Handicapping Analysis
Sun August 6th, 2023

Jim's Picks

Hawthorne Race 1

Post Time 2:30 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

5 Kitty Maclean - 9-5 | 2 Judy's Ms. Officer - 4-1 | 4 Stormy Empire - 5-2

Not a ton of pace in this spot as I gave the nod to 5-KITTY MACLEAN in here. She runs for the Granitz barn, who has been solid with every horse they have shipped in. She ran a good second last out and will take action once again. 2-JUDY'S MS. OFFICER figures to rate and look to run on late. She was a good winner two back and ran well just behind Kitty Maclean last out. If the pace is contested, it will benefit her in the end. 4-SOTRMY EMPIRE has done her best running over this track. She figures to settle mid-pack early but her recent drills off the layoff show she could be ready for a big effort.

Hawthorne Race 2

Post Time 2:57 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

6 Gallant Buck - 5-1 | 3 Baladine - 5-2 | 2 Bourbon Spirit - 8-5

Hard to determine what to do with Bourbon Spirit as this one takes the plunge for trainer Brad Cox. I'll look for the upset and go with 6-GALLANT BUCK as he figures to show speed and contend the entire way. He gets some class relief into here and may be able to shake loose and never look back. 3-BALADINE could be in a tracking spot behind the leader as he looks to chase the entire way. He comes out of a race against tougher as well and figures to take his share of action. 2-BOURBON SPIRIT is the question mark as he ships in for Cox. He had an excellent start to his career before tailing off in his last couple. His most recent race wasn't terrible though but this is quite the plunge into today's race.

Hawthorne Race 3

Post Time 3:24 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

4 Nyoman - 9-2 | 5 Z U Soon - 6-1 | 3 D'archer - 3-1

An extremely tough race for this level as the are so many classy runners in here. 11yo 4-NYOMAN has won 22 times on his career and 12 times over this track. He has some tactical speed and has been great at six furlongs. 5-Z U SOON ran a nice race last out as he closed well from the outside. He's another that has run well at Hawthorne and should get ample pace to chase. 3-D'ARCHER is one of those with speed who grabbed a pair of wins earlier in the meet. Trainer Vance Childers has had a good last week and this one has been a great fit with Santiago in the saddle.

Hawthorne Race 4

Post Time 3:51 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

6 Magna Massa - 5-1 | 2 Sunset Paynter - 9-2 | 1 Move It Baby - 5-2

Weather will dictate if we are on or off the grass. If on turf, the price on 6-MAGNA MASSA will be better, but even if off the grass, the horse merits a look. She has faced so much tougher in recent starts as the big class plunge makes her a major factor. 2-SUNSET PAYNTER likely needs the turf as her figures on grass are stronger. She has some tactical speed and could tuck in right behind what looks to be a contested pace. 1-MOVE IT BABY welcomes the return back to turf as she figures to wing it from the inside. Let's see if she has company in here.

Hawthorne Race 5

Post Time 4:18 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

6 Sawyer Fox - 4-1 4 God Guns N Guts - 3-1 1 J J's Solution - 7-2

Hard to determine what to do off one career start, but 6-SAWYER FOX could be ready off the bench in here. He debuted in stakes-company last December and showed some early foot before tiring. He has since has some time off to mature and comes in with a pair of bullet drills at Keeneland. Expect a big return effort. 4-GOD GUNS N GUTS has run a pair of solid races and should be rating close early. He didn't face the toughest of company in his last though but still posted a decent figure for a barn having a solid meet. 1-J J'S SOLUTION is overdue for the maiden score but has run races good enough to win. He tends to rate and rally on the dirt but gets a strong finisher in Lezcano in the saddle.

Hawthorne Race 6

Post Time 4:45 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

6 Soul Coaxing - 5-1 7 Gun Rush - 3-1 5 Jeff the Lion - 9-2

An incredibly tough race as any in here have a chance. 6-SOUL COAXING has been competitive at this level in the pace and has enough tactical speed to rate close early while the pacesetters battle on the lead. The 1st and 2nd place finishers of his last start both came back to win their next races as he may be sitting on a big race while at a good price. 7-GUN RUSH looks for his sixth victory in a row as he has speed but may have company upfront. Let's see if he looks to clear or chooses to rate today. 5-JEFF THE LION will hope the Gun Rush and Moment push things along upfront as he figures to settle and close in the lane. Let's see how he handles the class hike today.

Hawthorne Race 7 - PLAY OF THE DAY

Post Time 5:12 PM CST

Analysis by Jim Miller

5 McMoney - 6-1 6 Simple Logic - 9-5 8 Out of Deductions - 7-2

Mandatory payout on the Hi-5 in this race with the carryover of $185k. With only a $.20 base minimum wager you have the ability to spread. I'm looking for an upset and going to 5-MCMONEY in this spot as he should be solid on turf or dirt. The barn has had a strong meet and this is a spot where there isn't a ton of pace. Have to think he rates close and Esquivel has been solid all meet long. 6-SIMPLE LOGIC will be the favorite and figures in here as he has been the runner-up in three straight. He also has tactical speed but doesn't appear to want the lead so another will likely have to go. 8-OUT OF DEDUCTIONS was the favorite in the Hawthorne Derby but had a rough trip as he was boxed in much of the way as the pace got away in that race. He is another that could rate closer early and hang around in the lane.