



## Race by Race Analysis

Handicapping Analysis by Trifecta George

**Sunday, August 28**

**FIRST** – Homebred COSTA ESMERELDA is the only filly in this field that has run before and she ran a huge 2<sup>nd</sup> in a full field two months ago at Indiana. She made the lead and just lost on the wire; had time off but worked four times since that race and experience alone gives her huge edge against this group. Similar layoffs not uncommon for Wesley Ward 2yos and giving this one big edge in here at likely low price. SHE'S ALOTTA WOMAN best bred for grass beside the top pick sired by Kentucky Derby winner Big Brown. Not to many recent 2-year old starts for trainer Keith Kimmon but filly shows nice steady workouts for past three months. Homebred NUMBERS GAME debuts for Buff Bradley; sired by Algorithms who is off to nice start with first crop. Trainer Ian Wilkes is having very good summer at Ellis with ten winners through last weekend. He sends out DESERT POEM, another filly bred for grass but barn usually does better second time out.

*Selections*      7-5-4-8

**SECOND** – HANG ON ANNIE drops to the \$5000 level looking for first win. She's been beaten favorite three of last four races and finished no worse than 3<sup>rd</sup> three in a row. She had a wide post on the grass two weeks ago but ran best on dirt and today should be the day. Her main threat looks like ROWDY RONDA, who was 2<sup>nd</sup>, then 3<sup>rd</sup> in two races for today's claiming price. Both the top two have more early speed than anyone else in the field and thinking this looks like a low payoff exacta. STARSHIP ADVENTURE makes her third lifetime start. She's beaten only one horse in each of her previous races, one came on a muddy track and last race was going long on the turf; not sure what she might do on fast main track but would consider underneath the top two.

*Selections*      4-6-3-7

**THIRD** – Indiana-bred LAWYER DAGGER has been off since May, claimed last start at Churchill by trainer Kelly Ackerman. He's been a popular claim this year, also sold in the two previous races. When he's right pretty consistent with versatile running style on or just off the lead. Trainer has won 25% recently with horses off similar layoffs and should be a better price than TOTAL IMMERSION also makes his first start for new connections. TOTAL was claimed here July 10 when he won as 7/5 favorite. New trainer Krista Moe breezed him twice leading into this spot and 7-year old has run good in all seven starts this year. DA DON was sharp winner here of the non-winners on the year condition last race. Three wins lifetime at Ellis and enough early speed to make him the one to catch, see him just a cut below top two.

*Selections*      7-4-2-5

**FOURTH** – MATAR may offer some value here moving up from open claiming \$5000 race into today's starter/optional condition. 7-year old scored here last month when he made a nice mid-pack move and cleared late. There is speed in this race to set up a similar trip and he runs well fresh so like the six weeks off since that last start. PROVEN WARRIOR is the likely favorite, even after the hiccup here on August 12 that stopped a four race win streak. He's very fast but better on dirt and been odds-on last four times. KIAWAH WARRIOR was amazing here last summer when he won three straight turf sprints. He was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the MATAR race last month after a poor start then tried a dirt race but back on preferred surface today. He's all early speed when on top of his game and expect him and WARRIOR to hook up early.

*Selections*      2-1-5-4

**FIFTH** – MARINE PILOT has been unlucky not to win last two times. He was beaten a head and a neck after making the lead both times and caught on the wire. He gets a good post for his early speed going the mile today, looks like less pressure up front for him than that last 7/8 mile race and should be clear with a good break. AZTEC SENSE was 8/5 favorite last race and in a good position when he was interfered with and actually pushed into the rail. He was very competitive in three races against big fields at Churchill and with three morning works since that last race looks ready to go. He's been a little closer last few races since adding blinkers and most likely winner if PILOT comes up short. OUR TRACK was runner-up here going a mile last month when making first start after a three month freshening. He could move forward but not helped by the outside post position.

*Selections*      **4-2-8-6**

**SIXTH** – INFILTRATION takes a big drop in class from last race when he was beaten only two lengths for \$25,000 at Indiana. Winner that day was nice turf sprinter Dynamite Stick and INFILTRATION didn't get the best trip. He's been odds-on favorite in three of last four races for high percentage trainer Tom Amos; not expecting much value but clearly the one to beat. GREEN GOLD for trainer Brad Cox comes in from the same last race and was just a length behind the top pick. He was making first try on the grass, handled the surface fine; draws a wide post here and don't think he can beat the top pick but expecting these two make for short priced exacta. DISCREET MOVE also makes a big drop but recent form not as sharp as the top pair; only tried grass once in ten career starts and wasn't one of his better efforts. PERFECT SOCKS was runner-up in this same condition here three weeks ago but his is much tougher field.

*Selections*      **3-9-7-2**

**SEVENTH** – Tough, evenly matched field of open \$12,500 claimers going a mile. WINDSURFER has long gaps between his last two races but he's fired both times, including a win here opening weekend going ¾ mile. He's never won at a mile but 3-of-4 in the money and he's won both starts at Ellis. Three recent works in the last month including nice ½ mile breeze at Churchill Training Center last week. He runs well fresh and think he'll be better value than more recent winners like RHYTHM PARK. PARK was easy winner here for claiming \$10,000 going wire-to-wire and ahead by nine lengths. He was claimed from that race and new connections kept rider James Graham for this spot. He's got good resume at Ellis, at the distance and good running style for the mile here just thinking he'll be bet way down off that last big effort. CAP TRICK gets back on the dirt. He actually beat RHYTHM PARK two starts back then ran mid-pack in a turf race. A mile his best distance and no worse than 3<sup>rd</sup> in last five dirt races, including some large fields down at Oaklawn; wouldn't be big surprise. PARIS PIKE has been on fire at Fairmont with four straight wins all at a mile; twelve wins from twenty-eight starts lifetime but this is toughest group he has faced recently.

*Selections*      **1-2-6-5**

**EIGHTH** – Six of the nine 2-year old fillies are making their first start and the three that have run haven't shown much. Trainer Wesley Ward specializes in these turf sprints and very successful with first timers, almost 25% winners. This filly shows nice morning work pattern and is sired by The Factor off to a good start at stud; also has a turf Tomlinson number best in the field. LEISURE was a \$125,000 yearling purchase and another bred well for grass. MYGRACIEGIRL is another well bred for turf and trainer Tevis McCauley capable with 2-year olds and also shows some nice recent scores with turf sprinters. MISSING DIXIE ran once before beating half the field in a maiden claiming race on dirt but expecting her to move up on turf.

*Selections*      **8-2-5-3**

**NINTH** – DASAATER has been knocking on the door for maiden win. He was beaten just two lengths here a month ago when entered for twice today's claiming price. He's had terrible post position in big fields last two races and gets a cozy mid-pack spot here. He was 8/5 last race and likely something similar here but repeat of either last two races should get it done. SUDDEN URGES has made three trips to Chicago this summer and come up just short a couple times, including runner-up by just a neck last start. The winners from both his last two races have come back to win but he gets a wide post here and using underneath. GREY CAPE was 3<sup>rd</sup> beaten just over a length for this claiming price at Indiana last month as 4/5 favorite; adds blinkers today to get in the race a little sooner.

ZIMMERMANN has tried to get on the turf last two starts but both races ended up on dirt; takes a drop from last race which was his first time for claiming price but only see him in one of the minor spots.

*Selections*      **6-10-9-2**