

Race by Race with Ellis Park Analyst, Megan Devine

Race 1:

TRIO OF MISCHIEF is very experienced over the turf at a short distance. Seems well placed for a trainer that does well with horses off of a claim. SHEZA COZY GAL has put up some blazing fast workouts but hasn't won since the beginning of this year. STARSHIP JOURNEY has the most recent success in her races, finishing 2nd and 1st in her last two races. SECRETS OF SUMMER has previously won at higher levels but is winless on the turf.

Selections: 1-3-5-4

Race 2:

RUN DIXIE RUN comes off of a bullet work at Ellis Park. She has one start in late June that should have educated her. SETTING SAIL takes a few steps down in class to join this group. Last workout going 5f at Churchill Downs in under a minute was impressive. RACE READY is one of the more experienced contenders in this race. Has made some closing efforts but has yet to prove himself. STORY ON THE STREET should appreciate the cut back in distance after a failed effort over two turns. Hoping for clean and quite break from the gate.

Selections: 3-5-6-1

Race 3:

ALITTLEBOURBON won wire to wire in her last start and drops down from Maiden Special Weight or higher maiden purse issues with, COLOR ME BLUSH looks like she has the speed numbers to beat this field and she returns to the gate after a solid win on the dirt. STARSHIP AQUARIUS raced here on opening weekend but returns to the track after sitting just off the pace. ELONA won at Ellis Park on opening weekend. She does best in closing style.

Selections: 3-4-6-5

Race 4:

CARDINAL SIN makes his second start since finishing a good 4th. Seems to stand out in this crowd. Additionally, this colt has the highest Tomlinson numbers for turf and distance. CAPE ANGEL will run for Casse and receive first time Lasix. Out of 244 2 year old starts, Mark Casse had won with 20%. TEXAS SKY is trained by Asmussen who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame, has been working at Lone Star but moves up here for his first start, CHARGIN STORM has not been out of the money in his only 2 starts, he seems fit and ready.

Selections: 9-4-5-6

Race 5:

CURLINO impressed with a bullet at Keeneland, working 5f handily from the gate in 59 seconds flat. But, he hasn't raced since November 2015 where he finished 3rd and 1st in his last two starts. He's also the only closer in a field of front runners. A TERRIFIC SHOT only started twice but he's performed well in both. His last race, run at this distance and over the same surface, resulted in a win. ALLIDOISDREAMOFYOU was very competitive at Churchill Downs this summer. He should be sitting just off of the pace in striking zone. WHAT'S YOUR THESIS has also been working lights out for a trainer that really gears up for the Ellis meet. Cutting back in distance since last race, should be comfortable.

Selections: 1-2-5-4

Race 6:

SHUTTER SPEED has consistently performed well while routing on turf and drops in class here. Look for him to come from off of the pace. SUPERSONIC hasn't raced since the Ellis meet last year where he finished 2nd on the grass. He's finished in the money 3 out of 6 times on grass and 2 out of 2 times at this track. MAGIC TRICK has finished in the top 4 in his last 6 starts. Trainer hits at 33% when taking the blinkers off. DERBY FAN tries turf for the first time for a trainer that does well in long turf races. Mike Maker's win percentages are 24% in claiming races and 25% with 31-60 days off.

Selections: 7-1-2-8

Race 7:

It's hard not to like SIGHT READING who closed well for 2nd over 1½ miles at Keeneland this Spring. She moves down a little in class today for her second try over 1^{1/16} miles on the grass. GOOSE LEMON DROP has been very speedy in her morning workouts. She takes a little drop in class, as well, so I'm hoping she can repeat that success in the afternoon. AMERICAN COWGIRL has experience on turf and finished 2nd at Churchill Downs last time out. She'll need to handle the move from a Maiden to a Maiden Special Weight. FRONT ROW DEBBIE typically likes to be on the front end. Look for her to be quick out of the gate and try to hold on over the distance.

Selections: 10-5-3-8

Race 8:

BARBADOS competed in the 2015 G1 Breeders Cup Sprint and most recently won the Pelican Stakes at Tampa. He takes drop in class after a few good tries in graded races. He has raced against the likes of Runhappy and Alsvig, so expect him to be competitive and come from off the pace. SPEIGHTSONG also takes a little step down in class after competing in a few graded stakes. He last won at Oaklawn Park this winter and typically comes flying late. TANNER'S POPSICLE raced at Ellis Park on opening day to finished 3rd over 6f. He's clocked some very impressive times in the mornings and will try to set the pace here. GORGEOUS BIRD will try sprinting for the first time after a career of route races. He also has some back class as this one raced in a few Kentucky Derby prep races last year.

Selections: 8-2-4-3

Race 9:

MAGNA BREEZE seems like the clear favorite in here. He takes a steep drop in class to fit in this spot. He has tons of turf experience and has done well over the distance. Trainer Mike Maker wins at 19%. TRICE UP put in a very fast workout over the Thoroughbred Training Center track recently. He's been in the top three 4 out of 9 tries on turf races and 4 out of 6 times at this distance. SIR NICHOLAS won a turf sprint race at Ellis Park last year. He has started only once since then, in June, where he finished a disappointing 5th. I'd like to think he needed that race off the layoff. BOOMER SIX is no stranger to a long distance race, but hasn't tried turf since before the fall of last year. He's been relatively competitive but the change in surface could be all he needs.

Selections: 1-5-10-7