last night - another longshot to consider. (7) MUGSHOTS BRO shook free too late last week - moves up and out now, while also losing Brennan. (8) MR POWERS is off a break....and a month!

**RACE 3** - (1) ROCK ICON is rock solid at the basement level, but the rail draw should make him pretty formidable up one notch too - catches a vulnerable group tonight, figures to get a winning trip, and has a decent chance to repeat. (2) JK PRIDENJOY was one of several from this barn to race big last week, charging home to just miss - trainer had a rough night on Monday, however, so now my feelings on this guy are a bit more tempered. (3) WAR DADDY didn't fire in his 2019 return but he drops a peg tonight, and the barn has been very live so far - possible reversal candidate? (5) I FOUND MY BEACH hasn't been "bad", but he also hasn't been close to his "best" game - better value with others in here. (4) ER ROCK MY WORLD laid an egg in his first start of the year, backing up badly - Brennan sticks, though, and he had a license to rebound. (7) DONAU is not impossible, but he'll need a pretty hot pace to rally in to.

**RACE 4** - (1) ROLL WITH ANN was hammered off the claim 3 back and delivered the easy front end score - got roughed up from Post 7 the next week, and was just a little short off the bad date in last - have a feeling she'll be on her toes tonight....and tough to catch. (2) PIRINEAS PRINCESS was winless in '18 but that was for a different barn - may end up tracking the top one all the way, and that would at least give her a fighting chance at the mini upset. (3) SHESAIDHESAIDISAID may be destined to end up first over here, and if the top pick is sharp, that may not be the best trip - still hard to leave out of the exotics, though. (6) JULIOS GIRL is a good fit with these, but the draw may leave her with too much work to do - consider if the price is very juicy. (8) PHYLLIS JEAN had no prayer last time, but drops tonight and does fit well - Post 8 is the obvious obstacle, however. (5) ARABELLA J is "sneaky ok", and has a shot to grab 3rd/4th

**RACE 5** - (3) WILD WEST sat in the back (off a month) for his new connections last week but had some good life coming across the wire - have a feeling we'll see a much more involved effort tonight, and maybe a trip to the winner's circle. (1) CHIP WALTHER had a hugely disappointing 4YO campaign but even this "lesser" version of him figures to be tough in a spot like this - almost certain to be way overbet, though. (6) ROCKIN PANDA raced well a few times at Monti with his trainer on board, and gets a major switch to Marohn for his local debut - wouldn't be a shock, at all. (2) CHANGE STRIDE N is the "x factor" in here - didn't function in his last 2 starts of '18, was scratched sick, and has been away for 5+ weeks - hard to take a short price HOPING he's a "new horse" for tonight! (5) MYIDEALSON N never wins, but grabs enough smaller pieces to at least consider for 3rd/4th.

**RACE 6** - (5) HIGH BLUE got lost at the back from Post 8 last week but most of his other recent efforts would make him a live player against these - no clue why he was listed at 5/2 on the ML, but hopefully it won't lower his price too significantly. (1) BROADWAY CREDIT basically just outran a bunch of fields earlier last year - it was good for his earnings, but it also left him a little too one-dimensional when the competition got a bit tougher - clearly not on his best game right now, but he's certainly in a spot where he's a big threat to just "run and hide" from this modest group. (2) PITTSTOP KIP is at his best one level down but if he can get away in the pocket here (very possible), it should at least give him a chance at springing the upset. (4) PANAMANIAN HANOVER benefited from an easy trip last week to get 3rd, but has a decent history here and does seem next in line. (3) SOUL TRAIN grabbed 3rd last week but never looked all that "strong" - will need to do better for a chance at a big piece. (7) TIME OUTA JAIL is unpredictable from start to start, and has lit up the board several times - barn sent out a longshot winner last night

**RACE 7** - (5) BBS HARLEY is very sharp right now, pacing over a Chester field 2 back, then exploding home from the pocket (here) in last - moves to a new barn, but will be pretty tough if even close to his recent form. (2) STARSKYS DREAM N had a useful tightener last week (Post 8, bad date) and I would expect to see a much more serious with the big move inside - very capable against this type with a live trip. (1) P H SUPERCAM is just an "ordinary 20" at this point in his career, managing only 3rds the last 3X he drew the pole in this class - can never count the classmaster out, but you can also assume he'll be overbet. (3) BALI was racing well at Northfield vs. similar, and has had some good moments here too - would need things to go just his way to beat these, though. (4) FAMEOUS WESTERN figures to be tighter tonight, but is notoriously camera shy - demand a good price if using on top. (6) JUPITER JOHNNY for 3rd/4th?

**RACE 8** - (3) PRAIRIE SWEETHEART had a rough 2018 season (only 11 starts, \$17K) but she's been pretty good lately, showing a couple of recent 2nds at this level (at Chester, incl. one to Frost Damage Blues) - definitely a logical spot for her to get off to a good start in 2019. (4) QUEEN JOSEPHINE was racing well many weeks vs. better in the last couple of months of '18 - drops tonight, but has been away for a month....maybe the tote board will offer clues? (5) FOLLOWTHEWIND N has struggled to win races in the U.S., and even got beat by cheaper last start in NJ - does have the speed to grab herself a trip, though, and that could at least make her a player. (7) BAND STAND was off a month to her last but still managed to grab a DH for win in a pretty good NW8 field - mixed feelings about her chances from out here, though. (8) WESTLUCKYCAM probably is a good fit with these, but the draw will probably limit her chances.

**RACE 9** - (2) FEARLESS MAN beat the Opens a couple of times last Spring before hitting the skids for a few starts - was freshened up, and his qualifiers/race suggest he's heading back towards top form....and Bartlett jumping off #1 is even more "proof" of that. (1) ADAGIO DE LA TOUR has 2 wins and a 2nd in his last 3, but Bartlett still opts to drive the top pick - should still race well, but may have to settle for a smaller share tonight. (3) ABC MUSCLES BOY was allowed to drop to the basement last week and that jogburger win just may provide him with a big confidence boost - inside draw makes him a live one for 2nd/3rd. (4) MONEY MAVEN recovered nicely after a brief turn two miscue last week - classy veteran is eligible to really perk up at any time. Both (6) BETTER CALL SAUL and (7) PERFECT STICK fit well, but may have to settle for minor shares out here. (8) STAR STUDDERED CAST is clearly better than when he was here last, but his poor local record is hard to overlook, especially from Post 8

**RACE 10** - (2) ASLAN beat this level (at Chester) on 11/11 and has been holding his own vs. better ever since - veteran knows his way around Yonkers, and lands in a good spot tonight. (1) BETTERLATETHN NEVER was run down by #6 in NJ last week, but he's enjoyed success here in the past, has speed, the rail and Bartlett and deserve plenty of respect. (5) VAPOUR N has beaten this class before, and probably fits well tonight - not a fan of that 5/2 ML, though. (3) MARINER SEELSTER has only one win in his last 36 YR tries, but he's ok right now, and the barn was live last night - at least include him in the exotics. (6) SEEL THE DEAL N swooped 'em at The Swamp last week, but still seems just a bit cheap - willing to include underneath. (8) SOLO STORY is stuck on the outside, but not a bad bomb for 3rd/4th.