

The Empire Report – Tuesday, July 23, 2024 – Race Analysis

RACE 1 – (1) ALWAYS BE CITY threw a dull one last start but raced solidly for several starts prior to that – she drops to 20s tonight and should find these mares more to her liking – we'll see if it's a "drop and pop" situation. (3) HP XANADU went an encouraging mile vs. the 25s after a long layoff but definitely disappointed last week when she dropped in for \$20K – too soon to write her off, but also hard to "love" her chances after last week. (4) TERACI TA has been unreliable for sure but she landed on a perfect trip last week and was able to go by the tiring leader for the win– chance to take another, but it feels like there could be better value with a couple of others (2) BROOKDAL E JESSIE usually isn't a threat to win but the good draw does make her at least a threat for a small share. (6) PRINC SS ARONA hasn't won in some time but she picked up 3rds in her last pair and has a chance for a similar outcome if Bartlett can find her a decent trip. (7) CHARMING VIXEN won 3 of 12 YR starts this year but often finds herself too far back to be a serious threat – the same could happen from Post 7 tonight. (5) MICHELLES JAZZ was no factor in her only local try this year – will need to be better for a chance at a piece. (8) ACEFOURTY FOUR ALEX is having a tough year...Post 8 isn't going to help her cause

RACE 2 – (6) TWIN B DELUXE had been in some bad spots but knew just what to do last week when finally in a better situation – he moves up a notch and lands outside but this is a field still within his reach, and he's worth a play here as long as the price is fair. (1) LOUS SWEETREVENGE got really sharp upon joining this barn a few months ago but he's hit a bit a rough patch lately, finishing 6th in 5 straight starts – he's almost certain to race much better here (with another class drop and the rail), but he also could end up wildly overbet – not a great time to accept a very short price. (3) WALKINSHAW N was able to get more aggressive last week and came up 2nd best to the top choice, racing from the pocket – eligible to grab another good chunk tonight, either on or off the pace. (4) YOROKOBI N was in a hopeless spot last week but rallied crisply for 2nd the week before – a good trip puts him in play for another good chunk tonight. (5) ALEX TYE has been hard to gauge all year from week to week, but he's come up with his share of good miles, at big prices– never a bad one for the bottom exotics (when the price creeps up). (2) VIVA LAS VEGAS N seems to need easier these days to be a threat. (7) RAYRAY was an excellent 2nd last week but that was from the pole – he's looking at a very tough trip from all the way out here

RACE 3 – (5) JUST ROSAS LUCK has been terrific for weeks and her last start was no exception (2nd from Post 8 to a very sharp winner, for her new barn) – the presence of #3 means her own price should be decent, and we'll go with her on top. (3) TYRA MAKES BANK has been ultra-reliable since arriving locally, going 7-3-4-0 - she goes for another new barn tonight, but there's no reason to believe she won't remain on her game – the main danger. (1) LOOKOVERYOUR raced much better than expected last week (at 53-1!), even if helped by an easy trip – a similar effort could land her in the exotics once more. (8) PLEASURE SEEKER has been 1st or 2nd in 11 of 21 local starts this year, and a weekly threat in this class – tonight's draw may leave her looking at a bit smaller share, however. (2) CANNERY ROW is having a rough year (14-0-3-0) but the inside draw at least puts her in the hunt for a minor share. (6) JEANSNJELLYBEANS was no threat in either local try and may need to be in a bit easier to be effective. (4) KATHYS MOMENT continues to feel overmatched. (7) BETTORSHIGHLIGHT N is struggling these days – Post 7 isn't going to help her cause

RACE 4 – (7) ROCK DIAMONDS N has now won SEVEN in a row, rarely getting challenged and never getting claimed – that streak will surely end one of these nights, but it's hard to make a good case that it'll be tonight. (4) JUST BET IT ALL took 3 weeks off after a clunker here on 6/24 and wasn't bad in his last start at Pocono – drops in for a tag, and it's hard to know if that's a red flag, or just an attempt to perhaps grab a win – we'll find out tonight. (2) MACH N CHEESE was good in his 2nd start off the barn change but had trouble advancing into last week's hot mile – worth using in exotics at that 8-1 ML price. (1) REIGNING DEO tends to be inconsistent AND he's missed 3 weeks – hard to "love" his chances here, but he can be right in the hunt IF he brings his "A Race". (3) CAVIART SA RGENT is really inconsistent but he's picked up some nice pieces at BIG prices throughout the year (3rd at 66-1 last week) – never a bad bomb for the bottom of the ticket. (5) CENTURY ENDEAVOR picked up a 2nd to the top choice last week when able to grab the two hole trip from the pole – he'll probably face a tougher trip tonight, and that could limit him a bit. (6) QUALITY BUD figures to be getting away last here – wait for a better spot.

RACE 5 – (2) SHOTGUN PERSUASION turned in a few good efforts right after the recent barn change (including a 40-1 shocker) – she tailed for a couple of starts but rebounded with a good one last week, digging in for 3rd despite a tough trip – she catches a soft bunch tonight, and may have found a winning spot. (3) HARPER SEELSTER gave

it a nice try (at 50-1) debuting here on 7/2 for her new barn – was no factor last week but she gets post relief tonight, and may be able to be a serious player. (4) PINK QUARTZ finished well for 4th in her local debut then was able to squeeze out a 2nd in her next – should be able to be a player in this modest field. (1) AINTNOHOLLABACKGRL has just 1 win and 1 second from her 23 starts this year but is never really too far back – may be able to contend for a decent piece starting from the pole. (5) JILLIAN JIGGS weakened in her first local try but rallied for 3rd in her next – playable in exotics. (6) SUNSET SOPH does have 3 local wins this year but looked no good at all in her last pair – waiting for a better effort before endorsing again. (7) DEVILISH DREAMS dropped to 20s last week, had a good start but folded anyway in the lane – tough (0 for 20) year continues. (8) PROVE EM WRONG can't be written off after just a couple of no factor starts but likely needs a much better spot in order to be a player

RACE 6 – (4) OHOKA LE BRON N can still have some erratic weeks but for the most part, has become a pretty reliable player – he was an excellent 2nd to the heavy favorite last week (kicking home right with him into the sizzling :26.4 final quarter), and he may be able to trip out here and score the mild upset. (6) SINBAD N has added early speed to his arsenal and quick starts led to a pair of 3rds in his last 2 miles – should be able to be a live player here too. (7) SOUTHWIND CELSIUS raced very well in all 3 local tries, picking up the win in his last – he's as good (or better) as any of these but he hasn't shown any early speed, and that may leave him with a difficult trip tonight. (5) AYR BALMORAL GB was an okay 3rd two back and an even 4th last week – good one for the bottom of exotics. (8) LOVERS TROUBLE didn't have his usual pop last week but he was also racing off a bad date – could be tighter now, but he's another that may find himself at a disadvantage (because of the draw). FIREARM rarely wins but does pick up more than his share of pieces – always playable for 3rd/4th. (2) KISSINCAPTAIN wasn't bad in his only local try but lands in a tough field tonight – leaning towards others. (1) TOTALLY TOXIC may race better than his lines suggest, but he fits NW1 and we'll wait until he drops into that (much) easier class

RACE 7 – (4) FREESTARFLIGHT was very sharp beating the 20s upon arrival from Delaware and even sharper beating the 25s last week – she steps up to tackle the 50s tonight but if she's as good as she was last time, she may be able to pull it off. (6) NO WIN NO FEED A had some issue 3 back but rebounded with a solid 2nd (dropping to 50s) in her next, followed by last week's front end score – she's now 18-5-6-3 at Yonkers this year, and has to be respected pretty much every week. (2) CELIA B MONEY benefited from a very sharp drive last week but was also very sharp in victory – drops in for a tag tonight, and figures to be able to make her presence felt once again. (5) CALLMEQUEENBEE A stepped back up to 50s off the claim last week and was a very nice 2nd behind the stickout winner – a live trip could help her land a piece here too. (7) IDEAL COVER finished strong upon arrival from Ohio but moves up to 50s and lands outside – may need to wait for a better spot, but still a chance to rally for a piece. (3) DREAM DANCING was a no threat 4th last week in 25s (behind #4 and #7) and now moves up to 50s – minor share only. (1) BADDITUDE was able to hang on for 3rd last week but still seems a notch below the main players right now. (8) HEAVENS SHOWGIRL A just hasn't been particularly sharp and gets stuck with Post 8 tonight

RACE 8 – Wide open: (3) GREAT SOMEWHERE finished full of pace after sitting 8th last week and that has to be taken as a good sign (since his best efforts are on/near the lead) – this may be a good week to take a stab with him, as he's in a much better spot and does like to win races! (4) CARABAO A finally picked up his first U.S. win last week and has just been looking better in general lately – maybe he can build off that and be a threat here too? (6) HUNTERS HERO had a useful effort on 7/9 (off the bad date) and finished full of pace last week – a live trip makes him a legitimate danger here. (1) WATTSUP SUNSHINE A took some \$\$ for his stateside debut last week but was no factor – way too soon to write him off after that one mile, and we may see a sharper version the 2nd time around. (7) ROCKIN N TALKIN looked good in both starts since arriving from Canada and would have been listed higher tonight had he not drawn so poorly – would still consider if the price is right. (5) BUGABOO LOU was aggressive in his last 2 starts but came up well short both times – maybe this is the week he brings a better effort, but that 2-1 ML price makes it hard to play him on top. (2) AIR FORCE HANOVER really disappointed last week, and the concern is that he may be starting to go the wrong way now. (8) ITALIAN DELIGHT N is sharp right now and capable with these types, but the draw is a killer

RACE 9 – (5) NIGHT HAWK went winless in 2023 but was off to a much better start in '24, grabbing 3 victories fairly early in the season – he's definitely been in a drought lately, but he's also been facing MUCH better than these most every week – definitely a spot he should appreciate, and maybe get back to the winner's circle. (3) IDRAINTH ESWAMP A makes his first local start of the year after picking up a win and a 2nd from his 4 Yonkers tries in '23 – he has some good recent tries out of town, and gets a very live pilot for tonight – live longshot? (4) SLING SHOCK is another than hasn't won in a while, but who picks up plenty of good pieces – logical one for exotics. (7) LEVINE

is now 0 for 16 on the year but he did hit board in 10 of those losses – could add some value to the bottom of exotics (6) BENHOPE RULZ N has picked up a lot more 3rds and 4ths than 1sts and 2nd s this year and the poor draw will likely have him looking at only minor spoils once more. (2) DELIGHTFUL DUDE N is pretty good right now but vs. easier – not sure how well that form will translate against these better ones. (1) SARANAC BLUE CHIP did win at this level 4 starts back but generally prefers to be facing a bit easier than these.

RACE 10 – (8) IDEALINFUN has been razor sharp for weeks, for two different barns – she actually held her own last week vs. SILK CLOUD A and UPTOWN HANOVER, and we'll give her a shot to overcome Post 8 against this much more reasonable bunch. (6) SUGAR BRITCHES found her form in May and has raced well almost every week since then – she gets some class relief here, and may end up with a better trip than the top choice – legitimate threat. (1) NUTTINBUTTHEBEST takes an ambitious jump from 25s to 50s but she's been better in her last pair (since the claim), and draws the pole with speed – could be in the hunt tonight, (4) GINGER TREE LIZ had no chance in her YR return last week (7 hole) but gets a kinder draw for tonight and is eligible to content for a piece of this. (7) BIG BIG PLANS added Lasix 2 back and turned in a better one last week – terrible draw, but still a chance for a piece with the right trip. (5) PARADISE ROCK L isn't on her best game but isn't terrible either – chance for a piece with a good trip. (3) COALFORDSNSHINE GB has 3 recent wins but they were for a top barn, facing lesser – we'll see how she handles tonight's class jump for her new barn. (2) KICKUPYAHHEELS N moves inside but may not be sharp enough right now to take advantage

RACE 11 – (6) REAL LADY SADIE normally does her damage on/near the lead so it was surprising to see her kick home so well from well out of it last week– she may be able to use her speed here, and that 8-1 ML price has appeal. (2) SHEIKH YABOOTY N has been right there every week since late May, and figures to have a big say once more. (7) UNITY wasn't as effective facing much tougher 25s last week but she won 3 of 4 just prior to that and has to be taken seriously tonight, even from out here. (4) PINK RUBY is quietly having a solid local season, currently at 17-4-4-3 – any decent trip would put her close at the end. (3) DANDYS SHOWTIME throws a good one when in the mood but she's just 1 for 16 here this year and there just seems to be better value to be had with a few others. (5) EVAS SPORTS CZECH hasn't been on her game and that has us looking elsewhere...but she does have 4 local wins this year, so perhaps she's a decent one for longshot fans looking for a last race "get out" horse. (1) LYONS MIKI draws the pole but just fails to get in play too often. (8) TUAPEKA JESSIE N hasn't been a real threat in a long time