

Ellis Park

Race by Race Analysis

Sunday, July 3 – Race Day 2

FIRST – Maiden fillies for \$10,000 on the turf. REMEMBER ROSIE ran her best race in four lifetime starts last out her only try on the grass. She ran 4th in a slow time over yielding course at Arlington for twice this claiming price. Trainer Ben Colebrook names a 10 pound apprentice to ride and would need just a little improvement off last race to have a shot here. Impeccably bred MY SUGAR CAT tried maiden special weight races four times with no success now drops to the bottom; trainer Steve Margolis numbers good with the maiden drop angle winning 30% over last year. CAPE PROMISE was 4th at Churchill when dropped to this level last time going a mile on dirt and surface change back to grass should help her. KELLY BELLY KID has had a lot of chances, 0-for-18 but was 2nd last time at this claiming price.

Selections **3-1-2-10**

SECOND – HALO NOT INCLUDED makes just his third lifetime start and comes in off a win at Churchill six weeks ago for twice this claiming price. Trainer Chris Richard had good meet in Louisville and he and jockey Corey Lanerie have had good success last year, winning at over 35%. 3 year old colt has been low priced favorite in both his races, debut race when 3rd produced three next out winners and drop in for lower tag consistent with perennial leading owner Midwest Thoroughbreds pattern. Main threat looks like EMMETT'S DREAM making first start for new connections after being claimed at Churchill for \$8,000. Not worried so much about six week layoff as trainer points to this meet and top two finishers from last have come back to win since that May 19 race. PINK TWICE and OUT OF THE TRAPPE both ran behind EMMETT in that May race.

Selections **8-4-5-7**

THIRD – Nice field for a starter allowance/claiming condition going a mile. I give a slight edge to BEL AIR BULLET; throw out the turf and sloppy track and last five fast track dirt races have been very solid, including good 2nd beaten less than a length at Churchill with today's rider James Graham aboard. He's got good tactical speed for the mile races here and finished couple lengths ahead of what looks like main rival in here, BOLD ICE at Keeneland three starts back. BOLD ICE won last start at Churchill, bit against a short five horse field; he did win at Ellis last summer and been very consistent, just a cut below the top pick. ROYAL DEHERE is a 10-time winner, with a couple of those at a mile and 2nd his only start at Ellis but hasn't seen winners circle lately and seems for likely for minor spot.

Selections **7-6-2-4**

FOURTH – A BAND APART returns from a short layoff here, last race was at Keeneland in April. He broke his maiden at today's distance for \$15,000 then tried some tougher company. Trainer Chris Richard wins almost 25% with layoffs and like the class drop angle. WARCRAFT returns to dirt after poor effort sprinting on the grass; best races have been on dirt and good 2nd two starts back at Indiana. BURLEY BLAISE also drops after couple tries at Churchill for twice this claiming price; trainer/jockey connections Ian Wilkes and Chris Landeros had very successful meet here last summer. SHIP DISTURBER has been close at this level last three starts at Churchill.

Selections **2-8-4-1**

FIFTH – LATE NIGHT ARTIST makes her second start of the year after a six month layoff. She ran fast enough to win this race a couple times last year and though only 1-for-15, been in the money in almost half her turf starts. She's one of only two in the race to win on the grass and today's rider Robby Albarado was aboard for that race. Second start after being claimed by trainer Murat Sancal for GRACEQUINNANNAMADY, she hasn't hit the board in three turf races but takes a class drop from last race and been no worse than 4th last six starts. Her running style puts her far back early and don't think she can run down the winner. TRACK TELLER was a sharp maiden winner for \$10,000 two starts back then crashed when facing winners first time; she'll be among the early leaders and could hold on for a piece.

Selections **8-3-4-9**

SIXTH – First two year old race of the 2016 meet drew a field of eight fillies, including six first time runners. WHATSYOURSIGN is from the first crop of stallion Astrology; he was grade 2 winner as a 2-year old that later ran 3rd in the Preakness. This filly brought \$90,000 in the Ocala March sale and shows steady two month work pattern for trainer Brad Cox, who wins at 22% with first time starters and is over 35% with 2-year olds. LADY HANSEN, by 2-year old champion Hansen was bred by Hansen's owner then sold for \$250,000 at yearling sale last summer. Interesting to see Dr. Hansen, breeder, now owns part of her. Trainer Mike Maker doesn't win at super high rate first time out but can get the job done and this filly's most recent work was best of the day at Churchill training center. ROYAL ASSCHER debuts for trainer Mark Casse, who had couple nice 2-year olds win at the Churchill meet.

Selections **2-6-8-5**

SEVENTH – MISIA SEKIGUCHI won the first four times she raced last summer in Louisiana but hasn't had a repeat since August. She has been no worse than 3rd her last three starts at Indiana, all with today's rider Martin Pedroza aboard. Her best races are from just off the pace and should sit a nice trip just off early speed to her inside. SO MANY DREAMS has been off since Oaklawn but ran good at Ellis last summer and been training here last few months and same is true for OUR ADIEU, part of Benjie Larue entry. OUR ADIEU morning workouts here have been outstanding and it's her first try at bottom claiming level. HONEY C recent form is not good but she's run good at Ellis in the past.

Selections **5-2-1-7**

EIGHTH – Evenly matched field of nine lines up for this first level allowance on the grass. I think the price on ZANDER ZANE to be higher than the 4/1 morning line. He hasn't won on the grass and rider Brian Hernandez, aboard for his last win two starts back opts to ride another horse in this race. His two turf tries this year were better than might look at first glance. February 20 at Gulfstream was first start in nine months, then the April 2 race produced three next out winners. Ideal trip would be just off the early leaders, one of whom figures to be DREAM SEEKER trying the turf first time after two sharp dirt spring races at Churchill. He added blinkers for last race and crushed a short field; plenty of turf pedigree if he can handle the stretch out. DERBY CHAMPAGNE comes in off a front running score on the grass against a full field at Churchill, but looks like there are 2-3 others in this field who also want the lead.

Selections **5-3-1-2**

NINTH – Full field of twelve maiden fillies on the turf and three of the top contenders – SHELBYSMILE, PRUDENCE and CHARMING CLARE - exit the same last race at Indiana on May 31. SHELBY and CLARE were both making initial start and figure to improve with their second race, I give a slight edge to CLARE who broke from outside post that day and was up close most of the way before settling for 3rd. SHELBYSMILE checked in 4th in that race and should save ground here from the rail. PRUDENCE beat both the top two that day, finishing 2nd but she's had eight chances and looks more likely for minor spot again today. BEST GUESS is a first time starter for trainer Brad Cox who can win going long on debut.

Selections **4-1-3-11**