

AQUEDUCT

POST 1:10

By Mike Beer

First Race **2 GOLDCREST** never made a run when up in class off the claim here nine days ago; drops back down the level she was taken for in her victory one start prior, and she also won for this tag back at Saratoga with a 74 Beyer, before moving up in class to no avail; in a better spot looking to bounce back. 4 LIKA ROLLING STONE faced tougher when shipped to this circuit two starts back, and was along for second behind a dominant, front-running winner; kept up close before prevailing after a long battle back at Parx last time; better fit with this field as she returns to NY. 2-4-3

Race 2 **5 CUMBERLAND BLUES** has not come close in his last three starts out of the claiming ranks, though they were all tougher races than this, and one of them came in a very fast race going ten furlongs; looks like a better fit vs this group and contends with his good race at a fair price. 1 SENEGAL brings some of the best recent form into this race, with three Beyers in the mid-70s from his last four starts, and he is also reunited with Manny Franco for this; never looked like winning that last one before getting up for second over 2 SHARED SUCCESS late; look well-spotted, more than anything else. SHARED SUCCESS chased wide and was unable to seriously threaten before getting outfinished for second late by SENEGAL last time; capable with his good race as he makes his second start off the layoff.

Race 3 **4 LIMITS OF POWER** had a right to need some racing following the extended layoff he endured, and he was involved on a contested pace when weakening in a closers race going this distance two starts back; he did not stretch out around two turns effectively in his first start for Potts; cuts back in distance as a new gelding. 1 PRAIRIE DUNES has had his chances already, and owns a running style that leaves him vulnerable to pace and trip; he has been behind wire-to-wire winners in his last two starts sprinting, and there are efforts in his past that would make him tough in here; have to demand a price if giving him one more chance. 2 HER SUGAR BABY is a wildcard as the lightly raced option making his dirt debut; he is bred for this surface while dropping in class.

Race 4 **7 HOP SING** closed over a speed-favoring track when second in his muddy debut on this circuit; he didn't turn up again for nearly a year after that debut run, after which he missed four more months, and he improved to an 85 Beyer when grinding out a share of second off the layoff last time; putting races together for the first time as he returns to NY. 1 ASTRATEGIC FOCUS is a \$500k full-brother recent Top Flight winner Headline Numbers, who also races for these connections, and who won her career debut here by over 11 lengths with an 85 Beyer; looks dangerous right away with a series of strong breezes showing. 7-1-6

Race 5 **3 ROADIE** is by speed influence Maclean's Music, and a half-brother to Baron of Sealand, who is currently 2 for 3 in his career with a 78 Beyer top; debuting with Lasix on for an underrated first-out trainer. 1 DETAIL ORIENTED raced in some traffic before coming wide and racing on to no avail in his debut three weeks ago, which was won by Bay Shore entrant Share the Ludt; can do better but a clean start from the rail is imperative. Newcomer 5 FOTO threw in a bullet half from the gate last month in preparation for this; half-brother to four multiple winners debuts for a trainer who is 4 for his 20 (20%) with first time starters sprinting on dirt (\$2.80 ROI).

Race 6 **4 SPEIGHTFUL LILY** might never get back to the 95 Beyer she earned for her impressive debut victory, though she has run well in her five starts since while racing sporadically; she dominated on the lead two back, though she doesn't;t need that trip to be effective, and she held her own in a tough running of the Broadway last time. 1A LADY MINE got good off the claim for these connections and was on a strong run before being forced to the sidelines early last year; hasn't quite come backto that form since returning at the end of November; though her effort two back - without the most clever ride in the world - suggests that she is still capable. 7 THE BIG CALHOUNA ran well off the claim two back when rushing into a competitive pace before weakening very late; had a more comfortable trip last time and won easily with a 90 Beyer; going good now, but this is tougher.

Race 7 **BEST BET 4 TURN AND COUNT** caught a very fast race on debut and never factored; well-bred colt improved noticeably when out to this distance last time, and did so despite never getting fully clear in the stretch; right back in a similar spot, just needs a better trip. 6 COMMANDER OF TRUTH 's top effort came over a wet track, though he ran very well that day when forced to chase his stablemate Unmatched Wisdom, who went on to win his next two starts, including a stakes race with a 99 Beyer; has been gelded since last seen, and this barn tends to have them ready off the bench. 2 RADAUTI has improved on dirt, though he does exit two short-priced losses that might not be that easy to excuse; was turned away by a big longshot two back when racing with Lasix for the first time; tried blinkers in that last one, but once again came up short after appearing to take the measure of the lone first-time starter in the field; tries again.

Race 8 **4 MO PLEX** is a NY-bred but is already a Grade 3 stakes winner, and he has run well in all six starts to date; including the three recent losses; went a mile off the layoff and wound up in a race-long duel with favored National Identity, which left them both vulnerable to a capable closer late; he owns excellent tactical speed, and cutting back a furlong for his second start as a 3yo is a positive. 5 MCKELLEN was the lone firster in the field when sent a mile on debut, and he was fit enough to prevail in that spot despite a wide trip; came right back to run well again in his next start when only second-best to Disco Time, who won the Grade 3 LeCompte in his next start to remain undefeated; returns with some fast breezes showing after running poorly in his stakes debut last time. 4-5-1

Race 9 8 DILLINGER earned a series of figures in NY last year that are going to make him hard on this field, assuming he is close to ready off the layoff; dropping sharply for his 5yo debut, though it is worth nothing that these connections offered him up for \$25k at Saratgoa last summer, suggesting that they are okay with losing him.

9 RETURN THE RING was first-back from a long layoff when showing speed before weakening late two starts back; moved too far up the ladder off the claim last time and was no match for those horses; drops back into a better spot.

8-9-2



RACE 1

Analysis By: Patrick Moquin

1A LADY ENSIGN only has one win in 16 starts, but she has been a contender at this level for two years now and seems just as capable now; mare was in very solid form at the end of last year and hasn't had an issue handling layoffs in the past. 1a-8-5

Race 2 4 SHE'SAROLLINGSTONE won at this level in December and has earned place money in two straight starts since returning from a layoff in February; her running style allows her to work out a trip regardless of the pace, she's entering in sharp form, and she simply seems to be a consistent contender with the least questions to answer in this field. 4-3-7

Race 3

1A GREAT ARTIST is making his debut with a lot of interesting peripherals; while many of the firsters in this race boast turf pedigrees, many of them seem more likely to have success going a little longer; 3-year-olds and up by Great Notion win 16% of the time on debut, and the sire has produced multiple graded stakes winners in turf sprints; Capuano doesn't send out many firsters with intent but this one is a little different from his usual debutants. 1a-10-2

Race 4

11 ISLAND DREAM GIRL seemed poised to make a winning move last time out but folded while running between horses; it seems like she wasn't on the right end of that field near the front, as she was not the only reputable runner to throw in the towel in that race; her start before that against a weaker field was overwhelming and puts her squarely in the mix here, though it might suit her better to sit off the leaders more this time around. 11-7-6

Race 5 4 VISBY shipped to Tampa Bay Downs for her first start of 2025 and ran big to finish fourth in a stakes race at 19-1 odds; it was about as well as she could have done coming off a break and now she's returning to a turf course she has run on four times, winning twice and just missing in a strong allowance in October; her lack of early speed is a concern but she seems to be in prime race shape and should have a say near the wire. 4-7-5

Race 6 1 SPENCERIAN seemed like a prime candidate to win the Conniver last time out but faded behind a loose front-runner; that stakes race has come up very live with two next-out winners so far; mare will move to the inside post now and should be able to track a few early pacesetters on the rail in this one; it's unclear if she is benefitting from racing through the winter while some of her rivals took breaks, but she figures as one to bounce back based on her recent form 1-4-2

Race 7 Dahlia Stakes

2 SPARKLE BLUE failed to defend her title in the G2 Hillsborough last time out, but it was still encouraging to see her return to form after a tough start in October last year; Motion has boldly and consistently entered this mare in graded stakes company throughout her career, but he has often shipped her to Laurel to find some class relief and found success; the mile might be a little short, but she has an obvious class edge with two wins over the course. 7 TUFANI has been remarkably consistent since her 3-year-old season, finishing in the money in six of 10 stakes starts 2-7-3

Race 8 King T. Leatherbury S.

10 DETERMINED KINGDOM is the obvious horse to beat here, and though it's unlikely that he runs back to the 99 Beyer he earned in victory at Keeneland last year, he still seems like a strong contender; he is comfortable on the front end but doesn't need the lead to win, which should help him in this deep field featuring plenty of early speed. 2 GREAT IDEA is one of five horses in this race coming out of the same Laurel allowance in November, when he made a nice bid to finish third despite being compromised by a difficult trip; he seemed well on his way to becoming a serious stakes contender around this level after stringing together several nice performances at the end of last year; the layoff always muddles things a little but he can make some noise here if he comes back in good form. 10-2-6

Race 9 Weber City Miss Stakes

1 REPLY seemed to be figuring things out early in her debut at Colonial last time out, but she finished the race like a pro to win by 2 3/4 lengths; she is now trying two turns in a classier field, but Russell doesn't often waste much time with precocious runners; if she takes another step forward at a slightly longer distance, she's a likely winner here. 4 COMPLEXITY JANE will lose her usual rider to her stablemate, which can usually be taken as a hint of sorts, it's hard to find much wrong with her two career starts; filly handled an off track in February to break her maiden on first asking and received first purse money in her first try against winners after stretching out to a mile and nearly wiring the field; her stablemate might make a better case for improvement, but there's still plenty for her to find in her stakes debut. 1-4-7

Race 10 Henry S. Clark S.

Best Bet 4 NEAT made his first start in Grade 1 competition to kick off his 2025 campaign, running well to earn a 91 Beyer behind superior runners at Santa Anita; Atras was very bold to ship her across the country for that start, which indicates that he had a lot of confidence in him off the layoff; bringing the two-time graded stakes winner to Laurel for this start is obviously an attempt to find some class relief and start over, and he has always traveled well over the course of his career. 8 MISCHIEVOUS ANGEL last tried a mile in his second career start in 2023, when Chad Brown decided to give him a chance in the Grade 2 Hall of Fame at Saratoga; Abreu has kept him in turf sprints ever since and found considerable success in allowance competition, but it feels reasonable to stretch him back out for this start off the layoff; his best career start came while running seven furlongs at Kentucky Downs in September. 3 FULMINEO won two ungraded stakes in the Mid-Atlantic region last year before stepping up to try graded events; that step up didn't work all that well as he tailed off at the end of the year, but Delacour gave him a healthy layoff and is bringing back to a lower level for his return in 2025. 4-8-3

Race 11 Federico Tesio S.

1SURFSIDE MOON seemed to relish going longer on the dirt in the Withers in February, but his next step on the Triple Crown trail was delayed by an illness; the 90 Beyer he earned that day is significantly better than those earned by other contenders in this field, but more importantly, it came at 1 1/8 miles, which could be challenging for other runners stretching out. 9PAY BILLY is easily the strongest local runner entering this race and proved it in a commanding stakes victory last time out; the waters are getting deeper as he stretches out in distance, but the added room into the first turn might help him settle into a better trip and improve. 1-9-5

Race 12 6 MR JEFFERSON is dropping in class off a layoff, which figures as a red flag, but it's unlikely that he has regressed so much since January that he is now unsuited at this level; gelding earned three straight Beyers over 70 before taking this time off, and even if he can't run back to those precise races, there's no reason to suspect that he can't contend in this field if he stays in touch early. 1A WALK AWAY JOE has become very win-shy in the twilight of his career, but he has made gradual improvements while dropping in class this year 6-1a-4



Saturday, April 19 By Brian Nadeau (check @Brian_J_Nadeau for OFF turf updates)

Royal Palm Meet Statistics (through 4/13):

GP Meet: 75-19-14-14 (\$1.62/\$5.20) **Best Bet:** 7-3-1-1 (\$2.69/\$6.57) **Longshot:** 8-1-2-2 (\$1.00/\$6.70)

Race 1: The opener looks like a tussle between 4 SIZZLE and 5 TONALITE, as their turf form is better than these, and the former gets the call based on her tactical speed, which will allow first run on the latter, who may be at the mercy of the pace. The gap to the rest, including 6 WUDHOOH, seems a sizable one.

SELECTIONS: 4-5-3-6

Race 2: The biggest spread on the card goes to 10 MOMZA, who never gets bet but shows two Tapeta races that are as good, if not better than anyone, and the value should be there once again. Expecting a move forward from 6 LORD OF WAR, who was a middling 3rd off the Dibona claim in a race run in a driving rainstorm that couldn't have been fun for anyone. Don't sleep on 1 SPEEDY HANS, as he was thrown to the wolves routing in a salty 16k handicap, and should be tighter off that run.

SELECTIONS: 10-6-1-2

Race 3: Stabbing with 4 PRINCE DAVID, as he gets a major jock upgrade to Morelos, which cold be enough to turn the tables on the pair that beat him last time. A list that includes 7 TRICKY TIGER, who is the one to beat, though failing at 1-2 like he did last time doesn't get the blood flowing. No doubt 1 CAJUN COOKIN may have won with

a clean run last time, but he's now on the rail and faces older, so things will be much more difficult today.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-1-3

Race 4: They bet bargain purchase 6 FANTASTIC FLAME hard on debut and she didn't disappoint with a strong 2nd, and a repeat may be good enough against this meek group. Tab the tote on firster 3 BEEN BUSY, as it's Pletcher, Repole, and Zayas, and while she would be no surprise, there's no pedigree here, so she has the feel of an underlay. It's clear that 2 RUMOURS HAVE IT, by Tapit out of the immortal Songbird, didn't lived up to expectations with Pletcher, and while new trainer Sweezey is sharp, she's shown nothing so far that says you should get on board.

SELECTIONS: 6-3-2-7

Race 5: Taking the short price and moving on with 3 DOWNING STREET, as that 2nd in his return four-month layoff is good enough, and he should only move up off of it. Both 1 FREDERICKSBURG and 4 KOSHER CAPONE are next up, with the former off-the-claim for Dibona (23%) and the latter entering off a decent 3rd to the pick.

SELECTIONS: 3-1-4-8

Race 6: It's Longshot time with 9 MCHALE, who improved routing on turf, catches a speedy field, runs on dirt for the first time since last year, and with Lasix too. Tab the tote on 8 PRIME ROCKET, who figures to settle early and has worked well for Mott, though he's just a 5% on debut. They didn't get much back on the \$3 million they spent on 7 VIBE in his debut, when he chased and tired by over 15, but he'll improve.

SELECTIONS: 9-8-7-4

Race 7: With all the speed entered, here's hoping 1 CHESS MASTER can work out a trip and get a clear run, as his comeback is behind him, and he's one of the few who can rate and punch. That was a sharp win by 9 RED RIVER REBEL over a few of these last time, and he's another who will like all the pace up front, though you wonder if he regresses a bit. Conversely, while
6 ESPERON may be the speed of the speed, kicking clear and lasting seems a big ask.

SELECTIONS: 1-9-6-8

Race 8: Thinking 5 MOMENT'S NOTICE found a cushy spot off a fast 2nd to a Pletcher buzzsaw at Tampa, as there's not much here and the firsters could need one. The gut says 2 STARSHIP ICEMAN is live off an October layoff, as he was 4-1 on debut but didn't break, has been freshened since, and hasn't missed a beat in the AM. It's a guess with 3 WEEKENDANDWHISKEY, a Pletcher firster that cost 850k, but missed the big meet and may need one.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-3-6

Race 9: The class of **8 SILVER SKILLET** may be too much for these, December layoff and all, as her turf form is simply better than

this modest bunch. You get raging form with **7 GOODBETTERBEST**, who rises off an easy in, while **4 DO GOODER** has some class too, but hasn't been seen since October.

SELECTIONS: 8-7-4-10

Race 10: Getting out of a G2, and back to one-turn means 4 SECRET CHAT can post a slight surprise in the feature, as he had back-to-back wins at this trip in the fall. If 7 ANTIQUARIAN is ready to roll off a June layoff from the Belmont Stakes, the rest are running for 2nd, though this is the time to beat him, as he's prepping for bigger. You get consistency with 2 FLYING LIAM, as he always fires, but the wins have been mighty elusive, so use him underneath only.

SELECTIONS: 4-7-2-8

Race 11: It's Best Bet time in the finale with 5 CANDYTOWN, who was a strong 2nd on debut on the turf and will like getting back to it here. There's a big turf pedigree with 2 SUMMER VIBES, a half to a multiple G1 turf winner, so while he didn't fire in two dirt starts, he may wake up on the surface switch. That was a solid 3rd last time from 9 STICKY MCSHNICKENS, but this post did him no favors, and he has no upside either.

SELECTIONS: 5-2-9-3

Best Bet: R11: #5 Candytown (8-5)

- * Turf 2nd on debut too good for these
- * Zayas top notch riding the GP grass
- * Stalker gets first run off the speed

Longshot: R6: #9 McHale (12-1)

- * Stalker in a race loaded with speed
- * Wakeup 3rd while routing last time
- * On dirt for the first time with Lasix



Keeneland - 1:00

By Tom Leach

1st Race **3-My Bossy Lady** got a wide trip last out but has a better post here and this horse has steadily improved since moving into the Sharp barn. 2-Delicate ran her best race in her last start, going up by nine points in the Beyer department but can she continue to improve when facing winners for the first time? 5-Always Practical drops in class for the Maker barn and she has the pedigree to like dirt eventhough she's never raced on it.

2nd Race **4-Crudo** is the odds-on favorite and I can't make a case to go against him. He ran well as the big favorite in his debut considering the start that he had and he's been training well in Florida. 1-Night Agent made a big improvement last time in switching from turf to dirt for his second start and he has enough early speed to get a contending position. 2-Dixie Devil actually ran pretty well in his two dirt starts last year and I'm thinking he could hit the board in the move back to that surface.

3rd Race **9-Copperlite** goes for the Ramsey Farm connections and they love to win at Keeneland and this one is coming back-to-back wins at Tampa. This one has five wins from 13 starts overall, too. 6-English Challenge ran one of his best races in the first start for this barn and he's won 11 times in his career so maybe he's cycling back into his best form. 2-Proven Hope comes off a dominant allowance win with an 84 Beyer figure but that was on a lesser circuit. 1-Ember's first start for this barn two races back would be competitive in this field and maybe the off track is what did him in last time out.

4th Race **6-Good Temper** caught two next-out winners in her three-year old debut in early February and then followed it up with a dominant win with a much-improved Beyer figure. And this barn has her firing bullets in the morning workouts. 7-Fixin to Bee has been running against stakes fillies in her last three starts and that experience makes her a tough foe in this spot. 4-Golden Sunshine has been improved in the last two starts and she hooked a horse headed to the Kentucky Oaks in her last start.

5th Race Taking a shot with a 30-1 horse in **9-Xavi.** He was super impressive last time out and was claimed by a barn that hits at 27 percent on that angle--and this is their first starter at the meet. And the third-place finisher in that last race came back to win with an improved speed figure. No standouts among Xavi's rivals so I think he outruns his odds and hopefully takes them wire-to-wire. 6-Colorado Cruiser makes his first start against claiming company and has faced some solid foes. 7-Top Gun Rocket took 11 races to break the maiden and now three starts later drops down to claiming company so he could be a vulnerable favorite. 9-6-7-1

6th Race **1-How's Ur Attitude's** last two races have been his best best and this colt's early speed is a big asset from the rail post. 3-Honky Tonk Highway goes turf-to-dirt but that's a 20 win angle for this barn and this horse might move forward in the second start off a layoff. 2-Cat On Time makes his second start since moving to the Jacobsen barn and he caught a pretty salty group of rivals last time out.

7th Race **10-Be My Sunshine** is another runner from the Ramsey stable and this trainer hits at 24 percent on the route-to-sprint move. I'm not wild about the post but this horse should be running late so that should hopefully enable Brian Hernandez to work out a trip for a horse that is dropping in class significantly for this spot. 3-Cloudwalker loves it here with two wins and a third from three starts on the Keeneland lawn. 7-Pipsy ran against a very good field in a turf sprint here last fall. 4-Bandonarun might appreciate the extra sixteenth of a mile she'll get here versus those races at Gulfstream at five furlongs.

8th Race Good luck if you're trying to beat **5-Just a Touch.** This one got fastracked to the Derby last year and didn't handle it well. In early March, he came back off a long layoff at the first-level allowance and ran huge so I'm thinking this one is now on a steady progression back to the big-time level for the Cox barn. 8-Gould's Gold has run well at this distance for McPeek. 9-Skinner makes his third start for the DeVeaux barn and may like the stretchout to nine furlongs in this spot. 4-Native Land looks better if you only focus on his races going long on the dirt, which he gets to do here.

9th Race **9-Missed the Cut** is the pick for me in the grade 2 Visit Lex Elkhorn Stakes. He was second in this race last year versus what I would contend was a stronger field. He makes his second run for DeVeaux and it's also the second outing off a long break, so improvement would be likely. 6-Limited Liability is a turf marathon specialist and has two wins here. 2-Grand Sonata has been at his best for several races against topnotch company so he could certainly have a big say in the outcome of this race.

10th Race I'm going with an upset in the grade 3 Ben Ali with **3-Tennessee Lamb.** This one ran a super race off the layoff at Gulfstream and that was at one mile, for a horse that absolutely loves going much longer. That tells me this horse has taken a big step forward for the Arnold barn and they're being aggressive with placing him here. 7-Uno Mas Bourbon ran well here in a grade two last fall and he should appreciate the added distance he gets in this spot. 6-Duke of Love ran well in his latest considering he was coming off a year-and-a-half layoff. 1-San Siro made big improvement in the first off a layoff in February for Walsh and can he now do it against tougher foes?

11th Race **7-Rothschild** comes off the Gulfstream circuit and those horses are usually very tough in these first and second-level allowance races at Keeneland in the spring. He ran big in his first start for the Toner barn and has kept good company. 8-Then is making only his fifth start and should have upside left for the Antonucci barn. 12-Ciro di Marzio has had two good runs for the Ward barn and Mike Smith showing up in the saddle is noteworthy. 2-English Chunnel was much improved last time out for Catalano, who has a 20 percent win rate on the grass.

Wheeling Greyhounds (Post 1:00)



1ST 2368

2ND 6254

3RD 3421

4TH 1234

5TH 5214

6TH 1253

7TH 4683

8TH 1238

9TH 1753

10TH 7486

11TH 8364

12TH 8715

13TH 1237

14TH 8672

15TH 1247

16TH 4287

17TH 5137

Best Bet 7-4 JSP RAYZENDACASH

OAKLAWN PARK (POST 1:20)

BY Mary Rampellini

First Race

9. Rock Solo

1. Fast Joker

3. Haunted Flame

Second Race

10. Uncaptured Warrior 8. Raymond 4. Mr Puk

Third Race

8. Spring Dancer 3. Tempting Eve

4. Avery's Mischief

Fourth Race

5. Daily Grind

8. Mena

7. Imperial Gun

Fifth Race

4. Fanatical

2. Faust

8. Stiglets

Sixth Race

7. Instant Replay 2. Caldera

4. Tiz Secure

INSTANT REPLAY is shortening up some in distance for the Bathhouse Row after finishing a credible third last out in the Grade 2 Louisiana Derby. The first two finishers from the race are expected for the Kentucky Derby. CALDERA can make a real impact with a repeat of his effort in the Sunland Derby.

Seventh Race 8. Tap Into This 7. Super Cruise

9. Global Quote

TAP INTO THIS moved to two turns last out and put up a career-high Beyer Speed Figure. SUPER CRUISE put in a big run for second in his debut last out, and the race came at this mile and a sixteenth trip. GLOBAL QUOTE brings ascending Beyer Speed Figures to the table.

Eighth Race 1. Little Blaze

2. Insightful Miss 3. Brooklynn Drew

LITTLE BLAZE was just edged at this level last out in a race that went in good time. INSIGHTFUL MISS has an experience edge on some of these as a six-time winner. BROOKLYNN DREW seems like an up and coming sort.

Ninth Race 2. Tizmarkus 2. Mr. Butch

3. Personal Jet

TIZMARKUS is a consistent performer and one of a handful of leading contenders on the card for Hartman. MR. BUTCH has an age edge on some of these as he is 4. PERSONAL JET added a set of blinkers last out and popped a career-high Beyer Speed Figure. Another of interest is PEARCY ROAD.

Tenth Race 7. Miss Martini

3 Anonima 4. Quantum Burst

MISS MARTINI makes the move to two turns in the Valley of the Vapors and she is bred to relish the added ground as a daughter of Curlin. Note this race is a mile and as such it ends at the sixteenth pole. ANONIMA ran third last out in the Virginia Oaks and she also is a winner over the local strip. QUANTUM BURST comes off a big win at Colonial.

Eleventh Race - See next page

Twelfth Race

2. Campisi

10. Al's Romeo

7. Zippy Mark

Race of the Week: \$1.25 million Oaklawn Handicap

by Jeremy Plonk

(RACE II OAKLAWN)

The Lead:

The mid-south's premier race for older horses, the \$1.25 million Oaklawn Handicap, provides one of the season's final destination races of the winter-spring meeting in Hot Springs, Ark. The Grade 2 test over 1-1/8 miles goes as Race 11 on the card and the field of 8 includes the winners of the series' most-important preps, the Essex and the Razorback, as well as its defending champion.

Field Depth:

Grade 2 winners include SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING, RED ROUTE ONE and FIRST MISSION. Also note DISARM, ALEXANDER HELIOS and BANISHING are Grade 3 winners, the first of those is Grade 1-placed. TARANTINO is multiple Grade 2-placed. The match up similar in terms of class though SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING has faced the strongest schedule over time.

Pace:

BANISHING may be fastest early in this group, but TARANTINO and ALEXANDER HELIOS will be right in the mix with SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING and FIRST MISSION not far from the tempo. This should be an above-average to fast pace and give late runners a reasonable chance if they fire.

Our Eyes:

#2-DISARM: Local allowance winner 5 weeks ago when coming off a September layoff, this consistent sort has been just shy of the upper levels in multiple previous chances. Excellent post and fast pace in front of him provides every opportunity.

#4-SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING: Last year's Oaklawn Handicap winner has earned \$3.2 million while being a well-placed road warrior throughout his career. As good as ever in winning a third straight Challenger Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs most recently which was his same springboard here in 2024. Irad Ortiz Jr. takes over for injured pilot Tyler Gaffalione. Nearly all of his best efforts have come when he's first or second early in the race; so if you're going to beat him, several getting in front of him early -- which is possible here -- would be the gameplan.

#3-FIRST MISSION: Ace stakes rider Flavien Prat takes the controls for the controls for the first time on the 2024 Essex winner and 2025 Razorback third-place finisher. Favored last out when by a neck in his first start since August and could build off that at a juicier price. Mixed results at this distance while 1-1/16 miles arguably his best.

Sending it in (\$50 bankroll):

\$30 win # 2 DISARM. \$5 exacta key-box # 2 DISARM with respected logical players S# 4 KIPPYLONGSTOCKING and # 3 FIRST MISSION

Cumberland (Maine Harness) (3:15 p.m.)



By Lucky Lou

1. 1-3-5	By Lucky Lou
2.7-1-3	
3. 3-7-4	
4. 4-1-2	
5. 4-2-3	Best Bets
6. 1-4-5	Race 5 # 4 SHERIFF N $-$ Scored last week - his 4 th win in last 5 starts over this track , well-spotted for Switzer Jr.
7. 6-3-1	Race 8 # 3 ART SCENE - Chased the fastest fractions of the day last Saturday in 1 st start of 2025 – tighter today
8. 3-4-1	
9. 4-3-1	.50 Pick Four Play Race 7: 1,3,6 / 3 /3,4 / 4,8

10.4-8-2



SANTA ANITA

- POST 4:00

Analysis & Selections By: Brad Free BEST BET: Bolt Supremacy (2nd race)

First Race 8. Betty Pack 6. Charmed Dream 4. Broke the Code

BETTY PACK looks like a short-price standout dropping from maiden-50 to maiden-8. Her lowest speed figure (43 Beyer) is higher than the top dirt figure by any other in the field, she ran well both starts since returning from a layoff (third of eight comeback, and led to deep stretch in a small field second start back). Of course, betting low-odds droppers is hardly a winning strategy, but on paper BETTY PACK should win. CHARMED DREAM also drops from maiden-50 for her third career start. She was not disgraced either try against better Cal-breds than these. BROKE THE CODE broke slowly both starts against Cal-bred special-weight maidens, but she did improve in her second start. She plummets to rock bottom, and with a clean break this time should be involved in the pace scenario.

Second Race 5. Bolt Supremacy 3. Broadway Unions 7. Maximus

BOLT SUPREMACY figures to win this N2L claiming turf sprint as the favorite. He has been running well against significantly tougher company, the pace scenario suits his recent off-the-pace style, his speed figures top the lineup, and trainer Richard Baltas is 5-for-7 this year with turf-sprint chalk. BROADWAY UNIONS looms the upsetter based on a runaway maiden win last out on dirt, and a respectable fourth his only previous start on turf. Last-out maiden winners often are competitive in N2L claiming races, and like the top choice, 'UNIONS benefits from the pace scenario.

Third Race 2. Nation 4. Rank 1. Nevada Beach

A promising third-place comeback by NATION stamps the 5yo maiden the one to beat in this dirt mile. He was returning from a layoff of more than six months last out, was in contention at the furlong pole, then missed by only slightly more than four lengths. The race was won by his heavily favored stablemate Extensive, who wheeled back to win a N1X with a big figure. Second start back for NATION, obvious choice. RANK is a 10-start maiden whose two recent starts were not great. But those were on turf; his best performances have been on dirt. He returns to preferred dirt footing, and certainly has run fast enough to be competitive. Hard to believe he was favored over Journalism in a maiden race last fall. Journalism won the Santa Anita Derby and is the current favorite for the Kentucky Derby.

Fourth Race 6. Miss Jo's Curlin 4. Titanic Thompson 1. Big Notion

A bad trip compromised MISS JO'S CURLIN last out; he finished sixth as the favorite in a similar Cal-bred maiden turf sprint. He had an excuse. He stumbled at the start, and was blocked into and through the lane. Basically, he never had a chance. He hit the board two of three previous turf sprints, gets off the rail this time, and has tactical speed for a pressing trip in a small field relatively short on pace.

Fifth Race 1. Isabel Ludlow 4. Toulouse Detrac 7. Stellar Cap

Only seven entered this N3L claiming sprint for fillies and mares, but many have a shot. Rail-drawn ISABEL LUDLOW gets the call. The versatile mare was overmatched last out in an allowance on turf, but she ran well her most previous starts at this class level. She can rally from behind, and this race has pace to flatter her rally.

Sixth Race 6. The Old Nine 2. Crazy Cavalier 4. Bigredsandribeyes

Nine-start maiden THE OLD NINE and eight-start maiden CRAZY CAVALIER top this maiden-50 turf sprint. THE OLD NINE finished second at this level last out while racing for the first time in more than six months. The race was won by his stablemate pacesetter; 'NINE finished clear of third after showing improved speed. That was the best U.S. race of his career and first since he was claimed by John Sadler. If he runs two alike, he should win.

Seventh Race 1. Richi 3. Sun Of Hill 2. Splendora

RICHI ran a winning race last out in the G1 Beholder Mile, finishing nearly six lengths clear of third while less than a length behind her well-fancied stablemate Cavalieri. It was the first route for RICHI since November 2023 in Chile, where she was a multiple G1 route winner. The high-class mare has speed to establish position from the rail, she is the fastest in the field on figures. Over the past four years in graded stakes for older fillies and mares, Bob Baffert-trained favorites are 21-for-28. SUN OF HILL looms the come-from-behind upset candidate. She was a G1 winner in Brazil; her best race in the U.S., based on figures, was her only dirt try. She will be running from behind while returning to what might be preferred footing. SPLENDORA, stablemate of top choice RICHI, goes long for the first time after chasing runaway winner Kopion in a pair of graded sprints. SPLENDORA is sure to be forwardly placed first time long. If she and RICHI avoid a pace duel, they could make it a parade.

Eighth Race 1. Tigerhon 3. Tom Seaver 10. Simplexity

TIGERHON meets easier in this N1X/optional \$50k claiming field than the N2X rivals he has faced recently. A five-time winner entered for the claim tag, he should handle the extra distance of this six and one-half turf sprint on the hill. On the other hand, his best recent races were five furlongs at Del Mar. Tepid choice only. TOM SEAVER returned to turf last time and ran the best race of his career. The lightly raced (five starts) gray clearly prefers grass, continues to post fast workout times,

Ninth Race 5. Lil Richards Bello 3. Mr. Disrespectful 1. Be Punctual

LIL RICHARDS BELLO and MR. DISRESPECTFUL are tough to separate in this Calbred allowance/optional claiming dirt mile. 'BELLO gets the call after a tough-trip fourth last out in a similar spot. He was blocked into the lane, steadied, found a seam inside, finished well, and galloped out well. It was a better-than-looked effort.

Tenth Race 4. Vinalia 7. Favor to You 9. Robin With a Why

Second-time starter VINALIA ran very well in her fourth-place debut over this turf course, and may only need a better trip. She hopped and was away slowly, rallied wide to the lead in the stretch, then got swallowed late. Solid debut, fast works since, she probably has more speed than she showed.

VERNON Downs

(NY HARNESS RACING - POST 5:05)

1	. 6		-	1
	. 0) – :) –	

11. 4-6-2

12. 6-1-2

13. 1-7-6

4. 5-2-3

5.5-7-6

6.4-3-2

7, 6-2-8

8.5-4-7

9.3-1-2

10.3-1-6

Best Bets

Race 5 # 5 LITTLE MISS LOIE—Raced well in Chicago last year for Erv Miller barn, gets last year's leading driver in the bike on opening night.

Race 10 # 3 QUARREL – 6 YEAR OLD MAREHAS BEEN FACING TOUGHER-HAD NO SHOR FROM Post 8 at Yonkers, better spot here tonight.



RACE 1
2 SEA ISLE CITY 2-1
3 SPINDOCTOR HANOVER 5-2
6 DUDDIE'S LOR 3-1
8 FENDI HANOVER 7-2

(Post 6:20) By Bob Pandolfo

SEA ISLE CITY shipped in from Dover two back and had a lot of pace in traffic, was bet down to 6/5 against a similar field last week and drew clear in a sharp performance...SPINDOCTOR HANOVER shipped in from Canada two back and improved sharply for new barn; steps up two levels off a romping win...DUDDIE'S LOR is a solid veteran in good form...FENDI HANOVER has won three in row and has a shot in a competitive race to start the proceedings.

RACE 2
7 WINTER SOLDIER 8-5
8 CHIPPER DALE 5-2
5 LUKE'S BAR 7-2
1 ROCKET MAN HILL 4-1

WINTER SOLDIER hasn't raced in a month but takes a key drop for a barn that usually has them ready...CHIPPER DALE had a good 3yo season with 11 wins and has come back well with 4 wins in 9 starts including a game wire to wire win here last week...LUKE'S BAR gets a better post and will be closing...ROCKET MAN HILL left and was 2^{nd} to CHIPPER DALE in last.

RACE 3
5 OUTCRY 7-5
4 LINCOLN BOULEVARD 5-2
2 GOTTA MINUTE N 6-1
10 BARBOSSA HANOVER 8-1

OUTCRY only has 2 wins the last two years but gets Bartlett while in good form...LINCOLN BOULEVARD drops and gets a big driver change coming out of the amateur driver races...GOTTA MINUTE N is better than last...BARBOSSA HANOVER may show early speed here.

RACE 4 8 SHES A STREAKER 6-5 4 PLEASE BE YOU 5-2 1 AMERICA HANOVER 3-1 3 BEACH BABE 6-1

SHES A STREAKER raced well against some good fields last year and is fastest if ready; qualified nicely for Burke and Gingras took this one over the 3...PLEASE BE YOU comes off a good closing win over a weaker field...AMERICA HANOVER qualified well for Tatker, makes her first career start, and note that Beckwith took this filly over PLEASE BE YOU, a filly he won with last week...BEACH BABE gets Dunn in the bike for Burke.

RACE 5
6 SMOOTH DREAM 8-5
5 ODDS ON BROWARD 5-2
8 TWIN FURY 3-1
4 BULLDOZER 7-2

SMOOTH DREAM raced well in all three starts last year and returns off a sharp qualifier for good barn...ODDS ON BROWARD rallied to win at 31-1 as one of the biggest overlays of the year last week; he was 6-1 on my odds line...TWIN B FURY left to the early lead from post 7, yielded and had pace in traffic late...BULLDOZER raced okay in start two and can keep improving.

RACE 6
8 GRAND CAYMAN 5-1
3 MAXIM HANOVER 5-2
9 EFFINGHAM 5-1
2 PRIMARY COLORS 5-1

Tonight's tickets: PICK W (6-9)

\$0.50 cent ticket: 389/679/9, 10/1569 = \$36.00

RACE 7
7 ALWAYS B COLOUR IR 8-5
9 T H TYSON 5-2
6 HANDSOME STRANGER 7-2
4 TOM HORN 4-1

ALWAYS B COLOUR IR colorful horse set his own pace and was an easy winner in his U.S. debut...T H TYSON was a decent two year old but only raced twice last year and showed nothing. He returned for his 4yo season at Philadelphia last week, was 8th, twelve lengths behind at the half, a seemingly impossible spot, but stormed home for the win...HANDSOME STRANGER raced well in both starts this year and has a shot here...TOM HORN is still a maiden but hit the board in 9 of 13 starts as a two year old and he fits well here for Burke.

RACE 8.

9 BOBCAT BAY** 5-1

10 TARANAKI 7-5

6 SWIMWITHTHECURRENT 6-1

1 HAGGARD 12-1

BOBCAT BAY picked up Beckwith, left and was shuffled out in last...TARANAKI worked his way to the lead from post 10 and drew off to an impressive win against similar last wee...SWIMWITHTHECURRENT steps up off a good closing win...HAGGARD gets a better spot.

RACE 9
5 MADRID A 8-1
6 ALWAYS IN FLIGHT 7-2
9 ABSOLUTE POWER 9-2
1 HERS HUNGRY 9-2-1

MADRID A never got into the race last start; faces a softer field this week...ALWAYS IN FLIGHT set a pressured pace and drew clear to beat weaker gamely and may be tough again...

RACE 10
2 GEM QUALITY 8-5
3 MANOLETE 2-1
7 ZEPPOLE HANOVER 5-2
5 ITS SATURDAY NIGHT 4-1

GEM QUALITY qualified well for a good layoff barn and has a class edge here. It's hard to say what kind of drive he'll get, as top driver Dexter Dunn often isn't that aggressive with horses coming off layoffs...MANOLETE was a solid 2yo who has the potential to be a sub 1:50 pacer. He looks well prepped with two good qualifiers for return and could be fastest here. This is a similar situation to Gem Quality, as talented driver Scott Zeron often isn't that aggressive with horses coming off layoffs...ZEPPOLE HANOVER looks like the one to catch...ITS SATURDAY NIGHT finished gamely in his first start back; Dunn took the 2 over this one.

RACE 11
6 DEAN B HANOVER 9-5
1 BELMONT ROYALE N 2-1
10 JOEMIKIYOURSOFINE 7-2
7 DE LA HOYA HOVER 8-1

RACE 12 10 HERVEY HANOVER 8-5 3 I'LL HUNT YOUR DOWN 5-2 4 WARRAWEE TOTAL 7-2 6 ROCKIN THE ACES 4-1

RACE 13
2 BOLD SPIRIT 7-2
9 LITE N SWEET 4-1
4 FOX VALLEY REN 9-2
10 BAILEYS ROCK N 10-1

RACE 14
7 SUNSHINE'S FINEST 2-1
3 NATIONAL SPORT 2-1
5 CAPTAIN PLANET 6-1
6 HOUND ON THE BEACH 6-1

BEST BET: BOBCAT BAY 8th Race

1st Race

3 A STREAKIN SIN TACHA 10 NO MANDATES 4 HER MAJESSTY 7 MTS UNO DOS TREIS

2nd Race

10 RED IRON 6 THIS EAGLES ARMED 1 MR KASH WAGON 8 SHE LOOKS POLITICAL

3rd Race

4 SKYLINE KING 7 WOOPAA 9 DANCE HAWL GAL 5 SR DARK STORM

4th Race

10 COWBOYS GUN Z 8 AB BOOGIE 5 LIBERTY FOR JESS 2 BELIEVE IN PERRY

5th Race

9 CURLS JOYFUL WAGON
10 FIRST TIME FOR WINE
3 I GOT THISS
1 HALLMARKE
6th Race
4 DR AMERICAS DYNASTY
10 PEVS CANDY P
3 GODZ SPEED
5 DING DANG DULCE

7th Race

10 CARLS MAGIC WAGON 4 RELENTLESS PURRSUIT 8 IMA FANCY EYE OPENER 9 OKIE POWER

8th Race

2 TELL SASHAY SHES HOT 8 MERKABA 10 FAMOUS N RELENTLESS 9 DR URBAN COWBOY

9th Race

6 RGS GOLD WAGON 9 ONE STOLIN EAGLE 3 HOOKED N GONE 5 CARDIAC COWBOY

10th Race

4 ENTICE ME ONA MONDAY 10 FLYING JOY 1 9 IMA BIGG FLASH 2 JAMIES SIN TACHA

11th Race

9 FLASHIN DYNAMITE 3 EYESA WAGON MY TALE 2 JOLIE LAIDE 4 APOLLITICAL MUSE

12th Race

8 TOASTIN HEROS 10 VALIANT PAINTED SIGN 9 FLYING WRANGLER 5 RELENTLESS AMERICAN

TODAY'S BEST BET ENTICE ME ONA MONDAY (10th)

PICK FIVE

(Races 1-5)
3-10 with 10-6 with 4-7-9-5 with 10-8-5 with 9-10 (\$48)

PREMIER PICK FOUR

(Races 2-5) 10-6 with 4-7-9-5 with 10-8-5 with 9-10-3 (\$36)

PINNACLE PICK FOUR

(Races 6-9) 4-10-3 with 10-4-8 with 2-8-10-9 with 6-9 (\$36)

PRIMETIME PICK FOUR

(Races 9-12) 6-9-3-5 with 4 with 9-3-2-4 with 8-10-9-5 (\$32)

5TH 9-CURLS JOYFUL WAGON crushed in her return to the surface when cruhing a solid group when earning a super figure for the level. Will be triple tough to beat with a repeat.

7TH 10-CARLS MAGIC WAGON went well for 3rd in the Texas Classic Futurity weh earning a solid figure that's best in here and she'll improve in her 2 year old debut tonight.

9TH 6-RGS GOLD WAGON improved immensely in her last when crushing while earning a quality figure that's best in here and we'll see if the small barned runner can do it with the Bigger Money on the Line.

10TH 4-ENTICE ME ONA MONDAY won well in the career debut when earning this events top number on my charts with all factored in for a top-notch barn.

Los Alamitos (9:05)

1ST			
1) 6-TOO TALL TO CALL	7ТН		
2) 4- MR. DREAMCYCLE	1) 7-BEUTEEFUL		
3) 2-SPEED OF THE NILE	2) 8-CORONAS STRAWFINDER		
	3) 3-HOCKRODD		
2ND			
3-GRAZEN SUN	8ТН		
6-TO SPEIGHT HER	1) 8-ELMER ROMERO		
3) 2-PERFECT D	2) 7-WALE UP LIL SUZE		
	3) 5-HI OCTANE		
3RD -	•		
1) 1-FAVORITE TERRA	9ТН		
2) 6-SHINE ELLYN	1) 8-SR KOOLKORONA		
3) 5-KISS MY JACKPOT	2) 4-SHINNING FAVORITE		
	3) 1-COWGIRL NELLIE ,		
4TH			
1) 8-POWERFUL WISE LADY	10TH		
2) 10-EBW INCEPTION	1) 8-WINDING		
3) 3-MAMBACITA	2) 7-LEAVIN THE CARTEL		
	3) 2-BILLIONAIRE BEHAVIOR		
5TH			
1) 1-BEYOND REPAIR	11TH		
2) 6-SENTELLA OLIMPIA	1) 5-TRIDENT IOT		
3) 8-VAL BABY	2) 7-DONTELLMOMMA		
бТН	3) 8-VAL FUTURE		
1) 4-SEPARARIST TORNADO			
2) 3-AB CORONA SE REY	12TH		
3) 7-DULCIFIED	1) 7-ERROR CODE		
	2) 6-SPARKS B FLYING		

RACE 7 the 7th of 12 quality filled well matched this Saturday Evening of Racing for an up and coming shed-row that's seemingly loaded with runners this Monster of a Runner was sooo impressive in the career debut as the deserved favorite after prepping super for debut. # 7-BEUTEEFUL was scary in the the first effort 21 nights ago when breaking on top and extending without taking a deep breath or even asked a drop throughout. The figure earned is easily best in this affair and all the trials for that matter.

3) 2-CANDY EYED SUZE

Race 10, the # 8-WINDING is a nice sized runner who showed some ability in the morning and was a late running 3rd in the troubled career debut 21 nights ago. He broke slow and was crossed to lose almost two lengths and her racing lane. After the tough getaway, the long-strider showed a nice turn off foot to the wire which proceeded a solid gallop out. Look for an improved effort here.