Ellis Park

Race by Race Analysis

Handicapping Analysis by Trifecta George, Thoroughbred Metrics

Friday, August 19

FIRST – Trainer Dale Romans having a nice summer at Ellis with seven winners through last weekend. He sends out SWEET BETTY in the opener, dropping to $7500 after couple good efforts for $10,000. She was 2nd going mile two starts back then 4th but only length out of second behind a runaway winner here going ¾ on the main track. The winner of that race already came back to win again. Move to the turf and shorter distance both plusses, has speed and breaks from the rail, expecting wire-to-wire score. Main threat looks like HANG ON ANNIE, breaking from post ten. She makes first start here for new connections after running 2nd as the 2/5 favorite and claimed out of a similar race that came off the turf. RUNAWAY GYPSY's best races have been turf sprinting and like the cutback to sprint after the effort going long last time but she's had lots of chances.

Selections   2-10-3-5

SECOND – LUVURITA makes her fourth start at the meet and she's cashed minor checks in three previous efforts, all in the same non-winners on the year condition. She's finished ahead of many others in here in those races, looks like the early leader and this is little easier field than last race. She won here twice last summer; lukewarm pick but repeat of her last three should get the money. KRISTA'S ROSE has been in the same few races, best was 3rd, a length in front of the top pick two races back. Last race they were only a length apart and could go either way again. SO MANY DREAMS makes third start after a layoff and finished ahead of the top two on opening weekend but last race only beat one horse; passed the last rematch and does show ½ mile morning work but will wait and see. SWEEBLE won here last summer but recent form has tailed off; did have an excuse last time with some traffic on the turn.

Selections   3-7-8-6

THIRD – 'For Sale' sign in out on a couple of horses dropping into this open $15,000 turf sprint. AMERICAN SAILOR was competing in back-to-back graded stakes three months ago and BILLY TWO HATS was runner-up in stake earlier this year. Both come in off dull efforts at Indiana but this is big class drop from their recent company and the rest of the field lacks anybody else showing sharp current form. BRACIGLIANO has been pretty competitive when in for this level and tries cutting back in distance after a six week layoff. He did win here on the grass last summer and if the top pair falter would like his chances. CAROLINA SPEED went through his claiming conditions at Tampa this winter and makes third start after a few months off. He was solid 2nd in a starter allowance here opening weekend and now moves to the turf.

Selections   1-2-6-4

FOURTH – STARSHIP ZEUS was unlucky here a month ago when 2nd in a similar race. His running style typically has him last early and that day was blocked and checked repeatedly, still was only beaten a neck. He gets a smaller field to navigate today and looks ready having worked four times since that July 10 race. Early speed usually an advantage in the one mile races here and WHYRUAWESOME looks like the pacesetter. This 5-year old had a three races win streak stopped last race when stretching out to today's distance at Indiana. His best races this spring were 7/8th mile; one turn route today helps his chances but he's never won at a mile and looks more likely for minor spot. HANDIWORK returns here six weeks after breaking his maiden for $30,000 at Churchill. Tough to win first time against winners but shows four 5/8th mile works for the return and improved last few races leading up to last race. MAGIC CASH has a good record at this distance but tailed off last couple starts at Prairie Meadows going two turns.

Selections   7-4-5-2

FIFTH – CONQUEST SORCEROR makes her fourth career start, she was 4th, then 3rd, then runner-up here in the same mile turf as today. I like she was four lengths clear of show horse last race and Casse barn had 2-year old winner already at the meet. None of her races have been really fast but she's run better than the other fillies in here that have started. Give her a slight edge over QUEEN BERNADINA who was an even 5th sprinting on the dirt in her only race. Bernadidni filly should improve with longer distance; she didn't take much betting action first out but Von Hemel barn usually improves next time out. SPANISH ARCH also moves from dirt to turf and trainer Mike Maker almost 20% win with that angle. Modest $15,000 yearling purchase didn't show a lot in debut race that was intended for the grass but expecting improvement. Of the first timers WICKED LICK by first crop stallion Macleans Music starts for trainer Brendan Walsh who wins on debut at 18%.

Selections   3-8-10-12

SIXTH – Half the field has faced each other here this summer in two earlier races with the same conditions. BEL AIR BULLET has shown versatility, winning two starts back by gutting out a gate-to-wire win when facing pressure on the lead the entire race. Three weeks later he missed the break and came from fifteen lengths back to run behind BOB'S GONE WILD but ahead of three others in today's field. He's been right there in all five starts in Kentucky this year and jockey James Graham been aboard for all those races. BAD STUDENT finished just a length behind BULLET in that last race, beaten favorite that day off some very nice races at Churchill this spring. He gets a nice draw with the rail in for this tricky one mile configuration and never been off the board in three starts at Ellis. PIONEER JUSTICE wasn't part of those earlier races but he's had good year with four wins and only poor efforts this year came on sloppy tracks; claimed out of last race his best speed figs came on turf and synthetic.

Selections   3-1-5-2

SEVENTH – Willing to give GO NAVY GO one more chance. He's had nine tries to break the maiden but comes in today off a two month freshening and last three races, all at today's mile on the turf, were all good efforts. He's been gelded since last start and good work tab for the return, including a nice 5/8th mile bullet at Churchill last week. He was closer to pace last few tries after adding blinkers and nice inside post should put him just off early lead. Trainer Ian Wilkes winning here at 30% this summer and sends out ITSTHEBOURBONTALKN. 3-year old was 2nd in an off-the-turf mile race here last month in a race that scratched down to just five runners but winner that day already won again. He's bred for turf and making just third start of the year; 2016 comeback race at Churchill produced three next out winners. TRACKING THE CAT is likely pacesetter, drawing the rail and coming in off two dirt sprint races, including a narrow loss here last month.

Selections   2-8-1-10

EIGHTH – Full field of maiden claimers on the turf and settled on NATIVE who was 2nd here in an off the turf race three weeks ago. She's making fourth career start and lot of gaps between those races, this is first time she's been able to run back off a previous race. She made all the running July 30th, caught on the wire and looks like she should get to the front again today. Likely favorite COLD DESERT takes a big class drop here, she's been close a couple times for 3-4 times this claiming price. She comes from way back and should get better trip, races for this claiming level usually more spread out late, but she's already had 18 chances. ROYAL MOON looks interesting and could be nice price. Ran the best of her three lifetime starts when trying turf here and beat half the field against a little better group than she faces today.

Selections   6-5-1-7