

The Empire Report – Wednesday, April 17, 2024 – Race Analysis

RACE 1 – (6) SWAGASAURUSREX came to life with a sharp win 3 back then followed it up with a crisp rallying 2nd behind a very sharp winner – gets a pass for his last (8 hole off 3 weeks) and looks pretty attractive here at that 8-1 ML price. (4) ATLANTIS appears to have tailed off dramatically but he did have an excuse last week – on his best game he can certainly be a threat with these types, so perhaps consider if the price is right. (5) ART SCENE showed some life 2 and 3 back immediately after joining a barn known for turnarounds – just got lost at the back last week, but may be ready for a more aggressive try with the better draw – possibility. (2) CENTURY IGLESIAS ships in sharp, but has been facing cheaper at Fhd. – we’ll see if he can replicate that form against this tougher bunch. (3) LYONS JOHNNYJNR hasn’t been sharp and his barn has been struggling lately as well – a decent post and Gingras seem to be his best attributes right now. (1) ALI ships in from Monti and feels a bit cheap – another that could be helped by the draw, at least. Both (7) GOLDEN GESTURE and (8) KEYSTONE DASH have been struggling AND are stuck with the two worst posts – sticking with others

RACE 2 – John Brennan Trotting Series, Leg 2: (4) SEA CAN was acquired by the leading barn in the nation last Fall and looked terrific in his first start, winning at Nfd. Despite being parked from the start – took some time off after a sick scratch and has come back super, finishing just behind TACHYON in last week’s sizzling 1:541 mile – he’ll be very tough with anything close to that effort tonight. (2) IMMANUEL K S can be pretty inconsistent but he brought a good one last week, finishing just behind one of the top choice’s talented barnmates – may be able to complete the exacta once more. (1) FERRETTI was a good first over 2nd in Leg 1 and definitely one of the main players in here...not sure that HE should be listed as the ML favorite, however. (5) LAVA FIELD was a solid 3rd last week, even if well behind the top choice at the end – in line for another small piece tonight. (6) DIAMANTE TRIO IT had tailed off considerably recently – her last may have been a little better, but still not ready to hop back on her team. (3) INFINITY STONE (hopples off?) seems up against it vs. these types

RACE 3 - John Brennan Trotting Series, Leg 2 – good race! (2) CITY OF HOPE was stuck in the back early last week but put in a steady rally to pick up 3rd, even if well off the top pair – he moves inside tonight, gets a switch to Kakaley, and is one of several with a legitimate chance in this well matched field. (1) WICKENBURGH was an 8-1 overlay winner returning from Ohio on 3/22, went a BIG mile for 2nd from Post 8 the next start and would have had a good chance to win LAST week had he shook free up the cones just a bit sooner – remains a very viable player. (4) OPTRIX was forced to come first over from 5th last week but still managed to nose out #1 for the win, despite making his first start since October – he’s eligible to be even sharper tonight...and that would make him very dangerous. (3) COVENTRY HALL was handled aggressively in his 2nd start back in the U.S. and just came up a little light at the end (3rd behind #4 and #1) – he’s another eligible to be that much better in Leg #2. (6) BLACK TIE BASH is a talented trotter but he had trouble rallying from the back last week and may find himself facing the same hurdle tonight. (7) RESOLVE TO WIN lived up to his name last week but was helped in a big way by the :59 half he grabbed – much tougher spot for tonight, and that 3-1 ML price seems pretty low. (5) LOS BALLYKEELAMIGO had a better effort last week, but still seems unlikely against this bunch

RACE 4 – (5) BATH BOMB was our clear choice here when the card was canceled on 4/3 and that was off just her first career qualifier – she’s qualified even sharper since then, and looms a very short priced favorite for her career debut. (1) OAKWOOD DYNASTY IR showed improvement in her 3rd U.S. start then converted a pocket trip to victory the next week – not sure she can hang with the top choice, however (despite that absurd “even money” ML price). (4) URSULA BLUE CHIP has raced ok when Smith has left the gate with her – chance for a good piece if he’s aggressive tonight. (2) GROOVY JANE ANN has done well at Monti, draws well for tonight and may be able to tow along for a share. (6) PINE BUSH MAGA is 0 for 22 locally but does grab some pieces – will need some trip luck to grab one from out here, though. (3) GANDY DANCER has shown little in her 3 YR starts this year

RACE 5 – (2) ITALIAN DELIGHT N could have been hurt by both the bad date and tough trip last week when 2nd best to #1 – better draw, gets right back in the box, and may be ready to unleash a bigger effort. (1) LYONS PRIDE delivered his best ever local start when 2nd two back, then built off that with last week’s decisive victory – major threat to take another, especially if the top choice comes up a bit short again. (8) ALOTBETTOR N is an interesting bomb – his form fell off a cliff this winter but he qualified much better last week (after a month off) and plummets tonight from 30s down to 15s – could be looking for a “drop and pop”, or may be just be hoping that somebody claims him! (4) DAAMERICANSKY did a nice job holding 2nd last week after getting blown away by the favorite

and his overall form is solid – very playable underneath. (3) LIBERY N FREEDOM hung a bit trying for 2nd last week but his overall form is solid – another with a chance to land somewhere in the exotics. (6) MINGO JOEL wasn't bad at all last week and has a couple of other “sneaky ok” tries recently – maybe 3rd/4th? (5) MAGRITTE has been struggling for some time. (7) PROVOCATIVEPRINCEN would be a major surprise from a spot like this

RACE 6 - John Brennan Trotting Series, Leg 2: (1) WARRAWEE YANG came into this series riding a 4 race winning streak out of town, and was able to extend that streak to 5 with last week's sharp 1:55.3 victory – looms a heavy favorite to add another “W” tonight. (3) MOHATU AS was making just his first start of the year last week but finished up with good trot after being shuffled – should go forward off that mile, with a chance at a bigger chunk tonight. (5) DEADLINE HALL landed on a tough trip in Leg 1 and held pretty well for 4th – can have a bigger say tonight with an easier journey. (4) CRISTAL TRIO IT started off her U.S. career with a pair of excellent tries but she was used hard trying for the lead last week and folded badly after the top choice blew by her to 3/4s – guessing she'll be handled more conservatively here, and may bounce right back with a much better effort. (6) CREATIVE VENTURE is very capable against these types but he failed to fire from the back of the pack last week and may find himself in a similarly tough spot tonight. (2) STRONGERWITHLINDY was short last week racing off the layoff and may still find himself well behind the top ones

RACE 7 – (7) SIR PINOCCHIO hit board in 5 of 7 as a 2YO, won the Excelsior A Final and may have ended his season with a Reynolds division win if not for a stretch miscue – shows 2 sharp qualifiers for his 3YO return (including a close 2nd behind the talented OPTRIX), and has to get top billing...even from out here. (2) MAGIC MELVIN has some ok lines to start off his young career but he deserves EXTRA consideration because he hails from a barn that has started off the year winning at a rate rarely seen anywhere (which includes last night's \$54.50 winner in Race 8) – feels like they could win with a zebra right now! (4) BARN DREAMER was 7-4-2-1 as a 2YO – moves to a new barn to start off her 3YO campaign, adds Lasix, and should be able to make some noise tonight. (3) LIGHTNING TAMER hails from a top barn, shows a couple of nice preps and may be able to at least have some say in his first start as a 3YO. (6) EL MISSION GODDESS sharpened at PcD and was a nice 2nd in her YR return last week – tough post tonight, however. (8) MR KNOWITALL finished with good trot once clear last week and his overall recent form isn't bad – he'll be a big price tonight, and perhaps can sneak in for 3rd/4th? (1) TO MY CREDIT went one of his better efforts 2 back but regressed quickly last week – prefer others. (5) WISTERIA HANOVER has some good moments, but usually when in vs. softer than these.

RACE 8 – (1) TAKE A GAMBLE has taken 2 of his last 3 starts, the one loss a 2nd to the currently raging BOILING OAR – he meets a quality field here, but the draw gives him the edge. (5) ADAM TWELVE has now hit board in ALL 16 local starts, but he's showing at least SOME wear and tear in his last few – can never count this team out, but he'll need to get back to that absolute top form if he hopes to get back to the winner's circle. (3) NIGHT HAWK had a pretty disappointing 4YO campaign but has come back much sharper at 5, already 8-3-3-1 this year – he seems to do his best on the lead these days, but it's hard to say if he'll be able to cut the mile tonight. (6) DOWNRIGHTDELICIOUS was downright scary in his last, exploding in the lane to score the 30-1 shocker, despite making only his 2nd start of the year AND racing off a month (due to a sick scratch) – we'll see if he can come up with another big mile, this time up in class (a bit) and from another tough post! (4) KINGSVILLE actually raced huge last week, doing all the heavy lifting before #6 (who followed him all the way) just flew on by in the lane – chance for a piece against these with an easier trip. (8) ULTIMAROCA isn't always the most consistent horse on the planet but he's putting together a nice streak of good races right now – not sure there's a way into the hunt for him from out here, however. (2) CADILLAC BAYAMA steps up considerably in class but he's been solid for weeks, his barn is going well, and perhaps he can pick up a minor share with an easy enough trip. (7) GREG THE LEG is tough as nails but faces an uphill battle starting from Post 7 against these

RACE 9 - John Brennan Trotting Series, Leg 2: (7) TACHYON was in career form to start off the year, hit a brief rough patch but is back to hitting on all cylinders again – have to stick with him, even from the bad post (and even with Bartlett staying loyal to his main client). (5) GLOBAL BELIEVER probably needed that last start when he was an even 3rd – he's done some good work here in the past, gets Bartlett back in the bike and may be the one should the top choice falter. (3) CHEZACTIC went right to the top for his new connections last week but lost all chance after an early miscue – still not sure how well he fits with the better ones in this series, but he'll be a big price here and may be worth using in exotics. (4) MYCROWNMYKINGDOM can throw some big miles at times – a good trip could help him grab a piece of this. (1) CASSIUS HANOVER has hit board in all 9 local starts, including a 3rd last week- he may be a bit on the cheaper side, but the rail draw gives him at least a chance to keep that streak alive. (2)

DYLADMAR has a couple of even 4ths since arriving from NJ – likely looking at some more minor spoils for tonight. (6) YOU GOT IT draws poorly after a miscue last week – sticking with others tonight

RACE 10 - John Brennan Trotting Series, Leg 2: (6) ROYALTY BEER was hammered at the windows last week (dropping from all those competitive Open tries) and was the easiest of winners – tougher draw tonight, but remains the one to knock off. (4) BY THE BOOK shows a bunch of terrific Stga. lines so it was no surprise to see him race very well upon arrival last week, despite racing from a very tough spot – he gets Randall to trek down for the drive once more, and may be able to make some more noise with a more aggressive steer. (1) BONTONI DEGATO S was no match at all for #6 last week but safely held 2nd – decent chance he could complete the exacta once more. (2) CAL MILES N SHELL seemed to hang a bit at the end last week but he was also chasing a mile much faster than he's used to – goes 2nd time Lasix tonight, and we'll see if he can come up a bit better. (3) CRAZY BROTHER JM hails from low profile connections but he had some good lines shipping in, and didn't embarrass himself last week – maybe a small slice? (5) DRACO S has been a steady player vs. solid competition but still may be looking at only minor scraps from this spot. (7) BLUEBIRD BISHOP has some ability it seems, but is really up against it from all the way out here

RACE 11 – Competitive race: (1) IMABEACHBOY bumps up from 15s to 20s but he's earned that jump on the strength of back to back wins – his barn has been able to win at high rates at multiple tracks, and we'll see if this guy can make it 3 in a row tonight. (3) PRESTIGE SEELSTER brought a 2 race winning streak into his last start but lost all chance when parked from Post 7 – he's another that's definitely scarier in 15s, but capable in 20s as well. (5) CAPTAIN T HANOVER (former barnmate to #1) is another that has been a weekly player lately, and figures to have a big say tonight as well – a good trip puts him right into the mix. (2) SHANWAY N gets a pass for his last (horrible trip) but has been good for late rallies in most of his recent starts – good one to use in exotics...and maybe even on top? (6) OZONE BLUE CHIP is the “x factor” tonight – we liked him taking on 40s last week but now he drops down to 20s off a weak effort – red flags for sure, but still a tough call as to what to do with him here. (4) SHARK PLAY drops from 30s to 20s and that could help his chances – still leaning more towards others for the top spots, however. (7) IM J BEE N had a great run this winter but has come back to earth recently – he's missed 3 weeks, and draws poorly too. (8) JOJOS PLACE seems unlikely to ever get close tonight