



BELMONT @ SARATOGA

POST 12:40

By Mike Beer

/David Aragona

First Race 2. Awakened 1. Carloun 3. Auction Kingdom

AWAKENED made it 2 for 2 over this distance when taking a Grade 1 over this course two summers ago, then chased leading jumper Snap Decision in his next two starts; was last seen racing wide without urgency in a race that was dominated up front. CARLOUN got good when he started using his speed last year and won three in a row, culminating with a Grade 1 win at Middleburg; needs to rebound in his second start back after tiring to finish behind three of these same rivals last time. AUCTION KINGDOM has been first or second in eight of his eleven career starts over hurdles; stretches back out after closing for second behind SULTAN PIERJI last month going shorter.

Second Race 5. Train the Trainer 1. Soontobeking Prince Valiant

TRAIN THE TRAINER made his career debut in a super-live MSW in California and acquitted himself quite well in that spot while finishing second to Goal Oriented. TRAIN THE TRAINER was one of five next-out winners from that affair, and third-place finisher Sierra Silver (who he was dueling with) finished second in his next start with a 95 Beyer; shipped here to face fellow state-breds for his second start and took no prisoners while racing off his main rival to score convincingly in the mud; forward to go.. SOONTOBEKING took advantage of a softened-up MO PLEX when winning the Gander two starts back over a mile; had to stay closer in that short field last time and was only second-best to up-and-comer PRINCE VALIANT; at his best when able to sit back and make a run.

Third Race 1. Bodegas * Best Bet * 7. No Ordinary Love 4. Miss Im Pulsive

BODEGAS had her debut rained off and appeared to gain valuable experience in that spot while chasing wide and looking green throughout behind an impressive winner; homebred filly has a lot of grass in her pedigree, and she is eligible to improve quickly with that debut run out of the way. NO ORDINARY LOVE is a newcomer by versatile sire Maclean's Music (13% with firsters, 15% with turf sprinters), who also imparts speed to his offspring; dam More Than Love was a Grade 3 winner on grass, and she has dropped three turf winners already; Abreu is typically reliable with first-time starters, and is 5 for 28 with debuting turf sprinters over five years (18%, \$2.28 ROI). Diminutive filly MISS IM PULSIVE made her debut here 18 days ago on dirt, where she showed speed after bumping at the start and was only second-best to an experienced rival; Into Mischief filly has a versatile pedigree (dam won over all three surfaces), and switches right over to grass for new trainer Green, who is off to an excellent start and is 2 for 2 with turf sprinters so far.

Fourth Race 8. Bank Frenzy 1. Mama's Gold 5. Drake's Passage

BANK FRENZY is probably best going a bit shorter, though he has run well in both prior starts over this distance, including a runnerup effort in last year's Empire Classic with a 97 Beyer that matches his career best; steps back in class after trying a Grade 3 to no avail last month, and he is not pace and/or trip dependent. MAMA'S GOLD was a huge price when defeating the top one in the Empire Classic last October with a big 103 Beyer, and he seemed to confirm that effort was no fluke when he came right back to win again with a 102; owns dangerous speed from the rail as he cuts back to his best distance, and his recent form might not be as bad as it appears. DRAKE'S PASSAGE has run a couple of fast races along the way, including that 99 Beyer effort winning this race last summer; he also won the Albany over this track and trip as a 3yo; recent form has not been good, but he is second off the layoff for this with a top effort that gives him a chance.

Fifth Race 2. Pay the Juice 4. Sounds Like a Plan 10. The Paddock Pastor

PAY THE JUICE made a promising debut here sprinting last summer when racing wide and getting bumped late behind stakes-quality turf sprinter Out on Bail; thought he ran better than it looks in the turf route debut at Gulfstream when giving away early position while facing a strong field, and he was taken back from his outside draw last time, before electing to stay toward the inside for the stretch behind an impressive winner; might be set to offer an improved effort as he moves to an inside post with Prat returning. SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN got loose on the lead while dominating his turf debut as a 2yo, then made his next two starts in open stakes company, acquitting himself well both times; not sure how good that Woodhaven was as a race overall, as all seven of them were closely bunched at the wire, but he was first-back from the layoff in that spot, and this is still a step back in class. THE PADDOCK PASTOR has finished up well to no avail in each of his last two starts, including that last; going good now but needs a trip.

Sixth Race 7 Kay Cup 2 Bernieandtherose 1 Storm Changer

KAY CUP ran well in her lone juvenile appearance up here going this distance last summer while not aggressively ridden; returned to post an easy maiden win and a field-best 83 Beyer off the layoff; still has plenty of room to improve. BERNIEANDTHEROSE has yet to earn a breakout figure, but she has been convincing during the current four-race winning streak, which includes back-to-back stakes victories; handy sort won't be compromised by pace, and she appears to be training forwardly up to this following a brief freshening.. STORM CHANGER was no match for BERNIEANDTHEROSE two back going a mile, but had made it close with that rival one start prior going this distance; rebounded to win the Park Avenue last time in the mud, and she did not luck into that victory while carrying a long run from off the pace, before coming wide.

Seventh Race 4 Be of Courage 9 Hush of a Storm 7 Ruse 10 Born Dancer

The pace scenario should also benefit some price horses, of which Be of Courage is the one I want to bet. This horse has never attempted a stakes before, but he has gradually improved over the course of his career and seems ready for this step up in class now as a 5-year-old. He hinted at possessing this kind of ability when he crossed the wire first, only to be controversially disqualified, in October of 2023. His 2024 campaign was unfortunately cut short after a strong second to today's rival. It's all coming together in a paceless race in May. However, he returned after a year away and seemed to pick right up where he left off, closing resolutely to beat a solid allowance field last month. He stands to move forward second off the layoff, and he should be a square price due to the low-profile connections. HUSH OF A STORM was impressive defeating allowance rivals on turf here last July from the back, then ran over stakes rivals two starts later with another strong finish; last faced fellow state-breds in the Mohawk, where he got trapped inside behind now multiple Grade 1-winner Spirit of St Louis; has run well on all three surfaces but is best on the grass, and this is the right kind of spot. RUSE has also been facing some tougher open rivals recently, and exits a no-chance trip in the pace-dominated Appleton at Gulfstream; last two starts with NY-bred company came in consecutive runnings of the Mohawk, where he warned Beyers of 92 and 87 finishing behind Spirit of St Louis.

Eighth Race 1. Sterling Silver 2. Landed 3. Amanda's Folly

STERLING SILVER and LANDED look like the main protagonists in this running of the Critical Eye, though both are probably best going a bit shorter than this. We'll see if distance is the deciding factor, as they both fairly tower over their competition here, particularly the former. STERLING SILVER was best sprinting early on, but she has handled a mile without issue recently, and she might have been best in the Empire Distaff over this trip last October when out-moved by the eventual winner and then winding up having to rally up the rail late; the one to beat. LANDED had the advantage of an easy lead on a moderate pace when winning the Fleet Indian over this track and distance as a 3yo; her win in the seven-furlong Bouwerie prior to that was a stronger effort while forced to contest a strong pace throughout; prefer her going shorter around one turn, but she still has room to improve. AMANDA'S FOLLY has proved to be an excellent claim for these connections while winning five times from eight to ten furlongs.

Ninth Race 9. Brocknardini 5. Awesome Czech 10. Whatlovelookslike

BROCKNARDINI made an impressive debut on this course as a 2yo, then overpowered open stakes rivals in her final start of that campaign as though she might have a future; she only started four times last year, and was only second-best in the two starts against NY-breds while trying to rally from far back both times; still isn't a made horse, and she is bred to get better with time; trying her at a price with Prat returning. AWESOME CZECH defeated the top one fair and square in a stakes race over this course and distance last summer, and hasn't faced NY-breds since; good effort off the layoff last time when falling just short of the streaking Scarlet Poppy, who was taking her fourth straight; tactical and consistent filly has won each of her last three starts vs state-bred competition and is 2 for 2 at Saratoga. WHATLOVELOOKSLIKE has concentrated on longer distances recently while trying graded stakes company; she has enough speed to handle cutting back.

Tenth Race 5. Spirit of the Law 1. Sir Oscar 11. Sir Lawrence

SPIRIT OF THE LAW improved with added distance - and a surface switch - when finishing gamely in his two most recent starts while facing open company; still has plenty of room to move forward, though he might not need to improve much in this spot as he steps back in with fellow NY-breds, and this is the surface he is bred for. SIR OSCAR took a nice step forward last time when facing a strong field of open maidens at Tampa

David Aragona -Spot Plays for Bel @ Saratoga - Wednesday

RACE 3 It's pretty easy to make a case for multiple runners in this state-bred maiden turf sprint. The one horse I'm mildly against is ML favorite **Miss Im Pulsive (#4)**. She ran a reasonably fast race on debut, but now attempts to switch over to turf. While she does have some pedigree for this surface, her turf-winning dam was more successful on synthetic and dirt, winning stakes on each of those surfaces. This filly is quite small, and has one of the shortest, choppiest strides I've ever seen, not a characteristic you typically associate with turf success. She's not for me. My top pick is a horse switching back to turf. **Lady Delilah (#8)** ran like a filly who needed her debut last summer, which is the case for nearly all James Ferraro trainees. Yet she put forth a strong effort in her second start over this course and distance, closing strongly up the inside even when that wasn't the best place to be on the Mellon turf late in the meet. That was a reasonably strong race for the level, and any routine improvement on that performance makes her a major player here. I don't care about her turf route last season since she's a sprinter, and I'm encouraged that she actually did some running in her return on dirt last time even though she doesn't care for that surface. *Fair Value:* **#5 LADY**

DELILAH, at 8-1 or greater

RACE 4 Perhaps this race is as simple as **Bank Frenzy (#8)** getting back into New York-bred company where he's won 5 of his last 6 starts with one second. That lone loss against state-breds did come at this distance in last year's Empire Classic where he was unable to catch today's rival **Mama's Gold (#1)**, who wired the field on the front end. Bank Frenzy has clearly been in much better form than Mama's Gold since then, winning four consecutive races before failing to produce his best form against open company in the Weschester last time. He's a formidable rival for everyone in this field, but I was mildly disappointed in that last effort and don't think he has as much margin for error as some may expect. If I'm going to beat the favorite, I want to do so with **Locke and Key (#6)** at what should be a better price than all of those other alternatives. Distance may also be a concern for this guy in the minds of some handicappers. However, Locke and Key has always struck me as the kind of horse who should relish added distance. He was campaigned as a turf marathoner early in his career, and has handled this distance on turf as recently as last summer. He has primarily raced over shorter distances in his dirt races, but he finished strongly going a mile in January and was staying on behind Bank Frenzy at that distance last time. He has the stride length and physical attributes of a horse who should love this distance, and he's proven he doesn't have to come from so far back if the pace is moderate.

Fair Value: **#6 LOCKE AND KEY, at 6-1 or greater**

RACE 5

I view **Sounds Like a Plan (#4)** as the horse to beat in this state-bred allowance, but I'm concerned he may not be much of a price after running well against open company stakes horses last time. I want to go in a different direction with **Leon Blue (#8)** as he returns to turf. This runner showed talent during his two-year-old season, finishing second to a pair of stakes winners in each of his first two starts. He probably could have won his debut over the classy Out on Bail if not for a poor start. He then set a fast pace when run down by Jack and Jim when he stretched out to this distance. He got in a prep when he returned in April, staying in even when the race was rained off the turf. He appears to be much more of a turf horse, but he won on dirt anyway, suggesting that he's returned in strong form. Stretching out should allow him to use his speed, and believe he still has upside getting back to this surface.

Fair Value: **#8 LEON BLUE, at 6-1 or greater**

RACE 8 Sterling Silver (#8) is obviously the best horse in this Critical Eye from a talent standpoint, but the distance still poses an interesting question to handicappers. How much is her edge in talent diminished going 9 furlongs? She has handled distances beyond a mile in the past, but she only tried a two-turn 1 1/8 miles on one occasion, when she lost as the 3-5 favorite in the Empire Distaff last year. She was beaten that day by Venti Valentine, who was more accomplished than any of her rivals in this field. Yet it does call into question how short a price you really want to take on a favorite who is running outside of her ideal distance range. I had initially thought Landed was an interesting alternative, but she is expected to scratch, according to reporting from Dave Grening. I will instead turn to **Bernietakescharge (#9)** as the alternative to bet. No, I don't trust her to repeat that 119 TimeformUS Speed Figure she achieved winning the Heavenly Prize two starts back. There appeared to be a moderate rail bias on Feb. 22, which she rode to an exaggerated victory. Her surrounding efforts make it seem like that performance was a total fluke, but I think that's an oversimplification. It's easy to excuse her subsequent effort when losing to Sterling Silver in the Biogio's Rose, since Bernietakescharge has never cared for a wet track. Her winning speed figure on Jan. 11 didn't foreshadow what was to come, but that is a race from which multiple horses have returned to improve significantly, suggesting it may have been a better race than it appeared at the time. Bernietakescharge had previously run her career-best race going this 9-furlong distance last October, so she's perhaps the only horse in this field that moves up as the distances get longer. *Fair Value:* **#9 BERNIETAKESCHARGE, at 5-1 or greater**



Post (12:35)

RACE

- 1 9-2-8
- 2 4-6-3
- 3 6-10-7
- 4 7-3-1
- 5 8-9-5
- 6 2-4-5
- 7 9-4-5
- 8 6-3-1

Race 4: (7) FEROCIOUSNESS - in from Maryland for Jamie Ness – who's only won 12 of 26 at this meet. Drops in class and broke her maiden over this surface last year.

Race 7: (9) MASSIF- GELDING RETURNS FROM A LAYOFF AND HAS BEEN TRAINING WELL FOR HIGH PERCENTAGE BARN WHICH HAS GOOD NUMBERS WITH HORSES OFF LONG LAYOFFS



BELTERRA PARK (12:35)

1. 5-2-3

2. 1-3-2

3. 4-3-5

4. 6-1-3

5. 7-1-5

6. 5-3-2

7. 3-1-7

8. 3-7-6-1

Best Bet : Race 4 # 6 SAVE THE BEES

Churchill Downs (12:45) -Wed.

BY MARCUS HERSH

1st

2 Eerie's Song

3 Keeping the Faith

1 Watch Me Now

2nd

3 No No Joe

5 Lend It Tewmey

8 Vitement

3rd

8 Reign Champagne

4 Evermore

2 Rush to Glory

4th

7 Mighty Risky

5 Give Her Another

4 Sheila

5th

11 Divine Gal

4 Beelieve Her

2 Princess Pom Pom

6th

3 Cue the Duckboats

7 Royal Suite

1 Kimber Spice

7th

8 Summonyourcourage

3 Googol Joke

6 Airborne Elite

8th

8 B D Valeski

3 Edge to Edge

9 Test Factor

6 That's Right

Race 2 NO NO JOE can make amends for his narrow defeat last time .

Race 6 # 3 CUE THE DUCKBOATS has shown ability so far, looks set to graduate from the maiden ranks today.



POST 12:50

1. 2-1-4
2. 5-4-3
3. 5-7-3
4. 2-3-4
5. 1-3-6
6. 2-6-1
7. 7-1-5
8. 1-2-4-5

Best Bet

Race 5 # 1 Its Official

Pick 3 Play : Race 3 : 5,7 / 2,3 / 1

Wheeling Greyhounds (Post 1:00)



1st 1 5 8 3

2ND 5 1 8 2

3RD 6 5 2 8

4TH 8 3 6 4

5TH 3 4 7 2

6TH 7 1 8 3

7TH 7 1 4 8

8TH 3 2 8 5

9TH 3 2 6 4

10TH 5 7 3 4

11TH 2 5 7 3

12TH 3 8 6 5

13TH 8 6 1 3

14TH 6 1 8 2

15TH 1 7 4 6

16TH 7 3 5 2

17TH 5 6 2 3

Best Bets :

7-1 DD CASH IN

9-3 KWIK AMBER

14-6 UNBOUND SPIRIT

LAKE'S LUCKY PICKS

FINGER LAKES RACETRACK SELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY JUNE 04, 2025

(1:00)

Lake's Lucky Picks uses years in the horse racing business and horse sense to regularly track runners, see trends and watch each race, in an effort to provide you with a greater insight on racing from Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack.

RACE	#	HORSE	COMMENTS
1	5	SHE'S A FREUD	STRONG GATE-TO-WIRE CANDIDATE
	3	TROUBLED LUCK	GETS TESTED AFTER DEFEATING CLAIMERS
	1	LOVE THYSELF	CAN HANG AROUND TO BE IN THE TOP THREE
2	6	TROJAN MULE	NEEDS TO KEEP A STRAIGHT COURSE
	4	SOLO ACT	FIRST TIME STARTER HAS SOME UPSIDE
	1	THE SAXON STORY	ANOTHER TOP THREE FINISH LIKELY
3	3	SWEET ANNIVERSARY	HAS NEVER LOST AT FINGER LAKES
	2	FABULOUS FOX	RAN BETTER WHEN RETURNING TO THUMB
	4	JACKSON AVENUE	MIGHT BE BETTER THAN REST TO LAND IN TRI
4	5	DEVIL OR ANGEL	BIG THREAT DROPPING AND STRETCHING OUT
	1	ENTRY	TWO LOGICAL PLAYERS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE
	4	RECKLESS PLACE	SHOULD EASILY HANDLE THE REST
5	6	MAMA'S MIDDLE	HAS FACED BETTER IN THE PAST
	1A	GRAY HAired GUS	WAS TAKEN TOO FAR BACK IN DEBUT
	3	SWEET JULIAN	BOUNCES BACK AFTER DISAPPOINTING EFFORT
6	1	IRON MAN IRA	THE ONE TO CATCH FROM RAIL POSITION
	5	ICE TIME	HAS TO BE CONSIDERED AT REDUCED LEVEL
	7	TIZ DONEGAL	WELL-BRED GELDING IS NOT OUT OF IT
7	6	ANNUNCIATE	IMPRESSIVE IN MAIDEN WIN, COMES RIGHT BACK
	7	SHAMAN PRINCESS	FITS NICELY WITH DECENT FORM IN NEW YORK
	5	BALD KITTEN	WILL BE HOPING FOR ANOTHER OFF TRACK
8	6	SIGMUND'S DREAM	SLIGHT EDGE IN WIDE OPEN FINALE
	1	ONLY IN MY DREAMS	MOVES TO RAIL AND IMPROVES IN 2ND START
	2	BANKER MURRAY	HAS A CHANCE TO HIT BOARD AT A PRICE

RACE **#** **BEST BET**
1 **5** **SHE'S A FREUD**

RACE **#** **LIVE LONGSHOT**
8 **2** **BANKER MURRAY**

The selections are purely recommendations, and success is not a guarantee. Track surface conditions, scratches, and other factors may change and can affect the way the selections would be made. Watch the TV broadcast for further updates. Bet with your head, not over it

INDIANA GRAND - POST 2:10



1. 5-10-2

2. 1-4-2

3. 4-1-5

4. 10-3-5

5. 11-1-9

6. 5-8-9

7. 3-10-2

8. 3-1-10

9. 3-5-1

Best Bets : RACE 2 # 1 SKIPPINJUSTICE

RACE 7 # 3 THE KID PATAKY

Indy – All Turf P-3 - RACE 2 1 / 3,10 / 5,8

Bangor Raceway -post 3:00



By Lucky Lou

1. 2-3-1

2. 5-3-2

3. 5-2-4

4. 5-2-4

5. 1-5-2

6. 3-2-6

7. 5-3-4

8. 1-2-5

9. 8-6-2

10 2-1-4

Best Bets :

Race 5. # 1 Venice Blue Chip

Gets an improved post coming off a mile

Where he paced a 57.4 last half to miss

By just a half length

Race 8 # 1 Urika Blue Chip

Moves all the way inside off a pair of races from
posts 7, and 8

Gelding is overdue due to find the winners circle

Pick 3 Play :

Race 5 : 1 / 2,3 / 3,5

Harrington (Post 4:30)

Race 1 – 6-7-1

Race 2 – 5-2-6

Race 3 – 1-2-4

Race 4 – 4-3-6

Race 5 – 4-5-8

Race 6 – 1-3-5

Race 7 – 4-5-3

Race 8 – 6-1-2

Race 9 – 6-8-1

Race 10 – 3-5-6

Race 11 – 3-2-6

Race 12 – 1-4-5

Race 13 – 1-7-3



Assiniboia Downs

GAMING & EVENT CENTRE

POST 8:30

Race 1 Rolling Double/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
3	Spike It Rich	Dario Dalrymple 4/5	Solid choice here.
1	Moonman Rules	Mathew Bennett 7/5	Rates as runner up.
2	Just Speculating	Ciera Pruitt 10/1	Can grab the show.

AT THE WIRE: 3 - 1 - 2 Horse to watch: 5 Little Eddie

Race 2 Rolling Double/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
5	Diamond Concerto	Damario Bynoe 2/1	Call in a scramble.
2	Hangin' Tuff	Sven Balroop 8/5	Appears the main danger.
3	Respect the Union	Neville Styephenson 4/1	Chance at a share.

AT THE WIRE: 5 - 2 - 3 Horse to watch: 4 Lucky Appeal

Race 3 Rolling Double/.20 ASD Jackpot Pick 5/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
2	Meko Makee	Renaldo Cumberbatch 7/5	Opener was impressive.
3	Audace	Ciera Pruitt 5/2	Will make a late rally.
5	Magnolia Speed	Damario Bynoe 2/1	Could take it all.

AT THE WIRE: 2 - 3 - 5 Horse to watch: 6 Ethan's Animal

Race 4 Double/\$1 Pick 4 (\$50K Guaranteed) /.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
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1	Slew's Bak	Dario Dalrymple	8/5 Will improve off last race.
4	Blackteca	Sven Balroop	5/2 The one to catch.
3	Dare to Endure	Antonio Whitehall	9/2 Can pull the upset.

AT THE WIRE: 1 - 4 - 3Horse to watch: 2 Ratliff City

Race 5 Rolling Double/.20 Pick 3/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
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3	Sophia's Storm	Sven Balroop	6/5 Solid win in local debut.
1	Mechanic Susie	Antonio Whitehall	2/1 Works say she's ready.
2	Sherlyn Go GoPrayven Badrie		8/1 Chance at a price.

AT THE WIRE: 3 - 1 - 2Horse to watch: 5 Halfinthewrapper

Race 6 Rolling Double / \$1 Classic Hi-5/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
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3	Lemon Twist	Mathew Bennett	5/2 Class drop will help.
6	Silver Blur	Sven Balroop	5/1 Fits with this group.
1	Bettermakethattwo	Neville Stephenson	8/5 Returns off an extended layoff.

AT THE WIRE: 3 - 6 - 1Horse to watch: 4 Distinct Tale

Race 7 \$1 Classic Hi-5/.20 Superfecta/.20 Triactor/Exactor

Program #	Horse Name	Jockey M/L	Comments
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3	Welcometohollywood	Dario Dalrymple	5/2 Arrives fit and ready.
5	Casually Classy	Damario Bynoe	12/1 Longshot with a chance.
4	McGill	Sven Balroop	3/1 Chance at a share.

AT THE WIRE: 3 - 5 - 4Horse to watch: 8 Linda's Map