

NY Hot List races to watch – Thursday, May 2, 2024 – Belmont at the Big A

By Matt Shifman and Bob Ehalt

Hot List Key:

A: A preferred horse to watch

B: Secondary horse to watch

***C:** Went down 2 or more betting notches and finished 1st through 3rd

***D:** Went down 2 or more betting notches and finished 4th or worst

***** - 4 or more betting notches if 11-1 or more.

3rd race [NY, Affirmed Success, 6F] – (5) **Excellent Timing** (C) was bet down from 5-1 to 5-2 in an open company first-level allowance. He broke through the gate before the start, set the pace, and faded to third. (1) **Rotknee** won 9 out of 18 career starts including at least three NY-bred stakes races with two at the Big A. (2) **Donegal Surges** won both of his NY-bred allowances in his last two starts for Todd Pletcher. (3) **Sheriff Bianco** is also a past state-bred stakes winner and was second in this race last year.

4th race [Clm 16000 N2L, 1 mi] – (6) **Bingood to Knowya** was the winner of a \$30,000 maiden claimer last month and drops into an appropriate N2L condition. (7) **Gun Maestro** made his second start since being claimed by Linda Rice, set the pace, and finished third. (3) **Sondsliksomdiniddo** was also the winner of a \$30,000 claimer in his last start but he used a closing move. (8) **Phantom Jewel** broke his maiden at Laurel Park in a \$20,000 claimer against open company and stepped up to a higher claiming level.

6th race [Clm 20000, 1 mi] – (6) **Holdtheflight** (D) was a winner two races back for the \$20,000 tag and got claimed. He moved up to a starter allowance and got bet from 10-1 to 6-1 and finished sixth. (7) **Gut Feeling** won twice in his last three starts for a \$16,000 tag and got claimed both times. (4) **Bourbon Calling** had the lead in a \$25,000 race last time and lost a stretch duel by a neck. (1) **High Heat** got claimed for \$20,000 two races back and then stepped up to finish second with his best speed figure.

8th race [Md Sp Wt, 6F TURF] – (4) **Marco T.** was second or third in four career starts including her 2024 debut that happened a month ago at Gulfstream Park. This NY-bred has raced only once against state-breds and that was with the boys. She was also second in a stakes race at Aqueduct in November. (6) **Ocean Mermaid** will make her first start of the year with Lasix and the blinkers come off. She debuted in a stakes at Gulfstream and was second and then at Saratoga set the pace and finished third. Both times the winner came back to victory in their next starts including a stakes race at Aqueduct the other day. (8) **Bewildered** is a first-time starter for Bruce Levine who is 33% from his last 15 firsters. (7) **Awatea** ships up to New York for his first start of the year for Riley Mott.

Best bets: Bingood to Knowya (4th); Marco T. (8th). **Best value:** Excellent Timing (3rd); Holdtheflight (6th).

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Letter</u> <u>last race</u>	<u>Today's</u> <u>Race</u>	<u>Comments</u>
(3)	Excellent Timing	C on 4/12	3	Broke through the gate, set the pace, and finished third.
(6)	Holdtheflight	D on 3/30	6	Drops back down after getting bet in a starter allowance.