

Ellis Park

Race by Race Analysis

Sunday, July 10 – Race Day 6

FIRST – Most of the field has run at least fifteen times to come up with elusive second career win, but I landed on the horse with the fewest starts, ITS OVER BABY. Texas-bred 3-year old got the maiden win last fall first time out then tried tough allowance company at Oaklawn. He returned to claiming company and ran good 3rd in a full field. His last race was on sloppy track and he set the pace last race and folded. Trainer Randy Morse wins 25% with similar 60-day layoff types and looks like the easiest field BABY has faced so far. LEFLORE COUNTY has never run at this \$7500 level; took twelve tries to break the maiden, claimed from that race at Oaklawn top connections tried him a few tougher spots and logical here to have an impact. GREELY IS BACK has enough early speed to get the lead and hold on for a piece.

Selections **9-5-8-4**

SECOND – TOTAL IMMERSION hasn't found the winner's circle this year but been very consistent. Three starts at Indiana after being claimed for \$5000 at Oaklawn have seen him run 2nd twice and 3rd once. Trainer Kellyn Gorder enlists 10-pound apprentice and he'll have to work out a trip from the rail but encouraged to see two morning works since the last start. He moves up even further if track comes up sloppy. KOWBOY KODY is one of only two in the field with a win at Ellis but most recent success has come in longer races, only 1-for-21 at today's ¾ mile; probably best underneath. CALL ME RED has been getting a check in most recent races, including good effort at Belterra two weeks ago; gets hot rider from opening weekend Didier Osorio but more likely in one of the minor spots. Only horse in the field to come in off a win is STORMIN GREELEY; Goncalves is back aboard.

Selections **2-6-3-5**

THIRD – ELLIO was 2nd and 3rd in most recent starts at Churchill and conditions of this race are a little easier than the last two open \$5000 claiming races. He's got enough speed to be in the mix early from the outside post and could be on the lead. Three others in today's field ran behind him in that last race, including PERFECTLY AT HOME. He hasn't shown much in three starts after being claimed but easier group he's facing today. KAMCHATKA makes just his second start of the year; first try was sprinting at Fairmont but he's better going longer and last dirt race at a mile was a win in his last start of 2015.

Selections **7-2-6-3**

FOURTH – KIAWAH'S WARRIOR is the ultimate horse for a course, he's four wins in four starts on the Ellis grass. His 2016 races aren't real good but if you believe in déjà vu, came in off a similar pattern last year to win three straight races here, all as the favorite, all with today's rider Osorio aboard. Wesley Ward trained horses in turf sprints seldom offer much value and MATAR could be favored here, even though it's been a year since he won. Gulfstream turf races were ok given the long layoff and the two polytrack races at Arlington didn't inspire but he is back on best surface at a level he hasn't faced on the grass. SMOKIN AFTER FUN hasn't raced in almost a year but best two starts in 2015 were right here at Ellis turf sprinting. 5-year old gelding ran very good last time he came back from a similar layoff.

Selections **9-3-1-8**

FIFTH – ETIQUETTE has shown improvement when stretched out last two starts, she was 2nd as beaten favorite in a large field at Churchill last out going 7/8th and before that 3rd going today's mile. I like her running style for the one mile configuration here, fast enough to get the lead or maybe sit just off FORECAST who comes in off a couple of sprints. Gainesway homebred FORECAST has been favored two of her three starts and both runner-up tries were going short; one try at a mile ran behind the top pick and not sure what the excuse was but has worked four times since then, including nice 5/8th breeze two weeks ago. A little surprising to see Asmussen 'go to' rider Ricardo Santana jump off this filly and land on MAJESTIC ISLAND who showed promise when 2nd in a short field at her debut at Indiana; any improvement puts her in the mix. REBELLE was a \$370,000 yearling purchase and tries dirt first time today after five turf races.

Selections **3-5-1-7**

SIXTH – NOMINAL DOLLARS was claimed two starts back by trainer Joe Sharp and first race for new connections was a solid 3rd in a similar starter allowance race at Churchill. He ran his best speed figure in that effort and it was at today's 7/8th mile distance. He came from off the pace and looks like plenty of early speed in here to help with late run. MOON GATE WARRIOR won going longer last start when dropped into claiming ranks, which made him eligible for this race. Runner-up from that race already came back to win and Jesus Castanon, up today was aboard for the win. AMERICAN ROMA was less than a length behind the top pick here in that Churchill race; races a little closer to the pace and don't think the rail post helps. Trainer Steve Asmussen enters a filly to face the boys. ERVSAYSLEATHERGO won nicely from an outside post in a full field of twelve at Oaklawn; off since that April 15 race, shows lots of morning works but would need career best here.

Selections **8-10-1-3**

SEVENTH – Hall of Fame trainer D Wayne Lukas was selected to train for the Churchill Downs Racing Club a unique opportunity that lets hundreds of people invest small amounts and experience thoroughbred ownership. Colt ran ok his only start, showed a little early zip then flattened out to finish 5th in a field of 7. He adds Lasix today and two published works since that start on June 16. The experience of having a race should help, half the field here making their first start. The two debut runners drawn outside ARTFUL UNION and ARCH FLASH both come from outfits to win regularly with first time runners. SIR DOUGLAS adds blinkers today for second start.

Selections **6-8-9-2**

EIGHTH – First level allowance going a mile on the main track attracted a nice field of eleven. MORNING BUZZ has stepped up and run three very good races all at today's distance. He's got tactical speed to sit just off the early speed and a good post on the inside. Five weeks off after two tough, close up finishes and should be ready, worked five times since then. STARSHIP ZEUS returned from a 3-month layoff to be well beaten 3rd on the grass but dirt looks like better surface for him and both his wins have been going a mile; he'll be passing horses late but see him just a cut below the top pick here. FIRE MISSION just missed at a mile last race against high level claimers at Churchill after racing only in sprints for the last year.

Selections **2-3-4-1**

NINTH – SNARE breaks from the rail in this one mile turf maiden claimer. Trainer Joe Sharp drops him in for \$7500 after showing speed and tiring late against a group for \$25,000 at Indiana. He adds blinkers today, should save all the ground from the inside and see him going gate to wire. PURELY GRATEFUL is another class dropper and 4-year old regressed last two races going long on the main track; best race was debut effort on grass when beaten just five lengths in a tough group at Churchill. MR SENSIBILITY becomes the first horse this summer to make his second Ellis start; he was decent 4th against a slightly tougher field opening day and wouldn't need a lot of improvement to have an impact. Longshot play would be CATCH THE FEELING, off for a year after only making one start; trainer Dane Kobiskie having good meet down at Gulfstream and has a couple to run here this summer; strong ROI for layoff horses and maidens dropping to claiming races.

Selections **1-2-5-4**