

Ellis Park

Race by Race Analysis

Handicapping Analysis by Trifecta George, Thoroughbred Metrics

Sunday, August 21

FIRST – Lukewarm pick is SHOPPINGWITHBILL, 2nd twice in three turf tries, then threw in a clunker last time at Indiana as the favorite. She did have a wide trip, two horses from that race have come back to win and think today's slightly longer distance should only help her. Trainer Ben Colebrook chose apprentice to ride and so she gets weight break today from rest of the field. PINK RUNFORTHECURE was elevated to first by disqualification last race, here a month ago. Her best three races have come on the grass and win came as 8/5 favorite first time facing this \$16,000 claiming level. Miguel Mena knows her, been aboard for all but one of her seven lifetime starts. ATRUEVISION has improved in her two local races since stretching out and moving to the grass; she followed up the maiden win with a good 2nd at the \$7500 level; claimed out of that race new connections try class jump. Can see her close early and hanging around for one of minor superfecta spots. COUNTON CLARE got her diploma last time out here in an off the turf mile race as the 3/5 choice. It was her first race beyond ¾ mile and raced near the lead entire trip; can improve here but don't see her wiring this group in first start against winners.

Selections 7-1-2-9

SECOND – Both parts of the Jerry Greenwell entry have appeal; if both stay in the price won't be much but either one looks capable. He hasn't raced in ten weeks like TALE OF HONOR but like a little better. Claimed in June at Churchill for \$8000 he's out of jail and drops in for \$5000. He was competitive at Keeneland for \$20,000 and won at Oaklawn for \$15,000. He shows three local works, including a bullet ½ mile last week and anything close to races in the spring look good. Entry mate is EMMETT'S DREAM easy winner here two back in the non-winners of two condition; turns back in distance to sprinting from the mile try against much tougher. EVEN ROB SCORES checked in 3rd here last race, first time in for \$5000. He was beaten just a length and recent form would say this is best distance. Off the pace running style should benefit today's race where several want the early lead. HOTBUTTEREDSOUL also won a never won two at this level last start but looks like he is all or none on the lead and top two picks both have early speed; more likely to hang around for minor spot.

Selections 1/1A-5-2-7

THIRD – Open \$5000 claiming races drew competitive field. I give a slight edge to BUCK MAGIC breaking from the rail. He's been off six weeks but shows nice ½ breeze at Churchill two weeks ago. His last race was a win at today's distance against tougher group at Churchill and throwing out the mile race two starts back has been very tough in sprints since moving to trainer Chris Richard. Versatile running style gives him an advantage over E M MAXIMUS who comes in off a win here three weeks ago when he led all the way; runner-up that day came back to win here last weekend. W W ALLOCATION has run two good races since a year layoff, including win here in a race where that runner-up also came back to win. Five wins in nine starts lifetime but today's distance furthest he's ever run and expecting pace pressure up front.

Selections 1-5-6-4

FOURTH – A couple of the obvious contenders have recently come close when dropped into maiden claiming ranks. KING OF ALL MEDIA looks best on turf form, 2nd here at Ellis missing by just a nose and no worse than 4th in last four starts. His only other turf try was at Keeneland against maiden special weights. He's worked twice since that last narrow loss and repeat of that performance looks good in here. NANA LOOCH has been 2nd as the beaten favorite last two races, one at Churchill on the dirt and here at this same level in an off the turf race a month ago. Hard Spun colt was claimed two races back by trainer Brad Cox and previous turf tries were all against maiden special weight, including two good performances in tough, full fields at Gulfstream. HENRY EIGHT has been no worse than 4th in seven career starts and never run for this \$30,000 tag. He's been off for two months but shows five ½ mile works; beaten favorite twice I'll play him underneath again today.

Selections 8-2-3-1/1A

FIFTH – KOCHER was very unlucky not to win last race, 3rd beaten just a neck for the win in a blanket finish here six weeks ago. He pressed a very fast pace and narrow loss was in a quick time. He showed ability in first start end of last year when beaten by a next out winner; worked nice 5/8th mile last week and experience from his two races give him big edge over this field that includes five first time starters. Of the first time runners, homebred UP THE FLUE debuts for trainer Tom Drury who's won with four of last seventeen first timers, producing healthy \$3.34 ROI. Ghostzapper colt shows modest work tab with only three published works from Skylight Training Center but like the breeding and trainer/jockey connections. RECAPITULATION is another first timer, steady works and trainer Bret Calhoun over 20% with first time runners. LEOFRIC was \$330,000 yearling purchase.

Selections **8-3-6-4**

SIXTH – Speedball TIGGER TOWN stepped his game up when moved to the turf. His last two races at Indiana produced a close 3rd, then a win against fields much like today's group. Two month layoff a little concern but trainer Brad Cox does well winning 25% when returning. ALASKAN PRINCE was impressive winner of maiden race here a month ago. It was first time turf sprinting and was clear by six lengths; tough to beat winners first time out but plenty of speed in here and should benefit his off the pace running style. LET'S GO BEN another strong contender, winner last out a month ago at Indiana. AIR AMERICA adds blinkers today off a 4th place finish here first time turf sprinting; doesn't look quite as fast as TIGGER TOWN but he's improved all three starts this year.

Selections **6-9-11-8**

SEVENTH – A dozen 2-year old fillies each one making their first start and many from top barns that can win early. DAWN THE DESTROYER has nice breeding and moved over to Ellis from Churchill a month ago for last couple of morning works. Asmussen barn leading the trainer standings here and already has two 2-year old winners. PICASSO MOON from Casse barn that wins almost 15% on debut and they've also had maiden 2-year old win at this meet. Florida bred AWESOME EXPRESS is by Awesome of Course who has produced several 2-year old winners mainly in Florida; this filly brought \$130,000 at 2-year old training sale in Ocala this spring a high figure for stallion with \$5,000 stud fee. Trainer Brad Cox almost 25% first timers; BELGRADE BREEZE was \$75,000 buy as a 2-year old.

Selections **10-9-8-4**

EIGHTH – Only winner at today's nine furlong turf distance is MOTIVATIONAL, who accomplished that here at Ellis last summer. 4-year old gelding probably best going even longer but hasn't raced since May and likely wants a start leading into the Kentucky Downs and Keeneland fall meets. Trainer Charlie Lopresti wins around 20% with runners after a similar layoff. KING PTOLEMY would benefit most if this race comes off the turf, his last two wins come when races moved to main track. He's accomplished on turf as well and looks ready with four works since the win here opening weekend. SILVER DAGGER has the best recent turf form in the field, not worse than 3rd in last six starts and just cleared first level allowance with a win at Indiana three weeks ago.

Selections **1-7-3-2**

NINTH – RED BLUE AND TRUE didn't get a great post for this 5 ½ furlong turf sprint but looks quick enough to get a decent position after the break. He ran a good 2nd here on the dirt after a three month rest and that was for twice the claiming price of today's race. Trainer Chris Richard adds blinkers today and bred to like the turf; expecting improvement. AIN'T HESITATIN hasn't raced in eight months but showed enough to be competitive at this level and here at Ellis. He actually crossed wire first but was disqualified in a race here and was 2nd four other times on the grass. Steady work tab to prepare for return and lands in a pretty soft field but still prefer underneath top pick. ILLUSION'S RULE was down in Florida this winter but managed nice 2nd in first local start on the dirt here last month. CONGRATS TO CUCOS cuts back to sprint from two turn turf race two weeks ago. He added blinkers last race and showed a lot more early interest, can see him hanging around for a piece.

Selections **11-4-6-2**