

## Ellis Park

### Race by Race Analysis

Handicapping Analysis by Trifecta George, Thoroughbred Metrics

Saturday, August 20

**FIRST** – SETTING SAIL was bet down to 3/5 last start when only beaten two lengths for this today's claiming price. Figures a low price again today but most of the field has already been tested at or near this level. He showed early speed when going longer but should sit right off the pace today and get the diploma. Pacesetter could be SAVVY AMATEUR who returned from almost a year off to run 5<sup>th</sup> at 23/1 here against \$10,000 maiden claimers. He dueled upfront and tired but beaten only four lengths; should improve second time after the layoff. CLEAR NOW also makes his second start after some time off. He takes the biggest drop from \$16,000 but doesn't look as fast as top picks. JONNY'S RULES was third for today's \$5000 tag here three weeks ago; ran a career best figure in that race but thinking regression more likely against others dropping in class.

*Selections* 5-2-1-8

**SECOND** – Trainer Chris Richard could win the double, besides SAIL in the first has COPUS in this race, also a beaten favorite last time here in a race with the same non-winners of two in 2016. He had a wide trip that last race and missed by just ½ length. He scored the race before with a nice effort against open \$5000 claimers at Churchill and gets a much better post today. He'll have to run down STARTER who breaks from the rail and coming in here off sprint races figures to be on the lead. It's been over a year since he tried going further than ¾ mile and though doesn't look like much other early speed, not encouraged by the recent 5<sup>th</sup> here. PLAYING A JOKE was a couple lengths behind COPUS in that August 7 race. Sixteen time winner comes from way off the pace and don't see enough speed in this field to set up well for him to get anything but a minor spot.

*Selections* 3-1-8-6

**THIRD** – SUGAR CUBE has really improved last few races, including a win in a similar race here three weeks ago. She would be coming in today with a three race win streak except for narrow loss by a head two starts back and has six wins at a mile in thirteen tries. Jockey James Graham has been aboard for all those races and figures to work out a similar trip from off the pace with plenty of early speed in here to set things up. SEE THROUGH became eligible for this starter \$7500 condition with a win on the grass when dropping first time to this claiming level. She performs on dirt as well and similar off the pace style. CC'S SONG was claimed for \$15,000 here on July 24; consistent mare has been no worse than 3<sup>rd</sup> in her last eight starts while running at six different tracks. Respect her and she drops in class but best races are on the front end and think she'll have company today.

*Selections* 3-4-5-7

**FOURTH** – Only ten races total for the entire field of nine 2-year olds to consider. JOLT raced twice this summer at Canterbury where she was twice beaten favorite in maiden special weight company. Shipped back to Kentucky, worked 5/8<sup>th</sup> in Louisville since last race and drops here in for a \$16,000 claiming price. She's shown early speed in both starts and expect her to go for lead again; won't offer much value but most of this field already ran in claiming ranks. One exception is ANDICE ran once at 5/8<sup>th</sup> mile on the grass at Indiana, also maiden special. She showed very little and didn't take much betting action for an Asmussen first time starter, but has worked four times at Ellis since including bullet last Sunday. PRINCESS HEART was 4<sup>th</sup> here in a similar race in her only start and could show a little improvement. BIG SIGH is the only first time starter and one plus is been here prepping all summer.

*Selections* 2-4-7-5

**FIFTH** – Eleven 2-year olds in a race that was split and also goes as today's seventh; eight in this group make their first start. ARLEN'S PROSPECT ran here a month ago was a good 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Lookin at Lee who came back to win the stakes race here August 6. ARLEN broke sharp, made the lead in the stretch and shorter distance today shouldn't hurt his chances. TASTE BUD also has run, also a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish only sloppy track at Churchill back in June; looks ready, he's worked five times here a Ellis since then. Good group of first time starters including EN HANSE a homebred sired by 2-year old champion Hansen, but this colt draws the rail and never really keen on that spot for first time starters. Best workout pattern looks like QUALITY EMPEROR but trainer Rusty Arnold doesn't win with too many debut runners.

*Selections*      **8-7-2-1**

**SIXTH** – FIRST HERITAGE gets a much better post draw today. Her last race was parked wide and tired late against a field of \$16,000 claimers. She's in for half that value today and third place finisher from last race came back to win. Her best recent effort was 2<sup>nd</sup> two races back on the dirt behind a next out winner, and did win on the grass in first career start. MISS CHATT ran in the same race here three weeks ago and went right to the front before fading to 3<sup>rd</sup>; might be wise to try same tactic since there is no early speed in this field. BID N ASK should appreciate the drop in class; 3<sup>rd</sup> two starts back for twice this claiming level but didn't show much last race. LIVE LIKE JAY makes grass debut, decent 2<sup>nd</sup> at Churchill going a mile on the dirt in her only start for \$7500.

*Selections*      **4-8-6-5**

**SEVENTH** – Part two of the divided 2-year old race and GUERNSEY gets the nod based on form from her two races at Arlington. Nicely bred Tapit colt was 2<sup>nd</sup> then 4<sup>th</sup> in two races on synthetic in Chicago; close to the pace in both those starts, has a big edge in experience if takes to dirt. B ROD MACLEAN by first crop stallion Macleans Music has two recent runner-up finishes; made the lead in both starts since adding blinkers and moves back to dirt after trying turf at Indiana. Of the first time starters, Calumet homebred WILD SHOT shows a steady work tab including nice ½ bullet two weeks ago. GUEST SUITE is by stallion Quality Road who has done very well with 2-year olds in his first two crops, but this one draws the rail and figures more likely for minor placing.

*Selections*      **5-11-3-1**

**EIGHTH** – One mile first level allowance looks like a good spot for WALKABOUT, who was respectable 5<sup>th</sup> in the grade 2 Indiana Oaks last time, beaten only six lengths by multiple stakes winner Family Tree. This Ian Wilkes trained filly has really improved since stretching out and today's jock Brian Hernandez was aboard for impressive maiden win at Churchill. Plenty of early speed in here she should get nice trip few lengths off the pace. MISTY JOURNEY and C ILANDSURPRISE are two of the front running fillies. MISTY JOURNEY was easy nine length winner against starter company here a month ago when she cruised on the front end. C ISLAND was a good 3<sup>rd</sup> here in a field with the same conditions as today's race after back-to-back wins at Churchill.

*Selections*      **3-5-6-7**

**NINTH** – Most of the main contenders drew the outside posts in this maiden turf sprint. VICTORY'S SECRET has run 3<sup>rd</sup> in all three of her lifetime starts, including a race here a month ago. The winner from that effort came right back to win a nice allowance at Indiana last week. Moving to the turf a question mark but running style in her dirt races has been from off the pace and should help here with what looks like lot of early speed. PANOE is one of those that should be out front, narrowly missed in a race here that came off the turf five weeks ago; winner of that race also came back to score again. PINATA CAT has been off for three months. Started 2016 with a narrow loss going short then had a dull effort when stretched out. SU SAY SOCKS drew the far outside; she's been 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> last four starts but another who wants to be near the front and more likely again for minor place.

*Selections*      **11-10-8-12**