Handicapping Analysis
Sat February 18th, 2023

Emily's Analysis

Oaklawn Park Race 1

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#4 HYPERSPORT fits as a logical type for this race with form at the allowance level this season and consistent figures that fit on par and with the others in this group. She is projected to fall into that heavy favorite role, with the short price as the primary knock.

#1 COMEDY ACT remains at the preferred sprint distance and will look to improve exiting the January 21st race with the poor (SLOG, TROUBLE_S) break (something of a repetitive habit for her) and TRAFFIC trip. Bejarano will look to be more assertive today and could be necessary with the rail draw.

#7 AZUL TEQUILA will also show up off a similar trip back on December 29th at Turfway Park where she broke slow (SLOG) showed run making a middle MOVE and willing through TRAFFIC to finish in a blanket for the minors behind the open length chalk winner, Quaria Comet.

#8 SHE'S ALL CLASS is also given a mention here as the connections had the intention to run her at this level back on January 1st, though a vet scratch unable to compete. She started to show run and progression last year to build off of for 2023.

Oaklawn Park Race 2

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#5 HOUSE WRECKER sneaks into this race as her $6250k claiming win on January 22nd does not count towards the eligibility for this restricted claiming event. She could turn into a clever claim for Combs, a barn that has had a solid meet so far. **#1 SHOW ME GRACE** also fits today's eligibility and placed for her abilities. This condition is a better fit than the higher level allowance from back in December returning to this course and distance.

#9 CHASING SHADOWS was a value play back on January 27th as one that look to find the right trip and with buried form that fit the race. She ran a game race (B OptixGRADE) making a CLOSE through TRAFFIC just coming up short in the place finish and is unlikely to be overlooked today.

Oaklawn Park Race 3

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Diodoro could have a strong hand (and not too creative) in this race with the pair of runners. **#2 MAC DADDY TOO** will make his second start of the meet and cutting back to a sprint with the fitness from the mile race on January 8th. **#9 NINJA WARRIOR** holds a win at this starter allowance condition from back on December 18th. He was able to establish a LONE lead, a similar trip that assisted with the maiden win back in September.

#10 LAKE RADIO could benefit from the projected race shape with his stalking run style. He has been able to both maintain form and transfer his form this meet for Smith. This will be his third start of the form cycle and coming back from the show finish two weeks ago behind the pacesetting exacta pair, that finished together and clear at the wire. **#8 SONO GRATO** could also come running late as they show up here cutting back to a sprint and could be some intent with the quick one week turnaround.

Oaklawn Park Race 4

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

This is a competitive race where a case can be made for many in the field. That includes morning line favorite, **#6 SUMMORYA** as she returns to statebred company in her second start in against winners. She was well-prepared to break her maiden on debut, though did have to work HARD for that December 31st win. Summorya was able to get up over **#5 LASSIE MY GIRL**, both earning B OptixGRADE, with Lassie coming back to break her maiden on January 28th, validating the form for both. In addition to Summorya, Moquett will send out **#4 TIMAVATI**, a progressive type that earned a solid 84 OptixFIG breaking her maiden on January 8th. She has been given the 41-days to recover and retains Bejarano, noting he had been aboard both Moquett runners.

#2 MOZINGO will make her second start of the meet and off the layoff where she could present a move forward. She will look to build off the January 27th event with the blinkers going back on and making her statebred debut today for Amoss.

#7 SHE'S STORMING will also return to statebred company for the first time since her debut win back on December 9th, the first part of the meet. She must continue to improve and while capable does require a top effort in this field. Arguably, **#8 ONE WAY OR ANOTHER** with the higher speed figures from last season could be considered the one to beat. She has struggled with layoffs (including a vet scratch on 1/15) and class to factor in as far as the number on the board.

Oaklawn Park Race 5

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#10 HEROIC MOVE appears well-meant for the connections here to make his debut. The barn is capable with debut runners at a route distance and with Rosario in town to ride the feature stakes race for these same connections will pick up the mount.

#8 HARD SPUN FANTASY wheels back from the common race finishing behind **#12 BYE BYE RAY** on January 21st. Despite the change in finishing position, Hard Spun Fantasy showed run making a MOVE after a SLOG and overall visuals suggest this one can take a step forward off that experience with the added (STRETCH) ground.

#4 INTERLOCK EMPIRE debuted in a productive race on December 31st and comes back in this third start with the benefit of surface/distance experience from January 28th. That race was run in the rain (WEATHER) with a pacesetting winner and the top two finishers together at the wire. Class is still a concern for **#7 SEAS OF NORMANDY** off his visuals and lacking an excuse with a PERFECT trip in 1/28 common race.

#9 ROUTE RUNNER has not been seen since the summer of his juvenile season and requires improvement off his first two starts despite finishing on the board, the quality of those fields is in question. That same test for **#11 STORMIN ARMY** though he does have the benefit from experience and recency making his second start of the meet and could see a move forward with that race under his belt and route debut.

Oaklawn Park Race 6

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Miller has a pair entered in this race giving the edge to **#5 ARMAN** over **#12 THIRSTY JOHN** of the two for the barn. The key for Arman goes back to his debut, a strong B+ OptixGRADE effort showing class and following up that first start with some excuses and layoffs in the two races that followed. He comes back fresh off the 139-day layoff in the first start for Miller and could be intent landing on this circuit and spot. It is worth noting that Arman is cross entered in a race on Sunday along with rival **#7 TWO EAGLES RIVER** - one that has run some competitive races and figures, though has seen those numbers decline since his debut and will again be tested one stamina at today's route distance, something he must prove.

#11 SHOPPER'S REVENGE has the benefit of recency and a race over this course and distance. He did benefit from a LONE front end trip and softer race FLOW breaking his maiden last month, though could have been a function of field and race shape, though worth a mention as he will be tested further today.

#3 AIRTIME popped with a strong B+ OptixGRADE effort on January 29th, a race that makes him competitive right back pairing efforts. He will be required to carry that form as he will step up in class to run here protected first off the claim for Diodoro.

Oaklawn Park Race 7

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

The pair of first time starters **#3 MULLIKIN** and **#5 MIRACLE WORKER** merit respect for the connections, both capable with debut runners and both horses picking up live riders and solid works coming into this race.

As far as recency, **#6 SIMOVIC** has the race under his belt and progression from the Churchill Downs debut. His January 28th place finish was earned over poor track conditions, racing in the rain (WEATHER) and slightly against a track profile that favored runners forwardly placed.

#1 SWAGGISH will make his second start of the meet and freshened off the December 31st (productive race) debut returning with blinkers for his sophomore debut. Going back to that first start, he was colder on the board from the 9-2 morning line and for Asmussen a barn that started off the meet on the colder side as well. The barn will also be represented by **#7 RYVIT** making a belated 289-day return looking to improve off the spring juvenile form in his sophomore debut.

Oaklawn Park Race 8

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#3 CONGRESSMAN showed ability from a less than ideal trip on debut though his second start and win returning from the layoff last month. His class (B+ OptixGRADE) prevailed as the trip began with a rough opening 1/4 and did not continue smooth where an excuse could have been given if not for coming up victorious.

#10 ROMAN CENTURIAN showed ability from the start of his career and class in his own right returning off a 435-day layoff last May going right to the winners circle. He will be tasked with similar today looking for a similar result making this first start back off the 279-day layoff.

#4 ALEJANDRO has the benefit of a start this meet and BTL effort in the show finish at this level on December 11th. Heading into that race he was at the peak of the end of the year campaign and could benefit from the nice 69-day freshening returning here for Asmussen and picking up Jose Ortiz.

Class is the test and could be a steep hurdle on the win end for both **#5 TIZ RYE TIME** and **#6 DIGITAL** two runners that have form this season and races on their best day that can compete, even if that means a minor award.

Oaklawn Park Race 9

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

A lot of attention here could fall on **#4 GINOBILI** as he return to make his second start this season back from the 5th Season stakes win. While dominant (B+ OptixGRADE) on the day, he did benefit from a favorable (PERFECT) trip and visuals that could suggest a taxing (HARD) effort despite the running line and open length score. Today's race is a step up in class, not just to the graded stakes level, but higher race par than last month and arguably he has faced in his career. Distance/stamina will also be put to the test especially with the level of competition.

Pace could also be a challenge for Ginobili with **#6 WEST WILL POWER** returning in this spot. West Will Power is a quality graded stakes runner with legit early speed and Ginobili could find himself chasing a faster pace for the distance than ideal. As far as West Will Power, his top effort and early speed can present an edge and Rosario is likely going to take the race to this field right from the start looking to run gate-to-wire.

#2 LAW PROFESSOR could be his biggest threat and find the right stalking trip. He is proven at this class level, surface/distance and with speed figures on par to compete as a prime contender. This will be his second start of this form cycle freshened from the BC Dirt Mile (G1) and regaining confidence in the stakes win last month at Aqueduct. Jose Ortiz will be back aboard and while the BC Mile ride (TACTIC-) is not one for his highlight reel, he has a solid record aboard this horse from prior starts and his presence today suggest further intent.

#3 RATED R SUPERSTAR and **#7 LAST SAMURAI** present legit closing run and look to be winding up late for the stretch run. Despite the morning line, **#9 KEYSTONE FIELD** could sneak away on the board and could find first "stalking" run on those closers while in form given his graded stakes test this afternoon.

Oaklawn Park Race 10

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#6 WATCH THIS BIRDIE projects to be a heavy favorite in the finale and tough to knock in that role. She ran well (B- OptixGRADE/84 OptixFIG) on debut against open company last summer at Colonial as well as over this course (B OptixGRADE/82 OptixFIG) against colts/geldings on December 10th. As far as the time since, she was entered back on January 8th unable to draw in off the AE.

#9 BROOKE'S ALL IN earned a follow from her debut, a BTL effort that might not look like much "on paper" with the running line and finishing position. She showed a BURST after a rough (SLOG, TROUBLE_S) and could present a move forward off the first start experience. The same could be in play for **#2 HONEYCAMP** as some intent could have been present on debut taking wagering support off the 8-1 morning line. As far as trip she did have early WIDE, ground loss chasing before losing ground though no strong "excuse" on the day. The experience, time and even rider change could also benefit her and another that was entered unable to draw in on January 8th.

First time starter **#7 COUNT IT ALL JOY** is also worth a mention in this spot. The barn sent out a 33-1 upset debut winner under similar conditions back in 2019 and the presence of Santana is noted.