

The Empire Report - Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - Race Recap

Race 1 - ROCK ICON took the lead briefly between horses off turn one before surrendering it to NORTHERN ASSASSIN A, took aim once into the stretch and was able to comfortably edge on by for the win - definitely likes it down at this bottom level. NORTHERN ASSASSIN A was caught wide into turn one but soon able to move up for the lead, had things all his own way but couldn't hold off the tripsitter in the sprint to the wire. CODE MEISTER was outleft and had to drop in 4th, pulled first over past the half but struggled to get near the leader, kept on trying once they hit the stretch and actually did a nice job picking up 3rd, even if never a serious threat to the top pair. MISTER ACCUMULATOR got away in 3rd, sat all the way and had no excuse to lose the show spot. QUICK ART saved ground all the way and was never a factor, fortunate just to take home the last paycheck. BIG TURN ON moved out from the back before the half, never got into contention and failed to beat anybody.

Race 2 - FOX VALLEY STEFFEN floated away into a spot in 4th, was soon 3rd (thanks to a breaker) then pulled first over off turn three, went by the tiring leader on the final turn and swelled right up, drawing clear easily once they hit the stretch. ABERFORTH launched a wide move from the back on the final turn, charging home for 2nd from a very tough spot - nice effort. SOUL TRAIN had a terrible start as several stepped right around him, ended up with a live trip anyway (following the winner) but never really kicked in, a non-factor 3rd over some weaker foes - just not sharp from the start tonight. FLUFF ME UP ended up securing a two hole trip, had room inside the tiring leader into the stretch but offered only mild trot for a small piece. QUICK DEAL was outleft by WINDSUN MISSILE but took control when that one broke on turn one, rated a VERY slow half but was under heavy fire by the winner at 3/4s, gave way to that one on the final turn and weakened considerably from there - just not sharp right now. SCREAMING CONWAY was never in the hunt but DID kick home with good interest, after the fact. MOOSE MADNESS was sluggish near the back, came out to the final turn but was outfinished. WINDSUN MISSILE left very fast as he looped to the lead but didn't survive the first turn.

Race 3 - DALI DELIGHT was caught wide through turn one but kept going until reaching the top, needed some encouragement to 3/4s to turn back a decent test from PITTSTOP DANIKA, suddenly opened up daylight on the final and proved the easiest of winners in her 2019 debut. SHESAIDHESAIDISAID was forced to pull when SHE CAN PARTY got underway behind her on turn two, grabbed cover and raced 2nd over to the half, swung wide around a tired one on the final turn then kicked in well enough into the stretch to pick up the place honors - decent try. ROLL WITH ANN left well between horses and enjoyed a brief lead until yielding to the winner, started to lose some ground to the head of the lane and was unable to hang on to 2nd - little short off the winter break. ARABELLA J stayed inside at the back, came out behind traffic on the final turn, found a lane into the stretch and finished with some mild pace for 4th - continues to race "sneaky ok". SHE CAN PARTY was underway VERY early on turn two before ending up 3rd over, tried a 4 wide move on the final turn but didn't have nearly enough in the stretch to contend for a bigger piece - might have been a lot closer if not so severely overdriven. PITTSTOP DANIKA got away in 4th and was flushed out uncovered past the stands, made the winner work a bit to 3/4s but saw her own bid stall out badly by the final turn. AWAKE MY SOUL left well from the rail but still had to yield and was soon sitting 3rd, got caught behind a tired one on the final turn but I don't think it really mattered. UNBEAMLIEVABLE was well meant and blasted hard from Post 8, was stuck FOUR wide into the first turn and forced to retreat, sealing her fate for the evening - just excuse, and move on!

Race 4 - JACK RACKHAM gave NEXT SUCCESS a seat then ended up following him 2nd over, tipped 3 wide to the top of the lane and quickly kicked into high gear, slingshotting on by effortlessly...at 15-1! BETTOREVER made a couple of early moves to secure the front end, got tested hard around 3/4s but fought that pressure off by the top of the lane, tried to dig in for the drive home but was no match at all for the easy winner - did stay on gamely to hold 2nd, though. NEXT SUCCESS dropped in 4th after being outleft, pulled first over to the half and was up to pressure the leader hard by 3/4s, appeared to be rebuffed by the top of the stretch but continued to battle gamely in the stretch, almost picking up 2nd - game performance. FASHION BYTHEBEACH made the top past turn one but had to yield to a retake, appeared

loaded in the pocket entering the stretch but was completely blocked off the entire way home, never getting any chance to pace (and fortunate that there was no inquiry regarding the pylons he went inside in the homestretch) - definitely one to follow up on! INFORCE raced 3rd over to the half but never really looked strong, and offered no rally in the stretch. MARTY MONKHOUSER A ended up sitting a 3 hole trip, but came up empty once they turned for home. WAVES OF FIRE A was sent off at 97-1 and raced accordingly. BS WEDDIE started out 2019 racing on Lasix....but was even worse than in his 2018 starts.

Race 5 - LIFE WELL LIVED flew right to the top but allowed ADAGIO DE LA TOUR to take over past the quarter, waited patiently for the stretch and trotted on by for his 2nd straight pocket victory. ADAGIO DE LA TOUR was cut loose past turn one and reached the top to turn two, got lazy heading to 3/4s but responded to Bartlett's request for some more trot and put away the first over challenger, continued to battle hard into the stretch but was no match late for the trip sitting winner. PANAMANIAN HANOVER was out fairly early before ending up 3rd over, ducked to the cones on the final turn and was able to pick up 3rd as others seemed to all tire and/or self destruct! MONEY MAVEN made a break off turn two but soon recovered and was out 4th over to turn three, never got close to contention but did manage to beat out a bunch for a small check. TIME OUTA JAIL sat the cones but had nothing at all - notorious for his form reversals, and the last 2 starts are a perfect example (WON last time). SHAWNEE BEAUTY got away in the pocket but was back to 3rd past the quarter, pulled first over at the half and tested the leader into the slow third panel, started to weaken to the final turn then just gave way badly. DOG GONE LUCKY was out 2nd over past the half but was gapping by the 5/8ths, got closer to the final bend and swung wide....but blew the last turn completely, losing all chance. HIGH BLUE was empty from the back

Race 6 - SWELLENDAM scared off the leavers and had things his own way right from the start, met up with the trip sitter to the final turn and had enough left to hold that one off the rest of the way home. BEAST MODE got away right behind the winner then elected to pop out at 3/4s and begin his challenge, kept coming gamely to the wire but never could get by - 2nd best. INDY INGOT got away in 3rd behind the top pair, couldn't stay with them in the stretch but did have enough to hang on to the show spot. JUSTICE MY WAY benefited inside from a ground saving trip, pacing home steadily to complete the Superfecta - not bad to end 2018, and now to start 2019. BULLVILLE KYLE slipped out uncovered at the half. never got to the leader then was outkicked in the stretch - seemed short off the bad date. DANCIN HILL failed to get involved from the back of the pack. GRAND THEFT came off the cones past the stands and was gapping cover shortly after that. ROCK N ROLL LEGACY pulled to the half and waited for cover, gapped on the back side and was all done by the final turn.

Race 7 - SWIFT AS A SHADOW was content to get away 3rd, pulled first over at the half and started to make good gain nearing 3/4s, started to edge by the leader on the final turn, took over for good once they turned for home then dug in late to hold off the late charge from JK PRIDENJOY. The latter was flushed out early before ending up racing 3rd over at the half, angled for the drive home and finished full of pace, nearly getting there at the wire. SAGEBRUSH SID was flushed out coming to the half then gained cover from the winner, couldn't have asked for a better trip but was clearly outmuscled late by the top pair. I FOUND MY BEACH was pocketed on the first turn, avoided a bad shuffle at the top of the stretch but couldn't stay with the top trio as they paced to the wire. GLASS PRINCE got the flow going past the stands but still ended up 4th over, never getting close tonight. BUCKEYE PRESIDENT stayed inside as others pulled, but had no stretch offer. BETTOR BELIEVE IT never got in the hunt at all. ER ROCK MY WORLD blasted to the front quickly, was worn down by the winner into the final turn then caved badly from the head of the lane.

Race 8 - BBS HARLEY made a very easy lead then had to be strangled to let DONAU take over, waited patiently to the final turn then popped out of the pocket, blowing on by to the VERY easy score. DONAU was on the move off turn one and fortunate that the winner was grabbing hard to let him go past the quarter, repelled a bid from JUPITER JOHNNY to the final turn but was simply no match at all for the very sharp winner - was tiring late but did hold 2nd. P H SUPERCAM started out in the pocket but was back to 3rd after the lead changed hands, sat all the way but didn't have quite enough late to get there for 2nd. INSPIRATION VIEW was out 2nd over to the half, swung three wide past 3/4s (around a tiring one) then

kicked home mildly to be 4th. FAMEOUS WESTERN stayed inside at the back and never got close to the leaders. WAR DADDY was out 3rd over at the half but never did kick in to any kind of gear. STARSKYS DREAM N swung very wide from last on the final turn but never could get close from that hopeless spot. JUPITER JOHNNY was underway first over before the half, put in a decent back side bid but quit badly as they neared the final turn.

Race 9 - ACEFORTYFOURAMANDA not only found gate speed (after the month off) but was somehow on the lead from Post 7 by the first turn, rated an easy half before picking things up a bit to 3/4s, never felt an ounce of pressure and had no problem finishing off the (shocking?) wire to wire score! ROYAL KNOCKOUT saved ground all the way, gained on the final turn and capitalized on a couple of weak rivals to move up into the 2nd slot as they paced to the finish - opportunistic tonight. FOXY DAME N was out briefly on turn three before wisely dropping back inside, moved out on the final turn, angled for the drive home but was outmuscled late for the 2nd spot. POPPY DRAYTON N never even thought of retaking from the winner, popped out on the final turn and proceeded to hang badly the rest of the way - maybe Bartlett knew she was short, and that's why there was no retake? ZANE HANOVER saved ground at the back and that got her a distant 5th place check. FANTICIPATION tried a first over move from turn three but failed to advance at all on the rim, eventually tiring badly. PHYLLIS JEAN was caught racing 3rd over in an awful flow, and never had a prayer - willing to excuse. SWEET YOU came out on turn three and got stuck behind a dead one to 3/4s.....but was empty herself anyway.

Race 10 - MASTER THE VIEW was a loose 2nd over at the half but soon tightened things up, tipped three wide on the final turn and blew right on past the leaders....at 27-1! LIGHTNING ONMYFEET made the top past turn one then rated an easy half, met with stern pressure from SPORTY SPOOK A on the final turn and while he was able to keep that one at bay, he was no match at all for the winner's powerful late burst. SPORTY SPOOK A dropped in 4th then was stuck racing first over to the half, got closer by 3/4s and was really testing the favorite on the final turn, never could get by but remained dead game to the end, a sharp 3rd place finisher. IDEAL TYSON A made the lead then yielded for the 2 hole trip, stayed close all the way but came up short at the end. SETTLEMOIR made some gain from the back to 3/4s, continuing to pace well the wire for a respectable 5th place finish. DEMOCRACY got away very poorly from the rail, came out near the back on the final turn but failed to threaten at all. WILD WEST was never in the hunt but did have some encouraging life crossing the wire - worth following up? IM A GIFT got away in 3rd, sat all the way but still came up empty when it mattered.

Race 11 - LETSCHASETHEDREAMN was out 2nd over past the half but stuck following horrible cover, launched a three wide move at 3/4s and started picking off horses on the final turn, collared the leader as they turned for home and had no trouble ringing up his 3rd victory in 3 U.S. tries - very promising! LACHIE MAGUIRE N made an easy top off turn one then let a hot SCOTCH MCEWAN take over on turn two, had a clear rail entering the stretch and kicked home very well to be a clear 2nd best. BUGGER BRUISER was away in the pocket but back to 3rd after a turn two lead change, pulled first over before 3/4s but was flopping a bit on the rim, eventually did a little better in the stretch and was able to pass the tired leader to grab 3rd. SCOTCH MCEWAN got hot in the 3 hole before the quarter and Brennan decided to cut him loose and brush to the front, continued to roll a quick clip to the final turn but was a tired horse once they entered the stretch - should serve as a decent tightener, though. MCERLEAN launched a wide move from near the back on the final turn, hitting the wire with good pace from an impossible spot - very encouraging effort. SHANE ADAM pulled first over past the half but never could find any kind of gear tonight, basically just clogging up the outer flow. PROVEN DESIRE needlessly "floated" out from Post 8 only to retreat to last, had some stretch traffic to deal with and was never close. ITSONLYROCKNROLL A came up empty despite an easy sit in trip.

Race 12 - STORMONT CZAR got away in the two hole, was a bit lazy heading to 3/4s, got his mind on business once into the stretch and charged right on by, a pocket rocket winner. TEXAS TERROR N wisely stayed inside as a couple of others pulled, found a seam between horses into the stretch and was charging late to grab the place honors (from a very unlikely spot) - looked good off the layoff. ORILLIA JOE stepped out to an easy lead, enjoyed a clear advantage as he carved out an unpressured pace, but just didn't

have enough to finish the job tonight. TWIN B SPEED DIAL sat 3rd all the way, angled for the drive home and was pacing well to the wire, though outmuscle for a board spot. TWIN B SPEEDO was out 2nd over off turn three but got stuck behind horrible cover, finally moved wide on the final turn and was actually pacing very well to the finish....but from an impossible spot. OZONE BLUE CHIP sat the cones near the back, pacing home evenly while not a factor, DOCTOR BUTCH was stuck 3rd over in that dismal outer flow and never had a prayer. CHUMLEE A pulled first over off turn three but never could advance, eventually tiring to last .