Handicapping Analysis
Sun July 23rd, 2023

Jim's Picks

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:30 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

2 Onacounta | 6 Texas Princess | 1 Quick and Dirty

Really tough turf race to start the card. Not a huge fan of any how have run as I'll go to 2-ONACOUNTA as she debuts. She has a nice work pattern, gets Lasix and is bred to handle turf and two turns. Let's see how she looks in the paddock and what type of action she takes. 6-TEXAS PRINCESS has run a pair of races at this level and distance, running evenly in both. A repeat of those performances should be enough to make her a threat to be in the mix late. 1-QUICK AND DIRTY came back off a long layoff for her last and was intended for the turf but stayed in when the race came off. She may have needed that race though as she should show some speed if ready.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 2:57 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

7 Be My Bestie | 3 Evie Jean | 2 Song of America

Sometimes the favorite is just the best horse. It's a massive drop but 7-BE MY BESTIE is a standout in this spot. She has speed and should be able to clear and never look back. If she is challenged or misses the break, maybe 3-EVIE JEAN rates and runs on late. She has been in her best form of her career this season but the 0 for 24 record is tough to overlook. 2-SONG OF AMERICA is the one that could challenge Be My Bestie as she also takes the plunge. She seems to want the front end but also seems to fold up when challenged.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:24 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

3 Bootdaddy Justice | 6 Moment | 7 Danville

On paper this looks to be the rematch of 6-MOMENT and 7-DANVILLE as the only two in the race, but I wonder if 3-BOOTDADDY JUSTICE can be in a spot to upset? He was claimed for $15k in February and has a good stalking style. The pace should be honest ahead of him as he looks to close in the lane. 6-MOMENT is at his best on the front end but there are two to three others in here that may look to challenge as well. He has six wins in eight starts at Hawthorne and has never finished out of the money here. Let's see if he can withstand the likely pace pressure in this spot. 7-DANVILLE has won his last two but was five lengths back of Moment when the two met three starts back. He does have some tactical speed and could get a great setup ahead of him.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 3:51 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

2 She Can Scat | 3 Go Margie Go | 5 Miss Saint

Looks to be a nice field of juvenile fillies in this spot. 2-SHE CAN SCAT has a good workout pattern leading into here as she appears fit and ready for her debut. The barn has had an excellent meet as well. 3-GO MARGIE GO figures to take a massive amount of action for a barn that wins early as this one has all bullet drills. The only concern is none of the works are further than three furlongs so we will have to see if she can get the final eighth. 5-MISS SAINT has a race under her belt as she may have needed that start. Let's see if she can get away more quickly today and contend into the lane.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:18 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

3 Even the Wind 4 Wolf Hunter 5 Regimental

This turf event looks to come down to three horses. 3-EVEN THE WIND is one that I have followed since he debuted at Tampa this winter. His two starts here have been solid and he picks up Manny Esquivel in the saddle as Indiana takes a week off from racing. 4-WOLF HUNTER returns to the maiden ranks where he finished ahead of Even the Wind two starts back. He ran in the Hawthorne Derby last out and held his own as he contended well into the lane. Let's see if he shows more speed in here. 5-REGIMENTAL has also posted some solid figures that would make him tough. His style tends to set him a bit further back off the early pace but he should be able to close some ground in the lane.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 4:45 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

9 Good Like Magic 7 Gimme the Candy 3 Gimme a Kiss

A really nice bunch here as trainer Brad Cox sends in 9-GOOD LIKE MAGIC to debut. With the short run into the first turn he will have to look to get away quickly from the outside, but he has a good string of drills, including a nice gate work on June 23. 7-GIMME THE CANDY posted back to back bullet works before an easy half mile coming into here. This barn always seems to have them ready to roll as Emigh could be on the gas early. 3-GIMME A KISS will likely have to leave from the inside to avoid any traffic into the turn. His gate drill on June 18 shows that there's some early zip as he could be winging it from the start.

Hawthorne Race 7 - PLAY OF THE DAY

Post Time 5:12 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

1 Aviano 7 Coming Up Aces 3 Sport Pepper

Love, love, love the chances of 1-AVIANO in here as he moves back to the turf course today. He is going to need some pace to chase but his races in New York last year are far and beyond this group. Look for him to save ground early and come rolling in the lane. 7-COMING UP ACES is at his best on the turf as he will likely sit closer early. He ran well off the layoff in his last and comes back with about six weeks between starts today. Look for him to contend at a price. 3-SPORT PEPPER gets class relief which will be the key in here. He faced very tough company in his last couple and finds drastically easier in this spot.

Hawthorne Race 8

Post Time 5:39 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

6 Snowmobile 4 Swiss Guard 8 Lima Zulu

It's all or nothing with 1-Simpson Bay in here but I can't trust this horse on the drop off a tremendous effort against MSW company last out. Something just seems suspect with this move. For me it's the 6-SNOWMOBILE as he gets class relief as well but he likely needs this move. He has enough speed to stalk the early pace as he should be tracking the speed of 4-SWISS GUARD throughout and looking to move forwardly in the lane. 4-SWISS GUARD is fast but is another that drops. He is at his best on the front end and likely is sent away. The question is if he gets headed or not in here as he tends to give when when challenged. 8-LIMA ZULU ran an improved race last out as he chased and never gave way. He's the other that could challenge Swiss Guard early as he figures to battle into the lane.