

The Empire Report – Tuesday, July 16, 2024 – Race Recap

Race 1 – ROCK DIAMONDS N looped easily to the top then grabbed a modest half, picked things up just a bit on the back side then left nobody a chance with a blistering :26.3 final quarter – makes it 7 in a row and incredibly, nobody ever claims him and rarely does he even get challenged! CENTURY ENDEAVOR sat pocketed from the early on, was still there at the top of the lane but that wicked :26.3 kicker was just too much, and he had to settle for an easy 2nd – no threat to the winner, but well clear of the others. CAVIART SARGENT came out from 5th on the final turn and finished up strong to outkick the others for 3rd – he'll sometimes throw a good one at BIG prices...and tonight was one of them (66-1). MACH N CHEESE tried an uncovered move from 3rd to 3/4s, stalled then was outkicked home for the show spot. QUALITY BUD got away 6th and had no prayer, finishing decently from an impossible spot. ADAM CROCKER A was looped by the winner and forced to back off 4th, saved ground all the way then came up empty in the stretch. MICKY GEE N got away last and couldn't make a dent tonight

Race 2 – CARABAO A left alertly tonight to get away in 4th, came out 2nd over off turn three then launched wide on the final bend, hit his high gear once into the lane and blew on by the leader, finally picking up his first U.S. victory. FREQUENT IMAGE looped right to the lead then cut a sensible half, repelled SLING SHOCK to the top of the lane but was simply no match for the winner's late explosion, safely holding the place spot. SLING SHOCK got away 3rd, pulled first over from turn three and offered a good bid, started to weaken a bit to the top of the lane but did stay on well to the end for the show spot. ALEX TYE left and grabbed himself a two hole trip, was tiring to the top of the lane but did dig in late to hold on to 4th. COXCOMB got away 5th, came out on the final turn but found only even pace in the lane. DELIGHTFUL TERROR was away in 6th and came up dull in his 2nd start off the layoff. MARLBANK ROAD was away last and never close. VIVA LAS VEGAS N came out from 7th on the back side but just floundered on the rim

Race 3 – FREESTARFLIGHT was looped by NUTTINBUTHEBEST, caught wide but just kept on going until reaching the lead to the quarter, maintained a very strong clip and just never let up, a powerful winner for the 2nd time since arriving at Yonkers! NUTTINBUTHEBEST was able to loop to the lead from Post 8 then let the winner take over to the quarter, was right there through the sharp pace and stayed solid right to the wire, an excellent 2nd best – seems to be back on the upswing! IDEAL COVER got away 6th and stayed inside, shook free from 4th at the top of the lane and offered a good late rally for the show spot – nice effort upon arrival from Ohio. DREAM DANCING had to leave well just to get away 3rd, stayed close to the final turn but did weaken from there, settling for 4th. UNITY tried to go on after being outleft but soon had to retreat to 4th, tried a first over bid on the back side but struggled to gain into the hot clip, pacing evenly with the 2nd pack to the end – just a very tough trip tonight. ROLL WITH SHORTY got away last and was never a threat tonight. NIKASA N got away 5th, followed dull cover while 2nd over to 3/4s, finally tipped wide but was empty anyway – jury still out on her

Race 4 – DUNKIN went right to the top then let COMBUSTION take over, found room inside into the stretch and had plenty of pace, scooting on through to (another) victory! COMBUSTION took over from DUNKIN past turn one, fought off a bid from BIRTHDAY into the lane but left room and the pylons and that allowed the winner to slip through and beat him – another sharp try. PLEASELETMEKNOW saved ground from 5th, offering good late pace while in some traffic. BIRTHDAY got away 3rd then pulled first over from the 5/8ths, got closer to the top of the lane but couldn't sustain that bid well enough into the lane, weakening a bit to 4th. LAYTON HANOVER came out on turn three and soon picked up cover to race 2nd over, never looked "strong" and had only even pace to the wire. VENTURESOME ARDEN N got away last (6th) then ended up 3rd over, was still last at the top of the lane and wasn't able to make a dent on the leaders this week

Race 5 – BILL HALEY N was a bit lazy in 5th early on, picked up very live cover off turn three, angled for the drive home and was able to get up late, capitalizing on the perfect trip! ROLLING WITH SAM pulled first over to turn three and began a good brush at the leader, was doing the better work on the final turn then took over once into the lane, remained dead game to the wire but was collared late by the winner – did all the heavy lifting, and had to settle for 2nd as a result. LEVINE made the top, yielded then ended up sitting 3rd, was able to come out 3rd over into the live flow to 3/4s, angled into the stretch and finished strong, almost grabbing 2nd. HUNTERS HERO moved out 4th over to 3/4s, swung wide on the final turn, angled even wider into the lane and was pacing very well through the wire. GREAT SOMEWHERE sat last all the way, had room in the stretch and hit the wire with good interest – sneaky good tonight! BUGABOO LOU made the top off turn one then let STRENGTHFROMABOVE take over,

had room inside for the drive home (after that leader gave way) but lacked the 2nd move to be a player. STRENGTHFROMABOVE got away 3rd then quarter moved to command, came under fire to 3/4s and started to crack on the final turn, giving way once into the lane and fading to 7th. SARANAC BLUE CHIP saved ground to no avail

Race 6 – CRAZY WORLD came out from 5th on the back side, was up to 3rd to the final turn, just kept on coming from there and eventually collared the 1/5 favorite into the lane, edging away at the wire – just a HUGE effort tonight and a shocking \$95 winner for the meet’s leading trainer! CHRCHVIEWWCAMLOT IR patiently took over to the quarter, enjoyed things all his own way, heard the winner coming into the lane and simply had no late response, giving way as the 1/5 chalk! SINBAD N made the early lead then yielded to the favorite, was clear in the stretch and paced home evenly for 3rd. ENDOFSTORY inexplicably made no attempt to leave the gate, was content to just sit last to 3/4s, finally angled into the lane and charged home full of pace for 4th...after being given no chance at all to ever be any kind of player. LOVERS TROUBLE came out from 7th on turn three then gained the winner’s cover on the back side, finding only mild pace tonight in a somewhat disappointing effort (but off a bad date). BEGGIN FOR BACON sat a close 3 hole trip but was outkicked in the lane by several others. MIDNIGHT NATION got away 6th and never looked to pull, sat the cones and had no chance at all. HIGH HESTON sat the cones with no offer at all

Race 7 – RACING RAMPAGE let EVER HOPING A drop in off turn one (to get him out of the way) then rushed up to take over to turn two, was cruising along on his own when he suddenly jumped over a piece of debris on the final turn, did a great job recovering quickly and was now battling between horses to the top of the lane, still had plenty left and safely kicked home to hit the wire first...only to be disqualified (placed last) for the confusion/interference caused by his miscue – it clearly was NOT his fault, but it would be hard to not disqualify him under the circumstances. IGNATIUS A pulled first over from 4th to 3/4s and grinded on the rim, suddenly was alongside the leader into the final turn after that one’s unfortunate incident, kept battling to the wire and reported home 2nd best – before being placed first, via disqualification! TWIN B HEART THROB was outleft and backed off 4th, came out 2nd over to 3/4s and followed wide on the last turn, pacing home solidly to the end. EVER HOPING A was outleft before getting a charity hole off turn one, ended up sitting 3rd soon after, found room into the lane and paced home steadily to the end. ROCKIN N TALKIN was out 3rd over before 3/4s, joined the three wide flow on the last turn and was definitely pacing well through the wire. ITALIAN LAD N sat in the back with no chance, finishing ok from an impossible spot. VENIER HANOVER was fastest off the car and right to the top, released RACING RAMPAGE and sat the two hole trip, avoided trouble on the final turn and actually turned for home with the lead at the cones... but fell apart in the latter stages to end up 7th! YOROKOBI N trailed from the start and was never in it

Race 8 – LLOYDS LOVES made an easy lead then grabbed an easy half, extended her advantage to the top of the lane and jogged under wraps – remains razor sharp! CALLMEQUEENBEE A was outleft but away ok in 3rd, pulled first over to 3/4s and took over 2nd into the lane, no match for the winner but easily besting the others. BADDITUDE had a good start to get away in the pocket, weakened to 3rd once into the stretch and had to work hard late to salvage the show spot. HEAVENS SHOWGIRL A came out on the back side to race 2nd over, stalled by the top of the lane and couldn’t even go by the tiring tripsitter for the show spot. VILLAGE JADE came out from last on the final turn, pacing decently after the fact. KICKUPYAHEELS N sat 6th and was trapped on the cones through the final turn, pacing ok at the end once free – raced better than her line will probably look. LINE EM UP had to back off into 4th on turn one, started to fade to the final turn and failed to beat a single rival

Race 9 – LARJON LEAH made a couple of early moves to secure the lead, easily dismissed the tripsitter at the head of the lane and was the easiest of winners from there, a “one and done” for her connections (as she gets claimed once more). JUST ROSAS LUCK made the top to the quarter (from Post 8) then allowed the winner to reclaim command on turn two, took aim at the top of the lane but was clearly not a threat, beating the others by many – excellent try off the claim! PRINCESS ARONA was first to the lead but back to 3rd by the quarter, gapped on the final bend but was able to hang around and hold the show spot. HP XANADU (well backed in her 2nd start off the layoff) lacked her expected gate speed and could only get away 4th, tried to come out on the back side but struggled to advance at all on the rim, a disappointing 4th place finisher. PROVE EM WRONG got away 6th and saved ground, had pace into the lane but was hard to steer, costing her a chance for better. KATHYS MOMENT got away 5th, sat the cones and was no factor. BETTOR B SAWYER came out from last on the final turn but with even pace at best. BETTORSHIGHLIGHT N gapped near the back in a dull performance.

Race 10 – NO WIN NO FEED A made two moves to the quarter to assume command, rated a soft clip and had things her own way to the final turn, carried a clear lead into the stretch but did need some late reminders to hold sway. ON THE MONEY GB came out 2nd over to 3/4s, found her best stride into the lane and was gaining late, up into 2nd and not far off the winner. BIG BIG PLANS got away 4th then pulled first over with 3/8ths remaining, moved up into 2nd to the top of the lane, stayed strong right to the wire and ended up a close 3rd, just losing 2nd at the end – game effort. PARADISE ROCK L came out 3rd over to the final turn, offering some mild pace for 4th (while no threat to the top trio). MISS CHANTILLY N made the top before yielding back to the favored winner, started to weaken on the final turn then really folded in the lane. SPORTS FLIX got away 3rd and had nothing to offer this week. GINGER TREE LIZ always had the best view

Race 11 – THE GOOD DOCTOR got away 3rd then rushed up to take control to the quarter, felt OHOKA LE BRON N coming closer on the final turn then kicked home in :26.4 to safely hold that rival at bay. OHOKA LE BRON N had a good start then ended up sitting 3rd, pulled first over to 3/4s and got closer to the winner to the final turn, matched strides through the lane but understandably was NOT going by into that sizzling last quarter! FIREARM secured the two hole trip, wasn't up to the top pair in the lane but did pace home pretty well to hold the show spot. AYR BALMORAL GB got away 4th and chased all the way, easily besting the others. FANTOME EN JOIE got away 5th and wasn't up to the top ones at all. FUN MUNKY was away 6th and well back at the end. TUA MANY CAPTAINS just seemed to completely lose interest from the start

Race 12 – TERACITA was the lone leaver and able to drop into the pocket behind TYRA MAKES BANK, took aim at the top of the lane and was able to pace on by the tiring leader to score in the finale. TYRA MAKES BANK easily seated the winner, had things her own way but just couldn't finish the job tonight – no excuses. SHOTGUN PERSUASION got away in 6th, started a long uncovered move on the back side, was up to 3rd by the final turn and stayed game right to the wire, an excellent 3rd considering the trip. PHELGON got away 3rd, sat all the way but was still outkicked in the lane. DANDYS SHOWTIME didn't leave, didn't pull, then paced evenly to the wire in some stretch traffic. BEAUTY OF THE SEA came out to be a loose 2nd over from 7th to 3/4s, with little to offer in the homestretch. TARGARYEN EMPRESS sat in and got shuffled back, but didn't appear to have much anyway. CANNERY ROW came out 3rd over from the back on the final turn but with no offer