

Ellis Park

Race by Race Analysis

Saturday, July 9 – Race Day 5

FIRST – Not crazy about 1-for-18 TURN TO INCLUDE but he is taking a healthy class drop in here. He tries the turf first time and breeding should help with the surface switch. He's been a good check earner over last year running in allowance and high priced claimers, looking for a wake-up call to get back to winners circle. SHORTY TOWN has improved all three starts this year, but dropped to \$10,000 two starts back to get the maiden win. His best races have been on the lead and couple others look faster. SAMICEAN also drops and his lone win did come on the grass but 2016 form just doesn't inspire for top pick. RUN LIKE ELLE makes third start of form cycle and did win here last year on turf.

Selections **3-6-7-8**

SECOND – Lukewarm pick in this bottom level claimer going a mile is RANGER SAM the only horse in the field to hit the board in any previous starts and he's done it in half his eight races; all those 3rd place finishes were going a mile. He probably makes the lead here and been the distance every start this year. WOLF BAYOU making second start. He beat one horse in debut at Churchill on the turf but that was against maiden special weights. He's worked twice since and wouldn't have to gain much from the first race experience to have an impact against this group. YOU KNOW JOJO could improve making just second career start and drops from \$25,000 turf debut on the grass at Indiana, but beaten twenty lengths.

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

THIRD – MISTY JOURNEY looks tough in this spot. She's won four of her last six, should have won last race when bumped in the stretch and only poor recent effort came when going a mile in the slop. She gets her best distance today, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, she can be on or just off the early pace and trainer Chris Richard is off to a good start at the Ellis meet. Just to her outside GOTIT TODO looks like the main challenger, had nice spring at Churchill with a win and two 2nd place finishes all for similar to today's class level. Most of her recent starts been going longer but compact field today expect her to be closer early. Arkansas-bred PINK FLASH won at Oaklawn few starts back and finished 2nd in a restricted stakes race there and returns to her best surface and distance after failed try on grass at Churchill.

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

FOURTH – ROMANTIC VISION is coupled with SEA LIGHT due to common ownership and definitely prefer ROMANTIC VISION. She was beaten favorite at Churchill last start, but by less than a length and been very close in this condition in three starts this year against much tougher fields. She should get a nice stalking trip just off the early lead and only downside likely to be low odds. C ISLANDSURPRISE comes in off two straight wins at Churchill and really likes the one mile trip, never off the board in three tries, including a close 3rd here last summer when really unlucky not to win. She's gone gate-to-wire last two wins but with a couple sprinters stretching out she might be couple lengths back early. KISS has won two of last three, both wins at a mile but tougher field in today's race. MAGGIE SUE benefits most if the early pace is hot, she should pick off a few late for minor award.

Selections **1A-6-3-5**

FIFTH – ARBORETUM takes a big class jump from \$5000 level but been in great form and ran very good here last summer. He's had a short two month rest likely to get ready for a few starts here where he's won two of his four turf races. Leandro Goncalves has been aboard last three races and won two here opening weekend. Big class dropper is CY SEVEN; 4-time winner on turf was last for \$40,000 claiming price at Churchill but in three previous claiming races shows two wins and a 3rd. His preferred running style is on the lead and looks like a couple others that will keep him company. ARONEY will be moving late but more likely for underneath spot. GILL'S TERRACE won twice here last summer and also on the Ellis turf in 2014 but hasn't raced in seven months; shows three local works to get ready but looking for him next start.

Selections **4-1-2-6**

SIXTH – Four of the eleven entered to run area making their first start, but leaning to DYNAMIC UNION who has run once, a good effort to be 4th but beaten less than a length sprinting on the main track at Churchill. She made up ground late in that race and sired by Belmont winner Union Rags out of Dynaformer mare should handle the longer distance and surface change to grass; also like to see Landeros back to ride. Two of the first time starters look interesting; CONQUEST SWEETTRIDE from the Casse barn and EVER SPECIAL trained by Brad Cox. Both trainers above average for debut runners, both fillies went for around \$100,000 at auction and both show nice steady work pattern. RADIANT RHYTHYM has been 3rd all three starts and ran her best race last time on grass but figures well below what will take to win this.

Selections **7-1/1A-9-3**

SEVENTH – MARINE PILOT should be a nice price in this seven horse field of maidens going a mile He's run twice, both time for a claiming price and never really threatened but showed some early speed last start and breaks from the rail here going a mile which should give him an advantage. Improved speed figure last out and even though moving to maiden special weight fits here and should be at least 8-1. Likely favorite is PRESSING LUCK 4th last time in a big field at Churchill; \$300,000 yearling purchase has had eight chances hit the board three times and wouldn't be a surprise here but not expecting any value. ROCK MUSIC showed little in his debut and \$475,000 yearling took almost no money went off at 28/1. Son of leading sire Tapit could show more going longer but not encouraged off first race. PITCH COUNT has tried turf three times this year, finished mid-pack at Churchill and Keeenland; lots of respect for trainer Charlie Lopresti but thinking minor award is best possible here.

Selections **1-5-6-7**

EIGHTH – SWEET ACTION looks pretty sweet here, 5-year old mare came back from 1 ½ year layoff to run three bang-up races, including tough beat head loss in grade 3 stake at Churchill last month where she beat two others in here today. She's improved speed figs in all those races but well spaced out; does get new rider today in Joe Rocco and has nice stalking position running style. A repeat of either her last two races should win this. Her trainer Brad Cox also enters KING'S GHOST, 2-for-2 this year; at first glance might think she is a pacesetter for ACTION, but different owners and capable of landing a share. IMPEACHED hasn't been worse than 3rd in last eight starts and was 2nd in this race last summer when off the turf. She has handled class jump to tough allowance company last two races and should be prominent early. BITTY KITTY makes her second start after a long layoff; beat half the field in a grade 3 at Arlington on synthetic for her 2016 debut but nice turf record at the distance.

Selections **8-9-6-4**

NINTH – Looking to the outside here SHOBIZ STAR, 2nd as the favorite his last race at this same level on the dirt at Churchill. He was claimed out of the race, shows a ½ work here at Ellis last week and adds blinkers today. He hasn't been on the turf since last summer but showed he could handle the grass with a couple good 3rd place finishes and gets hot rider Didier Osorio. SQUEEGEE takes a drop in for half the price of his last race. He figures as the likely favorite here but never hit the board in four turf tries. His last win came in an 'off-the-turf' race at Tampa and moves up if this race moves to the main track. GIVE ME THE BALL has been improving, winner of last two races both on the dirt at Belterra but tougher group here. Trainer Don Campbell got off to a good start last weekend and has EU BANDOLERO, making second start after a layoff; couple grass races last year would fit here.

Selections **9-3-6-7**