Handicapping Analysis
Sun July 16th, 2023

Emily's Analysis

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:30 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

This race is tough to assess given the change, the class rise for many to race at today's $12.5k conditions. #3 SHADOW BELLE is the best suited running under similar conditions at HS Indy this season and finding class relief in this spot. Today's OFR is similar, yet lower, to the N2X level she cleared back in April. Her RunStyle, current form and shift back to the main track/sprint distance fit in terms of intent on this circuit with the trainer (same owner) change.

Quad I Square, #2 MY LADY SLEW also finds class relief returning to the claiming level, overmatched against allowance company on the turf in her more recent starts. She was effective with the turf win on May 18th, though earned a higher 79 OptixFIG (72 for the win) in her place finish sprinting on May 7th.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 2:57 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Many of the Spagnola runners have struggled to get the win this season and likely part of the reason for **#2 MISTER CHARMING** to DROP in class looking once again for the right level to compete for that top spot. Number wise he stacks up with many in this field and should suit today's dynamic as far as trip. Looking at his running lines, he has shown to run from off the pace, though the class change today moves him up to a Quad II position and EP RunStyle.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:24 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

A case can be made for many in this field and there are as many question marks with many in this field as well. #6 DREAM FLY could receive a lot of attention in this coming off the layoff and for the connections. The higher speed figure earned at Kentucky Downs is tough to ignore and could be tough to beat running back to that number, however her other figures and coming up short at Belterra Park under softer Special Weight conditions create value concerns at the expected shorter price.

#1 PENUMBRAS MAKER fits just as logically and has the benefit of recency of the pair. She has the "tougher to trust" concerns given her overall race record, though has not been in as light class wise as she is today.

#3 THEMISCHIEVOUSONE was looking for the turf last season and had to settle for the main track sprint as the meet was winding down last December to get a start and make the debut. She has the benefit of recency and fitness coming back from the June 22nd race, a race won by her stablemate I'm Box Office dominantly by open lengths.

Lightly raced runners move up in this spot. #2 SPICY ITALIAN will likely come down in price for the connections and especially with this race moved to the main track with the dirt experience on the circuit switch. Those factors could move her up and the barn has sent out live in a limited sample this meet. She must step up off the first two starts both off the figures and visually losing ground in both starts (open length even money winner on June 11th) and physically on the smaller side. #5 WILDWOOD ENOUGH debuted in a compact field last month and dismissed off the 7-2 morning line. She broke SLOG, something not uncharacteristic for this barn with first time starters and showed some interest last. She is tough to back with confidence off that effort in this second start on the win end, though could present a move forward.

It is a shame **#10 GUSTAVI** is entered MTO as she gave off the TURF visuals back at Oaklawn Park and would have upgraded her on the surface and distance change. With this race run on the main track drawing into the field, she still fits given the debut 82 OptixFIG and B- OptixGRADE and some subtle excuse with the TACTIC- trip on April 22nd.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 3:51 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Rivelli probably figured **#6 GETTIN DOWN** would be claimed when they dropped to the $6250k maiden level and seems logical in this spot as she remains with the barn. She picked up the maiden win on June 15th in a dominant B+ OptixGRADE effort, a GRADE that suggests she can step up in class and her numbers stack up with the others in this field. Her former stablemate **#5 LUNARCHY** could present a threat as she also was able to score at the $6250k maiden level back on May 31st earning a 71 OptixFIG one of the stronger numbers recorded in this group. She was claimed from that race and "protected" by Meraz running for the $25k tag on June 14th and returns to a more reasonable claiming spot for her abilities here.

Looking to split the two seasoned mares, ***#4 BELLS OF JOY*** has not found the winners circle since her maiden win last May though has been competitive at today's 5.5f distance. The distance could give her the slight edge over #7 SEQUAYA, one that could also be shorter coming back today off back-to-back place finishes and another that has not had her picture taken since the summer of 2020.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:18 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Harty will show up here with **#1 DEGREE OF RISK** as he makes his first start back off a 161-day layoff. He has been entered a couple times in higher N1X allowance races since the February race earlier this year. He is a good race horse and one that has shown versatility in terms of surface, distance and carried his form track-to-track. He has run in some tougher spots, held his form, and not always intended in the races he was running in and those he was pointed to suffered "trips."

In terms of the "local" group, #4 SIMPLE LOGIC seems the most "logical" however, his visuals and efforts this season are not much stronger than others in this field that should offer value and overlooked. ***#9 RUSSIAN HAMMER*** was a legit "longshot" in the Hawthorne Derby and no fault by the connections to take a short in that race. He was not on the level, though also compromised by a TRAFFIC trip and race dynamic with the race won gate-to-wire by Act A Fool uncontested on the lead. His allowance effort back on May 28th gives him a look in this group, a BTL effort making a MOVE through TRAFFIC, a more competitive race than the 6th place finish appears on paper. Class is light for #2 SON OF GRACE, though he could get a share with his RunStyle (Quad IV) picking up horses late with the "Sun" Contention and higher 56 SpeedRate.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 4:45 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Looking at OptixPLOT, **#5 ARCH FLYER** could hold a pace advantage in this race. That clear pace advantage shown on Surface/Distance does not appear as clear on paper and can only hold that Bendezu is assertive right from the start and letting her run right from the rip.

#3 RANK AND FILE started to show progress back on June 18th when she went into the GATE without resistance, something that had been a pattern for her going back to March, the first part of the meet. She comes back from a B- OptixGRADE and good place finish behind "lone" winner, Foggy Kitten on June 28th in a four horse field. ***#6 PALACE MAGIC*** was claimed for $5k back in May and since then the connections placed her overmatched in both allowance company and when in for the $25k tag. Her form has declined since that May 18th win with some of that due to class, though must find a turnaround in this race and something to consider as she is assigned the morning line favorite role and does project to hold short on race day.

#7 HER GOLD MINE takes some creativity to get to and overall needs a lot of racing luck along with a top effort here to win. With that said, she has some buried form from her races this season and at the 6f distance. Giles will also take back over today and has had success aboard in the past keying off some in the money finishes in prior seasons.

Hawthorne Race 7

Post Time 5:12 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

With another series of rain hitting last week, tough to see this race staying on the turf. Things are likely to change with that surface switch and many in this field stronger on the grass sprinting. **#1 KEENESAW** is one that probably prefers the grass, though has shown he can run on the dirt sprinting and his form should hold in this spot and capable of pairing wins. **#8 MEDAL OF FACT** also returns from the July 5th event where he was intended and live with the surface switch and connections are likely looking for similar today. To back up the statement about intent, he took wagering support in all pools and up until post time going off a slight second choice and projects similar intent here. His trip (and primarily ride/TACTIC-) played against him right from the start acting up in the GATE and forced to check encountering TROUBLE multiple times in running playing a role in the outcome.

#3 FOLLOW THE SIGNS scratched from a main track race last Wednesday (7/12) to run in this spot instead and suggests intent for the connections reading the weather report, though would not dismiss this one getting back to the turf when that times comes.

#7 DRAGON DREW is another that prefers the turf and has been unlucky this season looking to get back to the grass. While his recent two main track races come up short number wise compared to the turf, some of that is due to race dynamic and the post position. The subtle shift to a more outer post benefits this runner on the main track.

#6 CLEAR N CONVINCING was a scratch when the races came off the turf under similar conditions looking to make his return on June 25th. The distance with the expected shorter price given the connections, create some reservations with this individual giving up recency and a RunStyle from off the pace.