

PIMLICO (Post 10:30 A.M.)

TIP SHEET

SATURDAY // MAY 18, 2024



RACES	KALI FRANCOIS	BRIAN NADEAU	MACK PFEIFFER
RACE 1	9 Lieutenant General 7 Takethefifth 8 Beltane	10 Gift Exchange 1 Irish Heartbeat 9 Lieutenant General	9 Lieutenant General 1 Irish Heartbeat 10 Gift Exchange
RACE 2	2 Porquerolles 4 Breakwater 8 Chelonian	2 Porquerolles 5 St. John's 3 Midnight Award	5 St. John's 2 Porquerolles 7 Rakia
RACE 3	1 Mirahmadi 2 Whenlovetakesover 7 Nasty Habit	1 Mirahmadi 5 Magic Express 7 Nasty Habit	5 Magic Express 1 Mirahmadi 7 Nasty Habit
RACE 4	3 Disco Ebo 1 Royal Poppy 4 Apple Picker	4 Apple Picker 3 Disco Ebo 7 Swall	6 Sweet Shild O Mine 3 Disco Ebo 1 Royal Poppy
RACE 5	6 Barbtourage 7 Rye Smile 4 Modarosa	2 Marian Cross 7 Rye Smile 5 The Amazing Mizzen	7 Rye Smile 5 The Amazing Mizzen 1 Cooter's Revenge (AUS)
RACE 6	2 Cats by Five 1 Mr Skylight 7 Catahoula Moon	3 Petingas Twin 6 Frost Free 2 Cats by Five	6 Frost Free 1 Mr Skylight 2 Cats by Five
RACE 7	7 Fluffy Socks 6 Five Towns (GB) 3 Blissful	7 Fluffy Socks 3 Blissful 1 Sweet Dani Girl	3 Blissful 1 Sweet Dani Girl 2 Dana's Beauty
RACE 8	2 Prevalence 1 Coastal Mission 7 Bourbon Bash	3 Super Chow 2 Prevalence 6 Prince of Jericho	2 Prevalence 7 Bourbon Bash 3 Super Chow
RACE 9	12 Fulmineo 3 Massif 4 Twirling Point	6 Naptown 4 Twirling Point 12 Fulmineo	10 Abrumar 4 Twirling Point 9 Echo Lane
RACE 10	10 Imperial Gun 5 Corporate Power 8 Tuscan Sky	8 Tuscan Sky 5 Corporate Power 10 Imperial Gun	8 Tuscan Sky 10 Imperial Gun 5 Corporate Power
RACE 11	11 Witty 10 Charging 1 Grooms All Bizness	12 Beer Can Man 1 Grooms All Business 11 Witty	9 That's Right 11 Witty 12 Beer Can Man
RACE 12	10 Emmanuel 5 Running Bee 11 Eons	3 Balnikhov 10 Emmanuel 9 Beatbox	10 Emmanuel 11 Eons 2 English Bee
RACE 13	5 Mystik Dan 3 Catching Freedom 9 Imagination	3 Catching Freedom 5 Mystik Dan	9 Imagination 3 Catching Freedom 5 Mystik Dan
RACE 14	1 Armando R 6 It's Viper 2 Sheriff Ronnie	5 Frightland 1 Armando R 6 It's Viper	3 Speargun 1 Armando R 6 It's Viper

Race Analysis

1st 9 LIEUTENANT GENERAL is certainly bred to appreciate sprinting on the turf as he is a half-brother to multiple Grade 1-winning turf sprinter Golden Pal out of Grade 3 turf-sprint winner Lady Shipman. Figures to show good positional speed after facing Discreet Mischief, who then placed in a first-level allowance on dirt at Churchill with an 88 Beyer.

See reverse side for remainder of the Pimlico Program

Pimlico

2nd 2 PORQUEROLLES has tons of upside potential and ran well to just miss against favored What Say Thee in first start against winners. Looked good breezing a solo five-eighths at Fair Hill on 5/10 and can be the strongest late in the lane..

3rd 1 MIRAHMADI might be the horse to beat returning from 251-day layoff with new Lasix. Showed good early foot in the Del Mar Futurity over speed-friendly track, then stayed gamely for second behind highly regarded stablemate Prince of Monaco

4th 3 DISCO EBO had a pretty easy time of it when besting only three others in Laurel's Primonetta. Set the pace while slightly off the rail, controlled easy fractions, then sprinted home under a drive. The pace is likely to be quicker this afternoon, but think this mare is still the speed of the speed, and she should be squarely in the thick of things when they turn for home. 4 APPLE PICKER bested the top pick going seven-eighths in the Grade 3 Fritchie when receiving hot splits to attack, then faced a pretty solid group in last month's Grade 3 Distaff at Aqueduct (the winner then ran third in the Grade 2 Ruffian there with an 89 Beyer). She's plenty capable at this six-furlong distance, and only need a bit of pace to adequately setup her late bid

5th 2 MARIAN CROSS cuts back precipitously in distance after racing two turns over synthetic at Gulfstream. Tracked along the rail, came through an open inside corridor at the quarter pole, came off the inside in upper stretch, then failed to stay the trip. Expect more patient tactics at this sharper distance

6th 2 CATS BY FIVE stalked in between horses in Oaklawn's Bachelor, eased three wide into the stretch, then stayed on decently for a minor award in a race that was controlled by the front-runners. There's a good chance this pace gets quick, and he could benefit from a hot duel up front. 6 FROST FREE finished ahead of the top pick in his last two starts, and he is very fast from the gate. Opened up the lead in the blink of an eye in the Bachelor, then held second behind the quality favorite. Very dangerous if allowed a breather in the opening quarter mile.

7th 7 FLUFFY SOCKS was really up against it in the Grade 1 Jenny Wiley when attempting to rally into glacial fractions set by the 25-1 winner in a race where they ran 1-2-3 all the way around. The eighth-finisher then ran second in the Grade 3 Sheepshead Bay in New York with a 90 Beyer. Veteran isn't exactly a win machine and might have to deal with a slow pace once again, but she fits this class level like a glove, and handles all types of footing

8th 3 SUPER CHOW has good early speed and is expected to be on or near the lead following a successful winter-spring in New York. Took a couple of Grade 3's over wet tracks, then might have been in just a bit tough when a no-excuse third in the Grade 2 Carter after setting reasonable fractions. The winner of that race then placed in the Grade 3 Westchester with a 94 Beyer.

9th 12 FULMINEO was wired by 5-year-old Sports Editor in circuit debut, and might get a quicker pace to attack this time around. Saved ground in midpack last time, angled out into the stretch and finished willingly. Looked comfortable breezing in new blinkers at Fair Hill on 5/10.

10TH 10 IMPERIAL GUN pulled hard along the rail to prompt the pace, settled into the pocket, split horses on the second turn, eased out for full clearance, then tried hard to just miss in Oaklawn's Bathhouse Row. This isn't the most ideal post, but he has enough tactical speed to find position without losing too much ground on the first turn.. Although 8 TUSCAN SKY only beat two others over Fair Grounds slop two back, he ran down a useful loose leader in odds-on Nash. Fell behind in the early stages of the Wood Memorial, then seemed a bit uncomfortable when trying to rally in between rivals on the second turn. The third-finisher then ran third in the Grade 2 Peter Pan with an 89 Beyer. He's another getting blinkers for the first time, and that might sharpen his early speed..

11TH 11 WITTY makes second start back , loves this distance and also turf with some moisture. 12 BEER CAN MAN has the class edge with starts in graded stakes in last 4.

12TH 10 EMMANUEL looks like the horse to beat dropping out of a strong edition of the Grade 1 Maker's Mark (runner-up then placed in Churchill's Grade 1 Turf Classic with a 102 Beyer) over yielding ground. Wound up on the lead by default before tiring and think he's better with a target or two at this point in his career. Should get that kind of setup from just off the lead and figures right there when they swing into the straight.3 BALNIKHOV is a one-run closer dependent on race and pace luck, but he kicks hard given the right flow. Saved ground at the back in the San Francisco Mile, slipped through on the fence, then finished evenly after hopping back to his left lead. . BEATBOX raced outside in midpack in the Muniz at Fair Grounds, made an outside bid, then finished evenly behind an impressive winner. The third-finisher then ran third in the Turf Classic with a 98 Beyer. Consistent and tactical, he seems to be improving with each start.

13TH -THE PREAKNESS -

3 CATCHING FREEDOM ran well for fourth in the Derby, but overall had a good trip. Raced in between behind that fast pace, followed 5 MYSTIK DAN into the stretch, then finished with interest while over in behind rivals. He's beaten Mystik Dan in the past, however, and might show a bit more tactical speed in this shorter field. Expecting him to kick on late for barn that went 6 for the last 20 (30%, \$2.01 ROI) with horses returning in two weeks or less. Although MYSTIK DAN did receive a perfect trip and ride when capturing the Derby, he doesn't get enough credit for staying close to those fast fractions and still finishing with determination. Tracked from the pocket, bulled his way through at the quarter pole while hopping to his right lead, then dug down to fend off the closers. He has the tactical speed that leads to good trips and is an obvious danger. Barn went 3 for the last 13 (23%, \$2.12 ROI) with last-out winners returning on dirt. Trainer Chad Brown's two Preakness winners were both fourth-time starters that lost their final prep and skipped the Kentucky Derby to concentrate on this race. 9. IMAGINATION looks like the speed of the race for Bob Baffert and Frankie Dettori. Finished ahead of two next-out winners when necked in the Santa Anita Derby, and the fifth-finisher flattered that performance by then winning the Lazaro Barrera Stakes by seven lengths with a 101 Beyer. Very dangerous if allowed to shake loose on soft fractions.

149TH Preakness Stakes Selections

Jon White (Santa Anita oddsmaker):

- 9. Imagination
- 5. Mystik Dan
- 3. Catching Freedom
- 8. Tuscan Gold

EDDIE OLCZYK

(Former NHL player)

- 7 JUST STEEL
- 5 MYSTIK DAN
- 8 TUSCAN GOLD
- 9 IMAGINATION

FRANK CARULLI

(Maryland Handicapper)

- 9 IMAGINATION
- 5 MYSTIK DAN
- 8 TUSCAN GOLD
- 3 CATCHING FREEDOM

JEFF SIEGEL

S Cal Handicapper

- 5 MYSTIK DAN
- 9 IMAGINATION
- 8 TUSCAN GOLD
- 3 CATCHING FREEDOM

Lucky Lou (MyWinners.com)

- 9. IMAGINATION
- 8. TUSCAN GOLD
- 3 CATCHING FREEDOM
- 5 MYSTIK DAN

David Aragona

Timeform U.S. /Nyra Hdcpper

- 3 CATCHING FREEDOM
- 8 TUSCAN GOLD
- 5 MYSTIK DAN
- 9 IMAGINATION

JEREMY PLONK

@horseplayernow

- 8 TUSCAN GOLD
- 9 IMAGINATION
- 3 CATCHING FREEDOM
- 5 MYSTIK DAN

RON NICOLETTI

Gulfstream Park

- 8 TUSCAN GOLD
- 5 MYSTIK DAN
- 3 CATCHING FREEDOM
- 9 IMAGINATION

Preakness Selections

Jon White (Santa Anita oddsmaker):

9. Imagination

5. Mystik Dan

3. Catching Freedom

8. Tuscan Gold

I have a slew of reasons for making Imagination my top pick in the Preakness.

: I not only believe that Imagination has a good chance to win, he will be a much better price than Mystik Dan. Do I like Imagination even more with Muth out? Yes, I do.

Imagination's trainer has won the Preakness a record eight times. Baffert's winners have been Silver Charm in 1997, Real Quiet in 1998, Point Given in 2001, War Emblem in 2002, Lookin At Lucky in 2010, American Pharoah in 2015, Justify in 2018 and National Treasure in 2023.

While Mystik Dan did win the Kentucky Derby, was he the best horse in the race? I'm not so sure. Look, I think Mystik Dan deserves a lot of credit for his Derby victory. He won it fair and square. But I also think Mystik Dan benefited from a ride by Brian Hernandez Jr. that was nothing less than a rail-hugging masterpiece. And Mystik Dan deserves credit for being brave enough to unhesitatingly charge through a small hole turning for home, a hole that was so tight that Hernandez's left boot actually smacked the rail. Nevertheless, all in all, I came away from this year's Kentucky Derby with the opinion that Mystik Dan quite possibly was no better than the third-best horse in the race. And Thoro-Graph does support this view of mine.

Imagination goes into the Preakness having been a model of consistency so far. He hasn't finished worse than second in six career starts. When I spoke with Baffert after Imagination won Santa Anita's San Felipe Stakes by a head on March 3 despite getting bumped hard going into the clubhouse turn, it reminded me a lot of what Baffert had once told me about National Treasure when he was a 2-year-old in 2022. Baffert said that while he considered National Treasure to be a good 2-year-old, "I think he will be even better on down the line."

Well, it turned out that Baffert was right, as he usually is when it comes to his thoughts regarding a racehorse. On down the line as a 3-year-old, National Treasure won the Preakness. Later in 2023, he narrowly lost the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile to the older Cody's Wish, who would be voted Horse of the Year. Earlier this year, National Treasure won the Pegasus World Cup.

Following this year's San Felipe, Baffert told me that he thought Imagination was improving and that his best races might still be ahead for him.

After the San Felipe, Imagination was bet down to even-money favoritism in the Santa Anita Derby. I picked him to win. I expected him to win. Imagination did give a good account of himself, but he lost by a neck when having to settle for second to Stronghold.

At first I was down on Imagination for getting beat in the Santa Anita Derby. But after Stronghold subsequently didn't disgrace himself by finishing seventh of 20 in the Kentucky Derby, I now think that perhaps I judged Imagination a bit too harshly for not winning the Santa Anita Derby.

BloodHorse's Bob Ehalt wrote this week that Imagination, a \$1.05 million yearling purchase, is owned by SF Racing, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables, Stonestreet Stables, Dianne Bashor, Robert Masterson, Waves Edge Capital, Catherine Donovan and Tom Ryan. It's "the same core group" of owners for National Treasure, Ehalt noted.

"This has been a target for us," Ryan said of the Preakness to Ehalt. "When he ran in the Santa Anita Derby, we felt we learned a lot about him, just like we did last year when National Treasure was fourth in that race. We knew he ran well and since then the horse has really developed physically, mentally and athletically. He's gotten fitter and tighter. He's been immature at times, but he continues to impress."

Imagination's team drill with Muth at Santa Anita last Friday (May 10) might be an indication that Imagination is indeed improving and that he's poised to run a biggie in the Preakness. Muth and Imagination were both timed in a bullet 1:11.80 for six furlongs. Imagination appeared to be no more than only a head in front, at the most, when they crossed the finish line. But a comment Baffert made to Daily Racing Form's David Grening with regard to that workout by Imagination caught my eye.

"Today was probably his best work since I've had him," Baffert said.

Imagination's Beyer Speed Figures are an indication to me that he is capable of winning the Preakness, especially if Baffert is right and we have not seen his best yet.

Imagination's Beyer Speed Figures were on an upward trajectory of 70, 78, 78, 92 and 96 until he posted an 89 in the Santa Anita Derby. But that 96 Beyer gives him a license to have a big say in the Preakness. It's not as if Imagination's 96 Beyer is a far cry from Mystik Dan's two best figures, which are 101 and 100.

Imagination's tactical speed could be a major asset this Saturday in a race that isn't expected to have a fast pace. Breaking from the outside post, Imagination can race on or just off the early lead without it taking a toll on him.

In terms of his breeding, the distance of the Preakness might be a good fit for Imagination.

Imagination is a Kentucky-bred son of super sire Into Mischief and the Empire Maker mare Magical Feeling. Into Mischief has yet to sire a Preakness winner, but he has had two winners of the Kentucky Derby in Authentic (2020) and Mandaloun (2021 through the disqualification of Medina Spirit). Laurel River, this year's sensational 8 1/2-length winner of the \$12 million Dubai World Cup, also is by Into Mischief.

A noteworthy stamina influence in Imagination's pedigree is Empire Maker, who managed to win the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes.

BELMONT at the BIG

POST 12:35

By / Mike Beer /David Aragona

First Race 5-6-2 5 TEPEU ran poorly when in cheap for her first start of 2024, then got somewhat back on track in two synthetic starts before leaving Florida; showed speed while entered in a much tougher spot in the NY debut off the layoff; dropping for a very good barn, and has the back races to be tough in here. 6 SKI COUNTRY missed a lot of time after being claimed for \$50k last summer at Monmouth; was protected by the waiver off the layoff when running evenly in a fast-paced race, then got wired over a wet track here last week; back quickly dropping again.

Race 2 5-4-1 5 TEN TEN was making her debut in that most recent JINGLE JANGLE start; got right up close to the pace and worked hard in that spot while taking on a tough distance, and she stayed gamely to the end before settling for second; might not have to improve at all against this group.. 4 JINGLE JANGLE debuted in an off-turf sprint at Saratoga as a 2yo and looked like she might have needed that race after taking some money; didn't turn up again for over two months, where she went long on turf and faded behind a 100/1 winner; dropped for the 3yo debut, where she stumbled badly at the start; finally puts races together

Race 3 4-6-1 4 PASCHAL MOON had little chance vs. the streaking Colonel Vargo over a speed-favoring track two starts back; landed in a fast-paced race vs. tougher last time; gets needed class relief for this.

Race 4 4-2-6 4 SCHLOMO did a lot of racing after a bump at the start in his debut when asked to get a tough distance; forced a fast pace and was only second-best to a 3yo with some potential last time while earning a figure that stands out in this field.

Race 5 3 -2-4 CITY MISCHIEF was going to win that turf sprint at Saratoga last July but bobbed a couple of different times while coming with late momentum and wound up falling short; has run some faster races since then in some tougher spots; can handle this distance but needs some pace. (off turf 4-5-3)

Race 6 4-7-1-5 4 PRINCIPE D'ORO disappointed over a couple of wet tracks in his first two starts back from a long layoff and wound up getting dropped sharply in class last month; was quickly snapped up after dominating that weaker bunch and moves right back up in class off the claim for a trainer who is 8 for his last 28 with dirt routers first off the claim (29%, \$2.81 ROI).

Race 7 7-2-5 7MAJESTIC FRONTIER nearly overcame a stumbling start followed by a couple of bumps when just missing with a career-best 84 Beyer back in February, then came right back to win his next start going longer; was on a difficult cutback in distance two starts back when getting untracked too late, and he got in too tough when up in class last time; drops back down and might be in better form than it appears.

Race 8 7-2-9 7 OPERATION TORCH flashed potential when finishing well in his debut last March, then powered away from maidens to win his second start after a good trip; wound up in some tough allowance races after that vs. the lines of Kalik (subsequent Grade 2 winner), and Program Trading (now a multiple Grade 1 winner); switches to Pletcher to begin his 4yo campaign. 2 RUSE has switched up his running style recently, and has been compromised a couple of times while being left with too much to do late; capable of taking advantage of this rail draw after breaking from the far outside and getting wired last time. 9 ALEXIS ZORBA has mostly concentrated on sprinting since arriving stateside, and he has been a disappointment overall, though he did win when stretched out to a mile in January; has speed stretching out again after just getting nailed in a sprint last time.

Off Turf 14-1-4-11

Race 9 4-1-3-6 BEST BET:4 ASSET PURCHASE was impressive winning her career debut with a sharp run from just off the pace, then appeared to struggle with the mile distance in the Busher when squandering a clear stretch lead over a wet track; ran better than it looks off the layoff last time when forced to chase a fast pace after failing to break sharply from the gate, before collaring the in-form leader and then holding off the closers. 1HOT FUDGE bobbled awkwardly at the start and wound up in a pace duel when losing her winning streak in the Grade 3 Distaff last month; doesn't need the lead to be effective but a sharp break from the rail is imperative as she looks to rebound.

Race 10 7-5-6-3 . 7 GRAM endured a very tough trip and was unlucky when finishing second in her turf debut at Saratoga; came right back to win her next start, then ran in two open stakes before the layoff; returns in her available condition, and also adds Lasix for her 3yo debut. 5 DUSK had her first two starts rained off the turf but gained valuable experience in those races; stumbled at the start before racing greenly in the debut, then showed improved speed in the second start; finally got to the surface she is bred for at the end of October and dominated that field on the lead; forward to go and Lasix on 6 FANCYPANTS JULIANA earned a 74 Beyer in her debut as a 2yo, then got an unlucky trip in her second start before missing time, and she hasn't been on turf since; interesting getting back on grass as she returns from a layoff. (Off turf 7-3-13-5)

Race 11 9-8-5-7

9 OPERA DE RAVEL is a new face for top connections landing in a field where the experienced runners have left something to be desired so far; sire was an Irish 2000 Guineas winner; dam was Group 2-placed in Ireland, and placed in three graded stakes over here while also winning twice. 8 OUR FINEST HOUR has run at three different tracks already while steadily improving; was passing horses in a modestly-paced race last time; switches to Maker after selling for \$57k last month.

(Off Turf 2-12-3-7)

THE MEADOWS (11:30 A.M.)



The Professor's Picks

Handicapping Selections for The Meadows, brought to you
by the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association

SATURDAY, MAY 18

RACE 1

- 3 – SANDBETWEENMYTOES – Draws a good post this week
- 1 – CHIEF MATE – Sharp right now, will challenge his stablemate for the win
- 4 – GUNG HO – Makes 4YO season debut

RACE 2

- 2 – TSM WESTERN SOUL – Gets a class drop this week
- 6 – SOUTHWIND PINCLDA – Second last week, raced well
- 3 – WINDY ISLAND – Had excuses in first two starts, should be better today
- 5 – MISS MARY MACH – Overdue for a big mile

RACE 3

- 5 – MOVED BYTHE SPIRIT – Fourth in local debut, drops in class
- 4 – FIXN N MIXN – Top-4 finisher in all local starts
- 6 – CONTACT ZONE – Has gate speed to overcome the post
- 3 – TWIN B NATION – Not his best last week, hope for return to previous form

RACE 4

- 8 – WIDESPREAD PANIC – Good third in season debut
- 3 – WHISKEY FINISH – Best post he's had in a month
- 5 – KICKSTART HANOVER – Second last week, raced well
- 6 – HOPINGFORTHECROWN – Proven winner in this class,
- 1 – TERRIFIC TIM – Last week was his best of the season

RACE 5

- 6 – ALWAYS B GIBBY – Fast-closing third last week, new barn today
- 2 – YO YO MEXICO – Showed a ton of late pace in first effort
- 8 – BET N SHOUT – Qualified well prepping for today's debut
- 9 – MORTGAGE LIFTER – Good mile last week, poor post today

RACE 6

- 5 – JK MIKI MANTLE – Fourth in higher level, drops in class
- 2 – SOUTH POINT – Fast win last week, jumps multiple classes
- 1 – MIKI MINAJ – Poor posts in last couple of starts
- 3 – DOUBLE UP N – Up in class after a win

RACE 7

- 9 – LITENINGONTHEBEACH – Huge class drop today
- 3 – AMERICAN CLASSIC – Fast win in lower level a week ago
- 5 – DELESTON – Second last week, good effort
- 6 – GOOGLE MY CHROME – Needs others to set fast fractions early
- 7 – SO MANY ROADS – Strong effort last week, will need the right trip

RACE 8

- 7 – MATT'S CHOICE – Returns to previous barn after a claim
- 8 – KINGSTONS BAD BOY – Post works against him today
- 3 – FEARLESS FURY – Slow start last week hurt his chances
- 6 – OKIE FROM MUSKOGEE – Has gone some tough miles in recent week

RACE 9

- 2 – THE NIGHT'S WATCH – Double-parked to the quarter last week
- 6 – MALOUCIOUS – Gets the worst post, but shorter field should help
- 5 – LORD ANTHONY – Paced a fast mile behind runaway winner last time
- 1 – ROGERTHAT BLUECHIP – Up in class after a 4th place finish

RACE 10

- 5 – SHIPSHAPE – If he has gate speed, today might be the day to use it
- 4 – SNAPPY CHIP – Another solid second place finish last week
- 6 – JIM ROCKS – Overdue for a big mile
- 7 – LYONS BEACHBOY – Hope for return to previous form

RACE 11

- 6 – STARSNSTRIPES GB – Battled to a quick half last time
- 1 – THAT'S MY LEROY – Inside post should help
- 5 – LYONS COPPERTOP – Has had the lead at the ¾ two straight weeks
- 2 – PATRIOT WAY – Off a month, may be a step short

RACE 12

- 1 – FLITE CRAFT – Big win last week, career best
- 3 – OUTER BANKS – Drops from stake company, won in this class 2 starts
- 7 – I'LL HUNT YOU DOWN – 4-for-6 lifetime, moves up in class today
- 5 – BARRIER – Impressive first local effort

RACE 13

- 2 – SMOKIN JOE HANOVER – Paced a fast mile last time, drops in class
- 6 – ASTON HILL DAVE – Had most of his success last year in Presto Stable
- 1 – HE'S A TOMKAT – Should improve in second start of the year
- 3 – THE BOSS SAID – Third last week, used his gate speed

RACE 14

- 4 – OPEN BAR – Strong effort on the front last time
- 7 – SOUTHWIND CAINE – Gets a big class drop today
- 5 – HOBBS – Has had tough posts last couple of starts
- 2 – M MAURRONE – Broke last time, try him again
- 9 – CRAZY SUPERSPORT – Off a month, may take conservative route today



We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

Craig Donnelly's ANALY\$I\$ @parxracing



Craig has been involved in horseracing for 50 years as a handicapper, journalist, linemaker and analyst. He began his career in 1969 handicapping the races for the Miami Beach Sun. Beginning in 1971 he began picking winners for the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he remained for 37 years. Craig has also been a linemaker for the Atlantic City Racecourse and The Meadowlands, where he was the program oddsmaker and television co-host for seven seasons.

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SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 — FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.- THE PREAKNESS STAKES

Best Bets: SEA TRIDENT (2nd)-- CAPO (3rd)

Race 1

- 4** KOKOPELLI GIRL – Used up setting pace in tougher field; returns to amount of claim adding Lasix.
- 6** PROBLEMS ABOUND – Overmatched at top maiden level and prior loss in sloppy route; fits here.
- 8** I'M A LUCKY GIRL – Progressed when distant third to rapid newcomer; kin to speedy Ninja Prize.
- 5** SAVE THE MISCHIEF – Weakened as huge favorite in return on wet surface; claimed and gets Lasix.

Race 2

- 3** SEA TRIDENT – Claimed by Ness from solid field in better version of this spot; ends losing streak.
- 6** DATHOSS – Easily second best behind drop-down winner; changed barns four of last five races.
- 1** KATE'S GOLDEN DUDE – Stamina woes since hiatus but takes significant drop with inside speed.
- 4** LIBERTY STAR – Stopped suddenly in route but better suited this yardage; romped here in March.

Race 3

- 5** CAPO – Stakes-winner captured this spot and remains eligible competing with claim tag; likely repeater.
- 4** EVOLUTIONARY – Edged heavily-backed firster in determined score; fired all four attempts.
- 7** PALLINO – Sidelined since November but hinted at ability and adding Lasix and blinkers.
- 1** TRUMPET CALL – Outrun by top pick but edged second choice previously; blinkers on from inside.

Race 4

- 2** BAHAMA PEARL – Progressed in recent months for high percentage Soto-Martinez barn; soft spot.
- 7** LEVIOSA – Advanced late when finishing just ahead of top choice; often forms part of exacta.
- 3** THIS ROUND'S MINE – Veteran boasts 9-for-31 mark but shelved since November and might need this.
- 4** STARSHIP ROGUE – Some late energy behind top pair but further improvement necessary.

Race 5

16-3-7-13

- 16** JARLIAN – Cruised past rivals after claim in 20-1 upset and appears best if switched to main track.
- 3** MIDNIGHT CAT – Trounced lesser when able to control fractions; Flores-Coba barn heating up.
- 7** DALTON – Absent couple months since spill but runs big race on occasion; possibility if ready.

Race 6

- | | |
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| 1 | JW'S THIRD MISCHIE – Veteran seen better days but hits bottom and shorter yardage can help. |
| 4 | YO NESSROUNDONKERN – Claimed for twice this amount and just 4-for-46 career but threat here. |
| 2 | WE READY – Good effort despite breaking slowly behind decisive winner; Perez stable on a roll. |
| 5 | JACK BEANSTALK – Not much since arriving from Canada and sold privately since last outing. |

Race 7

- | | |
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| 4 | HE'S INCREDIBLE – Amazing nine-year-old boosted record to 17-for-46 following pair of victories. |
| 5 | NATURAL HARBOR – Pushed to limit in narrow score as 3-5 chalk vs. state-breds; obvious threat. |
| 3 | CAPITAL CONQUEST – Crushed rivals with perfect trip and close to second pick before; dangerous. |
| 7 | IN SKY WE TRUST – Ample ability but shelved since August; hit board 7 of 9 local tries. |

Race 8

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| 10 | VALIANT MAJESTY – Excellent since return and last best ever when claimed; big jump but might repeat. |
| 1 | CAUSE I SAID – Bargain claim by Lake stable within inches of taking four straight; fits well again. |
| 7 | POWWA OF LOVE – Game mare among best claims in recent years; no match for second pick in last. |
| 5 | JEZEBEL JADE – Retains closing kick but steps up again; contested fractions to her advantage. |

Race 9

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | FREEDOM ROAD – Excellent form at Tampa going short and long firing in six straight; well-spotted. |
| 2 | NEIGH DUDE – Steady progress in recent months and pushed huge favorite in last; very determined. |
| 11 | PRACTICAL COACH – Battled throughout at Monmouth and strong local mark; outside stalking trip. |
| 10 | B B BAD – Looking like old self again with late energy in solid fields; upset possibility on best. |

Race 10

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 5 | CORKMAN – Stretch-runner drops within same claiming tag and capable of wearing down pacesetters. |
| 4 | SEVEN IS A BREEZE – Flashes of interest lately and stretching out again; won this yardage in Canada. |
| 7 | ALLEVARE – Hard used dueling runaway winner in tougher version this spot; classy company in past. |
| 8 | LOOK OUT LAMBO – Lacked needed rally as 3-5 favorite this level but always threat with this kind. |

Race 13 THE \$2,000,000 PREAKNESS STAKES from Pimlico Race Course

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 3 | CATCHING FREEDOM – Powerful stretch-runner passed 11 rivals in Derby when beaten less than two lengths. |
| 9 | IMAGINATION – Fires in every attempt and lost three photos on West Coast; might have controlling speed. |
| 5 | MYSTIC DAN – Dream trip to upset Derby and dominated only try over wet surface if situation arises. |
| 8 | TUSCAN GOLD – Lightly raced but improving with each start and sharp behind top choice at Fair Grounds. |

MONMOUTH PARK (12:50)

By Brad Thomas

RACE

1	#5 Little Lia	#6 Mildoon	#7 One Fine Wine
2	#2 Polish Up	#6 Supreme Dominance	#3 The Heights
3	#6 Raw Power	#4 Gun Runnin' Gal	#3 Miles of Smiles
4	#5 Random Luck	#1 Queen Tapiture	#4 Baby's Dialed In
5	#1 Summer Flower	#2 Emily Reward	#7 Vivid Artiste
6	#5 Gun Right	#6 Quincy Market	#2 Writeitonetheice
7	#5 Lady Meis	#6 Makia	#8 Self Confident
8	#6 Bel Pensiero	#4 Toot Your Horn	#5 Mia's Crusade
9	#3 Wright Up Front	#2 Queen Olly	#8 Shuangxi
10	#1 Afilada	#5 Lovely Drama	#6 Hipatia

Seventh Race

LADY MEIS gets blinkers and Lasix for her U. S. debut and she seems to land in a very good spot; figures to use her early speed to get position from the start under jockey Jairo Rendon, who won three races here opening weekend. SELF CONFIDENT is versatile, and her ability to either come from off the pace and race with the leaders should mean she's able to get position despite the wide post.

Tenth Race

AFILADA usually settles for lesser awards, but she could be good enough to win this, as she ships in from New York and may find the locals more her speed.

Dale's Picks

by Track Announcer Dale Day



REMINGTON PARK
RACING ♦ CASINO

(POST 1:00)

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

.50-CENT EARLY PICK 5
RACES 1-5
2,5,7 with 1,4 with 1,2,8 with 3,5 with 3,7
Cost = \$36

\$2 DAY-LY DOUBLE
RACES 1 & 2
2,5 with 1,4,9
Cost = \$12

.50-CENT PICK 3
RACES 3, 4, 5
1,2,8 with 3,5 with 2,3,7,10
Cost = \$12

\$2 DAY-LY DOUBLE
RACES 10 & 11
1,5 with 1,2,7
Cost = \$12

.50-CENT PREMIER PICK 4
RACES 2-5
1,4,9 with 1,2,6,8 with 3,5 with 2,3,6,7,10
Cost = \$60

.50-CENT PRIMETIME PICK 4
RACES 8-11
2,3,5,8,10 with 7,8,9 with 1,4,5 with 1,2,7
Cost = \$67.50

RACE 1
5 Lucki Charms
2 Ms Relentless Moon
7 This Chicks Got Back
1 Know It All

RACE 2
4 Political Purpose
1 Texas Rein
9 TS East Trick
3 Lil Whirlaway Wagon

RACE 3
SPEEDHORSE GRAHAM
FUTURITY TRIAL 1
8 Baileys N Blood
1 Vesper Martini
2 ZT Rocky
6 WF Apolitical Bullet

RACE 4
SPEEDHORSE GRAHAM
FUTURITY TRIAL 2
3 Painted To Be Quick
5 Chief Iron Eagle
2 Jessa Chick
6 Relentless Spirit

RACE 5
SPEEDHORSE GRAHAM
FUTURITY TRIAL 3
3 T Rexie
7 WF Jess Candy
10 OG Nikki Sixx
2 Handsomer

RACE 6 (7-8-53)
SPEEDHORSE GRAHAM
FUTURITY TRIAL 4
7 Frionas Turnpike
8 Captain Fancy

RACE 7
SPEEDHORSE GRAHAM
FUTURITY TRIAL 5
9 Wire Transfer
6 Shadowing
5 PRF Road Rage
3 RF Livies Buckshot

RACE 8
2 Apolitical Power
5 J Brave Boogie
8 Oompa Lewpa
10 HMM Goodheart

RACE 9
7 Seriously Impressive
8 El Capitan De Capi
9 Pluto 22
2 Church Spire

RACE 10
1 Shezsotempting
5 Greenback Boogie DC
4 Politajr
3 SC Jessie D

RACE 11
7 Sunday Sylence
2 Forgotten
1 Toby Dale
6 lam A Fancy Bug

PREAKNESS STAKES
PIMLICO - Race 13
5 Mystik Dan
8 Tuscan Gold
9 Imagination
3 Catching Freedom

Race 4 Speedhorse Graham Futurity Trial #2

3 - Painted to Be Quick - PSBA American Paint Classic Futurity winner

Race 5 Speedhorse Graham Futurity Trial #3

3 - T Rexie 2nd last 2 starts including PSBA American Paint Classic Futurity

WHEELING GREYHOUNDS - POST 1:00



1 ST	4 2 1 8
2 ND	2 6 7 8
3 RD	3 4 7 1
4 TH	8 5 3 4
5 TH	8 5 7 4
6 TH	1 2 8 5
7 TH	7 4 3 5
8 TH	5 3 7 6
9 TH	2 8 4 7
10 TH	7 8 4 5
11 TH	2 1 7 8
12 TH	8 2 1 7
13 TH	8 1 5 4
14 TH	8 2 3 7
15 TH	4 7 1 6
16 TH	7 8 3 5
17 TH	2 1 8 7
18 TH	6 4 7 8

TOP PLAY : **11-2 DD RUBICON**

WOODBINE (1:10)

Handicapper's Journal – Doug McPherson
Saturday, May 18th 2024

Race 1

#7 Bill Needle

#2 Hip to Your Tricks

#1 Developing the Way

#3 Mighty Pele

#7 BILL NEEDLE kicked his season off in a 5 ½ furlong dash and began rolling late to get third. He gets more ground to work with and could move forward in his second try off of the bench. #2 HIP TO YOUR TRICKS was winless in 11 starts last year but hit the board in six of those tries. He can show some tactical speed and could be in good early position. #1 DEVELOPING THE WAY showed nothing when making his return to the races at Turfway in February. He drops in for bottoms and while his status is an unknown, his numbers in California last year would be enough to handle this group. #3 MIGHTY PELE chased the eventual winner early and was second best, 2 ¼ lengths ahead of Bill Needle on May 5. He could be the main speed in this field.

Race 2

#4 Miah Said - Best Bet

#3 Harper City

#2 Holiday in Chile

#6 Wetiko

#4 MIAH SAID was rising up in class while hooking some serious class droppers on April 27 and failed to threaten. He gets back in for \$10,000 and looks very dangerous with this crowd. #3 HARPER CITY added blinkers for his April 28 start and ran a game second as the favourite. Although his lifetime record does not look appealing he runs honest races more often than not and should be in the hunt. #2 HOLIDAY IN CHILE picked up a couple of small checks in an unflattering 2023 campaign. He lacks early speed but could be picking up weakening foes in the stretch. #6 WETIKO was one-paced when finishing fifth, 5 ¼ lengths behind Harper City on April 28. He is lightly raced and could move forward with experience.

Race 3

#2 Cefalo

#7 Winyah Bay

#4 Too Much Vino

#6 Kavala

#2 CEFALO was parked wide while racing into a headwind and never fired on May 4. She draws better while dropping in class and could right the ship today. #7 WINYAH BAY had some trouble at the break, settled last and was finishing well along the rail when finishing sixth, beaten three lengths for second at Oaklawn on April 26. She is better on the synthetic and looks like an obvious contender. #4 TOO MUCH VINO ran a game second in a Florida-bred N1X/\$20,000 on the Gulfstream dirt in January before coming up empty the next month. She plunges in for bottoms; her synthetic form is solid. #6 KAVALA looked beaten on the turn but picked up the bit late and just got up to win a non-three/non-winners in a

year for this price last week, aided by a backstretch headwind. We'll see if she is good enough to double up.

Race 4

#2 Ghoul (BRZ)

#7 Bachelor Pad

#4 Tomcat Black

#6 Alicia's Kid

#2 GHOUL (BRZ) was stuck three-wide throughout and kept on well to be fourth behind Tomcat Black on April 28. Honest nine-year-old draws a better post today and could have things go his way. #7 BACHELOR PAD had a few dominant wins at this level last year that make him look like the square horse to beat. Those wins came at longer distances where he was able to secure the early lead; he may have to battle early today. #4 TOMCAT BLACK showed in both his April 28 and November 12 wins that if he can secure a pocket trip behind some speed, he will be a force to be reckoned with in the stretch. There is definitely speed in this race and he is not drawn too far off of the rail; don't be surprised if he can repeat. #6 ALICIA'S KID dueled on the lead but could not hold off Tomcat Black on April 28. The blinkers are promptly re-added; although speed is his natural style he has shown that he can fire from off of the pace as well.

Race 5

#4 Not a Lost Cause

#5 Shameless Affair

#3 Aziel

#1 A Sting for Love

#4 NOT A LOST CAUSE debuted for this price in June before being sidelined, but ran very credibly, finishing a good fourth in spite of a wide trip. If she is ready to go off of the bench she should be tough against these. #5 SHAMELESS AFFAIR went a little off form in her last couple of starts but had ran some solid efforts to begin her delayed 2023 campaign. She has some decent speed figures and may have appreciated the winter break. #3 AZIEL dropped in for \$15,000 while facing three-year-olds to kick off her season and ran a respectable third behind the late surging Clarayouthebest. Her speed figures fit with these. #1 A STING FOR LOVE is by 16% debut sire Reload, out of a mare who has thrown one debut winner in four foals to race. She worked evenly with a stablemate from the gate on May 11.

Race 6

#1 Chipotle Pepper

#2 Saucy Name

#5 Maximum Fifty

#7 You Be the Judge

#1 CHIPOTLE PEPPER did not run badly in her debut where she chased the talented Cara Cara and got tired in the stretch, then did not handle the inner turf well second-time-out. She returns for her first start since August and could be stalking a hot pace. #2 SAUCY NAME was second-best behind the winter-fit Two Sip Sally when kicking off her campaign on April 28. She has yet to miss the board in six starts and if there is a pace duel, she could be a live stalker/closer. #5 MAXIMUM FIFTY is the

most obvious speed type in this field. She set the pace on April 28 but was unable to hold off Two Sip Sally and was picked up late by Saucy Name for place. If she gets loose on the lead she could be tough but she may have company today. #7 YOU BE THE JUDGE drops in for \$40,000 for the first time. She showed some run in a couple of maiden special weights last year; potential value player.

Race 7

#2 Miss Vyvyanne

#5 Spirit Gal (FR)

#7 Ol' Blondie

#9 Dancing Duchess

#2 MISS VYVYANNE was an impressive winner against N1X/\$32,000 types on opening day, blasting to the lead and holding comfortably. She has won on the outer turf; she may be the quickest of the quick early. #5 SPIRIT GAL (FR), a listed Stakes-winner in Ireland who is Group 3-placed in France, looks like the class of this field. She got plenty of foundation into her at Payson over the winter; we'll see if her European speed translates to this shorter trip. #7 OL' BLONDIE broke through the gate before the start but reloaded and ran a game second behind Star Candy on April 27. She had a nice win at this level over this course last year; in the hunt. #9 DANCING DUCHESS has a tough post to overcome and has to take on older horses, but she has shown plenty of grit in her career thus far. She ran hard on the lead before giving way to be third in the Star Shoot; could be happy to return to the course over which she won the Algonquin last year.

Race 8

#6 Idyllic

#5 Midsummer Mo

#3 Spellcheck

#2 Genius of Love

#6 IDYLLIC is by 13% debut sire Tapit, and is the third foal to race out of Stakes-winning mare Treasuring, who has one debut winner so far. She worked in company with a pair of stablemates from the gate on April 27. #5 MIDSUMMER MO had a good trip but could not catch the pacesetting favourite when finishing second in a route at Gulfstream on April 7. She will try sprinting for the first time; both of the dam's other foals to race are sprint winners. #3 SPELLCHECK made up some ground over a speed-favouring track at Turfway on January 17, then was a bit one-paced in a route on February 21. She raced very well in her local debut and could be live with the cutback. #2 GENIUS OF LOVE is by 16% debut sire Reload, out of a restricted Stakes-placed mare who has yet to throw a debut winner in three foals to race. She worked quickly out of the gate on April 27 with Dial a Cliche, who will also debut here.

Race 9

#6 Witwatersrand

#2 Sabatini

#1 Do It Divi

#3 A Little Frisky

#6 WITWATERSRAND did not take to the dirt in the Forward Gal then was at least three-wide throughout and failed to fire in the Florida Oaks. She returns to the surface where she thrived last year and should have good position in a field with several closers. #2 SABATINI had a pace duel to close into and looked quite good kicking clear to win the Star Shoot after finishing a somewhat troubled third in her debut at Turfway. She could certainly keep improving as she gains experience. #1 DO IT DIVI came out on top when debuting in the same Turfway dash as Sabatini. She has been training over the Keeneland dirt since that win; we'll see if she takes a step forward off of her debut. #3 A LITTLE FRISKY was a good second behind Witwatersrand on debut, then was able to work out a good covered trip and burst through in the stretch to defeat that foe in the Glorious Song. The most obvious potential downside is her lack of recency compared to the rest of the field.

Race 10

#1 My Sunny Valentine

#8 Verdejo

#7 Jill

#6 Ya Mar

#9 Foolish Games

#1 MY SUNNY VALENTINE exits a good runner-up finish in a turf route at Gulfstream behind lone speed-winner New Rome, who is 5-for-11 in her career. She has solid speed figures for this group and rarely runs a bad race. #8 VERDEJO came rolling late to be second behind the pacesetting Miss Vyvyanne on opening day. She was claimed several times last year and has performed well for everyone who has had her; solid race mare. #7 JILL was practically eased when kicking off her season in an N2X/\$50,000 on opening day. She drops back in for \$30,000; tough to imagine that she can't be better than that last performance. #6 YA MAR finished fifth in the same race that Verdejo exits but was blocked behind foes for a good portion of the stretch run. She may show more speed this time. #9 FOOLISH GAMES was hard-ridden to keep up with Miss Vyvyanne and faltered turning for home on April 27. Like Jill, you know she is simply capable of better and could offer some value after that dull effort.



TIPS & PICKS



SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK LIVE TIPSHEET

BY NICK TAMMARO TRACK ANNOUNCER

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH

(Post 2:00)

RACE	PICKS	SUGGESTED WAGERS (\$10 OR LESS)
1	2-6-1-5 Good landing spot in the opener for A RUNWAY	\$10 Double 2-4 TOTAL: \$10
2	4-1-2-5 CHILLI RED ran well in first start of 2024	\$1 Pick Four 4 with 2,4,5,7 with 1 with 1,8 TOTAL: \$8
3	4-2-5-7 LIL D a threat off trainer switch this afternoon	\$10 Win on #4 TOTAL: \$10
4	1-2-5-7 HAWKEYES PAYDAY had a brutal go of it in debut	\$5 Exactas 1 with 2,5 TOTAL: \$10
5	8-1-4-3 CS CANDY LADY drops in class in this spot	\$1 Trifecta 8 with 1 with ALL TOTAL: \$7
6	2-5-1-6 EYE AM TUFF on key class drop in here	\$10 Exacta 2-5 TOTAL: \$10
7	7-6-3-2 GALLITO BAR ran an improved race last time	\$1 Trifecta 7 with 3,6 with 1,2,3,4,6,8 TOTAL: \$10
8	4-7-8-1 Drop in class aids MARIA GAMBRELLI	\$5 Doubles 4 with 1,9 TOTAL: \$10
9	9-1-2-6 Solid efforts last year for LADYS CHARM DYNASTY	\$1 Trifecta 1,9 with 1,9 with 2,4,5,6,7 TOTAL: \$10
10	9-8-10-4 RELENTLESS IZZY for meet's top barn in nightcap	\$10 Win on #9 TOTAL: \$10

Cumberland (Maine – Harness Racing) – Post 3:15



1. 1-5-4

By Lucky Lou

2. 5-3-8

3. 2-1-5

4. 2-3-1

5. 6-1-3

6. 3-1-4

7. 2-3-4

8. 1-4-5

9. 4-3-5

10.5-2-4

Best Bets : Race 4 # 2 GO SANDY GO – Consistent 9 year old mare finds a nice spot and can score her third win in the last 4 weeks for Bruce Ranger.

Race 6 # 3 SECOND BRUISER – beaten at even money last week vs a similar field after being caught on the rim – Should leave for position today and can score with a better trip for Drew Campbell.

.50 Pick Four Play (Race 7) : 2,3,4 / 1,4 / 3,4 / 2,5



Handicapping Analysis

Sat May 18th, 2024

HAWTHORNE

(3:50)

Ron's Picks

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:50 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

- 2** Irish Valor - 5/1 **1** Where'd the Day Go - 8/5 **5** Midnight Blue Note - 5/2

2-IRISH VALOR showed little in his local debut but he was making his first start since October and sprinting. Drops in class and stretches out and he has been far better going long. Wakes up big time. 1-WHERE'S THE DAY GO was an easy winner in last in a similar spot. He did win two of the last three times he ran at this claiming level and finished third in the other. His stalking style of running could give him the perfect trip. 5-MIDNIGHT BLUE NOTE can vie for the lead. Old timer was more successful on turf but he seems to thrive when fighting for the lead and that can happen in this slightly easier field than he has been facing.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 3:20 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

- 5** Peggy's Way - 9/5 **3** Texas Hottie - 8/1 **2** Tribest [ARG] - 7/2

Tough little race but have to go with 5-PEGGY'S WAY. She was favored in last, her first start for this barn, her first race of the year, and her first at Hawthorne but she came up a half-length short. But she figures to be far fitter with a race under her. She's likely to be racing right off the early pace. Can edge by late. 3-TEXAS HOTTIE is fresh off a third-place finish at Oaklawn where she was facing rivals similar to these. That was her first start after getting claimed by this barn. Fits well with this group. 2-TRIBEST is probably the best of the speed. She finished a couple lengths behind top pick in their last race but she just didn't fire. Adds blinkers for this race. Improved focus helps her chances.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:50 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

- 2** Dapper Dude - 9/2 **7** Cool and Collected - 5/2 **8** High Headed - 3/1

2-DAPPER DUDE isn't a strong choice but he's dropping to a far better spot. He's also returning to the surface where he has had the most success. He gets a red hot rider in the irons. The pace should set up perfectly for his late run. 7-COOL AND COLLECTED returns from a lengthy layoff but his barn sports a lofty 36% win rate with runners coming back from similar vacations. He wired the field to break his maiden here last year. Would seem likely to try for the lead once again. Especially dangerous if not challenged early. 8-HIGH HEADED hasn't shown much since he broke his maiden and he has never been on turf but he races for top-notch connections and they are shipping him here to give turf a try.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 4:20 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

5 McMoney - 4/1 **4** Category Ten - 3/1 **6** Star Kanoo - 6/1

This is one of the races where you can make a case for and against almost every runner. Ended up with 5-MCMONEY. He was favored in his local debut but didn't really fire. Sometimes runners need a race over the track. The pace will set up. Might be able to make amends at a price. 4-CATEGORY TEN just beat many in this field. He successfully jumped in price from the \$12,500 claiming level. He didn't show much there but the pace of that last race set up for him; the same way it will today. Can repeat. 6-STAR KANOO does seem quicker than the rest. He was claimed from his last at Tampa, narrowly losing a slightly easier race. He is facing many with speed but he could be quick enough to clear them quickly and make the others catch him.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:50 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

3 Miss Mikos - 9/5 **7** Irish Spark - 3/1 **1** Lions Law - 12/1 **4** Joyzella - 8/1

This race could turn out to be far more competitive than many Illinois-bred maiden races. Just going off numbers, 3-MISS MIKOS could be tough. The 70 Beyer Speed Figure she generated in her last is far above the typical number for Illinois maidens. By that alone, she would figure to win this race by daylight. But, no guarantee. 7-IRISH SPARK generated a respectable number in her lone race but she was facing a far tougher field at Oaklawn. She's adding blinker for this. Her barn wins with 30% of runners making their second starts. I thought 1-LION LAW would be a logical favorite in her next start after her sharp 2024 debut but she could have a tough time beating the top pair. However, she does have the pedigree, she has speed and the rail. Might surprise. 4-JOYZELLA runs her heart out and is often in the money but think this field came up a bit too tough. 6-COME ON LADY didn't show a thing in her debut last year but she has had some outstanding drills coming into her 2024 debut and she gets the services of the leading rider.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 5:20 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

2 Code Name - 3/1 **6** Whatdoyouthinkmark - 9/2 **1** Simple Logic - 7/2

2-CODE NAME could be tough in his local debut and his first start for this barn. He's plenty quick but like the fact that he's capable of racing right off the pace and still finishing with plenty in reserve. 6-WHATDOYOUTHINKMARK dazzled with a 15-length maiden victory in his Canterbury debut last year but stopped badly as the odds-on favorite when taking on stakes rivals in his second start. He's been on the shelf since August but has been working well for the top barn. Gets Lasix today. Very dangerous. 1-SIMPLE LOGIC has had a bad case of seconditis on turf. He's had 17 races on the surface and managed one win but finished second eight times. However, the pace should set up well. Beware the late runner.

Hawthorne Race 7

Post Time 5:50 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

6 Skylane - 3/1 **3** Late Blacksmith - 8/1 **5** Prince Is My Boy - 9/2

This looks like one of those races that anybody can win and nobody can win but someone has to win. Think 6-SKYLANE might hold a small edge. It's not that he has been great at any point but he's had 10 races and finished in the money in seven of them. He'll never be too far off the pace. Might simply outlast the rest. 3-LATE BLACKSMITH stretches out for the first time. After the speed he showed in a sprint last time, he should be expected to get the early lead today. Just not sure how long he'll last. 5-PRINCE IS MY BOY isn't much of a closer but he does seem likely to be one of the few in here capable of making a late move. Could get into striking position by midstretch.

Hawthorne Race 8

Post Time 6:20 PM CST

Analysis by Ron Uchman

2 Ravin's Town - 6/1

14 Coach Jimi D - 7/2

12 Even the Wind - 9/2

6 Interlude - 8/1

2-RAVIN'S TOWN could be tough on turf or the main track. Speedy \$300k purchase. Stretches out for the first time. On turf, he might be the lone speed but on the main track he would probably be fighting Coach Jimmy D for the lead. Could outlast them all either way though his barn, the leading barn, sports a paltry 4% win rate with runners stretching out. 14-COACH JIMMY D is entered for main track only. He's been facing maidens at the tough Oaklawn meet. He finished a distant third in his only two-turn race but think he's capable of far better. 12-EVEN THE WIND last raced in August but he's had quite a few good, long works getting him ready for his 2024 debut. He raced competitively in most previous turf races and his barn wins with about 36% of runners coming back from similar layoffs. He will be attacking late. 6-INTERLUDE showed little in his last start in New Orleans last year but he did finish second in the first two races of his career, all on turf. He's nowhere near as quick as some of the speedballs in this race but he'll never be too far off the pace. If all the speed gets tied up vying for the lead, he might be able to slip past late.



Handicapping Analysis Sat May 18th, 2024

HAWTHORNE

Howard's Late Pick 4

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:50 PM CST

Analysis by Howard Kravets

Race 5: 3 - 5 - 6

Late Pick 4 Ticket: 3,5,6,7 / 1,2,4 / 3,4,6,7,9 / 2,6 (\$60)

#3 **Miss Mikos (9-5)** might kick off this Pick 4 in style. The daughter of Enticed trained by Robertson ran VERY well chasing hot pace for open maiden \$30k claimers last time at The Fairgrounds, receiving a very solid 70 Beyer for the level. There are others that are lightly-raced and could improve as well, but if "Mikos" runs back to her last effort, she could be very tough. I'll spread to start the Late P4 for the simple fact that there are more questions than answers in this field, and horses can greatly improve in their 2nd career start.

Race 6: 1 - 2 - 4

A horse that's 2-for-28 (with 10 2nd's) and a closer going 5f are not exactly my cup of tea. That being said, #1 **Simple Logic (7-2)** is just that....a horse that is very consistent on the grass, has pace to run into, will save ground, and has numbers that fit vs. others. The gelding is clearly NOT a win machine, but I'm hoping Felix and Block have the right stuff to get the job done. He'll need to find room in the stretch at the most crucial times.

Race 7: 4 - 6 - 7

#4 **Alvin (7-2)** did not get off to the best of starts last time and was bumped, compromising his chances from the get-go. His previous races out of town would most likely be good enough today...maybe he needed a race over the track and time to get acclimated to Chicago. Not much to beat if he runs his "A to B" effort.

Race 8: 6 - 2 - 11

Final race of the day is a doozy...tough handicapping race and a great chance to make some money with a big field of maidens on the turf. I'll land on a price for Trainer Roussel and #6 **Interlude (8-1)**. He raced well as a 2yo with two seconds in three starts. Centeno rides and already has a win for Roussel at the meet. The colt is training forwardly and steadily, and the son of Mendelsohn figures to take a forward move in his 3yo debut...he'll need to as his speed figs are slightly lower than a few in here.

SANTA ANITA - POST 4:00



By Brad Free

First Race

A promising debut by 1 MISS ROCKETTE stamps the filly a likely winner second out. Her debut was a promising runner-up finish in a route; she was seven lengths clear of third. 'ROCKETTE pressed the pace in that Oaklawn Park race, shook off her rivals, then got collared by a deep closer in a solid effort. Muth's trainer Bob Baffert and jockey Juan Hernandez can team for a Preakness-day victory, after all. 5 MS BO J , in the money all four dirt starts, stretches out for the first time. The likely pacesetter will lead as far as she can for trainer Peter Eurton, whose last 15 sprint-to-route maidens on dirt produced 5 wins. 1-5-3

Race 2

Although 4 INNER BEAUTY is not likely for the same slow-pace scenario as her recent victory in a N3L claiming turf sprint, she gets the nod moving up in class to open \$25k claiming and cutting from six and one-half furlongs to five. The veteran may prefer a longer distance, and she faces other speed, but in her current sharp form the front-runner/pace-presser rates a slender edge. 8 TEEN DRAMA is a bona fide five-furlong specialist, 3-for-7 at this distance. She drops from starter allowance to claiming, the level at which she won twice in winter. The outside post does her no favors at this abbreviated five-furlong trip, however. The past six years, posts 6+ have been only half as productive (7.8 percent wins) as the inside five posts (14.6 percent). Thankfully, Santa Anita does not run five-furlong turf races often. 4-8-5

Race 3

This maiden-20 sprint is a split of race 4; comeback drills by 3 ALOHA CHROME suggest he is ready to fire in his first start since a last-place debut in January 2023. He outworked company from the gate April 27 and can fire his best shot first start back. 4 INSTINCT D' ORO chased and faded in his debut against tougher maiden-50 company. Maidens trained by Hector Palma typically improve second out; the colt benefits by a class drop. 3-4-8

Race 4 4-5-6

4 WESTERN POWER drops to the bottom after he chased and faded in a fast maiden-50 that race-3 contender Instinct D' Oro drops from. This race is easier, even though 'POWER faces a pesky pace rival two stalls to his outside.

Race 5 8-9-1

First time at the bottom level for turf runners (\$25k claiming N2L), DR. SOULFIRE can rally for the win. The late-runner finished close enough to better company in recent starts; his speed figures rank among the highest in the field.

Race 6 6-7-3

This MSW filly-mare sprint is a good spot to take a shot with a filly who could slip through the cracks. 6 TAHINI set the pace and faded three recent starts, but those were turf routes. Her best races were dirt sprints, same as this. Back to one turn, back to dirt, she can score a minor "upset" with a forwardly placed trip. First-time starter 7 BOLT D'VINE looked sharp in her final work, five furlongs from the gate in :59.80. Although her dam has not produced a debut winner from four runners, older debut progeny of Bolt d'Oro have won at an average 13 percent, and trainer Phil D'Amato won with 2 of his last 3 MSW dirt-sprint firsters.

Race 7 2-1-4-5

Stakes-placed twice last year at age 3, 2 THE WILD GRAZER scored a good-looking comeback win over this downhill course, rallying from last of five to win going away. That N2X stamps the horse-for-course the one to beat in this filly-mare stakes. 'GRAZER is 2-for-3 on the hill, worked well since her comeback, and has plenty upside this season at age 4. One potential flaw is the allowance field she defeated last out was not great. Three of those ran back, all finished nowhere. 'GRAZER nonetheless is the top choice. 1 LUCKY GIRL ran better than the line looks finishing fourth in a G3 last out, her first start on the hill. A stakes-winning miler shortening to a sprint, she drifted out at the dirt crossing, lost focus, then re-rallied to miss by less than two lengths. Not bad considering her right-hand turn at the top of the stretch. If she gets covered up, and handles the crossing more professionally, she could score an off-the-pace upset. The top pair could be compromised by pace. This field is short on speed.

Race 8 9-4-7

BEST BET:9 MC VAY appears a standout in this maiden dirt mile, as he drops from a series of graded stakes including a troubled seventh last out in the Santa Anita Derby. The class of the field, MC VAY is drawn outside where he may lose ground but he will avoid the kickback that, for him, has been problematic. The fastest on figures, running long vs. maidens for the first time, this is the best chance yet for MC VAY in his sixth start. It could be the first time he is favored. 4 METRO is a \$2.5 million Quality Road second-time starter whose fourth-place sprint debut was only a prep.

Race 9 1-8-4-7

1 DE' MEDICI stretches out and faces winner following a highly rated (90 Beyer) maiden sprint win. This two-turn trip should be okay, DE' MEDICI ran well finishing second in a maiden dirt route two starts back, He figures for a two-hole trip behind likely pacesetter 8 VEGAS BURNER . The latter was claimed for \$50k from a blowout maiden sprint win, and will lead the field as far as he can. He is by American Pharoah, which gives him a right to stretch his speed.

Race 10 8-2-11-3

If she rations her speed while removing blinkers, 8 RUNAMILEINMYSHOES can handle this Cal-bred maiden turf mile. Her most recent start was her best yet; she set a strong pace, led to deep stretch, and got collared by a winner who rallied from far back. The third-place finisher also rallied from the back.



EMERALD DOWNS (POST 4:30)

BY TOM HARRIS

Race One – #2 BEAU MISCHIEF, #4 NAPOLETANO, #1 HADLEES HONOR, #3 NYQUILER

Race Two – #2 WHERE YOU GONNA GO, #6 COY ROY, #4 A LOT OF VERVE, #1 LONG GONE SILVER

Race Three – #3 HOT LAVA CAKE, #1 STAY SASSY, #5 ADAPTED MEMORY, #6 YOGYA

Race Four – #2 CHAI, #4 SECRET HOTTIE, #6 MOCKTAILS, #5 BRING A SMILE

Race Five – #2 PRISONER, #3 MEANT FOR ME, #1 BOSS OFTHEMOSS, #5 SOLD DEL SUR

Race Six – #2 EMPEROROPFTHENORTH, #6 BABY FRANKIE, #1 MOVE OVER, #5 MY SUNSHINE

Race Seven – #4 MS BELLA, #1 OUR LYLA GRACE, #3 EMERALD SEA, #5 IN THE VAULT

Race Eight – #1 RUBY RAY, #4 SILVERY ORB, #3 YOU GO GIRL, #2 STEINS GIRL

Race Nine – #5 EXCLUSIVELY NOBLE, #4 VANDULIE, #1 ALWAYS GALLANT, #7 CANDIED JOULE



(5:00)

Mike Sardella's Selections – Saturday, May 18, 2024

Race 1: 4- Big Idea: Off three weeks but his best beats these; 8- Team Best: Chance to factor with a trip; 2- Mount Royal: Draws well for his return to town; 5- Mixed Emotion

Race 2: 5- Rendezvous Bay: Faced tougher in the series, call; 8- Social Drinker: The clear threat to the top one; 4- Watch Your Tone: Minor spoils; 6- Jo Pa's Master

Race 3: 4- Youaremyrock: Brings a sensational win streak into this one; 1- Jimble Kimble: Rail off an improved third; 3- Dark Matter: Consistently a factor; 2- Risen Man

Race 4: 4- Ideal Funding N: Looking to find his form of last year; 1- Married Man: Big chance to be second or third; 3- Outcry: Solid seconds in two straight; 2- Vel Letsroll South

Race 5: 3- Keystone Dakota: Shuffled at 2-5 in last, can avenge; 1- Major Pocket A: Looks to avenge a clunker in last; 2- Virgin Honor: Good trip to get a piece; 8- Ashley Locaz N

Race 6: 8- Moonshine Kisses: Returns to town from post eight for Wally, call; 4- Optical Illusion N: Gets some post relief after having some late pop last week; 3- Pace N Pride N: Shook loose too late in his Open debut; 1- Shake It

Race 7: 6- Talking Tom: Drops out of the Open for the first time, edge with early speed; 2- Pickup Man Hanover: Dropped and popped last week; 7- Macheasy A: Razors sharp but the post is a hazard; 1- Major Camby

Race 8: 7- Favorable Draw: Has qualified extremely well but broke in his last start, call if flat; 5- Whereicomefrom: Appeared green but fast in his debut, can build upon that start; 6- Ouchie: Close third from post eight last week, capable; 1- Alamite

Race 9: 3- Ameritric: Off to a solid start to his sophomore campaign; 1- Ahoy Hanover: First time lasix and the rail; 2- Lyons Somewhereboy: Got tracked down late at 9-2 last week; 4- Thunder Hooves

Race 10: 5- Gotta Go Milking A: Solid preps for this U.S. debut; 4- Excursion: Sharp closer to be second in a much improved try; 1- Boozer: Hasn't shown the same winning pop this year than he did in 2023; 3- Sugar Me N

Race 11: 1- Bacononabiscuit: Moves back inside to get a slim edge; 5- Hot Joe: Fast second last time, capable; 4- Beach Party: Aired in the bottom condition, could get brave; 3- Thisjetsabookin

Race 12: 2- Preston Your Luck: An intriguing longshot at this level; 4- Major Decision: Scored for his new connections last week; 6- Isle Coach: In the midst of a terrific year, the post draw hurts; 3- Heavensway A

Race 13: 3- Printville: Has been very impressive winning back to back tries, threepeats; 4- Flag Party: Not much chance from the outside in his Spa debut, expect better; 1- War Memorial: Usually gets minor spoils; 6- Cobra Creek

Best Bets: Youaremyrock, 3rd

Printville, 13th



CHURCHILL DOWNS (POST 6:00)



FIRST RACE

By Gene Maclean

1st: 2-1/5 Dedos (2) gets the nod in the ole' lid-lifter at the "Downs After Dark" program this evening at the big oval in Louis-Town. This 2YO filly will face some colts in here, but that has never bothered this barn operator in the past. This one is bred and owned by the trainer, too, and that makes her even more dangerous. Working very well and the the sire hits with .31% of first time starters. Dam has 2 winners from 2 starters. Barn wins with .32% when debuting in the MCL ranks, as well.

2nd: 2-6-7-3 The first Key Play of the Day comes here, if you don't count my single play in the first. And, I go with another deuce in here with Green Light (2). This 3YO son of Hard Spun ran a huge 2nd in the last out at KEE. Could have won that one with a little better trip and not a 4-wide move at the top. Gets a rider who has earned a great reputation, but is winning with only .10% of the first 67 rides this meet. Hmmm. Still, the trainer wins with .31% when routing for the 2nd time, too. I'm all in

3rd: 1-6-3-2...Rock Star Doctor (1) won the last time out and it's never easy to go back-to-back. But this trainer wins with .33% when trying to repeat in the claiming ranks. Trainer has heated up after a terrible Turfway Park Meet. Has gone 5-1-0 in the last 14. Sharp work on May 11. Rider is winning at a .05% rate. Ugh. But I stick with the horse. I bet the 1 across the board and then box the 1-6 in the exactas. I will key the 1-6 over/under the 3-2-4-5 in two smaller units.

4th: 1-2-4-3 Another Key Play of the Day comes here with the rail bird — Disarm (1). This 4YO son of Gun Runner is destined for the breeding shed soon, but congrats to Winchell Thoroughbreds for keeping this one in training. Nearly won the G1 Travers at Saratoga to end the 2023 campaign. Before that, did win the G3 Matt Winn here and was a major 4th in the G1 KY Derby before that. Has won over \$1 million .

5th: 2-4-6-5...Fan the Fire (2) is another inside presence that I like early on the card this night. This 5YO gelded son of Hard Spun has raced here 3 previous times. Has a win and a third. Won last time out here, too, at the \$20,000 level. Bumps up in class and dollars, too, which is never easy to do. But the barn wins with .25% when trying to repeat in the claiming ranks. Does go from a route distance to a sprint, but this one has flashed speed going long. Will stalk and close at this distance.

6th: 5-6-(13)-7-9 Active Duty (5) is still looking to break the maiden after 12 starts. Does have 4 seconds and 2 more thirds on the resume, but must find a way to get in front at wire time. Drop in class should help and the new rider is a strong finisher. Let's see. Admiral Hall (6) is my Upset Special of the Day. This one is listed at 12-1 in the ML and should stay rather high on the odds board, what with the apprentice taking the reins on this first time starter. Works are great.

7th: 8-9-1-10 G3 Louisville Stakes...My next Key Play of the Day comes here with Bold Act (8), who will be another heavy, heavy favorite. This 4YO gelding ran a huge 3rd in the G2 Elkhorn Stakes after shipping in this Spring from Dubai. Winner of that race came right back to win again. New rider knows how to ride the sod, and this one is a G2 winner in the UAE and a G3 winner in the U.S. Will be closing and will need a good trip, but this one has plenty of experience over the soft going.

8th: 9-1-4-3 P Firecracker (9) drew outside in this field, but that should not hurt this closing type. Has run here 9 times with a modest 1-1-1 mark. But this one is dropping out of Stakes company into a mid-major claiming event. That should speed this one up the most. Young trainer is talented and ready to make a mark in KY. Look out for this one. Fifty Cent Dollars (1) is another from the same barn and this one will make the debut for the new connections. Returns as a beaten favorite, too, and this trainer wins with .22% of the last 9 to do that.

9th: 5-1-3-4 Huntress for Hire (5) has not been out since last September, but the barn does win with .14% of the last 84 to be away from the gate for 90+ days. Broke the MSW here last May. Looks to have talent, but needs to stay in training this time around. Marmalade Skye (1) has gone 1-2-2 in the first 6 starts and that spells consistency and talent, too. Should be right there on the lead from the get. Motown Dynamic (3) is a possibility, as well. Broke the MSW just two starts ago at Oaklawn Park. This one has speed galore and could be a threat if left alone on the front end.

10th: (16)-(15) -3 -10-4-8 This is scheduled to be a 1-mile event over the Churchill Downs' sod, but if it comes off and is moved to the main track, this race will set up nicely for Extra Anejo (16). This son of Into Mischief ran 4th in the G1 Haskell to end last season. But this one broke the MSW at first asking in October of 2022. Won that one by nearly 10 lengths. If the race is not moved off the sod, I am firmly convicted here, too. I will load up — rather significantly — and bet Gray's Fable (3). Veteran 9YO son of Gio Ponti has a right to improve in the 2nd start off the layoff (trainer wins with .18% of the last 151 to do that), and has gone 6-5-2 in the 31 turf races going on the stat sheet. Will come from behind. If he gets the trip? Look out.

11th: 1-8-5-3-6 The night's finale has a projected post time of 11:10 p.m. Ouch. That is going to hurt a few people. I go with Alicit Intention (10). This 3YO Mitole filly has started 3 times with 3 thirds on the books. Last time out at KEE, only lost by 1/2-length. Getting better. Getting closer. Mischievousness (8) has hit the board in half of her career 6 starts, to date. Trainer is excellent and this one returns as a beaten favorite. Can stalk. Can finish.

Prairie Meadows



by Bob Pandolfo

RACE 1 2-1-5-3

2 COOL MA BELLE was in close quarters in last; gets top call in a competitive group of trotting fillies...1 VOLCANIC BLUE CHIP gunned to the lead from post 7 and was second best behind a sharp favorite

RACE 2 1-4-2-5

1 MARS HILL left from post 7 and was parked to the lead, yielded, had something left to must miss in a quick mile.

RACE 3 5-7-1-4

5 SPY COAST has matured this year, winning both starts handily...7 ALLEGIANT sat in and got out too late but was coming on quickly; capable of a big mile second off the bench.

RACE 4 8-6-4-1

RACE 5 4-2-6-8

4 CAVIART BELLE qualified well for Nancy Takter. Fast filly takes on older here but she looks ready.

RACE 6 4-2-3-1

4 OAKWOOD ARDAN IR came off a two month layoff sharp with his usual relentless stretch kick. This is a fun horse to watch take care of business.

RACE 7 9-1-5-6

9 CHURCHILLVIEWFRANKL IR drops out of a quick mile and gets lasix for new barn...1 RIVER NESS also takes a key drop

RACE 8 4-5-1-6

GLAMOROUS HANOVER qualified twice for a barn that can win off layoffs and has good gate speed...BUY A ROUND came back sharp and strong closer will be charging again in the stretch...

RACE 9 3-2-5-6

3 CAPTAIN LUKE finished his 2yo season strong and the qualifiers were sharp...2 REMEMBER THE ALAMO qualified well and is a threat 5 MCCRUNCH faces tougher here but he's 3 for 3 over this track

RACE 10 4-7-5-3

4 KARL came back to the races with an easy win. He faces a better field tonight but he appears to be in a class of his own right now.

RACE 11 5-7-6-1

5 SOUTHWIND TYRION won the Breeders Crown Open Trot; his trainer Ake Svanstedt usually has them ready, and he drives to win 7 JIGGY JOG S top class trotting mare qualified sharply for Svanstedt; if she leaves she can control the pace but she's a threat on or off the pace

RACE 12 4-3-8-6

4 KEN HANOVER turned in some sharp miles in fast race last year and qualified well for return. Hall of Fame driver David Miller took this one over the 8...ALLYWAG HANOVER qualified nicely and he's the best horse in this field, a top-tier FFA racehorse, but he tends to get sharper with racing...ABUCKABETT HANOVER finished strongly in his qualifier; he usually races from off the pace

RACE 13 1-3-5-2

1 PANTORAN PANTORAN didn't show much in two starts last year but he returns as a gelding and he looked much improved uncorking a powerful last quarter to win his qualifier...3 BENNY J progressed nicely to break his maiden in his second start of his 3yo campaign.

RACE 14 9-5-1-2

9 AIR GUITAR was trapped with pace in last; drops and he's capable of leaving 5 BET A BUNDLE drops and can take all...1 PASSA-GRILLE BEACH and 2 POSH ONTHE BEACH A both raced well at this level in last.

BEST BET: KEN HANOVER 12th Rac

Pick Four (Races 6-9)

Tonight's tickets:

\$3.00 ticket: 24/19/145/23 = \$36

\$1.00 ticket: 4/19/145/23 = \$12

Canterbury Park - Post 6:10



Race 1: 1-4-5

Race 2: 4-2-6-3

Race 3: 7-4-8-1

Race 4: 8-3-7-9-1

Race 5: 5-3-11-6

Race 6: 9-7-5-8

Race 7: 6-9-8-3

Race 8: 3-6-9-8

Best Bets :

Race 1 1 THEALLIGATORHUNTER kicks off the meet and that is fitting for a runner that loves this dirt where he has hit the exacta in 11 of 15 starts. We like that turf try two back simply because it keeps this guy from having a long layoff into today especially combined with another recent turf sprint. Make no mistake in that this guy is better on the dirt where he has won 8 of 18. Versatile style is a plus.

Race 3 7 PAPA RIZZO ran great when last seen returning off a layoff here and it came on this sod (78 Beyer). In the 2022 meet, he finished 2nd off the layoff and on this grass but at odds of 11-1. He has a dirt prep going into this race where he finished last and to that we say...great. What? It was on the dirt and helps today's price. This gelding has speed to help with this outside post and connections find a good spot.

Canterbury

Race 4 8 CALZONE got turf Beyers of 66 and 68 in two of his last three turf starts and they all came on this sod. His last two starts at Tampa are just better and he was off slowly in his most recent or that Beyer would have been better.

Race 5 5 WILD THOR is by a 16% debut sire. His dam went 18-3-2-3 and earned 72K. Three of five sibs won and two beat winners (76K and 46K). Lots and lots of works for this and all for a barn that is 24% with 1st start maidens. **4VICTORIOUS VANDA** is by a 11% debut sire. His dam was un-raced. Of 6 sibs to race, 5 won and 4 beat winners with the best earning 213K. The leading barn calls the shots but we would like to have seen more than three listed works at least as of this writing. **10WILSON BAY** broke 6th of 7 in his debut and was facing Oaklawn foes when sent off at almost 13-1. He draws fine and is a 4YO.

Race 7 6 DISTORTED PRO got nice figs at Oaklawn only two and three back before running into a very good race in his most recent that came back key when 2 of 5 returned to win with huge Beyers of 100 and 98. This colt was sent off at 6-1 versus those. Does anyone see a horse in this race that is capable of those? Or even close? Of course not. This colt has speed and gets in light with the apprentice up.

Race 8 3 MARTINI BLU is a claimer at Oaklawn but an allowance runner here. We like the cut back to a sprint for this. This guy is proven on this dirt.

Yonkers: Analysis (Post 7:00)

BEST BET - BRONX BARISTA (5th)

SPOT PLAY - SKY BOX (8th)

Race 1 - (3) THE WILL TO PLAY takes a pretty big drop from the 3-5YO \$30,000 claimer to a \$15,000 claimer tonight. He races for trainer Izzy Estrada, a barn that's on fire everywhere on the East Coast right now, and gets post relief from his race last Thursday. (1) SWAGASaurus REX has an inside post for the first time in several weeks and owns a win in this class back in mid-March. (2) LYONS JOHNNYJNR tired last time out at Pocono but was racing well at Yonkers prior to that, and I'll include.

Race 2 - (5) LADY BLUE JAY comes south from Western Fair in Ontario into a high-percentage barn and meets up with a pretty wide-open group in this event. I'll give her a shot. (2) GIBSON GIRL was third against NW1 company at Harrah's Philadelphia most recently and has added Lasix for her 3-year-old season. (6) DUCK INTO THE NITE starts from the outside but did win at this level last Saturday night. That should have given her some confidence.

Race 3 - (7) JAQEN H'GHAR was scratched out of a scheduled start at Pocono on 4-30, so he hasn't raced since a qualifier on April 20 at the Meadowlands. Nevertheless, I anticipate he'll be ready for trainer Ake Svanstedt, and he performed well in a limited campaign in 2023. (4) YOU GOT IT didn't have much success in the John Brennan Trotting Series but shows a second in a much tougher winners of six but not more than nine event at Yonkers back on the 27th of March. (2) ENERGYSOURCE hit the board a couple of times in this class back in March and returns from Pocono off a second in his last appearance over there.

Race 4 - (1) PRIVATE SCOTT invades from Freehold with back-to-back victories and hails from the same red-hot stable as my top selection back in the first race. (2) SMOKIN BY N drops out of the \$30,000 claimers and shows three wins in this class in March and April. (4) I'M J BEE N tallied at this level a couple weeks ago and trainer Travis Alexander continues to have an excellent meet.

Race 5 - (5) BRONX BARISTA made the New York Sire Stakes final last year at age 2 and comes over to Yonkers off a romping win in her 2024 debut at Pocono on May 7. (4) A FEW CHOICE WORDS was second in the NY Excelsior Series final and won a Grand Circuit event at the Delaware County (Ohio) Fair as a freshman. This is her first pari-mutuel appearance of the year, but she did qualify pretty well at Woodbine Mohawk Park. (3) RAGS TO RICHES has an inside draw for the first time in her lines and has been showing plenty of early speed out of town.

Race 6 - (1) SULLIVAN merits another chance this week as he moves inside to the pole position and was game last week despite having to do the first-over work in a sped-up third quarter. (2) MAJOR DESIRE is back in very sharp form now with two wins and a second in his last three outings. Add in another inside post, and he's definitely dangerous again. (3) PAT STANLEY N has been in the top three in five of his last six .

Race 7 - NW5000L5/12500CLM Pace

(2) EMINEM HANOVER has been closing out his miles well lately and gets significant post relief this week. Add in that he was Brent Holland's choice, and I'll put him on top. (1) CERULEAN HANOVER dominated bottom level foes at Harrah's Philadelphia last time out and ships north. I anticipate he'll be handled aggressively from the pole position. (6) LONG WEEKEND A hit the board in both of his starts down at Freehold since joining Doug Dilloian Jr.'s barn. Dilloian has been sending out several live horses lately.

Race 8 - NW3/25000LT / NW1/12500LT Trot

(8) SKY BOX starts from the eight-hole but made up a bunch of ground after making an early break last week. Hopefully he can avoid a miscue tonight and deliver a similar performance. (5) A MAJORS MACKIN comes over from the Meadowlands with a win and a second in his last three starts. He broke last time at Yonkers in a NW3 test but was 3-1 in that race. (2) NATIONAL LOVE AS closed steadily at a well-meant favorite in a NW1 event a week ago. He had a bit of a gap in his schedule coming into that tilt, so he could be sharper here.

Race 9 - NW5000L5/12500CLM Pace

(6) GINGRAS BEACH never got involved from the eight-hole last Saturday but moves in a couple slots on the gate tonight, takes a second crack at bottom level rivals and gets a driver switch to Matt Kakaley. (3) PEETIE has been facing tougher company at Yonkers since joining Ron Burke's barn. He finds the NW5000L5 class this time and gets a bit of post relief as well. (2) GRATIAN HANOVER closed with pace in a third-place result last Saturday and gets an inside draw here.

Race 10 - 20000CLM Pace

(3) LIBERTY N FREEDOM steps up from the \$15,000 claimers but has been racing well lately and goes for Alexander off a claim here. (1) SHANWAY N hasn't won yet in 2024 but has been hitting the board with some regularity as of late and starts from the pole. He was also Holland's choice of a couple horses in this event. (5) ALOTBETTOR N also moves to the \$20,000 level from the \$15,000 class but has been first or second in his last four attempts. He has new connections with trainer Matias Ruiz claiming him two weeks ago.

Race 11 - 15000CLM Pace

(2) MISSILE SEELSTER gets a post relief/class drop combo tonight and gets reunited with driver Jim Marohn Jr. He picked up checks against \$25,000 claimers two and three starts back. (5) WAIMAC ATTACK N took one try against \$20,000 claiming foes last Saturday and now drops back down to the \$15,000 level. He was second at Yonkers two back and gives Alexander another contender on the program. (6) MAJOR MAKOVER was third in a \$15,000 claimer at Yonkers when last seen locally on 4-24 and races from that red-hot Izzy Estrada barn.



PRAIRIE MEADOWS Picks From The Pros



(POST 7:30)

Saturday May 18, 2024

	Bobby Neuman Track Announcer	Crystal Ball She Sees All, Knows All	Tipster The Wizard Of Calle Ocho
1	2 Spanish Delight 1 Awesome View 6 Irish Tap	2 Spanish Delight 1 Awesome View 3 Adria	2 Spanish Delight 1 Awesome View 6 Irish Tap
2	5 Pure Crystal 1 Night Terror 3 Prized Tap	1 Night Terror 4 Billy Bob Rocket 3 Prized Tap	4 Billy Bob Rocket 1 Night Terror 6 Lurch
3	1 Gisele's Map 4 Climb To Glory 7 Mission Maker	4 Climb To Glory 1 Gisele's Map 3 That's Our Vision	4 Climb To Glory 3 That's Our Vision 1 Gisele's Map
4	2 Freddy J 5 Annual Budget 4 Leapin Ty Man	2 Freddy J 5 Annual Budget 1 Talons Time	7 Wearacap 2 Freddy J 5 Annual Budget
5	1 Sheza Goin Comfort 7 Betty Jo 4 Gangster Americano	1 Sheza Goin Comfort 6 Wumpmug 4 Gangster Americano	2 Stay Quiet 1 Sheza Goin Comfort 7 Betty Jo
6	6 Vale 1 Rahm 4 Mr Creed	6 Vale 1 Rahm 8 Fire Bryan	6 Vale 1 Rahm 5 Al's Romero
7	6 Desperate Man 4 Mr Phillip 3 Run Fire Run	4 Mr Phillip 6 Desperate Man 5 Sir Otto	4 Mr Phillip 6 Desperate Man 5 Sir Otto
8	3 Girl Pro 4 Bayshore Foxes 2 Full Spirit	7 House Wrecker 9 Slushy 3 Girl Pro	3 Girl Pro 4 Bayshore Foxes 9 Slushy

Most probable winner noted in **BOLD** /Please verify all horse names and numbers in the official program!