Handicapping Analysis
Fri August 18th, 2023

Emily's Analysis

Del Mar Race 2

Post Time 6:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#6 ENCOLPION has the edge in recency over many in this field in addition to making the right change in class with the DROP from Special Weight company on July 21st. Eurton has been sending out live runners as of late to present further intent and even upgrade #7 YOLO CALLS another taking the right class drop and is also still "ship and win" bonus eligible here.

Ron Ellis will also be represented by a pair given a look in this race. #1 SWEET MOTHER MARY showed progression race-to-race and suggests intent coming back in this spot racing for the tag and retaining Smith. Cal-bred #8 DORINE'S WILD CAT also has shown progression race-to-race though still requires a move forward as this is a step up in class. Perhaps there is some buried intent with the blinkers added here and the connections taking this spot (re-entered) following a scratch from statebred $50k MCL on August 13th.

Del Mar Race 3

Post Time 6:30 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

Tough to know the dynamic of this race as it could change depending on the AE runners in/out. #8 TAPIT ROCKS projects to be a longshot once again and kept on the radar here as he has shown more run than the lines and finishing positions suggest keying off the BTL on June 14th and X_FLOW CLOSE on July 27th.

Del Mar Race 4

Post Time 7:00 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#7 SANTOS TO WILSON was favored at this condition on opening day and given an EX - EXCUSE as he projected to be on the lead and unable to get to his preferred position from the rail and race shape. He could be overlooked off that running line and projects to be more forwardly placed today. There are others in here that should be on or near the lead, though it is tough to assess how "fast" those runners will keep the pace with many exiting the shorter Los Al sprints. Keeping with the sportsball theme, #8 TOUCHDOWN BROWN should appreciate the contention with his RunStyle and while the DROP can be a concern, in this case it fits this horse looking for a win. His effort making a WIDE MOVE and earning an 80 OptixFIG suggests he still has racing interest and just needs the right level. The connections have been reluctant to make this move in the past and has not always had the most ideal placement throughout his career.

Del Mar Race 5

Post Time 7:30 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

The pace should be both contentious and honest to assist runners from off the pace: #6 UNFAITHFUL WAYS fits that profile and upgraded with the class relief and SHORTER distance as she makes her second start this meet; #8 DRAMATIZER also finds a favorable SHORTER distance change returning from the layoff and looks well intended in this spot. She has run well over this course and under similar conditions throughout her career and Smith, her win rider from back in October retains the call.

Monmouth Park Race 7

Post Time 3:48 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#3 TAP THE GAVEL looks well-intended returning from the layoff in this spot and racing for the claiming tag with Lopez aboard. He has been able to show versatility in terms of RunStyle though with the class change and inner post position should be forwardly placed in here. The pace could change adding more pace with the two AE's drawing in though should remain honest given the complexion of the main body of the field. That scenario upgrades #2 AFFABLE MONARCH another finding class relief and should move up naturally at the claiming level and even overlooked off the recent running line and finishing position. That race was a competitive allowance on the Haskell undercard where AFFABLE MONARCH showed run at multiple points of call.

Woodbine Race 6

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#7 SUPER SICILY has consistently been competitive at the MOC level this season and given an upgrade on July 30th exiting a KEY MSW in her prior start. The July 30th race is a common race for many in this field including #6 CHERRY GARDENS one that also has recorded a steady string of B- OptixGRADE this season with the BTL CLOSE 5th place in the common race, a GRADE shared with morning line favorite #3 ADMISSIBLE.

#1 TAYLORMOON is another to keep on the radar should she sneak away on the board. She was not at the right level for her abilities in stakes company last out and going back to her two prior starts at today's level was competitive and suggests intent with Munger taking over.

Woodbine Race 9

Post Time 4:12 PM CST

Analysis by Emily Gullikson

#8 IGNITE THE STORM return with a key rider change after a pair of less than ideal trips since the right change in class back on the Tapeta. The "trip" on August 6th showed a lot more run than the line and finishing position suggests and projects to IMPROVE. Improvement is required on #9 DISCOVERY CHART from his debut just two weeks ago, though he showed run and visually could show more tactical speed than he was allowed (TACTIC-) first out.

Morning line favorite, #5 MR. DE has recorded some of the higher figures in this field though those efforts were back in 2022 and has struggled this year to repeat those effort and not comes back with another rider change and class relief to carry some overall reservations.