



## **Race by Race with Ellis Park Analyst, Megan Devine**

### **Race 1:**

VENETIAN switches back to turf after a year on the dirt. She has some speed and was bumped around in her last start. Expect her to improve if she takes to the grass. MZAPROPRIATEDFUNDS tries turf for the first time but makes her sixth start sprinting. Her best effort was over a sloppy track at Churchill Downs. WHATACLASSYLADY drops in class significantly and comes in to this race after a few bullet workouts at Churchill Downs. Trainer Randy Morse wins at 18% off a 31-60 day layoff. GHOSTLY AGAIN won last time out at this meet, but that was off the turf on the muddy track. She runs best in a sprint race so she fits here.

***Selections: 9-2-6-5***

### **Race 2:**

Two weeks ago, GARLAND'S SPIRIT won here by a neck after a grueling stretch duel. He's been very game in a number of his starts and seems to be placed well. He has been in at least his last 12 starts. RAZORBACK RED, an Arkansas bred, that lost said stretch duel returns for a second chance. There may be more speed in here than last time so he'll have to be quick. He won here last year, as well. WALT has had a handful of good races against lesser competition, but his stalking style may be helpful in a speed heavy race. APOCALYPSE, seems to be one of the only closers in this field. He lost to a few of the horses in here but may benefit from a hot pace.

***Selections: 5-8-3-7***

### **Race 3:**

SEEKING GOLD won very impressively at Ellis Park, drawing away to win by 8 lengths. She adds just a touch more distance and moves up in class but she is talented. FRANCESCA DI FIORI ran her best race at Churchill Downs in the beginning of May when she broke her maiden. Trainer Ignacio Correias wins at 26% in claiming races. COUP DE MAIN has only won on dirt at Churchill Downs and hasn't come close to that success in her recent starts. She's the biggest class dropper in here. EURODEVILWOMAN drops to an easier claiming level and will look to close.

***Selections: 4-5-6-1***

### **Race 4:**

SURELY SENSIBLE has been very competitive for Charlie Lopresti. She's finished in the money 2 out of 3 times at a mile. She faded over the 1 1/16 last time so cutting back a little will help her. BIRD SENSE drops a little after her best effort at Churchill Downs. She stretches out a little here but has been working over long distances. NAYLOR was bought for \$370,000 last March and will try to close in here. Trainer

Wayne Catalano has brought fast horses here. SARDINIA comes off a layoff in here but has been working very well. Trainer Mike Maker hitting at 44% this meet.

***Selections: 7-6-1-8***

**Race 5:**

MORTY is sired by prominent turf sire, Kitten's Joy, and makes her first start with Lasix today. She is well bred for the surface and the distance. YOUNGEST DAUGHTER tries again for trainer Vicky Oliver after a jostled first start. CANNY switches to turf after one start on the dirt and runs for a trainer that wins at 20% when moving from dirt to turf, and 19% in turf races. CLEARLY CLAIRE is best bred for this type of race and has shown speed in her works. Will excel on wet track, too.

***Selections: 5-6-8-10***

**Race 6:**

JOHN GORDON has a lot of speed and runs best on the front end. He's been carefully placed by owner/trainer Steve Asmussen and comes off a defiant win at Lone Star Park. He's been in the money 4 out of 5 times at this distance. GOLDEN FRONTIER has finished in the money in all 4 of his starts at this distance and already has a 3<sup>rd</sup> place at Ellis Park. He's been no worse than 3<sup>rd</sup> in his last 5 starts which include three wins. There's a lot of speed in here, so his closing style may be beneficial. BAD STUDENT drops in class and stretches out just a little bit to a mile. He's had 2 wins recently at tough tracks. Will most likely stalk the pace. BEL AIR BULLET comes off a win over the Ellis Park track just a few weeks ago. He'll have to face some class droppers but he's been very successful in his races. Any result worse than 3<sup>rd</sup> was due to trouble.

***Selections: 10-1-6-8***

**Race 7:**

LOPE makes her second start for trainer Tommy Drury who does very well conditioning his horses. She'll run with blinkers for the first time and cuts back in distance. She's faced difficult competition in her career but this seems like the right spot for her. NEILINGER has been very game since being switched to trainer Joe Sharp. She's been working lights out in the morning and should excel at a comfortable distance. BELLATORI moves up in class but gets relief from the distance. When moving from turf to dirt, trainer Al Stall Jr. hits at 24%. MARY MAHONEYS GIRL gets blinkers today for Andrew McKeever who hits at 25% with first time blinkers and 23% with blinkers on.

***Selections: 4-5-1-10***

**Race 8:**

MICHAEL last started here to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, beaten only ½ a length, after a bumped start. He adds a little more distance but was gaining over a mile last time so he should be fine. Expect to see late speed. AGGRO CRAG, an Irish bred gelding, should appreciate the surface. He finished a competitive 2<sup>nd</sup> over the synthetic surface last time and needed more distance. MR. SENSIBILITY has closing speed and finished 5<sup>th</sup> last time

by some of the aforementioned horses, but only lost by  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lengths. With a better trip he could improve. DRUNKONMOCHA has a bit of speed, which may be beneficial in a race that is so full of closers. He'll have to step up a lot here.

***Selections: 8-7-10-3***